

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL/BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met for a Special Session/Budget Work Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Resources Building located at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 9:00am.

Present were:

Chairman Kevin Austin
Vice Chairman David Moxley
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric
Commissioner Marion Welborn
Commissioner Frank Zachary

Staff present: County Manager, Lisa Hughes; Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry; Assistant County Manager, Christopher Ong; and Finance Officer, Gary Groce.

INVOCATION given by Chairman Austin.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Austin at 9:18am.

The Board discussed the following:

Priorities Survey

Each of the Commissioners had previously filled out a priorities survey and submitted it to the County Manager. She reviewed the surveys and the priorities were found to be: Healthcare, Water/Sewer, Employee Benefits, Economic Development, Competitive Employee Market, Education, Parks/Trails, and Mandated/Non-mandated Services.

Healthcare

The Board discussed healthcare in Yadkin County. The Board wants to re-establish healthcare in the Hospital facility. To achieve that goal physicians need to be recruited and the County needs to select a business partner. The Board wants to have an Emergency Department operating by October of 2017.

Water/Sewer

The Board discussed expanding water and sewer in Yadkin County. The East Bend Waterline Project is moving forward now. Previously the County applied for funding for a sewer project at Brooks Crossroads but the County was not awarded the funding. The County needs to take a fresh look at the Brooks Crossroads Project.

Employee Benefits

The Board discussed the County's 401(K), life insurance, and health insurance benefits. For the employees who contribute to 401(K), the County provides a 1% match of their salary, with the exception of law enforcement officers. The County doesn't provide any matching funds for employees who do not contribute to 401(K), with the exception of law enforcement officers. For law enforcement officers, the County is required by State Statute to contribute 5% of their salaries to 401(K), whether those officers contribute to 401(K) or not. The County currently provides each employee with \$10,000.00 of term life insurance. County Manager Hughes will look into increasing that amount. Various health insurance options will be explored to see which one will provide the best benefits. The options explored will include an employee contribution, lowering the deductible and employer provided dental insurance. The Board discussed possibly adding an Employee Wellness Clinic to the Healthcare partnership. An Employee Wellness Clinic should reduce the health insurance claims the County has to pay. Visits to the Clinic would not be filed against the County's health insurance.

Chairman Austin recessed the meeting at 11:32am.

Chairman Austin called the meeting back to order at 11:52am.

Economic Development

The Board discussed economic development. The County needs to talk with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council about working together to develop some kind of comprehensive economic development plan. The plan should include ways to try and recruit new businesses to the County. Developers should be contacted to see if they are interested in developing in the County.

County Attorney Powell joined the meeting.

Competitive Employee Market & Personnel Costs

The Board discussed personnel costs. A Classification and Pay Plan Study is already underway. It is a three year study. This year the Sheriff's Office and Tax Office will be studied, next year all of Human Services will be studied, and the rest of the departments will be studied the third year. Recommendations will come from the Study as to which employees need a title change and/or a pay increase to better match the work the employees are doing and keep their salaries competitive with the market. Changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act could impact the County's personnel costs. Exempt employees do not earn overtime/comp time. If the proposed changes occur then some of the employees who are currently considered Exempt will become Non-Exempt. As Non-Exempt employees they will be eligible to earn overtime/comp time. The Affordable Health Care Act requires the County to offer health insurance to part-time employees who average working at least 30 hours per week during the 12 month look-back period. The Affordable Health Care Act should not impact the County's personnel costs at this time because we currently do not have any part-time employees who meet the criteria.

Education

At the joint meeting that will be held next week, the Board of Education wants to speak with the Board of Commissioners about replacing the lights currently in the schools with LED lights. The Board discussed it. County Manager Hughes went over the average daily membership numbers for the Yadkin County Public School System. The numbers have dropped a little over the last few years. The Board discussed the significant decrease in lottery funds. Surry Community College is planning to expand their Industrial Training Center. The Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building will be completed in a few months. The Board discussed the maintenance of the new building, the current buildings, and the grounds at the Yadkin Center of Surry Community College. The Board discussed funding for the School System. The County will continue to work with the Schools and Surry Community College to adequately meet the educational needs within the County.

Parks & Trails

The Board discussed the two County parks. The County applied for a Trails Grant and was awarded the funding. The County will apply for a PARTF Grant to assist with the costs associated with Phase II of the Memorial Park. Phase II will include a dog park. The Board would also like to look at putting in a dog park at the County Park. The Board discussed exploring the possibility of putting in some tennis courts at the County Park. The Board also talked about looking into the possibility of using Limerock as another river access point.

Mandated/Non-Mandated

The County provides a lot of services that are not mandated.

FY2017 Budget

County Manager Hughes went over revenue and expenditure numbers from the last several years. The Board reviewed the Tax Rates for the last 20 years and the Sales Tax Revenues from 2011 to 2015. A new position has been created for the Sheriff's Office that will need to be budgeted for. Cooperative Extension, Emergency Services, and the Tax Office have requested new positions. The Board discussed the new position requests.

Commissioner Hemric had to leave.

Phone System

The County's phone system is outdated. It is a 3Com system. 3Com was purchased by HP and HP has discontinued support and maintenance for the system. The County was able to find a third party who can assist with the maintenance of the system but it is getting harder and harder to find parts. When a part goes bad the County has to be able to find a suitable used part to replace it with. The server has already failed once. The Board discussed the replacement of the phone system.

EMS

Occasionally someone will still come to the Hospital seeking help so EMS is still providing coverage there. The County will need to determine if EMS should continue to provide coverage at the Hospital in FY2017. There are times every day that there are no ambulances left in the County because they are all out on runs. No patterns or trends have been found to explain why the ambulances are out so much now. The County may need to look at making another ambulance a 24 hour ambulance and/or look into contracting with a company that can provide some transport services for the County to lessen the calls EMS has to run.

Permitting Software

Phase I of the new permitting software was implemented this fiscal year. Phase II is to be implemented in FY2017. Approximately \$70,000.00 will need to be budgeted for the Phase II implementation.

Capital Projects

The Board discussed some Capital Projects that will be looked at for FY2017. One project is fire reporting software for the fire departments. Funds will be needed for some work on the County's buildings. The Sheriff's Office needs some renovations. The roof is leaking and needs to be worked on. The County will look at expanding the Animal Shelter and putting in a generator. Replacing the lights in the County's buildings with more energy efficient lights will also be looked at.

Vehicles

Six vehicles will be replaced in the Sheriff's Office. The County will look at what other vehicles need to be replaced. The condition of the pool vehicles will be evaluated.

Properties

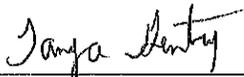
The County owns some buildings that aren't being used, like the old EMS building. The County also owns some land that we don't have any plans for future use for. The Board discussed it. The County may want to consider selling some properties.

Direction for FY2017

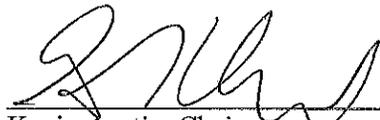
The Board discussed the direction for the FY2017 Budget. They want to keep the budget down. It should be similar to this year's budget. The appropriation to balance the budget should be kept under \$2 million.

Commissioner Welborn motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Moxley second.

Vote: 4/0.



Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Deputy Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

3/21/16

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners