

**June 7, 2019**

A Special Meeting regarding FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget was held on Friday, June 7, 2019 at 9:00 am in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located on the lower level of the Courthouse, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC.

Members present were:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Michael Cogdell

Daniel Dowless

Russell Priest

Ray Britt

Ashley Trivette

Arthur Bullock

David Gooden

Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

**ITEM 1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:11am. Chairman Peterson provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget Information and Discussion**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed items for information, including, but not limited to:
- Projected Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
  - Review Changes from Proposed Budget
  - Comprehensive Fee Schedule
  - DSS Security Measures
  - Bladen Community College
  - Personnel Policy Updates

**ITEM 3. Discussion:**

Mr. Martin reviewed projected Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) options. He stated that county staff had diligently worked to identify cost saving efforts and potential revenue enhancing opportunities to assist alleviating budgetary challenges.

Chairman Peterson inquired regarding a committee to review the Board's practice related to travel. Commissioners Munn-Goins, Trivette, and Bullock volunteered to participate on the ad hoc committee. Chairman Peterson named Commissioner Trivette as chairperson.

Mr. Martin also reviewed changes from the proposed budget as presented during the May 14, 2019 meeting. He provided information which was presented very recently regarding two (2) deputies assigned to Clarkton. The Town of Clarkton has requested to be released from their financial obligations by a request to cancel the program, which also includes vehicle rental obligations. A Town of Clarkton representative has indicated the town's intent to enhance an existing security system.

Mr. Martin also provided an overview of two additional staff positions which have been removed from DSS. He stated that services were delivered by contract employees for one of the positions, and the other hasn't been filled due to program attrition. He shared that no one has been terminated.

Mr. Martin also shared that a solid waste vendor had sent notification that a Consumer Price Index (CPI) 7.1% increase would be added to rates effective July 1. The agreement does support that action. He further stated that the fee structure for solid waste may need to be revisited during the FY 2020-21 budget process, as rates have not been revised since 2001.

Mr. Martin revisited the following changes to the May 14 Proposed Budget presentation:

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- 2% Cost of Living Adjustment
- Addition of two (2) patrol vehicles
- Addition of a vehicle for NC Forestry

Chairman Peterson recognized DSS Director Vickie Smith to address the Board regarding security measures. Mrs. Smith provided an overview of current measures and provided information regarding requested enhancements.

Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 10:03am.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 10:10am.

Following further discussion regarding cost saving efforts and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board approved to remove \$60,000 previously budgeted for recreational program matching grants.

Commissioner Cogdell departed the meeting at 10:13am without being excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Following discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) AYES \* (Trivette, Dowless, Gooden, Britt, Peterson, Cogdell) to three (3) NOES (Munn-Goins, Bullock, Priest).

\*Pursuant to Rule 10, Paragraph I of the Board's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Cogdell is recorded as having voted in the affirmative because his departure was not excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Commissioner Munn-Goins provided a motion to remove financial support of the batting cages from the budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Munn-Goins departed the meeting at 10:14am without being excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Mr. Martin reviewed the county's Comprehensive Fee Schedule. He highlighted proposed fee increases for Building Inspections and Recreation. Following further discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board approved a Comprehensive Fee Schedule to include Building Inspections and Recreation Departments proposed increases. The motion passed by a vote of eight (8) AYES \* (Trivette, Britt, Gooden, Peterson, Dowless, Priest, Cogdell, Munn-Goins) to one (1) NO (Bullock).

\*Pursuant to Rule 10, Paragraph I of the Board's Rules of Procedure, Commissioners Cogdell and Munn-Goins are recorded as having voted in the affirmative because the departures were not excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Mr. Martin reviewed proposed appropriations to Bladen Community College. Following discussion and upon motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved (9 AYES \* to 0 NOES) funding for additional custodial staff for a current expense budget of \$1,062,752.

\*Pursuant to Rule 10, Paragraph I of the Board's Rules of Procedure, Commissioners Cogdell and Munn-Goins are recorded as having voted in the affirmative because the departures were not excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Commissioner Bullock departed the meeting at 10:26am without being excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Mr. Martin and Human Resource Director Shonteia Keaton reviewed the following Personnel Policies Updates:

- Annual Vacation Leave
- Compensation Plan
- Organization of Personnel

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- Conflict of Interest
- Dress Code Policy
- Employee Benefits

Ms. Keaton and Mr. Martin indicated that amendments to the Annual Vacation Leave and Employee Benefits were to not be in conflict with practice and the State Health Plan policies. The Compensation Plan proposed amendment would revise automatic steps from 3-year to 4-year intervals, with the increase effective on the employee's anniversary date rather than January 1 or July 1 following the employee's anniversary date.

Following further discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved (9 AYES \* to 0 NOES) Personnel Policy amendments as proposed.

\*Pursuant to Rule 10, Paragraph I of the Board's Rules of Procedure, Commissioners Bullock, Cogdell, and Munn-Goins are recorded as having voted in the affirmative because the departures were not excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Following discussion, the Board asked Mr. Martin to contact Sheriff McVicker for a review of current DSS security measures and provide a proposed budget for enhancements. Mr. Martin stated that information will be prepared and presented at an upcoming Special Budget Meeting scheduled for 10am on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved (9 AYES \* to 0 NOES) a 2% COLA beginning July 1, 2019.

\*Pursuant to Rule 10, Paragraph I of the Board's Rules of Procedure, Commissioners Bullock, Cogdell, and Munn-Goins are recorded as having voted in the affirmative because the departures were not excused by majority vote of the remaining members present.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting as adjourned at 10:39am.

**ATTEST:**

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Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

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Charles R. Peterson, Chairman