

# **YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**

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 11, 2020 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; Assistant County Manager, Drew Hinkle; Finance Officer, Lindsey Cearlock; IT Director, Dale Ring.

**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 Moxley second.**

**Vote: 5/0.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Austin stated there will be two Public Hearings tonight; one on the proposed FY20-21 Budget and one on the Economic Development funds portion of the proposed Budget. A few people are remotely participating in tonight's meeting through Zoom and/or by telephone. The IT Director, Dale Ring, is monitoring those participating remotely and will let Chairman Austin know if one of the remote participants wants to make a comment during the Public Hearings.

### **Public Hearing on Economic Development Funds in Proposed FY20-21 Budget**

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:04pm. The following speakers came forward:

Bobby Todd, the President of the Yadkin County Economic Development Partnership, addressed the Board. He spoke in favor of the Economic Development funding that is appropriated in the proposed FY20-21 Budget. The Economic Development Partnership appreciates the County's continued support. They get good use out of the funding the County provides. He thanked the Board for their support over the years.

No further speakers came forward in the room. Chairman Austin asked anyone participating in the meeting through Zoom or by phone who would like to make a comment to please indicate they would like to speak. He paused to give the remote participants time to indicate they would like to make a comment. Dale Ring said no one indicated they would like to speak.

Chairman Austin closed the public hearing at 7:06pm.

### **Public Hearing on Proposed FY20-21 Budget**

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:06pm. The following speakers came forward:

Fire Chief Brandon Renegar, of the Boonville Community Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the Board. One of their fire trucks needed a major repair that ended up costing over \$21,000.00. Traditionally they budget \$5,000.00 a year for repairs and that has been working out pretty well. This year has been a dramatic exception. The first quarter of the fiscal year they spent almost 100% of their repair budget on fixing a turbo that went out. This latest repair bill has put them excessively over budget.

They have moved funding around from everywhere they could to cover the truck repair bill. They had to tap into some of the money they had put back to replace things that have expiration dates, like turn out gear and air packs. They have a maintenance company they use each year to assist them with maintaining their equipment to try and prevent major issues from occurring. Unfortunately the issue with the truck wasn't something they could have caught. They have a lot of things going on. They are working on some things to improve their ISO rating. Personnel is a major concern for them. Their biggest personnel issue is daytime staffing. The majority of their volunteers work during the day. They are fortunate that they do have some personnel that are available during the daytime because they work jobs that have 24 hour schedules but more daytime staff is needed. They would like to get some additional funding in their budget that they can use for paid staffing. Their volunteers are very dedicated and happy to be a part of the Fire Department. He gives the volunteer members nothing but top marks but they have jobs that can limit the amount of time they can dedicate to the Fire Department. A lot of their funding has been pushed towards supplementing the volunteers and having as many paid staff as they can afford. They also have expensive things, like radios and gear, that they have to maintain. From what he understands any extra funds that are collected for their Fire District are kept in an account for them. He is not sure what the process is to find out how much money is in their fund and available for them to use. He would like to find out more about that and how it works. He appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Board and provide them with information on the Fire Department. They would appreciate anything the County can do to assist them.

Chairman Austin thanked the Chief for his comments. The County has looked at the Boonville Community Volunteer Fire Department's accounts and their savings and cash on hand is minimal.

Chairman Austin said the Board is having a lot of conversations about the future of fire service in Yadkin County. He thinks he speaks for the Board when he says they are very dedicated to supporting the fire service. They are very proud of all of the Fire Departments. The Fire Departments have done wonderful things, especially in the last few years. The Board wants to be sure that continues to be the case. There are a lot of success stories in the Fire Departments. One of the things the Board is committed to is the Fire Academy. Hopefully a Fire Academy will guide a lot of new people into fire service.

Carl Gmeiner, a lifelong resident of Yadkin County, addressed the Board. He said he read through the proposed FY20-21 Budget. He thanked the County for its fiscal conservatism. He thinks we can all agree that is something we wish all levels of government would operate under. He saw there were a lot of cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He respects that. The Sheriff's Office may already have some training pertaining to the use of deadly force that he is not aware of but he would like to see additional training for the Officers on when to use and when not to use deadly force against any citizen, whether they are black or white. There are some events that have happened recently in our nation that were really sad and preventable. He thinks everyone would agree that those things were terrible. He doesn't want to see anything like the death of George Floyd or the riots that happened after it happen here. He doesn't want to see any of his brothers and sisters in Christ who live in this County to be killed because of something that is completely preventable, whether there was bad intent or not. He requested that whatever is necessary to make that training a priority be done. He thanked the Board for listening to his request. He hasn't forgotten that all five of the Commissioners voted for the Resolution for Life last year. That is something he thinks about all the time. He appreciates the Board listening to the citizens of Yadkin County.

Dr. Wayne Matthews, of East Bend, addressed the Board. He thanked the Commissioners for supporting the entities that he is associated with in some form or fashion. He thanked them for the funding the County provides Surry Community College, the Richmond Hill Law School Commission, the Libraries, and the Rescue Squad. He appreciates the good work that County Manager Hughes does. All of the entities he is associated with tries to always be good stewards of the funding they receive.

Sheriff Ricky Oliver addressed the Board. He thanked the Board, County Manager Hughes, the Finance Office, and everyone else who participated in the preparation of the proposed FY20-21 Budget. It has been a difficult year. The pandemic has put a lot of strain on the County's resources. That strain has extended to the Sheriff's Office. They have been working hard trying to keep the coronavirus out of the Detention Center and to keep their employees safe. The recent events across the nation have caused some

people to be concerned. Several individuals have come in and spoken with him about the concerns they have regarding public safety. Sheriff Oliver agrees that training in de-escalation tactics and other things is important. They already have training in place and they have good policies and procedures to follow but those things are going to be even more important moving forward. The Sheriff's Office will continue to work with the citizens and build the trust the citizens have in them. He knows that preparing the proposed FY20-21 Budget was very difficult this year. County Manager Hughes has done a great job in trying to be fair to all of the County's Departments, including the Sheriff's Office and the Register of Deeds Office. Sheriff Oliver understands that cuts had to be made to everyone's budget. He asked that as the County moves forward with the FY20-21 fiscal year, if the revenues and resources come in better than expected, some of the funding that was cut from the Sheriff's Office budget be put back in. He thanked the Board for their support of the Sheriff's Office over the years.

No further speakers came forward in the room. Chairman Austin asked anyone participating in the meeting through Zoom or by phone who would like to make a comment to please indicate they would like to speak. He paused to give the remote participants time to indicate they would like to make a comment. Dale Ring said no one indicated they would like to speak.

Chairman Austin closed the Public Hearing at 7:25pm.

Chairman Austin said the written comment period on the proposed FY20-21 Budget will close Monday, June 15, 2020 at noon. Written comments can be emailed to the Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry, at [tgentry@yadkincountync.gov](mailto:tgentry@yadkincountync.gov). Any comments that come in will be forwarded to all of the Commissioners. The Board anticipates adopting the FY20-21 Budget at their regularly scheduled June 15, 2020 7:00pm meeting.

#### **BOARD ACTION**

The Board did not take any action.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Welborn** said he is proud to live in Yadkin County. He is glad that he was born here. He believes that Yadkin County has good employees. The uncertainties that the pandemic caused made preparing the proposed FY20-21 Budget harder this year. He thinks it is a good budget. He thanked everyone for coming. He appreciated the comments that everyone made tonight. The County will do the best we can in the coming year.

**Commissioner Zachary** thanked everyone for being here. He also thanked those who participated through Zoom. He thanked County Manager Hughes and Lindsey Cearlock for their work on the proposed FY20-21 Budget. It was probably the hardest Budget they have ever had to do. They got the Budget where it needed to be. He wished the County could do more. We will have to wait and see how this fiscal year plays out and see if the revenues end up coming in higher than expected in the future. He thanked Bobby Todd, Fire Chief Brandon Renegar, Carl Gmeiner, Dr. Wayne Matthews, and Sheriff Oliver for their comments. The County will do the best we can in the coming year.

**Vice Chairman Moxley** thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked those who viewed the meeting on Zoom and listened to it over the phone. This has become a very trying year because of the uncertainties that the pandemic has caused. Just trying to estimate what the revenues would be for the FY20-21 Budget was very difficult. He thanked County Manager Hughes and Lindsey Cearlock for their work on the proposed FY20-21 Budget. He is sure there are some people who would have liked to have received more funding than they got but he thinks everyone can make do with the funding they did receive. He looks forward to moving into the new fiscal year.

**Commissioner Hemric** thanked everyone for coming tonight. He agrees with what the other Commissioners have said. He thanked County Manager Hughes and Lindsey Cearlock for their work on the proposed FY20-21 Budget. He hopes the revenues do come in higher than expected and that some of the funding that was cut can be added back in to the Budget.

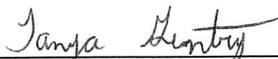
**Chairman Austin** said the Board has talked about past year's budgets being difficult but the FY20-21 Budget is a whole new level of difficult. He thinks what made the past year's budgets difficult was that there were so many legitimate requests that it was hard to choose between them. The FY20-21 Budget is

difficult because of all the uncertainties the pandemic has caused. There are so many unknowns. The County doesn't know how long the pandemic will last or how it will impact the County's revenues. The County also doesn't know what the State or the Federal Government is going to do in the future. The CARES Act had a lot of funding in it but that is not really reaching us at this point. County Manager Hughes, Lindsey Cearlock, and their staff have done a great job working with the Sheriff's Office, the School Superintendent, and all of the Department Directors to prepare the best proposed FY20-21 Budget possible. The best path forward is the one that County Manager Hughes has presented to the Board with this Budget. He doesn't think it changes, at all, the commitment the County has to the citizens and the services that the County provides to the citizens. The Board will do what is necessary to keep the County operating safely. That is what they were elected to do and that is what they will do. Six months from now could look great or it could look horrible. The new projections on the spread of the coronavirus is that there will be slight increases through the summer and fall and around October the number of positive cases will skyrocket. The Board and the County is going to do the best we can for the citizens. He thinks everyone will continue to learn how to deal with all this better.

There was no Closed Session.

**Commissioner Welborn made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Zachary second.**

**Vote: 5/0.**

  
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Prepared by Tanya Gentry  
Clerk to the Board

  
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Kevin Austin, Chairman  
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners

7/6/2020  
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Date approved by the  
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners