

MINUTES – JUNE 21, 2007

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened its meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 21, 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. Kevin Howard, County Manager, reviewed with the Board the following *General Fund Expenses Changes* and *General Fund Revenue Changes*. Mr. Howard noted that the proposed increase in the tax rate would reduce from 3.5 to 2.75 cents.

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES CHANGES

<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	327,182	(43,000)	<i>M&R Parking lots M&R Bldg. (p. 94)</i>
Sheriff	1,497,875	1,553,195	55,320	<i>Salary adjustments/ Sworn officer (p. 98)</i>
911 Communications	286,467	318,035	31,568	<i>1 FT Telecommuni- cator (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</i>

(p. 111)

DSS Admin	2,171,514	2,142,552	(28,962)	Cap Outlay/laser project (p. 120)
BOE/Current Exp	2,295,615	2,461,705	166,090	Current expense (p. 135)
Sheriff/Vehicles	92,260	46,130	(46,130)	6 Lease Vehicles (p. 137)
Transfer/Reval	57,936	71,936	14,000	Revaluation reserve (p. 141)
Economic Dev	60,010	6,500	(53,510)	Zero out prof serv & operating (p. 109)
Planning	63,050	65,301	2,251	Increase salary & Benefits (p. 110)
Employee Salary inc	261,793	226,306	(35,487)	Excluding Sheriff Sworn Officers
PCC/FT position	225,872	208,328	(17,544)	FT position (p. 132)
Transfer/Library	116,797	127,246	(10,449)	Transfers (p. 141)
TOTALS	9,158,737	9,100,982	<u>(\$50,660)</u>	

GENERAL FUND REVENUES CHANGES

Tax Levy	8,842,048	8,744,526	(97,522)	Revenue (p. 67)
Foreclosure Fees	200,000	197,458	(2,542)	Revenue (p. 67)
Beer & Wine Tax	95,000	97,000	2,000	Revenue (p. 69)
EMS Source	430,000	459,860	29,860	Revenue (p. 72)
TOTALS	9,567,048	9,498,844	<u>(\$ 68,204)</u>	

Chairman Ward stated that he is not in favor of the two proposed new positions for the Parks & Recreation & Finance Departments.

Commissioner Carter suggested that the proposed new positions for Parks & Recreation and Finance be cut out, cut out salary adjustments for Sheriff's Office, add two more patrol vehicles to the six discussed for the Sheriff's Office, and add two more positions to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Carter stated that all county employees should receive a 3.5% cost-of-living salary increase.

Commissioner Travis stated that the Board needed to be fair and cut some from all departments instead of taking it all from one or two departments.

Commissioner Hall stated that the Board needed to set a goal as to what it would like to do and start from there.

Commissioner Vernon stated that essential services and salary increases for County employees are very important. Commissioner Vernon added that he would like to see the tax rate stay as low as possible, but everything has gone up.

A number of proposals were presented by individual Board members for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to approve the proposal that would set the tax rate increase at 3.25 cents and which includes a 3.5% cost-of-living salary increase for County employees, delete the additional position for the Finance Office, include handicapped access for the New Courthouse, delete the proposed salary adjustments for the Sheriff's Office, include the purchase of eight patrol vehicles and two additional positions for the Sheriff's Office, include one additional position for 911, include the Teachers' Supplement and \$30,000 in Current Expense for the Board of Education, and delete the additional position for the Parks/Recreation Department.

Mr. Howard corrected the calculations and stated that this proposal would set the tax rate increase at 3.75 cents, after which Commissioners Carter and Vernon withdrew their motion.

The Board held a brief recess.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Vernon to approve his original proposal that would set the tax rate increase at 2.9 cents, with any excess funds going into Contingency. The motion failed by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, Travis, and Ward voting no.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve the proposal that would set the tax rate increase at 2.68 cents and which includes a 3.5% cost-of-living salary increase for County employees, includes one additional Accounting Technician position for the Finance Office, includes computer network storage, includes handicapped accessibility for the New Courthouse, includes the purchase of six patrol vehicles and two additional positions for the Sheriff's Office, includes one additional 911 position, includes \$205,000 for Teachers' Supplement, does not include any additional

positions for the Parks & Recreation Department and does not include \$30,000 for Current Expenses for the Board of Education. The motion carried by a vote of four to three with Commissioners Hamlett, Travis, and Ward voting no.

SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Chairman Ward scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. to adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 a.m. Chairman Ward adjourned the meeting.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
