

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 30, 2014**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a budget work session on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry *(left at 9:30 AM)*
Dr. William R. Sterritt *(left at 10:00 AM)*
Gary G. White
Frankie Meads

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lloyd E. Griffin, III *(out of town)*

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The work session was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Jeff Dixon.

1. UPDATE ON TORNADO CLEANUP OPERATIONS:

County Manager Rodney Bunch updated the Board on the cleanup operations from last Friday evening's tornadoes. He said the operations at the landfill debris disposal area are going smoothly. He stated that there is a lot of debris and the Department of Transportation began Monday morning clearing the roads and the right-of-ways. He said several calls have been received from property owners asking if they can move their storm debris to the roadsides to be picked up, however this is not currently being done by the Department of Transportation. He stated that Pasquotank County residents will not be charged a tipping fee when they haul their LCID debris to the landfill, however contractors who charge a fee to haul this material for residents will be charged. Mr. Bunch explained there will also be a lot of construction and demolition material and the fees for these materials will not be waived because the Solid Waste Department would have to absorb those costs if the fees were waived. He stated that building permit fees for anything related to the storm will be waived for a period of six months. He reported that a meeting will be held tomorrow at 1:00 PM with representatives from State Public Assistance to discuss debris removal.

Commissioner Cecil Perry stated that he has received calls from individuals who need food assistance. He said he called the Social Services Director who informed him that those already receiving assistance will continue to do so, but they cannot add new recipients until next week. He reported that he will be meeting with Mr. Bob Etheridge from USDA this morning when he comes to area to assess the damage incurred by farmers in the county.

Mr. Bunch asked for thoughts from Commissioners regarding contractors bringing in debris for county residents. He said the residents with a lot of tree and limb debris will have some large tipping fees. He said on the other hand if the county were to waive the tipping fees for contractors bringing in the debris, it would have a large impact on the Solid Waste Department's budget.

Commissioner Frankie Meads said anyone with a grapple truck could carry logs to a mill to be chipped up and this would save a lot of expense and landfill storage space.

2. BUDGET WORK SESSION:

The Board held a budget work session. Finance Officer Sheri Small reviewed a spreadsheet she had prepared showing the 2013-14 approved budget for individual county departments, the departmental budget requests for 2014-15, and the amount proposed by staff for 2014-15. She outlined the increases and decreases from the 2013-14 budget and the 2014-15 proposed budget. The Board discussed at length the proposed budgets for the EMS Department and the Parks and Recreation Department. An increase of approximately \$1,934,843 in expenditures in the general

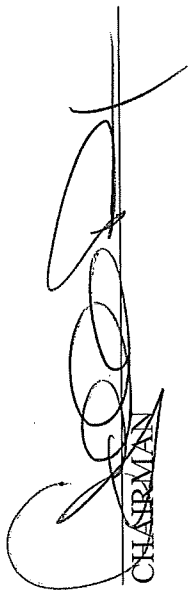
fund is projected at this point, and an increase in revenues of approximately \$385,569 is projected for an overall general fund increase of \$1,549,274.

Ms. Small presented preliminary valuation figures for county property. The value for real property for FY 2014-15 will be approximately \$2.7 billion, a decrease of about \$.4 billion. The estimated valuation for motor vehicles is \$280 million for a total estimated tax base of \$2.9 billion. Last year the tax base was \$3.4 billion.

County Manager Rodney Bunch presented a calculation of the revenue-neutral tax rate at 75.6¢. Ms. Small explained that the calculation is based on a formula mandated by state law. The proposed tax rate for FY 2014-15 is 76¢ which represents an increase of 13¢ over the 2013-14 tax rate. The tax levy for FY 2014-15 is estimated at \$22,182,851. Mr. Bunch explained that this 76¢ is actually an adjusted rate in order for the county to receive the same amount of tax revenue as the current year. As a result of revaluation, some property owners will pay more taxes and some will pay less.

It was noted that in order to fully fund all capital requests the tax rate would need to be increased an additional 6¢. Direction was given to the County Manager and Finance Officer to calculate what impact financing all capital requests would have on the budget rather than funding the full costs in the 2014-15 budget.

The work session was adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next budget work session will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at 9:00 AM.



CHAIRMAN



CLERK TO THE BOARD