

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
APRIL 19, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Budget Workshop on the above date at 3:00 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Commissioner Phil Norris, Vice-Chairman
 Commissioner J. Marty Cooke
 Commissioner Charles Warren
 Commissioner Scott Phillips
 Commissioner William Sue, Chairman

STAFF: Marty K. Lawing, County Manager
 Steve Stone, Assistant County Manager
 Huey Marshall, County Attorney
 Debby Gore, Clerk to the Board
 Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sue called the Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Cooperative Extension Service Programming Options (Steve Stone)

Steve Stone, Assistant County Manager, presented a handout of 4 Cooperative Extension Alternate Scenarios for funding.

Option 1 – no program service reductions and no budgetary reductions

Option 2 – reduce county funding by approximately \$54,000 per year

Option 3 – reduce county funding by approximately \$96,000 per year

Option 4 – reduce county funding by approximately \$149,000 per year

There was discussion regarding the impact of cutting human services and not duplicating other services.

After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Sue moved to approve Option 2. The vote of approval was 4 ayes (Sue, Norris, Phillips, Warren) 1 nay (Cooke).

2. Group Health Insurance Proposals (Debbie Barnes)

Debbie Barnes, HR Officer, gave a handout and informed that NC Blue Cross Blue Shield had presented yet another quote of 1% less and was informed that it would be the lowest quote that would be offered. Ms. Barnes indicated the need to fill the open position in her department with a Data Privacy Officer who would be the only employee that would actually view employee information. There was discussion of becoming self-insured and Ms. Barnes informed that Mark III covers 38 counties and 72% of those counties are self-insured. There was discussion of allowing employee/spouse and employee/children to use the on-site clinic.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved for the county to become self-insured. The vote of approval was unanimous.

It was consensus to direct staff to increase the hours of the on-site clinic and to include employee/spouse and employee/children participation.

3. Property Valuation Historical Trends (Tom Davis)

Tom Davis, Tax Administrator, presented a handout and reviewed fiscal years 2004 through 2012 Brunswick County property valuation trends.

4. Property Tax Calculations Update (Ann Hardy)

Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director, reviewed Ad Valorem budget various rate assumptions and Fund Balance appropriation various rate assumptions indicating that these numbers did not include a salary increase.

Commissioner Cooke discussed the need to increase employee morale to increase productivity along with the need to maintain technology and vehicles to also increase productivity.

5. Preliminary General Fund Revenue Projections (Ann Hardy)

Ms. Hardy reviewed General Fund Revenue Projections.

6. Preliminary General Fund Expenditures (Marty Lawing)

Mr. Lawing reviewed General Fund Expenditures.

7. Significant Budget Increases/Impact (Marty Lawing)

Staff reviewed significant budget increases/impact. Mr. Stone informed that he had received a late application from a non-profit group asking for waiver of deadline. It was consensus to treat all non-profits the same and not waive the due date.

8. Five Percent Departmental Budget Reduction Requests (Marty Lawing)

Mr. Lawing reviewed the departmental budget reduction requests and discussed its impact.

9. Potential State Budget Cuts Impact on County (Steve Stone)

Staff reviewed potential state budget cuts that included libraries, CJPP programs and community colleges.

Staff discussed the request made by the Clerk of Court and Superior Court Judge for 7 positions and indicated the need to appeal to the state for continued funding.

After discussion Chairman Sue moved to instruct staff to pursue a revenue neutral rate in the budget process. The vote of approval was 4 ayes (Sue, Norris, Cooke, Phillips) 1 nay (Warren).

The Manager noted that this preliminary working draft budget did not include any provision for any compensation adjustment and was instructed to include it if possible with a revenue neutral rate.

10. Other Budgetary Matters

Mr. Lawing provided a handout of proposed cuts from the Board of Education that was provided at the School Liaison meeting. Commissioner Warren asked staff to look at the vacant positions in Social Services not currently filled.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Lawing informed that the recommended budget would be presented on May 16, 2011 at the Regular Meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Phillips moved to adjourn the Workshop at 5:39 p.m. The vote of approval was unanimous.

William M. Sue, Chairman

Deborah (Debby) Gore, Clerk to the Board