

MINUTES – MAY 12, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with department heads to discuss the County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Members present: Jeremiah Jefferies, Chairman, George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Eric D. Battle, and Gordon G. Satterfield. Absent: William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, and Kenneth D. Travis. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, and Gwen Y. Vaughn, Finance Officer. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Jefferies opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Chairman Jefferies reconvened the budget work session on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

(A quorum was not present at this time. Commissioners present: Jefferies, Battle, and Satterfield).

Parks and Recreation

Ms. Ashley Williams, Parks and Recreation Director, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for the Parks and Recreation Department for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Farmer Lake

The Board reviewed and discussed the Farmer Lake budget request for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. After reviewing the small amount of revenues received at the Lake, the Board discussed the possibility of closing Farmer Lake or operating on a part-time schedule.

Chairman Jefferies directed the County Manager to have the County Attorney review and determine the possibilities and liabilities involved if Farmer Lake were closed, closed on a part-time basis, or leased.

Alamance-Caswell Area Mental Health

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for the Alamance-Caswell Area Mental Health for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Health Department

Dr. Fred Moore, Health Director, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for the Caswell County Health Department for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Dr. Moore stated that over the

last 11 years the Health Department budget has averaged an increase of approximately two percent; however, added that the proposed 2009-2010 budget request is a 7.4% decrease from the Health Department's current budget. Dr. Moore noted that operating expenses have remained flat over that period, while salaries have steadily climbed. There are 43 full time employees at the Health Department and the number of employees has remained the same.

Inspections Department

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for the Inspections Department for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Animal Control

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for Animal Control for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Animal Protection Society of the Northern Piedmont

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for the Animal Protection Society of the Northern Piedmont for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Administration

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for Administration for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Finance Department

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for the Finance Department for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Economic Development

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for Economic Development for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Planning Department

The Board reviewed and discussed the budget request for the Planning Department for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

RECESS

At 12:00 p.m. the Board recessed until 1:30 p.m.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Chairman Jefferies reconvened the budget work session on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Department of Social Services

Ms. Dianne Moorefield, DSS Director, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for the Department of Social Services for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Ms. Moorefield informed the Board of several significant changes in her budget this year. Ms. Moorefield noted that there are no Medicaid monies budgeted for this year because the State is supposed to assume responsibility for Medicaid cost allocation.

Ms. Moorefield added that there are significant changes in the Foster Care Program budget, specifically relating to the payment system. Ms. Moorefield informed the Board that effective July 1, 2009, the State will no longer provide computer equipment and maintenance for the Child Support Program. Ms. Moorefield stated that DSS has seen a 35% increase in Food Stamp applicants and 25% increase in Medicaid applicants due to the economic conditions. Upon questioning from Commissioner Satterfield, Ms. Moorefield answered that of her \$4.2 million budget proposal, the amount of \$1,098,251 is local dollars.

(At 1:55 p.m. Commissioner Ward entered the meeting, constituting a quorum of the Board of Commissioners).

Piedmont Community College

Dr. H. James Owen, President, Piedmont Community College, and Mr. William Barnes, Finance Officer, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for Piedmont Community College for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Dr. Owen stated that PCC has been utilizing the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building to serve over 2,000 individuals per year for training, including NC Department of Correction, law enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services. Dr. Owen added that the Municipal Services Building is owned by the Town of Yanceyville and PCC has been allowed to use the facility at no cost. Dr. Owen noted that PCC worked with the NC Department of Correction and obtained some grants to construct walls and, most recently, lower the ceiling in that facility. Dr. Owen informed the Board that the Town of Yanceyville estimates that the utility costs for that building is \$18,000 - \$19,000 per year and would allow PCC to continue utilizing the building if it would provide \$9,600, half of the funding for utilities. Dr. Owen stated that the only source that PCC has to provide for items such as utilities are Operating funds from the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Owen informed the Board that the original building on the Caswell campus (Building K), which is now 22 years old, is in need of a roof replacement at an estimated cost of \$65,000.

Caswell County Schools

Dr. Douglas Barker, Superintendent, Caswell County Schools, came before the Board to discuss the budget request for Caswell County Schools for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Board of Education members Ms. June Dailey, Chairman, Ms. Sylvia Johnson, and Mr. Mel Battle, along with Mr. Scott Powell, Finance Officer were also present. Dr. Barker noted that due to the current economic conditions, the School System is requesting the same amount of money that it requested last year. Dr. Barker stated that any amount of money appropriated to the School System would be spent wisely. Dr. Barker requested that when the Board of Commissioners appropriate funding to them, that they also give them maximum flexibility. Dr. Barker stated that the Board of Education would like the flexibility to transfer funds among the Teachers Supplement, Current Expense, and Capital Outlay as needed. It was the consensus of the Board members to allow the Board of Education the flexibility to transfer funds as needed.

(Chairman Jefferies left the meeting).

Caswell County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center

(Chairman Jefferies entered the meeting).

Sheriff Michael Welch came before the Board to discuss the budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Sheriff Welch discussed with the Board the recent Jail Inspection Report submitted by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Service, Division of Health Service Regulation, Jail and Detention Section and the urgency in immediate corrective action. Sheriff Welch informed the Board that he spoke with the Chief Jail Inspector today and his concern is the building and how it has deteriorated. Sheriff Welch added that whatever the cost analysis would be and whatever is invested into the building, there is no guarantee of how much time it would give toward the future.

Commissioner Satterfield stated that he would like to see the bottom floor of the Jail vacant as soon as possible and just bring the upstairs portion of the building up to Jail standards. Upon questioning from Commissioner Satterfield, Sheriff Welch answered that in order to reduce inmate population, he would have to put a plan into place to reduce population over time, inmate by inmate.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Satterfield as to how many people the Sheriff's Office has on House Arrest, Sheriff Welch answered that House Arrest is not utilized in the County because the Sheriff's Office does not have the staff needed to implement and monitor this type of system. Sheriff Welch added that the judicial system would need to be involved to have House Arrest. Commissioner Satterfield stated that House Arrest could be used as an option to reduce jail population.

Commissioner Battle noted that it is the decision of the Judge and not the Sheriff to place inmates on House Arrest. Commissioner Battle added that there would be considerable cost to implement the House Arrest Program, including staff, equipment, and travel.

Sheriff Welch informed the Board that currently the Sheriff's Office is utilizing the Work Release Program.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Chairman Jefferies that an architectural firm be hired to obtain estimates for Jail improvements as stated in the Jail Inspection Report and construction of a future Jail facility. The motion carried unanimously.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 4:25 p.m. Chairman Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman
