

April 18, 2007
Special Session

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Chairman Tommy W. Bowen, Vice Chairman Ronnie Smith, Commissioners Elmo "Butch" Lilley and C. Mort Hurst and County Manager W. Russell Overman were present. Commissioner Alphonzo Perry, Clerk to the Board Linda G. Hardison and County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen were absent.

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Chairman Bowen, Vice Chairman Smith offered the Invocation.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND b Vice Chairman Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Chamber of Commerce: Ms. Sheri Copeland, Executive Director of the Martin County chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board for their continued support. Her request was for \$15,000. The funding will be used specifically for a portion of a salaried position as well as having materials printed.

Economic Development Corporation: Mr. Jim Ward, Executive Director of the Martin County Economic Development Corporation, stated that the Board of Directors for EDC elected to request the same operational funding amount for fiscal year 2007-2008 as they have received for the past five years - \$192,293 plus the additional assistance of \$7,610 for the new horse barn at the ag center and \$18,000 in assistance for the Microcell project. These two items of additional assistance have already been approved by the commissioners this past year. The total funding request for EDC is \$217,903.

Martin Community College: Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College, presented the following budget: Current Operating Costs - \$902,257; Capital Outlay - \$188,000 for a total of \$1,090,257.00. The request includes a 5% increase for county employees based on the anticipated state increase for other College employees.

Capital Outlay request includes an upgrade of the current Centrex phone system that is outdated and inefficient. An upgrade to an IP telephone system is needed to meet growing demands of technology and of the new Computer Information System (CIS) that is a mandatory system for all North Carolina community colleges. The Capital Outlay request includes an upgrade of the security system, not a new, state-of-the-art system. The current security system was used when it was installed in the 1980's. It has no surveillance cameras. It is a legal and moral responsibility to provide a safe environment for employees and students. Dr. Britt reiterated that she understands the financial constraints that face the county and her budget request is based on realistic costs for 2007-2008.

BHM Regional Library: Ms. Maryjane Carbo, Regional Library Director, presented a budget request for \$78,000 to support library services in Martin County during FY 2007-2008. This represents a \$3,000 increase over last year's allocation. Ms. Carbo explained that the requested appropriations are needed to maintain the same level of service as offered in the past.

Roanoke River Humane Society: Mr. Ben Turlington made a presentation for the new agency, Roanoke River Humane Society. Since this is a new agency, he reviewed the Mission Statement, Statement of Purpose and the Volunteer's Pledge. A total budget for the Society was presented in the amount of \$92,826. He said they would be looking for assistance of foundations, businesses, individuals and municipalities.

Food Bank of the Albemarle: Mr. John McGlaughlin presented the budget request for the Food Bank of the Albemarle in the amount of \$1,000. He explained that they already provide food to six agencies in Martin County: BMB Shelter Home, Bibleway Project Relief; Full Gospel Way of the Cross; Hamilton Baptist Retirement Home, Martin County Council of Aging and New Life Womens Leadership. These six agencies receive approximately 235,550 pounds of food with an approximate retail value of \$353,326 and produce an equivalent of 196,293 meals

Roanoke River Basin Association: Mr. Harold Carawan, President of the Roanoke River Basin Association, requested the same amount of \$3,762 as allocated last year. He explained that the amount requested is based upon the population of this jurisdiction. The services of RRBA are distributed throughout the approximately 9800 square miles of the Roanoke River Basin on a prorated basis.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Smith, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously APPROVED, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Tommy W. Bowen, Chairman

W. Russell Overman, Notetaker