

March 21, 2018

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Vice Chairman Tommy Bowen, Commissioner Ronnie Smith (by teleconference), Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, Clerk to the Board Marion B. Thompson and Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange.

Chairman Elmo "Butch" Lilley was unable to attend. County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen were not in attendance.

Vice Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bond. The invocation was offered by Vice Chairman Bowen.

Vice Chairman Bowen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Appointed/Elected officials Martin County Sheriff Tim Manning and Register of Deeds Kimberly Griffin were recognized.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Bond made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

DEPARTMENT/ OFFICE HOLDER BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Department Heads/Office Holders, Finance Director Cindy Ange thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the budgets and for the continual support of the Board of Commissioners. The following presentations were given.

Finance: Finance Officer Cindy Ange commented the Finance budget request was basically the same as last year. There was an increase in professional services because the actuary study was being done more frequently. The salary line items were left blank as usual, and would be added as the budget progressed. Regular audit costs had increased. Additionally, the state selects counties periodically for second audits. Finance had been chosen as a county to do a second audit concerning the retirement system.

Social Services: DSS/Transit Director Letecia Loadholt stated the budget contained increases for equipment upgrades, mainly computers. Another Income Maintenance Caseworker position was requested. To compensate for some of the increase, monies were being decreased in other line items.

Transit: Deputy DSS/Transit Director Frank Halsey stated the budget included requests to increase funding for utilities – electricity and water. Overall, the Transit budget was reduced \$14,599 over last fiscal year.

Adult & Aging Services Department: AASD Director Charmaine Hardison stated AASD became certified as a North Carolina Senior Center of Excellence in 2018, as a result General Purpose funding should increase. AASD Director Hardison reported the budget requested an increase in funding for housing and home improvement minor repairs, such as replacement doors, roof repairs, and accessible ramps, etc. for the adult and aging population. Part-time salaries were decreased. AASD Director Hardison requested upgrading the Home Health Coordinator position from part-time to full-time. The Council On Aging had agreed to continue its contribution for the coming fiscal year.

Tax Assessor: Tax Assessor Elisha Hardison stated the Tax Assessor Office budget requests reflected decreases for contracted services and temporary salaries. Tax Assessor Hardison noted increases for business personal property auditing, telephone expense (Wi-Fi hotspots) and billing service (Gap Bills). Tax Assessor Hardison stated the mapping contract line item showed an increase for a new GIS vendor and software. The current vendor wasn't providing the services needed.

Tax Collector: Tax Collector Christie Belvins reported the budget requests included an increase for supplies and equipment for three additional printers, toners, and desks, which would be needed once the planned renovation were done. The cost estimated for the remodeling were included in the Building and Grounds budget. The postage line item was increased due to anticipated additional certified return receipt billing for garnishments.

Department of Motor Vehicles-License Plates Agency: Tax Collector Christie Blevins stated the DMV budget would be about the same as last year, with slight increases requested for office supplies/materials, telephone and NC Wildlife fee.

Elections: Elections Director Kristy Modlin was not in attendance because of a family matter. On her behalf, Finance Director Ange stated due to legislative updates, Election Director Modlin budgeted for an additional board member, bringing the total to four. Currently, the Martin County Board of Elections consists of a three (3) member board. The November 2018 election was included in the budget. However, funding for a second primary was not.

Register of Deeds: Register of Deeds Kimberly Griffin stated her budget was basically the same, except for increases for computerized indexing and automation enhancement. Some of those increases were offset by decrease in other line items. The overall amount of increase requested was \$2,200.

Buildings and Grounds: Operations Director Justin Harrison presented the budget requests for the buildings and grounds maintained by his department.

Government Building (built 1982): Budget included an increase to renovate the Tax Collector's Office, repair pothole in the Governmental Center parking lot, and provide security glass at the front counter in the Tax Assessor's Office.

Contract cleaning was a new line item added to all Building and Grounds accounts.

County Office Building: Monies were requested for continued remodeling (sidewalks, paint, floor tile, plumbing, roof, etc.).

Old Agriculture Extension Building: Monies were included to upgrade lighting.

Health Department Building: Budget included plumbing, bathrooms and cosmetic improvements.

Farmer's Market: Budget request included funding parking lot improvement, grass mowing, new drainage and exhaust fans.

Moratoc Park: Budget request included funds for renovations to the Barnes house.

Kehukee Park (built mid-'90's): Budget request included funds to complete addition, repair flooring and windows.

Shooting Range Building: Budget request the same.

Watts Street Building: Budget included funds to replace floor in the office.

Ray Street Building: Budgeted funds for general upkeep such grass mowing, and plant beds.

Landfill: Public Works Director Justin Harrison stated his budget included funding requests for a new well/monitoring, tractor, mower and 1/3 the cost for a backhoe. The cost for the backhoe would be shared with the Water Districts. Public Works Director Harrison added tons of concrete coming from the demolition of portions of the Magnuson hotel would be repurposed at the Landfill.

Sheriff/Animal Enforcement Division: Sheriff Tim Manning requested additional funding to decrease, now rather than later, huge amount of accumulated holiday and compensatory time hours. Sheriff Manning noted increased amounts for overtime, upgrades to body cameras, rifle training, ammunition, and six vehicles, as well.

Monies were requested for mandated Animal Enforcement shelter upgrades.

Communication/911: Interim Telecommunications Manager Keith Holliday stated the majority of Communications budget requests remained primarily unchanged, while mentioning salary payouts thus far.

Interim Telecommunications Manager Holliday stated the 911 budget request remained primarily unchanged. Staff was waiting anxiously in anticipation of the construction of the new 911 Center.

Emergency Management: County Manager Bone stated Safety Administrator/Director Jody Griffin was absent due to overseeing an oil spill at the Robersonville Manufacturing Packing

Plant. Finance Director Ange added the budget for Emergency Management included a request for a new laptop and equipment for the EOC.

Inspections: In the absence of Inspections Code Enforcer Director Griffin, County Manager Bone stated the Inspections budget included a request for a new computer, software support and tires for the Inspections vehicle.

Cooperative Extension: Director Laura Oliver stated the budget request for Cooperative Extension included fully funding the part-time Farmer's Market Manager's position. There were slight increases for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and equipment rental.

Soil and Water Conservation: S & W Supervisor Lynn Whitehurst stated his budget request would be the same as last year, except for small increases for travel and vehicle repairs.

Veterans: Veterans Director Theodosia Robinson was not in attendance due to a family matter. County Manager Bone explained the budget for the Veterans department was the same, except for an increase for a new computer and required additional training.

Water: Water District Manager Ed Warren noted decreases for utility and gasoline, due to reduce well operational costs. Water District Manager Warren budget request included an additional position to replace aging meters, a new computer, 4,500 new meters, and funding for the backhoe. The cost for the backhoe would be shared with the Landfill.

Commissioners/ County Manager: County Manager David Bone stated the budget requests for both were pretty much the same as last year.

County Manager Bone reminded the Board of the annual Juvenile Crime Prevention Council dinner with the County Commissioners, as well as the Outside Agencies presentations were scheduled for March 28, 2018. A joint meeting between Martin County Board of Commissioners, Bertie County Board of Commissioners and the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail Commission was scheduled for March 26, 2018 to discussion strategies to improve retention & recruitment of Detention Officers. Some of these strategies would have budget implications, if adopted.

County Manager Bone thanked the Department Heads and Office Holders for their continued strong fiduciary responsibility in management and leadership.

County Manager Bone estimated a draft budget may be available by the May 9, 2018 meeting. The Commissioners' meeting for Department/Office Holder Presentations, March 22, 2018 was not necessary and would not be held.

COMMENTS

In conclusion, the Commissioners thanked and commended the Department Heads, Elected Office Holders, and Staff, for their service, efforts, and commitment to provide quality service.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bond made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board