

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 25, 2012**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a work session on Monday, June 25, 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 called to order at 3:30 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin. Chairman Griffin stated that several issues have arisen over the last couple of weeks of which the Board needs to be aware. He advised that notification has been received from Chowan County that it is pulling out of the health insurance pool. He said it is not yet known what the ramifications will be. Chairman Griffin also advised that Camden County has chosen not to fund \$40,000 of its share of the Library budget.

1. LIBRARY BUDGET:

The Board discussed the \$40,000 cut in the Library budget made by Camden County. Mr. Keaton stated that one of Camden's issues was that there was no contract between Pasquotank County and Camden County for operation of the Library. He provided some historical information about the Library. He said it started as a joint agency 70 years ago. He stated that at that time the Library was a separate organization and was separate from county government. He said it received money from the two counties and from the city as well as private contributions. He pointed out that it never was a contracted service, but a joint library that both counties and the city contributed to. He said until 1997 the Library did its own bookkeeping and had its own audit. In 1997 Pasquotank County took over the bookkeeping for the Library, but always maintained it in a separate fund. Mr. Keaton stated that he believes this is why the confusion occurred. He said with Camden County unilaterally making a cut to the budget, Pasquotank County has two options: 1) to cut services such as bookmobile services in Camden County or computer classes at the Camden Senior Center; or 2) to use Library fund balance which is not being used. He informed the Board if Camden County cut \$40,000 from the Library budget, Pasquotank County would need to cut \$160,000 to maintain the 80/20 ratio. He said this would spend \$200,000 of the Library's fund balance which would keep services at the same level and still leave \$148,000 in the Library's fund balance. He added this could only be done for one year.

2. SPCA BUDGET:

Commissioner William Sterritt explained that for the 2011-12 year, the county allocated \$107,100 for the SPCA operations. The SPCA has asked for an increase of \$10,000 to \$117,100 for the 2012-13 year. He said the proposed 2012-13 budget actually cuts the SPCA allocation by \$10,000 to \$97,100. He asked representatives from the SPCA to explain the need. Kim Parrish, President of the SPCA, introduced John Graves, Shelter Manager. Mr. Graves advised that the SPCA is no longer asking for a \$10,000 increase, but would like to hold their allocation at level funding at \$107,100. He explained that the SPCA cuts corners everywhere it can and he provided a breakdown of some of the costs to operate the shelter including staffing costs, medication costs, utility costs, euthanasia costs, and supplies. Ms. Parrish added that the contributions from the two counties do not cover the costs of operating the shelter. She said the SPCA is involved in fundraising and receives community support and contributions. Mr. Graves

noted that the shelter operates with bare bones staff on a bare bones budget compared to a lot of other similar facilities. He said their adoption/reclaim rate is 10% higher for cats and 30% higher for dogs than the state average. He stated that the SPCA is doing as good a job as it possibly can and he cannot imagine them losing \$10,000 and continuing to do what they do.

Ms. Parrish updated the Board on the new building the SPCA has purchased. She said the \$300,000 purchase price came from donations over the years and the parcel next to the building was donated. She stated that they are waiting on approval for a USDA loan to renovate the building and they hope to get started in December 2013. She added that the SPCA keeps the building funds separate from operational funding and they are just asking the county for operational funding. She said they could not survive if they lost any more funding as they are still hurting from the last cut from the county.

Commissioner Sterritt said his recommendation was to increase the county's SPCA allocation by \$10,000 over the current year's allocation, not to keep it at the current level. He stated that the need has clearly been demonstrated.

At the absence of further business for the work session;

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Bill Trueblood to adjourn the work session. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.


CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN