

Windsor, North Carolina
June 4, 2020
BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners RECESSED their meeting on Monday, June 1 in order to meet in the same location today for a budget work session. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted partially in person, and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I
Greg Atkins, District II
Tammy A. Lee, District III
John Trent, District IV
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II.
Finance Director William Roberson

Staff Present Intermittently: Information Technology Director Scott Pearce (afternoon)
Maintenance Director Anthony Rascoe (afternoon)
Parks & Recreation Director Donna Mizelle

Staff Present (Zoom): Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham

No media members were present.

RECONVENE

Chair Wesson welcomed the limited staff present and thanked those on the phone via Zoom for their participation.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW

Chair Wesson called for a motion for the Board to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review.

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** for the Board to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Lynne Stalls was welcomed and introduced as a participant on the phone via Zoom. At this time, Ms. Stalls had the opportunity to state her case in regards to her formally filed appeal.

After an approximately 20-minute presentation and Board discussion, Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to deny the appeal and move forward with the evaluation completed by the Tax Administrator. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously, and this decision was confirmed on the phone with Ms. Stalls.

Chair Wesson thanked Ms. Stalls for her time and participation in the appeal process.

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

At this time, Chair Wesson turned the floor over to County Manager Juan Vaughan, II to lead the discussions on the FY 2020-2021 proposed budget.

County Manager Vaughan briefly discussed the format of today's work session, and introduced the Board to several documents at their desk today for review.

The Board reviewed page 3 entitled Taxes of their detailed line item budget. Finance Officer, William Roberson, discussed how all of his estimates are conservative estimates, and that many variables were still unknown on exact amounts. This was especially relevant to the public-school system, and the Board agreed to continue to evaluate increases in funding to certain areas if funds in excess of these estimates were received in the future.

Regarding beer and wine, the Board briefly discussed the latest update about the addition of another ABC Store location. Due to the pandemic, certain aspects of the project have stalled, but the ABC Board hoped to resume that project in July or August.

Medicaid was briefly discussed, and that it is still difficult to predict when this money would be received, and in what amount. The CARES Act was also briefly mentioned.

The Board then began to review each departmental budget.

LUNCH

The Board broke for a period of 45-minutes at noon for lunch.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS CONTINUED

Maintenance Director Anthony Rascoe, Information Technology Director Scott Pearce, and Parks & Recreation Director Donna Mizelle were briefly present in person or on the phone after lunch to discuss their budgets in more detail with the Board and answered questions as necessary.

County Manager Vaughan noted that no salary requests had been accounted for in the proposed budget, and each document described which pieces of capital outlay and non-capital outlay that were included in his recommended budget.

During the afternoon session, County Manager Vaughan and Finance Officer Roberson were asked to make changes to the budget in the area of special appropriations. The requested adjustments were as follows:

Amount	Line Items Reduced	Initially Recommended	Final
\$5,000	Historic Hope Plantation	\$25,000	\$20,000
\$7,800	Governing Body – Group Insurance	\$35,294	\$27,494
\$10,000	Governing Body – Travel	\$50,000	\$40,000
\$22,800	Total		

Amount	Line Items Increased	Initially Recommended	Final
\$2,000	Airport	\$20,000	\$22,000
\$20,800	Martin Community College Capital Outlay	\$31,500	\$52,300
\$22,800	Total		

County Manager Vaughan was also asked to compose a list of priorities for projects/expenses that the Board could embark upon if funds permitted. The list of priorities is below:

	Project/Expense	Amount
1	Cost of Living Adjustment for All Employees - 1% or 2%	\$70,000 or \$140,000
2	Adjustments for DSS Salary Compression	\$60,000 - \$90,000
3	Cooperative Extension Furniture for New Facility	\$160,000
4	TGOW PARTF Grant Match	\$500,000
5	New Custodian Position for New Coop Ext/Library Facility	\$24,648
6	Lawn Maintenance Contract for TGOW & Blue Jay	\$26,000
7	Election Equipment	\$188,145

Mr. Vaughan noted there is more than one option for alleviating salary compression in DSS, which explains the reason for the range provided above (Priority 2). It was also noted that the County's match for the PARTF grant could be significantly less if awarded all of the grants we've recently submitted. If awarded all of the grants recently submitted, the County would have to pay less than \$30,000 toward the \$500,000 match; caution was still shared that receiving these grants was not guaranteed.

Another area of emphasis was the Blue Jay Recreation Center and meeting the grant requirements. Thus, with funds remaining in the department of Parks & Recreation, the County is now planning to purchase exercise equipment and picnic tables by June 30th per Board direction.

ADJOURN

Chair Wesson adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30PM.

Ronald Wesson, Chairman

Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board