

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

May 29, 2007
OTHERS PRESENT

Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman
Jimmy B. Clayton, Vice-Chairman -**ABSENT**
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 Forum on Tuesday, May 7, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Lunsford called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive comments on the proposed 2007-08 Budget. The information received tonight will be used during budget considerations.

Sheriff Dewey Jones – Salaries & Wages Overtime- due to mandated training, overspent this year and would like to increase for next year. Call volume up - would like four additional personnel for patrol. He also asked for additional judicial staff. Requested the Board not cut the funding for the DARE and GREAT programs.

Lt. Dennis Allen – Requested two additional fulltime personnel. Currently there are three full time officers. Also utilizes part time personnel. His part time budget is already overspent. Transport is a part of the service his division provides and the volume of transports is up. His division also provides security in the courthouse as well as the courtrooms.

Sgt. Kevin Crabtree – Explained both DARE & GREAT programs – Asked that \$22,000 request not be reduced.

Dr. Jim Owen – requested additional \$47,000 beyond Manager's recommendation.

Connie Mundy – Recreation Arts & Parks – Asked that Board reconsider two positions for Arts, Parks and Recreation Department. She said programming has increased. Kirby Gallery needs to have Administrative Support Specialist position full time.

Marcia O'Neill – Asked that funding for the Personality Festival continue as in current budget.

Clyde Glass – Good Samaritan Family Enrichment Center - \$12,000 request be reconsidered. Good Samaritan offers after school tutoring to minority students. Parent, Pam Oliver offered positive comments about the Center and the services they provide.

Tina Williams – CEO Person Family Medical Center - \$10,000 request be reconsidered. Funds will help the uninsured gain access to certain medical procedures.

Amanda Garrett – Requested additional personnel and additional shelving for records. Asked the Board to reconsider her proposed budget.

Johnnie Gentry – In 1996 funding option for local volunteer fire departments began – Requested that funding be increased to \$29,000 per department, plus \$12,000 for those with two stations.

George Naylor – Budget format change would make document easier to read. Some departments show no revenues. Need to be sure children are looked after.

Gordon Powell – Chairman, Person County Board of Education and School Superintendent **Ronnie Bugnar** spoke of the need for additional funds. With current budgeted amount, position cuts may be necessary as well as the need to use Fund Balance monies. The SRO position is needed. Funds proposed will not be enough to fund “necessities”. Asked that Board give consideration to the Board of Education’s request.

C. T. Hall – Cut the budget and keep the tax rate the same.

Clyde Whitfield – Asked for no property tax increase.

Cherie Damron – APS – Spoke in favor of additional staff at Animal Shelter in order to allow current staff to focus more on educational services to the public.

Chairman Lunsford thanked the department heads and citizens for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Puryear, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and carried to adjourn the meeting the 7:08 p.m.

Faye T. Fuller, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Chairman