

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

June 11, 2007
OTHERS PRESENT

Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman
Jimmy B. Clayton, Vice-Chairman
Kyle W. Puryear
Larry H. Bowes
Larry E. Yarborough, Jr.

Steve Carpenter, County Manager
Faye T. Fuller, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, held a Budget Public Hearing on Monday, June 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Lunsford called the duly advertised Public Hearing to order. A motion was made by Commissioner Bowes, seconded by Commissioner Yarborough and carried to open the hearing.

Frances Blalock – Spoke relative to educating students about reducing waste. Read from Upper Piedmont contract regarding recycling and education on recycling. She presented a work up on Recycling in Person County Schools by Jerry Ball, custodial services supervisor with Person County schools

Tina Williams, Person Family Medical and Dental Center - spoke of the need for funds for uninsured persons who do not qualify for services they can provide.

Teresa Walker – Good Samaritan – Life Enrichment Program – thanked Board for previous allotment – their objective is to minimize educational gap – academic enrichment - have witnessed improved attitude and academic achievements – asked Board to continue to support mission.

Lt. Dennis Allen – Person County Sheriff's Department – Judicial Division – reiterated courthouse security importance – increase in staff needed to provide better security and transportation of inmates – will help better serve and protect public.

Sheriff Dewey Jones - Emphasized need for additional staff in Judicial Division. His original request was for 8 additional employees, but can get by with three positions and one new vehicle. (2 for court/transportation – 1 SRO position).

Gene Berryhill – Reviewed a number of departments/departmental line items, which in his opinion, could be reduced or eliminated.

Gordon Powell – Chairman Board of Education – Board of Education has \$800,000 in funding requirements which it has no control over. Some examples are: \$75,000 exceptional children – living skills teacher \$65,000, state budget increases for salaries 457,500; Extra curricular and supplement pay \$592,500; health care - \$66,000 additional. At least 8 teacher and teacher assistant positions would be cut with current funding proposal. Need to educate children and take care of mandated expenses.

Ronnie King – Member, Board of Education – School system cannot continue to grow with current funding level – citizens expect safety through law enforcement and education through Board of Education. Due to budget cuts, county funding to schools is a lower percentage now than in 2000-01, even though system has more students.

Jimmy Wilkins – Member, Board of Education - An educated community will yield more jobs - Nothing will provide more return for money than education. Urged Board to restore funding to the Board of Education

Ronnie Dunevant and Cindy Watkins – Requested that Board include \$30,000 in budget for **root&wings**. Ms. Watkins told the Board that **roots&wings** addresses the needs of the county’s most vulnerable citizens.

Jan Neal – parent – **roots&wings** has been beneficial to her family

C. T. Hall – Give everyone consideration and leave tax rate where it is. Citizens have been overtaxes.

Dr. Jim Owen – PCC – College is good steward of tax money – increase that is recommended is a small increase -\$47,000- due to increase in enrollment in helping citizens get back to work. Not requesting any additional personnel. Requested Board give reconsideration to his request.

George Naylor – Felt more justification needed for stated budget requests.

Chairman Lunsford asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak.

Howard Eastwood – Spoke of concerns regarding Progress Energy’s sale of some of their property. Questioned if Progress Energy is paying their fair tax rate.

No one else spoke.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Bowes, **seconded** by Commissioner Yarborough and **carried** to close the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Chairman Lunsford stated that the Board needed to set a date and time to meet again to continue budget deliberations.

Commissioner Yarborough told the other members of Board that he would be out of town beginning on Tuesday and would not be available until after Monday, June 25th. He further stated that he did not see any point to talking anymore.

Commissioner Clayton said he felt further discussion should take place after hearing from the public.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Bowes, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton and **carried** to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to continue budget deliberations. The meeting was recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Faye T. Fuller, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Chairman