

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 1, 2012**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met in a continuation of its May 29, 2012 budget work session on June 1, 2012 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman
 Jeff Dixon, Vice-Chairman
 Bill Trueblood
 Cecil Perry
 Dr. William R. Sterritt
 Gary G. White
 Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.

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 work session was reconvened at 10:00 AM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin.

County Manager Randy Keaton reviewed a budget spreadsheet showing proposed budget cuts that would eliminate the \$500,000 deficit and the need for a tax increase. He stated that he would not recommend a lot of the cuts, particularly those that would eliminate departments, but this is the only way he could see to accomplish the goal of not having a tax increase with the items that are mandated in the budget, such as debt payments that are already obligated. He said he based his recommendations on maintaining funding for departments that provide services that benefit the most people. He noted that with these cuts the Board would be able to balance the budget with no tax increase and cover the deficit.

Chairman Griffin suggested that the Jail be asked to pick up the \$221,000 in debt from its fund balance. Mr. Keaton said if that were done, the Jail would have to appropriate money back to Camden and Perquimans Counties because \$221,000 is just Pasquotank County's share of the debt. He added that Camden and Perquimans each paid their share upfront. Chairman Griffin stated that when the Jail was constructed the Jail Commission indicated that they would generate enough revenues from federal prisoners to pay the debt. The Board concurred to propose to reduce the appropriation to the jail by \$220,500 and to request the Jail Commission to meet as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

Mr. Maurice Berry, a Soil & Water Supervisor for Pasquotank County, addressed the Board and requested that funding for the Soil Conservation Service not be cut. He said if the county's funding is eliminated, their office in Pasquotank County will have to close. He explained that currently they only have a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time technician. He outlined the services the Soil Conservation Service provides for Pasquotank County. He said they contribute a lot to Pasquotank County and they bring money into the county. The Board concurred to restore the appropriation for Soil & Water in the proposed budget.

The Board discussed the ramifications of eliminating the Animal Control Department and agreed to restore the appropriation at level funding. The proposed elimination of funding for the Economic Development Commission and the Senior Center was also discussed and both agencies were restored at level funding. The proposed cut of \$97,108 for College of The Albemarle was also restored.

Vice-Chairman Dixon proposed that county employees be given at least a 1% salary increase and he said he would not vote for the budget unless that is included. Commissioner Gary White added that county employees are at the point of being demoralized after being neglected for

almost five years. He said it does not affect him because he would not get any cost-of-living increase, but employee morale is at an all-time low. Commissioner Joe Winslow stated that county employees will effectively be getting a salary increase with the increase in the cost of health insurance the county will be paying for them. Vice-Chairman Dixon noted that many employees have family plans which will also increase in cost and this comes out of their own pockets.

The County Manager noted that with the additions back to the budget there is now a \$104,000 deficit. This will require a cut of \$104,000 from the proposed budget or a revenue increase in the same amount.

After further discussion regarding the budget, the Board agreed to hold another budget work session on Monday, June 4 at 2:00 PM.

Motion was made by Bill Trueblood, seconded by Gary White to adjourn the work session. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.



CHAIRMAN



CLERK TO THE BOARD