

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET WORK SESSION
Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 3:00pm
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Gage, Vice-Chair Holbert, Commissioner Bradley and Commissioner Gasperson. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, Clerk to the Board Fehrmann, staff and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Chair Gage called the meeting to order.
2. Sheriff's Department/Jail/Animal Control – Sheriff Donald Hill discussed the need for an additional officer. No changes were made to his department's budget.
3. Departments
 - 1) Emergency Medical Services - Michael Crater discussed the need for a new transit ambulance. No changes were made to his department's budget.
 - 2) Polk County Transportation Authority Administration - Dianne Timberlake discussed the need for two new lift vans (80%) state reimbursement. No changes were made to her department's budget.
 - 3) Recreation - Jerry Stensland discussed the cost for Phase I of the proposed Searcy Field improvements. No changes were made to his department's budget.
 - 4) Solid Waste - Larry Walker discussed issues regarding electronics and clean fill disposal. It was the consensus of the Board that the following changes be made to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund:
 - \$2.00 per ton increase for commercial haulers.
 - \$10.00 per item fee on electronics disposal. *NOTE: Electronic items will no longer be covered by the annual \$35.00 Solid Waste Availability Fee.*
 - \$20.00 per ton fee for clean fill material. *NOTE: Clean fill material will no longer be covered by the annual \$35.00 Solid Waste Availability Fee.*
4. Fire Departments
 - 1) Columbus Fire Department – Columbus Fire Department Chief Tony Priester discussed the need for his department's request for a 1¢ fire district tax rate increase. It was the majority consensus of the Board to give the Columbus Fire Department a .5¢ tax rate increase.
 - 2) Mill Spring Fire Department – Mill Spring Fire Department Assistant Chief Roger Roberts discussed the need for his department's request for a 1.5¢ fire district tax rate increase. It was the majority consensus of the Board to give the Mill Spring Fire Department a .5¢ tax rate increase.
 - 3) Green Creek Fire Department – Green Creek Fire Department Chief Michael Herman discussed the need for his department's request for a 2¢ fire district tax

rate increase. It was the majority consensus of the Board to give the Green Creek Fire Department a 1.5¢ tax rate increase.

- 4) Tryon Fire Department – Tryon Fire Department Chief Joey Davis discussed the need for his department’s request for a 1¢ fire district tax rate increase. It was the majority consensus of the Board to give the Tryon Fire Department no tax rate increase.
- 5) Saluda Fire Department – Saluda Fire Department Chief Shane Hamilton discussed the need for his department’s request for a 1.5¢ fire district tax rate increase. It was the majority consensus of the Board to give the Saluda Fire Department a 1¢ tax rate increase.

Commissioner Gasperson recommended Emergency Management Director Bobby Arledge work with County Manager Pittman to assess the individual departments' fire district tax rate requests in the future. Commissioner Bradley recommended Polk County base their procedure on the Henderson County model wherein standardized annual fire department budget packets can be provided to all fire departments by the Fire Marshall’s office and, upon completion, returned to the Fire Marshall for review prior to submission to the Finance Department.

It was the consensus of the Board to include in the budget the purchase of a new \$17,300 automated electronic employee timesheet system to replace the current process of manually calculating timesheets. County Manager Pittman said the cost for the system can be taken out of the \$60,000 budget excess, an excess which occurred as a result of a School Capital correction made by the Finance Office. It was the consensus of the Board to allocate the remaining \$42,700 budget excess by reducing projected sales tax revenue by that amount.

5. Adjournment – Commissioner Bradley moved to adjourn the work session, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Michael V. Gage
Chair