

MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 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.

Mr. Howard presented and reviewed the following budget information he prepared since the last budget work session:

Changes to FY 09-10 Budget as of June 4, 2009

Revenues

Decrease Sales Tax	-37,294
Increase EMS Collections	45,000
	7,706

Expenditures

Governing Body

Travel	- 1,750
--------	---------

Administration

Travel	- 1,000
--------	---------

Tax

Travel	- 1,000
In House Appraiser	6,100

Elections

Election Officials	- 5,000
--------------------	---------

<u>Maintenance</u>	
Salaries	1,690
<u>Non Departmental</u>	
EMS Source	4,500
<u>Sheriff</u>	
Over Time	- 2,500
Part Time	- 2,500
Travel	- 1,000
<u>Senior Services</u>	
Travel	- 5,472
<u>Soil & Water</u>	
Capital Outlay	- 8,000
<u>Library</u>	
Reduction in Hours 49 down to 40	- 2,751
<u>Farmer Lake</u>	
4 Day Schedule	- 15,018
	- 33,701
Total Savings	- 41,407

Positions

Register of Deeds	
Full Time to Part Time	15,209
Sheriff	36,092
Detention	33,933
911	33,498
EMS	35,725
DSS	14,890

Health Dept. 43,671
213,018

*These are not recommendations but are examples of savings from various departments.

Commissioner Carter presented the following budget proposal:

Budget Adjustments 2009-2010

1. School Budget: \$255,827.00, cut 7.5% (\$19,187.00)
2. Local Management Entity: (LME) cut 25% (\$28,765.00)
3. Maintenance Director Salary: Cut Out (\$42,077.00)
4. Farmer Lake: Reduce to 2 days a week cut (\$23,000.00)
5. Sheriff's Dept. K9 \$17,900 cut to (\$12,500.00)

Total Savings: \$125,529.00

Note: Bring EMS Unit from Anderson back to Yanceyville base, thus saving part-time help, or either hire an additional paramedic to staff unit. At this time with one employee on this unit, this is resulting in extra cost to the county thus having additional staff and unit responding from the Yanceyville base.

Jail: Make necessary repairs to present jail as funds are available, state jail officials are not in the business to close jails, but to make sure they are adequate for safe housing of inmates, the grand jury and superior court judge have more authority in closing of a jail, the county just had a state jail inspection of necessary repairs, and the grand jury recently conducted an inspection and compiled a report on the jail.

Summary: My budget cuts does not reflect no county employee furlough or laying off employees.

Respectfully submitted:
William E. Carter

Mr. Howard stated that he felt with what he has presented, the budget is at the point that if the Board wants to make any further cuts, it will have to be in services or positions.

Commissioner Ward questioned the County Manager, in consideration of the cuts he just presented, as to the amount he is projecting to use from Fund Balance. Mr. Howard answered that he would still need to appropriate \$287,375 from Fund Balance to balance the budget.

In discussing the hiring freeze, Commissioner Travis stated that the Board needs to decide if it is going to abide by the hiring freeze or not, and if they are not, money needs to be budgeted for the positions.

In discussing employee cuts, Commissioner Travis stated that he felt the County Manager should go back and look at all departments, instead of just the ones he listed.

Commissioner Hall stated that when the Board starts discussing eliminating a position, for example, the Human Resources position, it needs to understand the impact it will have on the County. Commissioner Hall added that the Board needs to keep in mind that Health Department and Social Services employees are governed by the State Personnel Act and emphasized that the County should be very familiar with the rules concerning reduction in force.

Chairman Jefferies stated that in polling the Board members on issues, a majority vote would be considered as consensus of the Board.

Following discussion of the proposal of adopting a one-cent tax increase to help balance the budget, Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of a one-cent tax increase, with Commissioners Carter, Hall, and Battle voting in the affirmative, and Commissioners Jefferies, Satterfield, Travis, and Ward voting no.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of the County Manager and Finance Officer going back to the budget, reviewing each department, and determining the impact as far as cost savings and rules that would govern the action in eliminating one employee from each department, with Commissioners Battle, Jefferies, Satterfield, Travis, and Ward voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Carter and Hall voting no.

Chairman Jefferies directed the County Manager to bring before the Board at its next meeting the impact that a one-cent and two-cents tax increase would have on the budget.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of five furlough days for County employees, with Commissioners Jefferies, Ward, Battle, Satterfield, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Carter and Hall voting no.

Mr. Howard informed the Board that he is proposing eliminating the Human Resources Officer position and transferring that individual to fill a vacancy at the Senior Center. Mr. Howard added that he is also proposing to eliminate one clerical position in Environmental Health and merging that position with a clerical position in the Building Inspections Office.

Commissioner Ward questioned the cost effectiveness of the Board instituting a five percent reduction in salary for County employees versus the five furlough days. Mr. Howard answered that the five furlough days would be \$75,000 and the five percent reduction in salary would be approximately \$400,000.

Upon questioning from the Board concerning County employees paying a portion of their health insurance, Mr. Howard answered that if the employees paid five percent of their insurance, it would be a savings of \$53,496 to the County, with the employee paying \$22.29 per month.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of eliminating Teachers Supplement in the amount of \$231,000, with the Board unanimously agreeing to eliminate Teachers' Supplement.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as whether to appropriate the amount of \$2,308,000 for Schools' Current Expense, with Commissioners Jefferies, Battle, Carter, Hall, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Satterfield and Ward voting no.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of eliminating the Human Resources Officer position, with Commissioners Jefferies, Ward, Carter, Satterfield, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Battle and Hall voting no.

After further discussion, Commissioner Carter moved to reinstate the Human Resources Officer position. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of eliminating a clerical position in Environmental Health and combining it with a clerical position in the Building Inspections Office, with Commissioners Jefferies, Ward, Carter, Satterfield, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Battle and Hall voting no.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of reducing the Local Management Entity's budget by \$21,765 with all Commissioners voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of setting Farmer Lake's operation schedule as being open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year, with Commissioners Jefferies, Battle, Carter, Hall, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Satterfield and Ward voting no.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of County employees paying five percent of their health insurance, with all Commissioners voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of appropriating \$173,904 in the Contingency Fund, with Commissioners Jefferies, Ward, Carter, and Travis voting in the affirmative and Commissioners Battle, Hall, and Satterfield voting no.

Chairman Jefferies polled the Board members as to who would be in favor of additional cuts as outlined earlier by the County Manager in the amount of \$26,389, and appropriating this amount

to the Contingency Fund for a total appropriation to the Contingency Fund in the amount of \$200,293, with all Commissioners voting in the affirmative. Commissioners Battle and Satterfield noted that they were also in favor of reviewing the budget further for additional cuts.

RECESS

At 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to recess the meeting until Monday, June 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Jeremiah Jefferies
Chairman
