

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met in a Special Session on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Services Building located at 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: 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 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Austin.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Hemric made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Zachary second.

Vote: 5/0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Proposed FY12-13 Budget

County Manager Aaron Church addressed the Board. He stated it was an honor to be in the position of being able to work with this Board. A few changes totaling \$81,576.00 have been made to the recommended budget. The revised budget will be presented tonight. He thanked the Department Heads and the outside agencies, especially DSS and the Health Department, for being accommodating and making sacrifices when necessary; them being cooperative and understanding made this process easier. This budget recommends the property tax rate remain the same. It projects an approximate 3.5% increase in property tax revenue. We have approximately \$13 million in the General Fund and approximately \$1.4 million will be appropriated to balance the budget. Mandated services that the County is required to fund make up approximately 75% of the budget. There will be a reduction of non-mandated services in DSS and the Health Department. This budget recommends eliminating four vacant positions and that no new positions, with the exception of jailers, be filled. No cost of living increase is budgeted for but salary increases based on the Performance Pay Plan are budgeted for. EMS has saved the County approximately \$500,000.00 by reducing the amount of overtime and eliminating some vacant positions. School funding will remain the same as last year. This budget is very vehicle lean. PARTF grant funds have been applied for and, if the County is awarded those funds, they will be used for a parks project. When the new jail addition is completed, nine new positions will need to be created and filled to staff it. In order to meet FCC requirements, the County is going to need to hire a consultant and upgrade our 911 radio system. The Sheriff's Office received approximately \$15,000.00 to implement a crime prevention program. The County Manager went over the revisions made to the recommended FY12-13 Budget. Two of the revisions allowed additional funding for seniors. A new line item, called Senior Meals Reserve, was budgeted for \$12,000.00. A new line item, called Critical Medical Transport Reserve, was budgeted for \$29,320.00.

[The revisions to the proposed recommended FY12-13 Budget are attached as Appendix A.]

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Proposed FY12-13 Budget

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:45pm. The following speakers addressed the Board:

A. E. Johnson, of Boonville, addressed the Board. He spoke about how thankful he was for the Meals on Wheels program. He delivers the meals and enjoys doing it because it gives him an opportunity to give back. Some of the people he delivers to may not see anyone else that day and the meal they receive from him may be the only meal they get that day. The clients are a blessing to him and he tries to be a blessing to them in return. He believes it is a very good program and hopes it will be around for a long time.

Thomas Wooten, of East Bend, addressed the Board. He congratulated the Board on the changes made to the recommended budget. He is an alternate delegate to the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature. They meet three times a year. One of their legislative priorities is to restore funding to sustain Project C.A.R.E. and they have been successful in getting approximately \$250,000.00 in funding statewide. Project C.A.R.E. provides respite services for family members who are caregivers for a relative in the home who has Alzheimer's or a related dementia. A second legislative priority is to maintain funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant services. The grant provides funds for congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, and other in-home aid services that help enable seniors to remain in their homes instead of having to go into a nursing home. Another legislative priority is to maintain funding for senior centers. Senior centers provide important services that enhance the health and overall wellness of seniors. He has gone through the recommended budget looking for someplace to get extra funding for our senior centers. The population of seniors in Yadkin County is increasing and he asked that they be provided for. He congratulated the Board on upgrading the 911 communication system. He stated Yadkin County has some good paramedics. He asked the Board to keep the seniors in mind and look closely at the budget.

Judy Hackney, of Jonesville, addressed the Board. She belongs to the Jonesville Senior Center and wanted to reiterate what the other two speakers have said about the Meals on Wheels program. She is a driver for the program and delivers meals to seniors who don't get to see anyone else but her that day. Her clients are very appreciative. She was really pleased to hear what was in the budget for the seniors. She believes the funding will be helpful and thanked the Board. She hopes their programs won't be cut because she sees a lot of seniors coming in for programs that are really beneficial to them. They have a group now that comes in once a week to knit or crochet prayer shawls for hospice. YVEDDI transports elderly clients to the Jonesville Senior Center for meals and it is so good to see the seniors there. She appreciated all that the Commissioners have done for senior citizens.

Doris Johnson, of Jonesville, addressed the Board. The Jonesville Senior Center has really been a help to her. She participates in all that she can. She has had meals delivered to her home when she needed them. She participates in making the prayer shawls. There is so much that goes on there. It is a blessing to her to get to go to the Jonesville Senior Center and visit with other seniors. She appreciated the funds the Board has budgeted.

Wayne Matthews, of Surry Community College, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for all the work they do with Surry Community College. There is a good working relationship between the County and the College. He worked on some grants with several County staff members and they were very professional and good to work with, especially Mr. Church. He appreciated working with Mr. Church. The college always tries to be wise stewards of the money they are given and he believes they have accomplished that. He appreciates the additional allotment of funds that has been placed in the budget this year. They will continue to work with the County. Dr. Shockley sends his appreciation as well.

Max Cranfill, of Yadkinville, addressed the Board. He stated he appreciates the opportunity to speak tonight. He has been a part of the Senior Center here for approximately 20 to 25 years now with his father and mother. His mother receives meals from them. She needs the kind of care offered by the Senior Center. Senior centers are a big benefit to the elderly and funds are needed for them. He appreciated the Board looking after the seniors. This YVEDDI thing touches a lot more people than is

realized. If you get out and work with it, as he has for the last several years, and see all of the people it helps, you will really appreciate what is being done here in the County.

Peggy Boose, of Boonville, addressed the Board. It doesn't cost as much to keep a senior citizen in their home as it would cost for them to go into a facility. As Medicaid costs continue to rise, the State and Feds are going to put more unfunded mandates on the counties. The more we can do to keep people in their homes, the more money it is going to save the County in the long run. Medicaid is Federal and State dollars but the unfunded mandates they put on counties costs Yadkin County money. She stated the school population is down 500 children so that may be a trend that may save the County some money going forward. Next she spoke about the transportation of prisoners. When the new jail addition opens, the County won't have those transportation costs so she hopes that is money that will be saved in our next year's budget. She commended the Board for cutting the property tax rate last year; she is sure that helped a lot of people, including those in this room. A balancing act has to be done between helping seniors with their immediate needs and keeping their property taxes low. There was some runaway spending in this County for several years and then the economy tanked. She understands that there was no choice but to cut the budget. She commended the Board for getting the County's finances in order but sometimes we have to think about life and death situations. Things like dialysis and chemotherapy are life and death situations. We have to take care of our own. She thanked the Board for putting the money aside for Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, and transportation. Our seniors live in fear every day; the TV is constantly saying social security is going broke, Medicare is going broke, premiums are going to escalate, and on and on. Anything we can do to help our seniors in any way they need, we need to do. Since the economy tanked, think about how hard it is on the people who were already having a hard time when the economy was good. Some people have to choose between buying their medicine and groceries. We need to do as much as we possibly can to help. She knows YVEDDI provides a good service. She has supported YVEDDI ever since her father rode the van. They treated him and her mother very well. She suggested giving the non-profits and outside agencies questionnaires and guidelines to go by, just like Department Heads are given, when the budget process starts next year. It will help avoid confusion and ensure that all the necessary information is turned in.

Brenda Holbrook, of YVEDDI, addressed the Board. She thanked the Board for the funds allocated to YVEDDI in the recommended budget because they need those funds. She also thanked them for the additional \$12,000.00 that has been set aside for their programs. She asked what happens though, if at the end of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, they have exhausted all of their funds and they receive requests for additional services. Do they turn people away? The congregate meals had to be cut back this year because they exhausted all their funds for that. She doesn't think the additional \$12,000.00 will be enough to cover both Meals on Wheels and congregate meals. They would like to be able to feed everyone who YVEDDI brings to their sites. They are happy that they do not have anyone waiting for services right now except at their congregate meal sites. On July 1, 2012, they will be able to start serving everyone at their congregate meal sites again.

Randy Crawford, of East Bend, addressed the Board. He came tonight to speak about the East Bend Senior Center. He has walked on the treadmills they have there. He wanted to thank the Board for the system that is in place now. He is on oxygen and the maintenance program they have at East Bend Senior Center has been a big help to him. A couple of years ago, he was fortunate enough to teach how to live healthy with a chronic disease at the senior centers. He appreciated everything the Board has done for them. They are running out of funding for the tai chi program at the East Bend Senior Center and he would like to see enough funding for that program to continue because it is a tremendous help to people.

No further speakers came forward. Chairman Austin closed the public hearing at 8:24pm and thanked everyone for their comments and attendance.

BOARD ACTION

Consider Proposed FY12-13 Budget

Chairman Austin stated that as we get into the operational aspects of the new jail and get out of this transition period he believes it will take some pressures off of them for the next budget. He is concerned with the census numbers that show Yadkin County has a high percentage of people over 60.

Vice Chairman Zachary stated that he appreciated all of the speakers tonight. He concurs with the revisions of the proposed budget to put in some funds for Meals on Wheels and critical transport for seniors. He thanked County Manager Church, Lisa Hughes, and all of the department heads for their work on this budget. He thanked Kim Harrell and Monecia Thomas, in particular. **Vice Chairman Zachary made a motion to adopt the revised FY2012-2013 Budget as presented including the revised Attachment A (Revenue Estimates) and Attachment B (Fee Schedule). Commissioner Welborn second.**

Vote: 5/0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Welborn thanked all of the speakers for their comments. He thanked County Manager Church, Lisa Hughes, and Tanya Gentry for their work. It takes a lot of work to do all of this and get it right. He thinks the budget is as close to right as we will ever get it. The EMS Director has saved the County a lot of money in the last year and he thanked Keith Vestal for that.

Vice Chairman Zachary thanked everyone for coming tonight. He welcomed those present to come to the regularly scheduled morning and evening meetings. He appreciated hearing from all of the speakers. He appreciates all of the work the volunteers do. He is sure it is a blessing to the volunteers as well as to the people they help. The Board will do all they can to help seniors. He agreed with Ms. Boose that there was some runaway spending in the past. Last year they were able to reach the low hanging fruit, reduce spending, and lower the tax rate. He knew they wouldn't be able to reduce the tax rate this year; they just wanted to keep from raising it. This economy doesn't make things easy on anyone. He thanked everyone for coming and stated he hoped they would come back.

Commissioner Moxley thanked everyone who came and everyone who spoke tonight. He took a day a few months ago and rode along with one of the volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels. He saw first-hand what it meant to some of the seniors for that person to come by and see them. Sometimes that is the only person they will see that day. They were very thankful for it. He responded to the question Brenda Holbrook put forth by saying if the \$12,000.00 is not enough the Board could do a budget amendment to get some more money to that program because he believes the money will be administered very carefully and wisely. The reason it was a quick decision to pass the budget this year is due to all of the hard work that County Manager Church, Lisa Hughes, the Finance Office, and the staff did. The Board gave instructions on what they would like to see in the budget and the Board was given what they asked for. This is a good budget.

Commissioner Hemric thanked all of the speakers and everyone who came to the hearing tonight. He also thanked the Department Heads for working with County Manager Church and Lisa Hughes on the budget. He echoed what Vice Chairman Zachary said about runaway spending. He wanted the seniors to know that he and the Board will do whatever they can for all the seniors.

Chairman Austin agreed the Board wants to do everything they can for the seniors. His parents live approximately an hour away. His mother is wheelchair bound and his father's health isn't as good as it used to be and he appreciates every bit of help they get from their community. He expects to assist the seniors of Yadkin County in the same way that he would wish his own parents to be assisted. There were some tough cuts last year. We cut \$2.1 million from the budget and as part of that YVEDDI and the senior centers took a 6% cut. There were no further cuts in this budget so whatever activities everyone has been able to enjoy for the last year should continue. He heard what Brenda Holbrook said about congregate meals and that will be looked into. The Board is really focused on meeting the critical needs. Meals on Wheels is a fantastic program. His wife's grandparents, along with two disabled sons who lived with them, were clients on the Boonville route for a great number of years. The Meals on Wheels driver was the only person they saw unless they happened to get a visit from a family member. He knows what

that program meant to that family and he knows what it means to so many other seniors. Medical transportation for things like dialysis, chemo, and other things like that is important. The Board is dedicated to making sure that the seniors of this County get what they need. He thanked County Manager Church, Lisa Hughes, and everyone who worked on this budget.

Commissioner Moxley 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

Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

CHANGES TO RECOMMENDED BUDGET

DEPARTMENT	LINE	2011-12 BUDGET	2012-13 REQUEST	2012-13		DIFFERENCE IN BUDGET
				2012-13 MANAGER	MANAGER REVISED	
COMMUNITY ACTION	SCC - Reserve	\$10,810	\$10,810	\$0	\$0	
	SCC	\$184,300	\$214,700	\$192,000	\$202,810	\$10,810
	Forestry	\$46,400	\$59,800	\$46,400	\$58,000	\$11,600
	Piedmont Triad Partnership		\$3,846	\$0	\$3,846	\$3,846
COMMUNITY ACTION TOTAL		\$241,510	\$289,156	\$238,400	\$264,656	\$26,256

NON-DEPARTMENTAL						
New Line Item	SENIOR MEALS RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
New Line Item	CRITICAL MEDICAL TRANSPORT RESERVE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,320	\$29,320
NON-DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41,320	\$41,320

ELECTIONS						
	SALARY-PT	\$3,200	\$12,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
	REG/JUDGES	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$22,000	\$7,000
	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$6,000
	R&M POLLING	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	-\$2,000
	TRAVEL	\$5,600	\$6,400	\$5,600	\$6,200	\$600
	RENT	\$1,550	\$1,300	\$700	\$1,300	\$600
	DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$375	\$400	\$400	\$200	-\$200
ELECTIONS TOTAL		\$43,225	\$60,600	\$36,200	\$50,200	\$14,000

<u>PRIOR RECOMMENDED BUDGET</u>	\$34,992,708
<u>PRIOR FUND BALANCE APP.</u>	\$1,344,981
<u>TOTAL INCREASE</u>	\$81,576

<u>NEW RECOMMENDED BUDGET</u>	\$35,074,284
-------------------------------	--------------

NEW FUND BALANCE APP.	\$1,426,557
-----------------------	-------------