

Yadkin County Board of Commissioners
Minutes from Recessed Meeting - Budget Work Session
May 12, 2009

Members Present

Kevin Austin - Vice-Chairman
David Moxley - Commissioner
Brady Wooten - Commissioner

Chairman Chad Wagoner arrived at 6:42pm.
Commissioner Tommy Garner arrived at 6:50pm.

Staff Present

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

Vice Chairman Austin called the meeting back to order at 6:37pm. 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.

Emergency Management/Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Management Director, Dale Trivette and Emergency Medical Services Director, Brent Hawks appeared before the Board to discuss their proposed budgets. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements were thoroughly discussed. There was discussion of the current billing company and collection rates. It was estimated that the overall collection rate for EMS services is 60-65%. It was noted that \$81,000 has been collected for debt set-off. This number is expected to drop and then level off over time. Mr. Trivette reported that debt set-off is applied to the oldest debt. Mr. Hawks pointed out that Yadkin County was offered a cost rate of 8% for a 4 year contract with the billing company but the offer was declined by the Board at that time. The current rate is 9%. After some discussion, the Board authorized Mr. Hawks to renegotiate the rate at 8% with a 4-year contract.

There was much discussion regarding grant revenues. Board members expressed their sincere appreciation to Mr. Trivette for his ability to seek and secure grants for his department. Commissioner Wooten questioned Mr. Trivette on the eCivis service contracted by the County. Mr. Trivette reported that he has not found the service to be of any value. Most of the grants reported by eCivis are already known to Mr. Trivette or the department does not meet the qualifications.

Vice Chairman Austin questioned the proposed expense for a new vehicle. Mr. Hawks reported that a remount may be sufficient. Ford has designed a new chassis at a reduced cost that will require gasoline as opposed to diesel. There was much discussion on this issue. Mr. Hawks offered that gasoline is cheaper than diesel and the fuel mileage is reported to be roughly the same.

Northwestern Regional Library

John Hedrick, Executive Director and Joan Sherif, Branch Supervisor appeared before the Board representing the regional library system. County Manager Kiser reported that the NWRL requested \$400,000 but he proposes the same allocation as the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Mr. Hedrick announced an anticipated cut in State funds of 10%. Mr. Hedrick stated that the bulk of the increase in the requested allocation is to extend the operating hours for the Boonville Library. Approximately \$7000 would allow the librarian 20-25 hours per week and 12-15 hours per week for the assistant. Chairman Wagoner noted the incredible commitment and support of the Town of East Bend to fund a new library for that community.

IT/GIS

IT Director, Josh Arnder and GIS Coordinator, Rachel Boone appeared before the Board to discuss their proposed budgets. Mr. Arnder reported that IT expenditures had been trimmed this year in an effort to reduce the budget. However, expenditures would have to increase in the next budget cycle in order to replace certain personal computers, servers, and other equipment. There is a large decrease in the expense for data processing. Certain maintenance contracts were removed from the IT budget and added to the appropriate departments. Telephone charges were removed from the budget of the individual departments and a separate line item was created under non-departmental expenses. There are 300 personal computers in use in County departments. IT usually has 10 spares on hand. Commissioner Wooten questioned email accounts for exited employees. Mr. Arnder explained email accounts are left active for 30 days but passwords are changed to prevent unauthorized access. Further, Mr. Arnder reported that records must be kept for a certain period of time according to State statutes. Mr. Arnder has recently

established a recovery account that will store old emails in the event they are needed. Email archive software has been purchased to ease the process of storage and retrieval.

Ms. Boone reported that the County currently owns 2 End User License Agreements (EULA) for various mapping and addressing applications. These 2 agreements are shared among 4 departments and the information available is minimal. Add-ons must be purchased separately at a tremendous cost. For \$36,400, small government entities can purchase the EULA with unlimited access to all the applications. This would allow Ms. Boone to provide a variety of data to the departments.

In conclusion, Mr. Arnder pointed out that the Yadkin IT Department has more responsibility with fewer staff than any of the surrounding counties. In addition, the County is required to assume the maintenance of several State systems such as child support. The IT Department maintains the phone system, all communications, all personal computers, copiers and printers, cell phones, and others. There was some discussion of disaster recovery. Mr. Arnder stated that disaster recovery is the next priority for the Yadkin IT Department.

Solid Waste

Solid Waste Director, Cheri Cranfill, appeared before the Board for a budget review. Ms. Cranfill reported that Republic Waste has offered to extend the 15-year contract for an additional 5 years with no cost increase. The only other option would be for Yadkin County to assume the management of the transfer station. In reviewing the cost data, Ms. Cranfill determined that Yadkin County could manage the transfer station for approximately \$48.04 per ton while Republic Waste currently charges \$47.18 per ton. The Yadkin County figure does not include the cost of purchasing the initial equipment. In addition, Ms. Cranfill reported that the landfill would have to take in 350 tons per day in order to be cost effective. At this time, the landfill only takes in 90 tons per day. Commissioner Wooten, a member of the Solid Waste Committee, offered that he had reviewed the numbers and agrees that there is no better solution than Republic Waste. It was the consensus of the Board to extend the contract with Republic Waste.

There was limited discussion of other solid waste budget items; including white goods and recycling.

Fire Marshal and Volunteer Fire Departments

Fire Marshal, Eddie Weatherman, appeared before the Board. The Board had no questions or concerns for the budget of the Fire Marshal's Office. There was some discussion of the revenues for the volunteer fire departments.

Rescue Squads

Malinda Vestal, Director of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad, appeared before the Board for a review of the proposed budget. Ms. Vestal noted that the Rescue Squad has 3 buildings to maintain, the largest and most diverse fleet of vehicles, receives 5200 calls per year on average, and provides back-up for the County EMS. The Rescue Squad sees great justification in adding a full-time employee to the Rescue Squad. This would allow a trained EMT to be on staff 5 days per week as opposed to 2 days at present.

The Rescue Squad receives funds from Yadkin County, the Yadkin County United Fund, Sertoma, donations, and fundraising. The Rescue Squad is allowed only 1 fundraiser in a calendar year. The Rescue Squad does a portrait campaign.

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Austin second.
Vote: 5/0

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date Approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners