

Special Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2019
9:00am
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason St.
Edenton, NC

Present Chair Patti Kersey, Commissioners Ron Cummings, Don Faircloth, Bob Kirby, Greg Bonner, Ellis Lawrence and Larry McLaughlin.

Staff present County Manager Kevin Howard, Finance Officer Cathy Smith

Board Clerk Susanne Stallings was absent.

This meeting was recorded. A copy of the meeting audio is in the meeting file labeled May 24, 2019.

Cathy Smith acted as Clerk.

FY 2019-20 Budget Workshop

Chair Kersey called the meeting to order. She noted the order of the meeting.

Mr. Howard stated that after the last meeting there were adjustments made to the proposed budget based on Board recommendations he noted the following:

- Currently the budget is at a .42 cent tax increase
- The previous dual position requested for Water/Tax has been put in the Water budget and will be a full time position paid by the Water fund and cross trained.
- The revenue was increased for the RMS Server
- The second presidential primary was removed from Elections
- The Sheriff will purchase computers and only 1/3 will be purchased this year.

The Board discussed the revenue projections in the Manager's budget.

Water Fund

Water Director David Tawes discussed the Water Plant and future plant upgrades. The Board discussed proposed revenues and fees in the Water Fund. Mr. Tawes noted the fees do not reflect the actual cost. He noted the rates in comparison to neighboring counties are low.

Chair Kersey called for a 10 minute break. After 10 minutes she called the meeting back to order.

The Board discussed the water rates currently and determined this will be reviewed and compared in the future as needed.

The following funds were reviewed by Mr. Howard:

Fire Fund

911 Fund

Revaluation Fund

Debt Service Fund

Capital Improvement Fund

School Capital Reserve Fund

Lottery Projects Fund

TDA Fund (does not include tax revenue, only occupancy tax revenue)

EMS

Solid Waste Fund

DSS

Mr. Howard noted that the DSS Director has requested that the Board bring up a salary line for an unfilled position. The cost to the County is \$3,000, this was not included in the budget.

He noted this is for a Medicaid Case Worker position.

Mr. Howard amended the DSS Budget to include an increase of \$3,000.

Chair Kersey reviewed a slid named budget growth from 2015 – 2019.

Census

Mr. Howard discussed the upcoming Census and the various meetings that will be needed.

Chair Kersey called for a recess for lunch.

Following lunch Chair Kersey called the meeting back to order.

Commissioner Bonner left the meeting at 12:15pm.

EMS

EMS Director Colin Ryan stated that the Volunteer Unit 3 is unable to continue covering calls in the Northern portion of the county. He stated that he has pulled data from the calls covered by Unit 3. He provided the call data for the past several years. A copy of this sheet is in the meeting file labeled May 24, 2019. Mr. Ryan provided the Board with options for coverage from Unit 3. He noted that two personnel are needed to cover the loss of Unit 3 coverage. He noted the \$52,516 is not the actual salary for a Paramedic. He noted this includes FCIA and benefits. He stated that this option 1 includes the two EMT positions and one new medic. He stated that this is what he feels is the best option. He stated that this allows for a paramedic on all three shifts.

Commissioner Lawrence asked what happens if we do not fill this.

Mr. Howard noted this reduces response ability and all ability to pick up night transports.

Mr. Ryan discussed total transports for 2018. A copy of his handout is in the meeting file labeled May 24, 2019. He noted that the total revenue for 2019 was \$810,187.00, the transport revenue

for 2018 was \$318,199.93 and the revenue without transports would be \$491,987.61. He noted there were 1817 transports during 2018.

Mr. Ryan stated the best coverage would be two trucks and one car at all times. He stated it does happen often where there are three calls at one time.

Board members discussed Medicaid vs. Medicare reimbursement.

Mr. Howard shared information on the costs paid in from neighboring counties into EMS.

Mr. Ryan presented the Board with a second option for coverage for Unit 3. This option has 22 full time people. It has the positions and two positions increased to Paramedic.

Mr. Ryan detailed the current set up which includes two ambulances in town and one in the County during the day. Mr. Ryan explained that Unit 3 requests to drop from a transport agency to a first responder agency. They are a named organization and they can respond to calls as needed. They can respond, ride and fill in. The staff of Edenton-Chowan Rescue are EMS staff.

Mr. Howard stated that if Option 1 is not approved they will drop a level of service. If option 2 is approved it drops 24 hours coverage it drops to three ambulances during the day and two at night. There is a loss of \$318,000 in revenue and a savings of \$184,000 it is \$106,000 more than what is spent now. The net loss is \$136,000 in revenue. He stated you spend \$106,000 more or lose \$136,000 in revenue.

Chair Kersey asked when this goes into effect.

Mr. Howard stated July 1, 2019.

Chair Kersey discussed the NCACC resource teams. She stated she would like an evaluation done by this team.

Mr. Howard stated he did not think they could do this in time for the budget process. He noted if we maintain what we are doing there will be a loss of revenue at night from night time transports.

Mr. Howard stated there are three options. He stated that one option would eliminate the additional medic position.

The Board discussed options to adjust and adapt the plan following the evaluation by the NCACC.

Mr. Howard reviewed the various options.

Commissioner Lawrence moved to approve option 1 and to pay for half of the option with fund balance and ½ with a tax increase. The Board discussed the motion. He later withdrew his motion.

Mr. Howard keyed in the Option 3 cost of \$85,501 for EMS.

COLA

Chair Kersey asked what would the COLA be \$54,588 for a COLA to begin in January 2020.

Mr. Howard was keeping a running spreadsheet. He stated the numbers may change slightly when plugged into the budget (by a few dollars).

Chair Kersey called for a five minute recess, after five minutes she called the meeting back to order.

Chair Kersey noted that the DSS request of \$3,000 has been added and EMS \$85,501.

The Board discussed the fund balance policy and the implementation of a tax increase.

The Board by consensus removed the position for the Finance office. (\$50,198).

The Board discussed the fund balance policy and projected fund balance in great detail.

Commissioner Kirby moved to direct the County Manager to finalize the budget based on a 1cent per \$100 tax increase.

Chair Kersey asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Adjourn

Being no further business, Commissioner Lawrence moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Kersey asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Patti F. Kersey, Chair

Cathy Smith, Acting Clerk

Minutes prepared by Board Clerk
Susanne Stallings