

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, May 31, 2011

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, in the Yadkin County Human Services Building (Commissioners' Meeting Room), 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC.

Present were:

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

Staff present: Interim County Attorney, Bobby Sullivan; County Manager, Aaron Church; Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer, Lisa Hughes; and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry.

INVOCATION led by County Manager Aaron Church.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Austin at 6:01pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Austin.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments. **Commissioner Moxley made a motion to adopt the Agenda.**

Commissioner Hemric second.

Vote: 5/0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Proposed FY11-12 Budget. The proposed budget was provided to the Commissioners and the public on May 20, 2011. The Proposed FY11-12 Budget is 6% less than last year's adopted FY10-11 Budget. It is balanced according to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The property tax rate is set at \$0.74 per \$100.00 of valuation. There is approximately \$10 million in the General Fund and this Budget only uses approximately \$34,000.00 to balance the budget. Yadkin County has experienced more than a 30% decrease in Sales Tax so this budget recommends strengthening and sustaining retail sales in Yadkin County. There are 17.5 frozen positions that this budget will eliminate; these position do not have anyone working in them. Also, all future vacant positions will remain frozen unless the Board of Commissioners authorizes the position to be filled. This reduction in force will saved the County approximately \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00. There is a reduction of approximately \$250,000.00 in EMS overtime. There is approximately a \$300,000.00 reduction in School funding. Building Inspections is the department that received the biggest cuts; it is getting approximately a 20% cut. This Budget has \$100,000.00 set aside to use for improving the County Park. There is \$26,000.00 for a patrol vehicle and \$135,000.00 for an ambulance. This budget allows for the implementation of the Classification and Pay Plan the Board approved in an earlier meeting. All of the revenues in this budget are estimated very conservatively.

PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) Public Hearing on Proposed FY11-12 Budget. Chairman Austin stated there are no limits on the number of people who can speak “for” or “against” it. Everyone who signed up for the Public Hearing will be given a chance to speak and then anyone else who would like to speak can. He asked that people keep their comments civil and brief. Chairman Austin opened the Public Hearing at 6:21pm.
 - a. Keith Hooker, of Yadkin SCAN, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for their many years of support. They rely on the Board’s and the Community’s support to operate. Yadkin SCAN had a success rate of 88% last year. He said Yadkin County has been very supportive in this fiscal year. They had some fundraisers that turned out remarkably well, especially in light of the bad economy. It shows that Yadkin County values them. They value the opportunity they have been given to serve the County.
 - b. Candice Moore, of Yadkin JCPC, addressed the Board. She is the Chairperson for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. She identified the following services that the JCPC needs to have funded in this fiscal year: the Children’s Center of Yadkin County that provides temporary shelter, Yadkin Psychological Testing, Parents and Teens Together parenting classes, juvenile mediation, and their Community Services and Restitution programs. None of their youths had to be admitted into Youth Development Centers (juvenile prisons). The programs are funded with an 80% State allocation and a 20% local match. If the local match of 20% is not met, the funds may have to be reverted back to the State. She requested the County make a 20% match of \$21,521.00. She stated they would be good stewards of the County’s dollars by providing programs that have proven to be successful.
 - c. Jack Loudermilk, of the Yadkin County Library Board, addressed the Board of Commissioners. The proposed budget recommends \$366,500.00 for the libraries, which is a substantial cut. He stated the money used to fund the libraries stays in the County. He asked the Board to please reconsider the amount of funds going to them.
 - d. Bruce Flood, of East Bend, addressed the Board. He spoke about the postponing of the revaluation. Instead of doing the revaluation as scheduled it was decided to postpone it to save money. He stated the tax rate in Yadkin County is higher than the tax rates of the surrounding counties. The higher tax rate will discourage businesses from coming to Yadkin County. Lowering the tax rate would make Yadkin County more attractive to businesses and stimulate job growth. Vice Chairman Zachary agreed that Yadkin County’s tax rate is higher.
 - e. Brady Wooten addressed the Board. He stated the proposed budget looks good and commended the Commissioners, County Manager, and staff for the hard work that was put into it. He feels that some Yadkin County citizens are being overtaxed because the revaluation was postponed. This needs to be corrected as soon as possible. Revaluation should be done more often instead of less often due to foreclosures and the bad real estate market. The Schedule of Values used in the last appraisal was unusually high. He stated a tax cut is needed and suggested a \$0.04 or \$0.05 cut.
 - f. John Kessler, from Forestry, stated he no longer wanted to address the Board.
 - g. Peggy Boose addressed the Board. She commended County Manager Church on the proposed budget and on not laying off any County employees. She agreed that Yadkin County’s tax rate is higher than the tax rates of the surrounding counties. She stated the citizens of Yadkin County have been overtaxed for the last four years and that is how the County arrived at such a large Fund Balance. She asked the Board for a property tax reduction. She also asked the Board to interact with the citizens and listen to their concerns even if the Board can’t fix them.
 - h. Bill Garrett, of Boonville, addressed the Board. He stated he had heard a lot of good things here tonight. He appreciated the work the Board and the County Manager have

done. He is a retired citizen and he wanted to speak to the Board on behalf of senior citizens. The cost of everything continues to increase but senior citizens did not get a Social Security raise to help offset those higher costs. He asked for the tax rate to be cut. He stated even a \$0.02 tax cut would be helpful.

- i. Bryan Southard, Fire Chief of the Yadkinville Fire Department, addressed the Board. For each new member of the fire department, it costs \$3,815.00 for a complete set of turnout gear. Turnout gear needs to be replaced approximately every 5 years. He stated they have been working hard to get grants. Last year they were able to get a grant that paid 90% of the cost for 22 complete sets of turnout gear. They have gone from 47 firefighters to 63 firefighters, 16 of which are medically certified. The budget they requested was done as tight as they could get it and nothing that was not necessary was included in it.

No other speakers came forward. Chairman Austin closed the Public Hearing at 7:02pm.

BOARD ACTION

- 1) Consider Proposed FY11-12 Budget. County Manager Church had some changes to the proposed budget. He recommended increasing the amount to go to the libraries by \$13,500.00. The increased funding will allow the Boonville branch librarian to become full-time; they currently do not have a full-time employee. He recommended decreasing Yadkin Senior Services by \$5,165.00 due to the Elder Affairs program being turned over to YVEDDI. There were also recommended changes to the Juvenile Restitution Department. In Non-Departmental, the recommendation was to increase Parks by \$50,000.00 and decrease Contingency by \$50,000.00. The Board asked County Manager Church to cut the tax rate by \$0.05 which will require a Fund Balance appropriation of approximately \$1.3 million. **Commissioner Moxley made a motion to accept the recommended budget with the stated changes and with a \$0.05 tax rate reduction for the FY2011-2012. Vice Chairman Zachary second.**
Vote: 5/0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Welborn stated that collecting taxes will not be done the same way it has always been done in the past. Collecting only 94% of the property taxes is not enough; everyone needs to pay their taxes. He commended County Manager Aaron Church and Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Lisa Hughes for their hard work on the budget. He appreciated everyone coming tonight and said he had heard some good comments. He stated that Yadkin County is a good place to live and raise a family.

Vice Chairman Zachary thanked everyone for coming. He stated it was great to see people have an interest in what goes on here. He expressed his gratitude to County Manager Aaron Church, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Lisa Hughes, and all the staff for putting this budget together. He agreed that the Yadkin County tax rate is higher than the tax rates of the surrounding counties and is thrilled at being able to lower the tax rate here. It will bring some relief to citizens while still maintaining the services that citizens need. He said we are trying to run the County like a business and be more efficient. The current staff is working hard and not sleeping at the wheel.

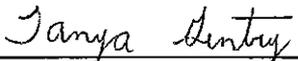
Commissioner Moxley commended County Manager Aaron Church, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Lisa Hughes, Deputy Clerk Tanya Gentry, and all the other County employees for their hard work on this budget. He stated this Board is committed to the citizens and to bettering Yadkin County. The Board did listen to the citizens in the revaluation hearing. The decision to postpone the revaluation was for the good of the citizens and postponing it makes up for almost one cent in the tax rate cut the Board was able to give.

Commissioner Hemric thanked everyone for coming. He commended County Manager Aaron Church and Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Lisa Hughes for their hard work. He stated he would be glad to listen to any citizen.

Chairman Austin remembered being at a budget meeting 3 years ago that included a tax rate of \$0.76 and no one spoke at the public hearing. It feels great to have this group here tonight. It shows that this Board is receptive. This Board listens to the people, welcomes the people, and loves to work with the people. The Board has been hearing what the citizens and the employees have to say and was mindful of that during the budget process. He was thrilled to see the crowd here tonight and to have everyone feel free to speak and know they would be heard. He stated one of his goals was to get the "7" off the front of the tax rate and that was accomplished tonight. He thanked County Manager Aaron Church, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Lisa Hughes, and everyone who works with them. He is extremely proud of this budget and this Board.

County Manager Church had no comment.

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



Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Deputy Clerk to the Board



Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of
Commissioners

6/20/2011

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners