

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 23, 2013**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 in a continuation of the recessed budget work session that was held on Monday, April 22, 2013. The meeting was held in the Hugh Cale Commissioners Board Room in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Vice-Chairman *(arrived at 2:30 PM)*
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Cecil Perry
Gary G. White
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Frankie Meads

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Randy Keaton, County Manager
Rodney Bunch, Assistant County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was reconvened at 2:00 PM. Chairman Dixon welcomed the members of the Board of Education and school staff.

1. BUDGET WORK SESSION:

School Finance Director James Agar presented the Board of Education's budget request for FY 2013-14. He said the dollar amounts are unchanged from the preliminary budget that had previously been provided to the Board. He reviewed each line item and outlined the increases in appropriations and listed the capital outlay items. He said the school system has been told to look for a 5% increase in hospital insurance this year which is another \$260 per employee, and a 5% increase in the retirement percentage. Mr. Agar explained that the Board of Education is requesting an additional \$1.5 million in operating funds and an additional \$1 million in capital outlay funds from the county. He advised that in recent years there has been a dramatic rise in the number of autistic students and in severely handicapped students which has had a drastic impact on the school's resources. He said in two years the number of autistic students has risen from 55 to 81 which has resulted in increased demands for teacher assistants, and sometimes two are needed in each classroom, yet the state is withdrawing funding for teacher assistants. He noted that the school system was funded this year for 787 exceptional students and actually has 890. He said some of these students have cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other handicaps and need a lot of attention, and the law requires the school system to provide services for them, even if it does not have the funds, so funds have to be found somewhere. After questions and lengthy discussion about the budget, the Board thanked the Board of Education for its presentation. The Board of Education was excused from the meeting.

The Board discussed the school system's budget request and it was noted that in order to fund all of the increase in the school system's operating budget, not including the capital budget, it would take a 3.5¢ increase in property taxes.

The Board considered the possibility of using QSCB funds to finance another portion of the Northeastern High School roof. Mr. Keaton explained that he contacted the Department of Public Instruction today and was informed that there is about \$600,000 remaining in QSCB funds that have not been allocated, however the web site said there was only about \$4,000 remaining. He said he hopes to soon have a definitive answer on the remaining QSCB funds.

The Board reviewed the COA budget request and also discussed the shortfall in the General Fund budget.

2. COUNTY MANAGER'S CELL PHONE:

County Manager Randy Keaton requested that he be allowed to purchase his county cell phone so that he can keep his same phone number and his contacts upon his retirement. The Board concurred to allow Mr. Keaton to purchase his county cell phone for \$1.

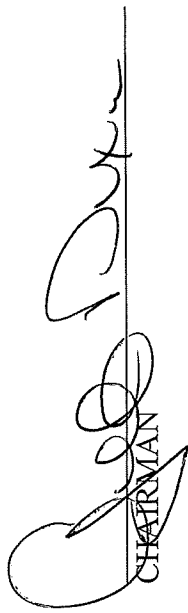
3. CHANGE IN DATE FOR DANGEROUS DOG APPEALS:

The Clerk reported that neither Courtroom C nor the Library Community Room is available on May 8th, the date selected to hear the dangerous dog appeals. The Board agreed to hear the appeals on Thursday, May 9th at 2:00 PM in Courtroom C.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

The next budget work session will be held on Monday, April 29 at 2:00 PM.


CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN