

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION
JUNE 9, 2009

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Dunlap Classroom, 80 East Street located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 9:00 AM on June 9, 2009.

Present: Chairman George Lucier; Vice Chair Sally Kost; Commissioners Mike Cross, Carl Thompson and Tom Vanderbeck; County Manager, Charlie Horne; Assistant County Manager, Renee Paschal; and Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell and Deputy Clerk, Elizabeth Plata

Budget Agenda

- Sustainable Communities
- Non-Profits, including Family Resource Center
- Fire Departments
- Court Related Programs
- Emergency Management
- Fire Marshal
- Tax Rate

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed those in attendance.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Board reviewed the budget for the Sustainable Communities department budget. The Board suggested that 25% of Management Analyst Sybil Tate’s time be spent providing support to the Green Building Task Force and the Green Energy Task Force. The Board also discussed the Transportation Planner position that could be funded through Chatham Transit Network. The Board instructed staff to budget \$41,000 in revenue for this position. The Board also requested that \$18,000 from the fund balance be used to increase time for Laura Lauffer.

FIRE MARSHAL

The Board reviewed the Fire Marshal budget and noted no changes.

INSPECTIONS

The Board reviewed the Inspections budget and noted no changes.

PLANNING

The Board discussed the Planning Department budget and noted no changes.

NON-PROFITS-HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES

The Board discussed the requests made by the Rocky River Heritage Foundation and also discussed the monitoring program. Commissioner Kost asked that the remainder of the allocation to Chatham County Schools for monitoring the river be allocated to Rocky River from FY 2009.

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, suggested that Rocky River Heritage Foundation report twice a year on how the allocation is spent and that reporting be made a part of the non-profit funding contract. The Board agreed with these suggestions.

The Board also discussed the budget request from Chatham Together, the Siler City Merchant's Association request for a structure to protect farmers from harsh weather conditions, Chatham Arts, and the North Carolina Arts Incubator. Chairman Lucier suggested that the \$10,000 deducted from EDC's budget to reflect the towns' contributions be added back and with another \$25,000 from EDC's fund balance to provide funding for these groups.. Chairman Lucier and Commissioner Thompson agreed to meet with the Economic Development Corporation to discuss this proposal. Ms. Paschal suggested, and the Board agreed, that these agencies should provide all required documentation and fill out a county application in order to receive funds.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Board discussed the late request from the Boys and Girls Club. They discussed the impact of the closing of the Teen Works Teen Center and the fact that services provided by this office are essential to the children in that area of Chatham County. The Board decided to set aside \$20,000 for the Boys and Girls Club from the Board's contingency. The Board asked that this group submit the appropriate documentation for funding and go through the same process as other nonprofits, including a volunteer review panel. Once the Board receives the panel recommendation, a final decision regarding funding will be made.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Board reviewed the budget for all of the Fire Departments and noted no change.

Darryl Griffin, Fire Chief of the Pittsboro Fire Department, commented on the challenges that the department is facing, including staff shortage, funding limitations, hardship in recruiting volunteers, and the cost of training and equipment.

Mark Riggsbee, Chief of the North Chatham Fire Department, stated they are facing a staff shortage.

Todd Harrington, Chief of the Moncure Fire Department, stated that they are also facing the same problems as other departments.

David Seagroves, President of the Silk Hope Fire Department Board, reported that they have had some help with new volunteers.

Todd Harrington, Moncure Rep states that they have projected expenses for the next 15 years with regards to supplies and personnel.

Chairman Lucier asked that staff compile information on the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a centralized fire services. He asked the departments to provide information on their needs and what it would take to bring all fire departments up to the same level of service.

Chairman called for a 20 minute lunch break at 11:57am

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board discussed the Partnership for Children budget request and decided to allocate an additional \$1,700 (total of \$3,300) to come from the Board's \$10,000).

Vice Chairman Kost stated she would like to increase the amount of money given to Rocky River to \$2,500, the amount recommended by the volunteer review panel. The Board agreed.

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, asked if she can add language to Appendix A: Chatham County Financial and Budgetary Policies in the budget so that it is clear that in order to receive county funding, nonprofits must follow the process unless there is an unusual circumstance. The Board agreed.

OTHER CHANGES TO THE BUDGET

Commissioner Kost asked that the amount of money that can be transferred from contingency to a department be reduced from \$100,000 to \$20,000. The Board agreed with Commissioner Kost's request. The Board also requested information on the demand from any department for a transfer in excess of \$20,000. Vicki Mc Connell, Finance Officer, will gather information on circumstances where a greater amount was requested by a department and provide to the Board.

COURT RELATED PROGRAMS

The Board discussed the budget for the Court Related programs and noted no change. Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager, stated that the Family Visitation Services had lost federal funding and would be ceasing operations unless another grant source is identified..

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Board discussed the budget for the Emergency Management Department and noted no changes.

FEES

Renee Paschal, Assistant County Manager reviewed new and revised fees for the different departments. The Board noted no changes.

Chairman Lucier asked that staff track the use of oral contraceptives to see if the new fee affects the program. Commissioners also asked staff to evaluate false alarm fees for the FY 2011 budget.

Transportation BUS

The Board reviewed the proposal for the purchase of a bus to provide public transportation. The County Manager had recommended \$130,000 to fund the service. Noting that the service would run for less than a full year, that the Town of Pittsboro would share in the cost, and riders would generate revenue, the Board instructed staff to reduce the amount budgeted to \$43,000.

CONTINGENCY/BALANCING THE BUDGET

The Board asked Renee Paschal to budget \$200,000 for contingency, a \$50,000 reduction from the manager's recommendation.

The Board instructed staff to make the following changes to the budget.

- Fund the Gang Prevention Officer position by reserving contingency at a cost of \$60,000 if funding is not available through grants
- Increase emergency funds by \$6,000 in the Department of Social Services budget.
- Reducing grants to organizations in the recreation budget by \$5,000.
- Budget \$40,000 in ABC revenues, rescinding the previous agreement to allow the ABC Board to retain all revenues.
- Transfer \$200,000 from the personnel savings account reserve to balance the budget.
- Reduce the parks capital reserve by \$22,266..
- Increase the YMCA rent amount by \$3,000, per the negotiated agreement.
- Increase interest revenue by \$170,000.
- Reduce the property tax rate from 60.32 to 60.22,

Commissioner Kost asked staff to provide information on the frozen County positions, including offsetting revenue.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to reconvene in the Work Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Vanderbeck moved, seconded by Commissioner Kost to go into Closed Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kost moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was adjourned at 3:53PM.

George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners