

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

MAY 28, 2009
OTHERS PRESENT

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Jimmy B. Clayton
Kyle W. Puryear
B. Ray Jeffers
Samuel R. Kennington

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 Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building for the purpose of a budget work session.

Chairman Lunsford called the meeting to order. Commissioner Puryear was absent until 6:50 p.m.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following citizens made public comments:

Mr. Robert Ferrell, Commander of American Legion Post 138, and Commander of 5th District inclusive of six counties, of 1356 Holeman Ashley Road, Timberlake thanked the Board for reinstating the Veterans Affairs services back into the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Leigh Woodall of 200 Reade Drive, Roxboro, encouraged the Board to scrutinize the budget to allow business to be conducted in a manner to provide the essential services for the citizens as well as noting the Veterans of Person County would not be losing any benefits in the proposed budget.

COUNTY MANAGER INFORMATION:

County Manager, Heidi York reviewed information and answered questions for the Board that was requested prior to the work session. Ms. York illustrated the bids received for the County Liability, Property and Workers Compensation in which the lowest bid submitted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners bid a total package at \$570,861 which is a savings for the county in the amount of \$145,586 over the premiums paid in the current fiscal year. Ms. York noted the handout for Employee Compensation Reductions with options for consideration. The Additional Reduction Considerations handout listed potential areas for even more cuts with the savings noted for consideration. The Longevity information handout lists the current program as well as the MAPS proposed longevity plan along with comparisons from other counties. Longevity pay was created because merit pay was not and still is not in place to reward employees for their effort.

Commissioner Kennington asked Ms. York to explain the State Retirement and the County benefit for 401-K and Ms. York stated the Local Government Retirement is a state-wide mandatory benefit, all employees contribute a required 6%. The county is required to contribute 4.92% for local government employees and 4.86% for law enforcement. The 401K is an optional employer benefit except for law enforcement at required 5%.

It was a consensus of the Board to adopt a balanced budget without a tax increase and without any use of the fund balance, therefore, if items are added to the proposed budget, then cuts would be needed somewhere to balance.

The Board discussed the following possible adjustments to the proposed budget and requested the County Manager to bring back more information and an updated proposed budget options including:

- Reinstating longevity at a cost of \$284,000
- Reducing the county contribution by 2.5% for staff 401K accounts taking \$323,000
- EDC position / Veterans position: both either part time or a combined 1 position
- Reinstating 5 of the 10% cut to fire departments
- Possibly reinstating the fireworks program
- Mitch Pergerson to come to a future work session to review in detail the Mayo Park expenses
- Possible allocation of \$4000 for the Roxboro Development Group for recruitment of small businesses
- Reconsideration of allocating funding request to the Museum of History as well as increasing taxes through Tourism Development Authority with proceeds to benefit the Museum and/or the fireworks program
- Request justification from department heads for cell phone usage
- Request Sheriff to explain the \$166,000 additional meals line item
- Review non-profits funding allocations
- Possible additional cuts in Governing Body Budget
- Travel line detail review for what is mandated training and what is discretionary
- Review of 1% across the board cuts of non-salaried, non mandated line items
- A copy of the line item detail for the DSS budget for the Board

Commissioner Kennington inquired about the County's central bid procedures in place for such items as copier and associated costs, fuel, lawyer fees, vehicle maintenance, jail meals, etc. Ms. York explained a competitive bid process centralizing the copying, printing and fax services and related supplies as well as fuel is planned for the next fiscal year.

RECESS:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton, and **carried** at 8:42 p.m. to recess the meeting until June 1, 2009, at 5:45 p.m., at which time the Board is invited to attend dinner with the Advisory Council of the Person County Cooperative Extension Service in the County Office Building Auditorium with a regular scheduled meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's meeting room.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Chairman

May 28, 2009