

Yadkin County Board of Commissioners
Minutes from Recessed Meeting - Budget Work Session
May 6, 2009

Members present

Chad Wagoner - Chairman
Kevin Austin - Vice-Chairman
Tommy Garner - Commissioner
David Moxley - Commissioner
Brady Wooten - Commissioner

Staff Present

Stan Kiser - County Manager
Sheron Church - Finance Director
Gina Brown - County Clerk

Chairman Wagoner called the meeting back to order at 6:35pm. The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners reconvened in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Human Resources Building at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, North Carolina in order to discuss the proposed budget for 2009-2010 with various departments, agencies, and affiliates.

Yadkin County Schools

Yadkin County Superintendent, Dr. Jim Benfield was accompanied by Assistant Superintendents, Gary McDonald and Mark Rumley. Frank Brown and other members of the Board of Education were in attendance. Finance Director, Gale Hill, presented budget information to the Board. Ms. Hill reported that Yadkin County Schools are requesting the replacement of the fund balance and inflationary costs over last year's appropriation. In addition, Yadkin County Schools are seeking funding for capital expenditures and operating expenses for the new middle schools. The middle school start-up costs and capital expenses were reviewed. There was discussion of the mobile units that will no longer be needed and current use of the YVEDDI building.

Commissioner Garner questioned Yadkin County Schools' decision to hire a second Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Benfield stated that no new money was used to fund the position. Though the timing could not have been worse, the position is needed and is making a positive impact on the school system. Commissioner Garner

questioned various budget items for the start-up of the middle schools including foreign language teachers, route buses, activity buses, and maintenance vehicles.

During discussion, it was noted that Starmount Middle School has a projected enrollment of 380 students while Forbush has a projected enrollment of 520. A Spanish teacher will be shared with the high schools. Additional foreign languages will be added in the coming years. There was no gain or loss of teachers. Band, music, art, Spanish, computers, and physical education will be offered in 40-minute elective courses.

Chairman Wagoner noted his appreciation for the appearance of school officials at today's meeting and for the budget work that had been completed. Chairman Wagoner compared Dr. Benfield and the management of Yadkin County Schools to County Manager Stan Kiser and the management of the County. Chairman Wagoner commented that the County Manager administers a budget of \$37 million with no deputy and no assistants. Chairman Wagoner stated that the school system has the perception of being "top heavy" with administrative positions.

Yadkin Center of Surry Community College

Wayne Matthews, Director of the Yadkin Center; Dr. Deborah Friedman, President of Surry Community College; and Tony Martin, Chief Financial Officer and Controller appeared before the Board. Mr. Matthews reviewed the requests for the Yadkin Center which included a \$26,000 increase in operating expenses and \$60,000 for the placement of the mobile units. It was noted that \$340,000 is held in capital reserve. Mr. Matthews provided copies of the resolutions that established the Yadkin Center and set forth the agreement between the County and the Center. Commissioner Wooten questioned the funding of the salary for Mr. Matthews. Mr. Matthews explained that the County has historically funded his position because of his involvement in the community and the relationship between County services and the community college. County Manager Kiser noted that he did not cut any specific areas of the budget but kept the appropriation at the 2008-2009 level.

Department of Social Services

DSS Director, Eddie Wooten and Finance Officer, Renee Hunter appeared before the Board. The Board had no major issues with the DSS budget. Chairman Wagoner thanked Mr. Wooten for his positive attitude despite the stress that a person in his position faces everyday. Mr. Wooten gave the credit to a great staff. Commissioner Wooten questioned the use of Cape Fear Regional Transport over YVEDDI. Mr. Wooten explained that the need is great enough for multiple transportation options. DSS continues to have 2 vacant positions. DSS is currently funding a full time maintenance position that is actually used throughout the County offices.

Health Department

Mike Reavis, Yadkin County Health Director, appeared before the Board. Mr. Reavis was accompanied by Becky Reavis, retired Financial Officer for the Health Department. Mr. Reavis provided a budget summary. Overall budget has decreased \$12,000 from last year. The Dental Clinic has already exceeded anticipated revenues and should be self-sustaining by its third year. A new position has been added but will be funded by clinic fees. A full time dentist has been contracted. Revenues for environmental health are down. A scanning system for the management of records has been requested at a cost of \$18,000.

Sheriff's Office and Communications

Sheriff Mike Cain, Major Danny Widener, and Communications Director, David Matthews appeared before the Board for budget discussion. Permits for concealed weapons have increased causing a rise in revenues. This is expected to level off. The Sheriff's Office maintains 42 vehicles with 4 spares. Only 4 new vehicles are being requested. The office has determined that Dodge Chargers are less expensive, offer better fuel mileage, and require less service than the Crown Victorias.

Chairman Wagoner thanked the Sheriff's Office for being proactive in their management during the fuel cost increases of the past year. Patrol officers were instructed to position themselves at EMS outposts and fire stations for 15 minutes of every hour to reduce fuel consumption. Major Widener stated that reports can now be completed in the vehicles rather than returning to the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Wagoner asked the Sheriff if \$15,000 was enough 'drug money.' Sheriff Cain responded that it takes quite a bit of money to play that game. Forfeiture money can also be used for drug buys. There was brief discussion of the changing drug problem in Yadkin County. Though methamphetamine continues to be a problem, prescription drugs and the misuse of those drugs is the larger concern.

Communication equipment has been completely updated. Initially, 911 funds were used but can no longer be used to maintain the equipment. It was noted that there is a bill in the legislature to broaden the spending of 911 funds. Major Widener asked the Board to consider the reclassification of the County dispatchers. The current job classifications are out-dated in that current dispatchers must have a great deal of training and certain certifications in order to operate the advanced equipment. Increasing each of the 15 dispatchers by 1 Step would result in a \$13,000 increase in the overall budget for Communications.

Commissioner Moxley made a motion to recess until Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. Vice Chairman Austin second. Vote: 5/0

Meeting recessed at 10:00pm.

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date Approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners