

MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2007

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2007. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Gwen Y. Vaughn, Finance Officer, and Shannon White representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Ward opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board held a work session on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

Mr. Howard presented and reviewed the following information with the Board:

**2007-2008 PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES**

The 2007-2008 Proposed Budget has been revised based on input from the Board of Commissioners and budget work sessions. The overall increase to the General Fund budget is \$31,860 (from \$22,510,154 to \$22,542,014). There is no change to the proposed tax increase of 3.5 cents.

**The attached proposed budget changes are presented as follows:**

**GENERAL FUND EXPENSES**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Current Proposed</u>	<u>Revised Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed Changes</u>	<u>Line Item Description</u>
Tax	529,821	429,821	(100,000)	<i>Attorney foreclosure fees (p. 90)</i>
Maintenance	370,182	340,182	(30,000)	<i>M&amp;R Parking lots (p. 94)</i>
Sheriff	1,497,875	1,558,195	60,320	<i>Salary adjustments (p.98)</i>
911 Communications	286,467	318,035	31,568	<i>1 FT Telecommunicator (p. 101)</i>
Building Inspections	156,585	150,585	(6,000)	<i>Travel (p. 102)</i>

EMS	813,660	805,660	(8,000)	<i>Surplus vehicle (p. 107)</i>
Coop Extension	159,300	160,500	1,200	<i>EFNEP supplies (p. 111)</i>
DSS Admin	2,171,514	2,142,552	(28,962)	<i>Cap Out/laser Project (p. 120)</i>
Rent/Eco Dev	0	3,600	3,600	<i>Chamber rent (p. 134)</i>
BOE/Current Exp	2,295,615	2,461,705	166,090	<i>Current Expense (p. 135)</i>
Sheriff/Vehicles	92,260	30,753	(61,507)	<i>4 Lease Vehicles (p. 137)</i>
Transfer/Reval	57,936	71,936	14,000	<i>Revaluation reserve (p. 141)</i>
Transfer/Library	127,246	116,797	(10,449)	<i>Library contribution (p. 141)</i>
TOTALS	8,558,461	8,590,321	<b><u>\$31,860</u></b>	
<b>GENERAL FUND REVENUES</b>				
Beer & Wine Tax	95,000	97,000	2,000	<i>Revenue (p. 69)</i>
EMS Source	430,000	459,860	29,860	<i>Revenue (p. 72)</i>
TOTALS	525,000	556,860	<b><u>\$31,860</u></b>	

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Commissioner Carter stated that he felt that the Town of Yanceyville should fund one full-time Telecommunicator position for the 911 Department since it dispatches for the Yanceyville Police Department and Public Works. Commissioner Carter suggested that the Board of Commissioners send a letter to the Town of Yanceyville requesting that they fund one full-time Telecommunicator position for the 911 Department. The Board was agreeable to this and Chairman Ward directed the County Manager to send this letter to the Town.

The Board continued discussion of the Proposed Budget.

(Commissioner Travis entered the meeting during this discussion).

### CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies that the Board enter into closed session to consider the competence, terms of appointment, and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

### REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

### BUDGET WORK SESSION

Chairman Ward reconvened the budget work session.

Chairman Ward questioned the Board as to their feelings about a tax increase and the amount. Chairman Ward stated that he would rather see what the Board cuts out and then determine the tax rate. Chairman Ward added that he felt something should be done for the employees of the County and also keep the Teachers' Supplement.

Commissioner Vernon stated that he was definitely in favor of doing something for the County employees, keeping the Teachers' Supplement, and trying to do as much they could to keep the taxes down. Commissioner Vernon added that everything is going up, and felt that the majority of the citizens are expecting some tax increase, but the Board should keep it reasonable.

Commissioner Hamlett stated that he did not want to raise taxes because the Board increased the tax rate last year by 4.5 cents, but knew that they were going to have to raise them this year. Commissioner Hamlett added that he would want to see no more than a two cents tax increase. Commissioner Hamlett stated that he could possibly agree to fund the \$205,000 for the Teachers' Supplement, but if no salary increases were granted to County employees, he would not be in favor of appropriating the Teachers' Supplement. Commissioner Hamlett added he felt that the Board needed to grant possibly six vehicles to the Sheriff's Office, and stated that he would be in favor of granting salary increases to County employees.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that he did not like to raise taxes, but knew that the cost of living has gone up and County employees need to be compensated. Commissioner Jefferies added that County employees need to be given a salary increase and also wanted to grant the Teachers' Supplement. Commissioner Jefferies stated that he would be in favor of a three or three and one-half percent cost of living increase for County employees.

Commissioner Travis stated that he would like to see the Board adopt the budget without raising taxes and would not be in favor of hiring any new employees. Commissioner Travis added that if salary increases could be granted to County employees without raising taxes, he would be in favor of it, but if not, salary increases should be cut, as well as the Teachers' Supplement. Commissioner Travis stated that he would not support a tax increase.

Commissioner Hall stated that he could live with a 3.5 cents tax increase and work within that, but felt that it is unreasonable for anyone to believe that County government can operate year in and year out without an increase when everything around us is increasing. Commissioner Hall added that the Board needs to be realistic and staff needs to be compensated for what they do as best as the County can afford.

Commissioner Carter stated that he could not say what kind of tax increase there should be until the Board goes through the entire budget. Commissioner Carter added that there is always a wants and a needs list in the budget, and stated that there are definitely some needs in this budget. Commissioner Carter stated that there are some services that cannot be cut, the County needs adequate teachers, and employees need a salary increase. Commissioner Carter added that he could live with a 3.5 cents tax increase or more because County employees need a raise, the salary adjustments for the Sheriff's Office is needed, and the Teachers' Supplement is needed to maintain adequate teachers. Commissioner Carter stated that the cost of providing services has increased and the Board has to determine what is actually needed. Commissioner Carter added that he still feels that the County should fund one additional Telecommunicator for the 911 Department and the Town of Yanceyville should fund an additional position. Commissioner Carter stated that when he ran for office, he made a commitment to essential services, which includes Fire and Rescue, EMS, and the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Ward stated again that he did not want to raise taxes by 3.5 cents.

Commissioner Carter moved to adopt the budget as presented and increase the County tax rate by 3.5 cents, after which he withdrew his motion since a public hearing had not been held on the budget.

Mr. Howard suggested that each Commissioner prepare a list of their priorities for the budget with them being ranked in importance and submit them to him to compile.

Upon discussion of a proposed tax rate, Commissioners Hall, Carter, and Jefferies agreed that they would vote for a 3.5 cents tax rate, with Commissioner Hall noting that he did not agree with the distribution as it is now. Commissioner Vernon stated that he liked the County Manager's recommendation of each Commissioner submitting his priorities in order to determine a tax rate. Commissioners Travis, Ward, and Hamlett stated that they would not vote for a 3.5 cents tax increase.

RECESS

At 7:15 p.m. Chairman Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to recess the budget work session until 7:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE BUDGET WORK SESSION

At 7:35 p.m. Chairman Ward reconvened the budget work session.

After discussion, Chairman Ward requested that each Commissioner submit their list of priorities for the budget to the County Manager by Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

RECESS

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Ward recessed the meeting until Monday, June 18, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.

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Wanda P. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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George W. Ward, Jr.  
Chairman

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