

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**JUNE 15, 2017**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

Tracey L. Kendrick  
Gordon Powell  
Jimmy B. Clayton  
Kyle W. Puryear  
B. Ray Jeffers

Heidi York, County Manager  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in recessed session on Wednesday, June 15, 2017 at 11:00am in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building for the purpose of a budget work session.

Chairman Kendrick called the meeting to order.

**ADJUSTMENTS FROM RECOMMENDED BUDGET:**

County Manager, Heidi York followed up with the Board on the two following items that were discussed at the Board's last budget work session:

- A fee for residential false fire alarms requires an ordinance by the Board which will necessitate a public hearing. Ms. York said she would bring this back before the Board in July or August.
- Information related to Agricultural Economic Development position was placed in the Board's Drop Box folder titled Budget 2017-2018.

At the last budget meeting. Assistant Finance Director and Budget Manager, Laura Jensen presented the following noted revenues and expenditures which offset for a surplus of \$21,540.

<b>Running Total</b>	<b>\$21,540.00</b>		
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
United Way/GREAT grant	\$8,000.00	SOG dues increase	\$20.00
Electronics recycling fee	\$6,000.00	Chamber dues reduction	-\$750.00
DSS: Revenue adjustments	\$492.00	Admin-intern reduction	-\$6,802.00
E911 Consolidated Fees	\$53.00	VIP salary & benefits reduction	-\$3,125.00
		VIP supplies increase	\$3,125.00
		GREAT grant increase	\$8,000.00
		P&Z position increase	\$4,412.00
		Health position reduction	-\$45,733.00
		DSS audit fees increase	\$3,500.00
		DSS rent reduction	-\$2,240.00
		E911 PSAP increase	\$53.00
		Senior Center HCCBG match	\$32,545.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,545.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$6,995.00</b>

Kerr Tar Council of Governments Director, Diane Cox told the group that her revised budget request that was needed in local funding, in addition to the approved Senior Center HCCBG match of \$32,545, was \$55,926. Ms. Cox said her original request of \$100,000 was based on the agreement with the County in 2011 when the County asked Kerr Tar to form the non-profit.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton to appropriate \$55,926 to the Senior Center budget, using the surplus budget \$21,540 and \$34,386 from Fund Balance.

Commissioner Puryear opposed appropriating Fund Balance noting his concerns with unexpected expenditures with the potential closure of the landfill next year.

Vice Chairman Powell offered up the commissioners travel budget of \$12,443.

Commissioner Jeffers noted there was \$100,000 already budgeted in Contingency that could be used.

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Chairman Kendrick targeted the Governing Body budget for potential cuts and came up with \$59,611 which included a 10% cut in salary and wages for the commissioners (\$5,300), doing away with the commissioners' group insurance (\$41,868) and commissioners travel budget (\$12,443). He stated his preference to cut the Governing Body's budget versus using Fund Balance.

A **substitute motion** was made by Chairman Kendrick to use the \$59,611 identified in the Governing Body's budget; 10% cut in salary and wages for the commissioners (\$5,300), doing away with the commissioners' group insurance (\$41,868) and commissioners travel budget (\$12,443) for the \$34,386 needed to fund the Senior Center budget.

Ms. Jensen stated the Board of Commissioners have the authority to set their own salary. However, in terms of compensation and according to General Statute 153A-92, Ms. Jensen recited that the Board of Commissioners may not reduce the salary, allowances, or other compensation paid to an officer elected by the people for the duties of his elective office if the reduction is to take effect during the term of office for which the incumbent officer has been elected, unless the officer agrees to the reduction or unless the Local Government Commission pursuant to Chapter 159, Article 10, orders a reduction.

Commissioner Jeffers stated the elected official filing fee was a percentage of the compensation established for that office.

Ms. Jensen added that if the Board of Commissioners reduces the salaries, allowances, or other compensation of employees assigned to an officer elected by the people, and the reduction does not apply alike to all county offices and departments, the elected officer involved must approve the reduction. Ms. Jensen noted while the Board may discuss, each commissioner must make that decision individually. Ms. Jensen further noted that the Board cannot choose where the salary savings will then be used to offset other costs.

Finance Director, Amy Wehrenberg stated that due to the Board being in budget deliberations, her interpretation was that the Board can take action to reduce their salary individually but no budget decisions can be made based on those decisions. She confirmed the budget would be in place however no expenditures would be encumbered and after the fiscal year, those funds would end up in the Fund Balance.

Chairman Kendrick **withdrew his substitute motion**; Commissioner Clayton **withdrew his motion**.

Commissioner Jeffers advocated for the Board's commitment to Person County Schools (\$150,000) and Piedmont Community College (\$29,000) for the requested salary increases with Fund Balance, using recommended Contingency Funds for the \$34,386 Senior Center budget and to cut the Governing Body's travel by \$10,000 to put toward a part-time Agricultural Economic Development position.

Chairman Kendrick stated appreciation for the school system personnel, however, he could not support to prop up an obligation of a state elected office as there was a clear, defined line of what the county taxpayers are responsible for, which is capital improvements and building operational costs with salary and benefits being functions of the state government. Chairman Kendrick said Person County's teacher supplements were among the top 10 of the 100 counties within the state.

Related to the Agricultural Economic Development position, Chairman Kendrick noted there may be an opportunity to contract with NC State University and/or NC A&T for this service. Chairman Kendrick asked that more review be given to this position and the associated options for contracting. Ms. York asked if the Board wanted to set aside any funding for the Agricultural Economic Development position noting staff was recommending a salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000. The Board preferred to have the actual options with associated costs brought back to the Board noting there would be available funds in the Contingency Fund.

Commissioner Jeffers proposed funding the Senior Center budget \$34,386 using recommended Contingency Funds, which will leave a balance of \$65,614 in the Contingency Fund.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers and **carried 5-0** to fund the Senior Center budget using the surplus budget \$21,540 and \$34,386 from the recommended Contingency Fund for a total of \$55,926 with direction to staff to bring a Budget Ordinance reflecting the adjustments for a balanced budget at its June 19, 2017 Board meeting.

Below are the adjustments from the recommended budget illustrating the revenues and expenditures which show a balanced budget:

<b>Running Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
United Way/GREAT grant	\$8,000.00	SOG dues increase	\$20.00
Electronics recycling fee	\$6,000.00	Chamber dues reduction	-\$750.00
DSS: Revenue adjustments	\$492.00	Admin-intern reduction	-\$6,802.00
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		Health position reduction	-\$45,733.00
		DSS audit fees increase	\$3,500.00
		DSS rent reduction	-\$2,240.00
		E911 PSAP increase	\$53.00
		Senior Center HCCBG match	\$32,545.00
		contingency	-\$34,386.00
		Senior Center	\$55,926.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,545.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,545.00</b>

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Commissioner Puryear stated his pleasure that the Board did not balance the budget using Fund Balance.

Chairman Kendrick thanked Ms. York, the Assistant County Manager, Sybil Tate and staff for their work on preparing the budget. He also thanked the community for its input as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 11:29am.

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Brenda B. Reaves  
Clerk to the Board

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Tracey L. Kendrick  
Chairman