

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met in a Special Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Services Building located at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Present were:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Austin at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Austin.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Zachary made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Vice Chariman Moxley second.

Vote: 5/0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Proposed FY16-17 Budget

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The property tax rate remains the same at \$0.66 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. The recommended budget for FY2017 is \$36,806,270.00, which is an increase of approximately \$367,997.00 from FY2016. Property tax revenue is projected to increase by \$727,784.00 from FY2016. Sales tax revenue is projected to increase by \$53,064.00 from FY2016. The Fund Balance appropriation to balance the budget is \$1,874,258.00; that is a decrease of \$312,876.00 from FY2016. The funding for Education increased by approximately \$162,295.00 from FY2016 and of that amount \$126,420.00 is a one-time appropriation for Phase II of their school lighting replacement project. The Yadkin County School System will see a cost reduction from the lights that were replaced in FY2016 for Phase I of their lighting project and for the lights that will be replaced in Phase II of their lighting project. The funding for Surry Community College is flat. The College will see a cost reduction due to the County assuming the grounds maintenance costs for their current Yadkin Center building. The County will assume the grounds maintenance costs and all of the utility costs for the new Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building. The recommended budget includes funding for a performance pay plan increase for County personnel. It includes adding six full-time twelve-hour shift positions for EMS to staff Medic 5. It fully funds the maintenance position in Public Buildings that was partially funded in FY2016 due to having to maintain the new Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building. It eliminates the following positions: a vacant Planner position, the temporary License Plate Agency Assistant position, two part-time Processing Assistant IV positions at the Hospital, and a Site Attendant position. It includes an increase in County paid life insurance for full-time employees. The health insurance remains flat. A new Employee Wellness Clinic is planned that will be open three days a week, pending the Board's approval of the contract at an upcoming meeting. The recommended budget includes replacing six Sheriff's vehicles, two ambulances, and an Environmental Health vehicle. Debt will decrease by \$57,910.00 from FY2016. It includes purchasing Life Packs for EMS, the replacement of 25 desktop computers for Human Services, and matching grant funding for the Trails Grant received in FY2016 and in anticipation of receiving PARTF Grant funding for Phase 2 of the Memorial Park. For the first time, there will not be a need to transfer funds to the Water & Sewer Fund. The \$6,000.00 in the Law Enforcement Fund is federal money that the Sheriff's Office receives that is restricted in how it can

be spent. The Solid Waste Fund increased to \$2,186,263.00. The transfer costs are coming in higher than was expected this year. The Self-Insurance Fund is flat. There are no fire tax rate changes. The proposed FY2017 Budget includes the retirement rate increase and the YVEDDI funding correction that was mentioned during the May 16, 2016 Board of Commissioners Meeting. The projected Alcohol Distribution revenue amount was increased conservatively due to this year's revenue coming in higher than was expected. County Manager Hughes went over the proposed FY2017 Budget Ordinance. The Fee Schedule is not included with the Ordinance this year. The FY2017 Fee Schedule will be on the 6/20/2016 Agenda for the Board to review.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Economic Development Funds Appropriation in Proposed FY16-17 Budget

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:26pm. The following speakers came forward:

Bobby Todd, of the Yadkin Chamber, addressed the Board. He came tonight to answer any questions that the Board may have about the request for Economic Development funds. They have been able to maintain a flat budget request for the last several years. As people drive around the County they can see some economic development investment work that is currently being done at a few of our local businesses. He appreciates the County's continued support.

No further speakers came forward. Chairman Austin closed the public hearing at 7:28pm.

Public Hearing on Proposed FY15-16 Budget

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:28pm. The following speakers came forward:

Dr. Todd Martin, of the Yadkin County School System, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for their support of the schools lighting project. It is going to make quite a difference for them. It will improve the quality of the lighting in the schools and it will also provide them with a utility cost savings. CW Electric has already started replacing the lights at Forbush High School. Next week they are expected to start replacing the lights at Starmount High School. Once the high schools are done, they will begin replacing the lights in the elementary schools. Something that does his heart good is that CW Electric has put a lot of their students to work. It is good to see those students working so hard and it is good to see that this project is benefitting the students in multiple ways. He thanked the Board for their support of Surry Community College. He believes the working relationship between Yadkin County, the Yadkin County School System, and the College is fantastic. It is great for everyone to be able to come to the table and talk about things and work things out. He appreciates the Board's support of the Yadkin County School System. He thanked County Manager Hughes. He appreciates her flexibility and willingness to work with him to resolve anything that comes up.

Marty Driver, with Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, addressed the Board. She wanted to come tonight and request the County's support for the new hospice home that is being built in Yadkinville. They are about \$300,000.00 short. They have an extension on their Challenge Grant from the State Employees Credit Union. She has heard that Jonesville, Boonville, and Yadkinville have them in their budgets for the upcoming year. It would mean so much to them if the County could support the project in some way. The new hospice home is something that could affect a lot of families in the County and surrounding communities. They want to work with the Hospital when it re-opens. She has already been speaking with Keith Vestal about the transportation of their patients. She asked the Board to please reconsider and find some way to pledge something in support of this project over the next five years.

Wayne Matthews, from East Bend, addressed the Board. He, and Surry Community College, is greatly appreciative of what the Board has done for the College over the last year. It was a great day when the ribbon cutting ceremony was held last week. He thanked County Manager Hughes, Jason Walker, and the other staff who worked on the Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building Project. It was not easy at times. There were a lot of meetings and discussions and things to work out but the Project was completed successfully because of the great cooperative spirit that exists between the County and the College. He thinks that is the key for them to continue to grow in Yadkin County and move forward.

No further speakers came forward. Chairman Austin closed the public hearing at 7:33pm.

BOARD ACTION

Consider Adopting Proposed FY16-17 Budget

The Board discussed the budget. This budget is helping to get us into position to weather the upcoming revaluation. Other counties who have gone through revaluations have seen a decrease in property values and for them to remain revenue neutral it necessitated an increase in their property tax rates. Chairman Austin is very hopeful that next year Yadkin County won't have a property tax rate increase due to the work County Manager Hughes has done this year. Commissioner Zachary said next year will be very challenging. He has seen a lot of property change hands. The County has done all that can be done to position ourselves for revaluation. **Commissioner Zachary made a motion to adopt the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 as presented. Vice Chairman Moxley second.**

Vote: 5/0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Welborn said it was good to see those who came tonight. He appreciated all the comments that were made. County Manager Hughes has done a fabulous job with the budget. Yadkin County is fortunate to have her. He would like for the Board to consider at a later date giving the Hospice Home some funding. It is going to be tight next year with revaluation.

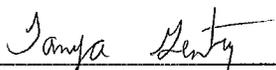
Commissioner Zachary thanked everybody for being here tonight. He appreciated the comments that were made. Budgets are not fun things and County Manager Hughes bears the brunt of it. He thanked County Manager Hughes and the staff for the work they did on the budget. Last year and this year we have had our eye on next year's budget. Once we get through next year's budget hopefully we will be in a good position. Budgets always seem to be good for some and maybe not so good for others. This is a starting point to work off of. Sometimes during the year the Board has to appropriate additional funding. This is a good budget and it puts the County in the best position it can be in.

Vice Chairman Moxley thanked everyone that came out tonight. The comments that were made were heard. He thanked County Manager Hughes for her hard work. There is a lot of uncertainty next year with the revaluation. A lot of people just look at the tax rate but to remain revenue neutral there is a possibility the tax rate may have to go up. Hopefully Yadkin County will be able to come out on the good side of the revaluation. He was recently speaking with a Commissioner from Allegheny and they did their revaluation last year. Some of their nicer homes did go up in value but a lot of the land went down in value. It will be interesting to see what occurs with our revaluation. We will have to be on our toes on the budget next year. It may not be as easy to keep next year's budget flat like we did this year.

Commissioner Hemric thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He thanked everyone for their comments. County Manager Hughes has done a real good job. Nobody probably really knows how many hours she put in to this budget. He thanked County Manager Hughes for her work.

Chairman Austin said one of the things he saw in the budget that really encouraged him was the increase in the property tax estimate. With a flat tax rate, that increase can only come from an increased tax base and that is what Yadkin County has seen. Steady controlled growth is what the Board likes to see and it helped allow County Manager Hughes to increase spending where it was needed and still be able to reduce the fund balance appropriation and put the County in a more comfortable place with the revaluation that is coming up. It gives him a lot of security for next year. There will be challenges next year that the County will face when they get here. He thanked the speakers. He sees the cooperation that Dr. Martin spoke of everyday. We have done a lot of things together. Changes to the budget do sometimes happen through the year when necessary as Commissioner Zachary mentioned. This year will be a little tough with the revaluation looming. When the new property values come out late in the year it will give the Board a lot to think about between January and this time next year when the next budget is past. He feels pretty good overall about where the County is now and where we are going. He thanked County Manager Hughes and everyone who helped with this budget. All of the department heads did a wonderful job. We have a good solid budget that he is real happy with. He thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Welborn made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hemric second.
Vote: 5/0.



Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Deputy Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of
Commissioners

7/5/2016

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners