

## MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009. Members present: Jeremiah Jefferies, Chairman, George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Erik D. Battle, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Gordon G. Satterfield, 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

The Board held a budget work session on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Dr. H. James Owen, President, Piedmont Community College, came before the Board and stated that the subject of his concern is the support needed for the Public Safety Training Center. Dr. Owen reported that since 2005 the Town of Yanceyville has provided space in the Yanceyville Municipal Building for a Public Safety Training Center. Dr. Owen stated that the College got support from a number of sources for this facility, including 10,000 man hours of work from the Dan River Prison Work Farm workcrew. Dr. Owen added that the current two-year agreement with the Town of Yanceyville for the Public Safety Training Center ends on June 30, 2009. Dr. Owen informed the Board that last year the Town of Yanceyville asked the College to put \$9,600 in its budget to be presented to the Board of Commissioners for the utilities that the College would have to pay for the use of that building. Dr. Owen noted that prior to this time the College had use of the building at no cost to the College. Dr. Owen reported that the College provides personnel for the building, rehabilitation of the building, maintenance, receptionist, internet connection, telephone system, and all of the equipment, materials, and supplies necessary. Dr. Owen informed the Board that most recently, the Town of Yanceyville has requested additional support in order for them to use the building. Dr. Owen stated that after the College presented its budget to the Board of Commissioners in May and requested an amount of \$9,600 for utilities in order to use the Yanceyville Municipal Building, shortly thereafter, the Town of Yanceyville came back to the College and told them that they needed \$12,000 for rent and \$15,000 for utilities, for a total of \$27,000. Dr. Owen added that he then told the Town that it would be very difficult to come back to the Board of Commissioners and request this additional amount after it had already presented its budget. Dr. Owen informed the Board that the College serves over 1,800 persons per year in this facility for the NC Department of Correction, law enforcement, EMS, and public safety personnel and it is a major training center for the college and region. Dr. Owen stated that with the College not having these funds, they will be required to leave the building. Dr. Owen added that he and the

County Manager have talked about alternative locations, with no solution. Dr. Owen stated that the College is in need of an alternative location because they do not have the funds for the rent and utilities that have been requested by the Town of Yanceyville and requested the Board's assistance.

Upon questioning from Chairman Jefferies as to amount of space needed, Dr. Owen answered that they would need 3,000 to 4,000 square feet. Chairman Jefferies stated to Dr. Owen that the Board would consider his request.

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and reviewed the following budget information he prepared since the last budget work session.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET PRESENTION TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>20,680,144</b>
Finance Department/HR position w/benefits	(30,596)
Public Health/Clerical Worker-EH	(32,089)
Farmer Lake (Reduced Operations)	(18,242)
Board of Education/Teacher Supplement	(231,000)
Employees 5-day Furloughs	(75,000)
Employee contribution – Health insurance (GF only)	(42,600)
Contingency	200,293
<b>TOTAL CHANGE</b>	<b>(229,234)</b>

**Expenditures to Adjust**

Board of Education/Sales Tax Reserve-Hold Harmless	1,374
Non-Departmental/Retirees Insurance	5,000
Local Management Entity	10,000
<b>TOTAL ADJUSTED</b>	<b>16,374</b>

**REVISED EXPENDITURE TOTAL** **20,467,284**

**Revenues to Adjust**

Guilford Mills Rent	(6,000)
Sales Tax Distribution (Reduction total 4.5%)	(29,135)
<b>TOTAL ADJUSTED</b>	<b>(35,135)</b>

**Other Options for Discussion**

Environmental Health Specialist	(43,674)
Additional Cuts	26,389

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Mr. Howard reported that the budget at the beginning of the last budget meeting was \$20,681,044 and he has reduced that amount by the items listed. Mr. Howard stated that by putting in \$200,293 for Contingency, it would still leave \$229,234 in extra revenues in the budget, based on expenditure reduction.

Commissioner Satterfield stated that in light of asking County employees to pay five percent of their health insurance, that Commissioners be willing to reduce its salary by five percent. Commissioner Satterfield added that he would like to see the solid waste household user fee reduced from \$89 to \$75. Commissioner Satterfield stated that he would like to see all travel requests for the next fiscal year to be reviewed by the Board, and would like to have all budget transfers and budget amendments approved by the Board before any expenditure is made. Commissioner Satterfield added that in light of the fact that the County Manager and Finance Officer have just told the Board that there will be an excess in revenues this year of \$150,000 - \$250,000, instead of this money rolling over to Fund Balance, to go back and increase the Schools' Current Expense budget by \$250,000 to \$2,558,000, its current level, and to reconsider the Farmer Lake budget, with it being in operation three days a week, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and to close it in its entirety on December 1 of the year and reopen the following year on April 1. Commissioner Satterfield added that if, at the end of the fiscal year the Contingency funds have not been spent and there has not been a crisis, if County employees pay five percent of their health insurance and there is a five-day furlough for employees, that the Board grant a one-time reimbursement to County employees for the amount of the furloughs and health insurance.

Chairman Jefferies stated that education is his number one priority and people working is his number two priority. Chairman Jefferies added that he would propose giving \$200,000 back to the Schools, do away with the five-day furlough for County employees, and do away with the five percent payment by County employees on their health insurance because their benefits are already being reduced and are having to pay a higher co-pay. Chairman Jefferies stated that he is not in favor of the amount of money that has been taken away from the School System. Chairman Jefferies stated that the Board could increase taxes by two cents which would cause the average taxpayer to pay only an additional amount of \$16 and would give the County an additional \$290,000 and still have \$250,000 for the Contingency Fund.

(At 5:35 p.m. Commissioner Carter entered the meeting).

Commissioner Hall stated that the County needs to look long-term at what it is doing and make some significant changes, and this includes increasing its Fund Balance. Commissioner Hall added that the Board must make a significant decrease in expenses or increase taxes.

Commissioner Carter stated that he agreed with Commissioner Hall in that looking long range, there needs to be a one or one and one-half cent tax increase in order to maintain the current level of services.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of a two cents tax increase with \$185,000 being placed in Contingency. Commissioners Jefferies and Carter voted in the affirmative, along with Commissioner Battle who requested additional data with this. Commissioner Hall stated that he was against the two cents tax increase as proposed, and Commissioners Travis, Satterfield, and Ward voted no.

Chairman Jefferies requested that Commissioner Satterfield restate his proposal, after which he polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of the proposal, with Commissioners Satterfield and Ward voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Jefferies, Battle, Carter, Hall, and Travis voting no.

Commissioner Carter presented a proposal which would include a one cent tax increase, eliminate the County employee furlough days and five percent payment of health insurance from the budget, and include the cuts from the last budget session held on June 4, 2009. Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of Commissioner Carter's proposal, with Commissioner Carter voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Jefferies, Ward, Battle, Hall, Satterfield, and Travis voting no.

RECESS

At 6:25 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to recess the meeting until Monday, June 22, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Wanda P. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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Jeremiah Jefferies  
Chairman

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