

Commissioners Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2009

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met in special budget session at 5:35 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, County Office Building, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC. Commissioners Holmes, Frye, Kemp, Haywood and Lanier were present.

Budget Presentations

Chairman Holmes announced that any department head satisfied with his/her budget and had no comments could leave. Others were welcome to stay to discuss their budgets as proposed by the County Manager and Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer.

Library

Suzanne Tate, Public Library Director, said she was not requesting additional funding, but wanted to share some statistics of the Library. She stated that the library is more popular as a research destination, has become important to jobseekers, is inexpensive entertainment, and summer reading programs keep the children reading while out of school. The great thing about what the library has to offer is that it is all free, stated Ms. Tate.

Maintenance

James Chriscoe, Maintenance Supervisor, stated that he had nothing to add but thanked the Commissioners for their support. Commissioner Frye asked about the progress of the new Archdale facility. Mr. Chriscoe said that it is progressing as scheduled and that new keys have been distributed.

Public Health

MiMi Cooper, Public Health Director, said that she was satisfied with her proposed budget and understood the budget constraint circumstances. Ms. Cooper stated that they continue to watch to see what the State is going to do in regard to public health programs in the State budget.

Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Krista Lowe stated that she also had nothing to add, but thanked the Board for their continued support. Chairman Holmes commended and thanked Ms. Lowe for allowing her staff to assist at DSS during slow times at the Register of Deeds office.

Cooperative Extension

Carolyn Langley, Cooperative Extension Director, thanked the Commissioners for their support, stating that they were very appreciative of the help during the last few months of the State budget crisis. Ms. Langley said that they would be affected by the State furloughs. Ms. Langley asked the Commissioners for support with local legislators regarding the filling of the vacant Livestock Agent position as quickly as possible, even though hiring has been frozen at the State level. She noted that the County pays half of the position's salary.

Aging Services

Candie Rudzinski, Aging Services Director, said that her agency has been affected by \$37,000 in cuts to her agency from the United Way and the State, but thanked the Board for their continued support.

Sheriff's Department

Col. Allen McNeill, Chief Deputy—Randolph County Sheriff's Department, stated that they do appreciate the job the Commissioners do to try to keep the residents' taxes low and still enable the

department to serve the citizens of this county. Col. McNeill stated they have applied for some grants for assistance.

Col. McNeill reviewed future needs that will need to be addressed by the Board:

- The jail overcrowding as crime rates are also on the increase;
- Federal government requiring the radio system to be converted to narrowband by 2013. The current radios used for all of Emergency Services and Sheriff's Dept. will not work after the conversion. Col. McNeill said they are researching the options, but the State's Viper System may be the best and most cost effective option at \$500,000. The State would be responsible for maintaining the towers and systems. Grants may be an option, and Col. McNeill will investigate more.

Col. McNeill reviewed their capital outlay request in the proposed budget and answered questions from the Board.

Col. McNeill stated that gangs were becoming more organized. Commissioner Haywood stated that we all owe the Sheriff's office and other law enforcement officers for the jobs they do. Commissioner Lanier stated that citizens have commented to him how much they appreciate their presence in the rural areas of the county.

Sheriff Maynard Reid also thanked the Board. He commented that their call volume keeps going up, but they would hold to the budget the best they can. Sheriff Reid said that as it gets warmer jail occupancy normally rises.

The Board also discussed the State's proposal to close the local SBI lab in Greensboro that has been open only eight months. Sheriff Reid stated that twelve Sheriff's agencies used drug seizure monies to help fund the lab and that this proposed closure would greatly increase turn-around times if it is closed.

Day Reporting Center

Pam Smith, Day Reporting Center Director, thanked Board members for their support. She said that, at this point, the State is proposing cuts of around 20% for the Juvenile Day Reporting Center. Commissioners have heard that the State may not fund the Juvenile and Adult Day Reporting programs. Commissioner Kemp stated that the DRC programs have saved the County on jail space and the costs of housing inmates. The DRC and JDRC programs keep many first time offenders out of jail and give them a chance to change their life's path.

Discussion

Board members informally discussed the proposed budget. They also discussed the need for an ambulance base on the south side of Hwy 64. County Manager Richard Wells stated he will ask the Emergency Services Director about the possibility of available grants to local fire departments willing to assist in housing a base at their stations.

County Manager Wells said that he appreciated each department head's willingness to work with the Finance Department to maintain their budget.

Will Massie, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer, presented property tax projections.

Mr. Massie stated that no one knows what the State will do at this point, but predicts Counties will never again receive ADM monies to help fund school construction and speculates that the lottery proceeds meant for Counties will be withheld.

Commissioners discussed revisiting the local option quarter cent sales tax referendum. Commissioners stated that citizens have commented that they didn't understand the proposal and have asked for it to be brought back to a vote. Some have even offered to help pay for a campaign.

Adjournment

There being no further presentations, the Board adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

Amanda Varner, Deputy Clerk to the Board