

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Recessed Meeting – Public Hearing for Proposed 2009-2010 Budget
June 1, 2009

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners reconvened on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm, in the Yadkin County Human Services Building (Commissioners' Meeting Room), 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC for a Public Hearing in reference to the Proposed 2009-2010 County Budget.

Present were:

Chairman Chad Wagoner
Vice Chairman Kevin Austin
Commissioner David Moxley
Commissioner Brady Wooten

Staff present:

County Manager, Stan Kiser
County Attorney, James Graham
Clerk to the Board, Gina Brown

Chairman Wagoner called the meeting out of recess at 7:02pm.

Chairman Wagoner welcomed all those in attendance for tonight's Public Hearing. Chairman Wagoner stated that the hearing was offered for the citizens to make comments on the proposed budget. Chairman Wagoner announced that the rules for public hearing are suspended for tonight's proceedings, but did ask each speaker to limit their comments to 5 minutes in order to give all those that wish to speak an opportunity.

Chairman Wagoner opened the floor for Public Hearing at 7:04pm and asked Clerk Brown to call the first speaker.

Peggy Boose of Boonville appeared before the Board. Ms. Boose made the following comments:

- With County expenses of \$37 million, Ms. Boose is shocked that there are not more citizens in attendance.
- Once tax bills are received, it will be too late for citizens to respond.
- Simplified budget information that could be understood by the average citizen should have been available to those that are in attendance this evening.
- Of 100 counties, Yadkin is ranked 26th highest in tax rate and 26th lowest in revenues.
- Expenditures were \$30 million just 2 years ago and have now risen to \$37 million.
- Yadkin County is not cutting its budget as other counties, cities, businesses, and families has had to do.
- A 5% cut still represents a 17% increase over the last 2.5 years.
- The County should be able to manage a 5% decrease with very little hardship.
- Former County Manager, Eric Williams, increased the number of County employees by 20 in 1 year. There was a \$7 million increase in expenditures. No additional County services are being provided as a result.
- Yadkin County had \$12 million in debt just 2.5 years ago. Since, the County has added \$25 million for schools, \$10 million for the reservoir, and \$8 million for a jail. This is an increase of 279% that Yadkin County citizens did not cast votes to spend.
- Yadkin County has experienced taxation without representation for 2.5 years.
- Reckless spending has created debt that County Manager Kiser and Financial Consultant, Janice Burke states the citizens can pay for.
- Janice Burke has led the County into the same loan structure that has the mortgage industry in the bind it's in at present.
- The State of North Carolina is in financial distress also and plans to keep the lottery funds and the ADM funds that was initially considered for payment of the school debt.

- Yadkin County Schools have operating expenses that cannot be funded. The County has now re-assumed the financial responsibility of the hospital. Yadkin County is planning to build a new jail without adequate preparation for its operating expenses. There is no logic in considering the operational expenses of a jail for criminals and foregoing the operating expenses of schools for the children.
- There are new jails that have been built in the United States that remain empty. Hardin, Montana has become so desperate to fill its jail that they are requesting the Guantanamo Terrorists.
- In an earlier survey of commissioner candidates; Moxley, Wooten, and Austin stated they would vote to cut spending as opposed to raising taxes. Austin and Wooten stated they would vote to keep the jail downtown. Moxley stated he would vote to keep the jail downtown if it could be built at the same size and the same cost with room for expansion. Regarding the \$60 Household Waste Fee, Wooten and Austin stated they would vote to rescind the ordinance. Moxley stated he would further review the matter. Ms. Boose remarked that she would like to see the members of this Board keep their word.
- The budget has increased. Taxes have increased. Population has stayed the same. Government spending should only increase if there is an increase in population or an increase in services.
- Yadkin County should get some financial advise, but not from Janice Burke.

Bill Garrett of Boonville appeared before the Board. Mr. Garrett had the following comments:

- There are thousands of citizens in Yadkin County on Social Security that will not receive a raise this year.
- State employees have had a pay cut and have been furloughed for up to 10 hours per week.
- The Board should carefully review the budget and "turn over every rock."
- There are lots of citizens that are barely making ends meet.
- The spending in Yadkin County has gone 'haywire.'
- Yadkin was the only county in North Carolina that did not lower its tax rate at the last revaluation. The Board should not even consider the tax rate remaining at \$0.76.
- There have been some inappropriate happenings in Yadkin County and these things will soon come to light.
- Employees may not get a raise but should be grateful that they have a job.
- Mr. Garrett thanked the Board and asked them to take a hard look at the proposed budget.

Charles Holcomb of Boonville appeared before the Board. Mr. Holcomb had the following comments:

- Government and individuals cannot spend more than they take in.
- The court system is the problem, not the jail.
- The county jail is not a state prison. The District Attorney should do a better job of getting people to trial and getting their sentences passed down so that inmates are not staying in the local jail beyond a reasonable time.
- There are contractors that can 'fix' the current jail until the County can afford something better.

Kim Haynes of Jonesville appeared before the Board. Ms. Haynes had the following comments:

- Ms. Haynes has one daughter that will be going to the new middle school in the next school year and one daughter that will remain in the elementary school.
- Ms. Haynes wants to ensure that both daughters get what they need for school success.
- The County should not cut from one school to give to the other.
- Yadkin County should make every feasible cut to ensure that the schools get the funds they need.

No other speakers came forward. The Public Hearing closed at 7:25pm.

Chairman Wagoner encouraged the public to remain informed and invited the public to contact any Board member individually or the County Manager's Office for additional information or questions.

**Commissioner Wooten made a motion to recess until 6:30pm on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 for further budget discussions. Commissioner Moxley second.
Vote: 4/0**

Meeting recessed at 7:27pm.

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date approved
by the Yadkin County
Board of Commissioners