

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

JUNE 1, 2021
OTHERS PRESENT

David J. Owen, Chairman
Steve Oestreicher
Rick McVey
Jerimiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman
Nathaniel Hall
John Dickerson

Bryan Miller, County Manager
Ashley Powell, Interim Clerk to the Board
Jennifer Hammock, Finance Officer
Melissa Miller, Deputy Finance Officer

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a Budget Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 9:00am at the Gunn Memorial Library.

Chairman Owen called the recessed budget meeting to order.

Mr. Miller presented the Board with his budget message.

Commissioner Oestreicher questioned Mr. Miller on the percentage guidelines for the fund balance. Mr. Miller replied the LGC recommended percentage to maintain an 8% fund balance, last year the fund balance was at 25% and this year we are projecting 20-28%.

TAX DEPARTMENT

Mr. Bernard presented his budget to the Board and stated that he had a slight increase on his salary line other than that he had no other changes. Commissioner Hall questioned Mr. Bernard what is it that the Tax Department is planning to do to help better serve the citizens of Caswell County and has he had any suggestions from citizens. Mr. Bernard replied their goal is to get all personal properties listed and they have been sending out letters to make seniors aware of their exclusion benefits. Chairman Owen asked Mr. Bernard to give a brief overview of the foreclosure procedures. Mr. Bernard replied they send out notices and no one pays those fees owed except the delinquent tax payer, there is no cost to the county or tax payers. Commissioner Hall questioned the amount of fees paid to the attorney whom assist on this matter. Mr. Miller replied that there were \$583,071 received in revenues and \$583,079 in expenditures. Commissioner Hall commented there is no cost to the county but cost to the county tax payers. Mr. Bernard replied yes, to the delinquent tax payers. Commissioner Dickerson asked Mr. Bernard to email a copy of the attorney contract to all the Commissioners.

I.T.

Mr. Miller stated that there is a decrease in IT budget from last year and that Mr. Norris will be retiring in November. Chairman Owen questioned what was included in capital outlay. Mr. Norris replied to continue replacing Windows 7.

SOIL AND WATER

Mr. Miller stated that there is slight increase in Soil and Waters budget. Commissioner Hall questioned what are Soil and Water's goals to better serve the citizens of Caswell County. Mr. Thompson replied to try and get more funding from the federal government. Commissioner McVey questioned about vehicles repairs and if his truck was dependable. Mr. Thompson replied he gets stuck a lot because the truck is on 2-wheel drive.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Mr. Hoelsi gave a brief overview of his budget. Chairman Owen questioned Mr. Hoelsi if they were fully staffed. Mr. Hoelsi replied yes. Mr. Miller stated there was a slight increase in the Extension Office's budget due to increase in salaries. Chairman Owen questioned about the partnership with PCC. Mr. Hoelsi replied yes, they are working on that and gave a brief overview of the program. Commissioner Hall questioned about GAP certification for local farmers. Mr. Hoelsi replied that GAP certification is a very lengthy process and with the partnership with PCC the company that they have hired will help farmers with this process. Commissioner Hall questioned if the distribution hub was part of the PCC program. Mr. Hoelsi replied yes.

SENIOR CENTER

Mr. Miller stated that there is a slight increase in the Senior Center's budget due to salary. Chairman Owen questioned Mrs. Everidge did they still have to discard leftover meals. Mrs. Everidge replied yes, due to the contract they have to discard those meals.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

FARMER LAKE

Mr. Miller stated that there is a decrease of \$20,000 in the Farmer Lake budget due to the purchase of a boat that was purchased last year, but this year he will be purchasing a trailer for the canoes. Commissioner McVey questioned if the cost for the restroom was included in the Maintenance budget. Mr. King replied due to watershed requirements they will not be able to construct new restrooms. Chairman Owen questioned if the trailer was included in the budget. Mr. Miller replied yes.

LIBRARY

Mr. Miller stated that this year there is an increase of \$9,000 to purchased books, this increase is because they were previously in the temporary library and did not have the space for books, now they are in the new library and have space that is needed. There also is an increase of \$4,960 due to running fiber for internet, they are also requesting a van due to the age of the van and it is not dependable. Chairman Owen questioned are we looking into the lease program for the van. Mr. Miller replied yes. Chairman Owen questioned Mrs. Griffin if she knew how many people

visited the library. Mrs. Griffin said they have door counters and she could get that information to him. Chairman Owen replied yes, that might be something the Board would want to see quarterly.

PLANNING

Mr. Miller stated that there is a slight increase in the Planning departments budget due to salaries and they are requesting a truck, currently they do not have a vehicle they have to borrow a truck from other departments. Commissioner Oestreicher questioned the cost of the vehicle. Mr. Miller replied \$7,500 and it would be on the lease program. Commissioner McVey questioned Mr. Hoagland if he traveled that much. Mr. Hoagland replied there has been an increase in travel due to permits, inspections, and to post signage. Commissioner Jefferies suggested looking at the Sheriff department for a car they are possibly going to sale at the auction for the Planning department. Mr. Hoagland stated that a truck would be best, because of the 8ft signage that he has to post. Commissioner Hall stated that we need to think about security for our employees and they shouldn't use their personal vehicles. Commissioner Oestreicher agreed.

CATS

Mrs. Williamson gave an update on the CATS department and that this year they are requesting for two new buses. Chairman Owen questioned if CATS would still request for Cares Act funding this year. Mrs. Williamson replied yes.

SECTION 8

Mrs. Shumaker gave a brief overview of Section 8's budget and now they are fully staffed; the HUD program covered most of their expenditures. Chairman Owen questioned the landlord process. Mrs. Shumaker gave an overview of the process. Commissioner Hall questioned Mrs. Shumaker if she had thought about expanding housing. Mrs. Shumaker replied yes, but due to the county's population it is hard for them to get additional funding, but is constantly looking for more funding.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Miller stated that there is a slight increase of \$1,000 due to services and repairs and they are requesting an additional truck. Commissioner Hall questioned Mr. Miller if any funding is received by the Town of Yanceyville or the Town of Milton for the Animal Control's Budget. Mr. Miller replied no and we have discussed this matter with interlocal agreements but have not moved forward with it. Commissioner Hall replied we need to look into again.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Miller stated there was an increase in the salary line, motor fuel, traveling and training. The increase in training is due to coaches training and for the Parks and Recreation Director certification in Sports Field Management. They also are requesting \$101,000 in capital outlay to replace lights in the baseball fields but after a brief discussion with Mr. Blackstock the \$40,000

that Mr. Miller is recommending will not be sufficient. Due to the low precipitation in sports since COVID, Mr. Miller suggested waiting on this and do more research on lights.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Owen recessed this meeting until Monday June 7, 2021 following the regularly scheduled meeting.