

Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of June 14, 2018

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. on June 14, 2018. The meeting was held in Room 335, Surry County Government Center, Dobson, North Carolina to discuss budget related items. Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Eddie Harris, Vice-Chairman Van Tucker, Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Larry Phillips, and Commissioner Gary Carson Tilley.

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:  
Chris Knopf, County Manager  
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager  
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer  
News Media

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Chairman Harris reconvened the recessed meeting of June 4, 2018. Commissioner Tucker delivered the invocation. Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, explained that the work session was an opportunity for the Board to discuss the FY 2018-2019 Recommended Budget, as presented on June 4, 2018. Mr. Knopf reviewed a worksheet prepared to facilitate the Board's discussion for the evening.

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The Board discussed the recommended allocation of \$250,000 for a shell building in Elkin Corporate Park. The allocation would be a dollar-for-dollar match with the Town of Elkin. Mr. Knopf explained the project would be structured with a third-party developer. Following much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the project be funded from Fund 11, the Economic Development Fund, and not the General Fund in the FY 2018-2019 budget.

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The Board discussed the recommended allocation of \$100,000 for lighting at Crater Park in Elkin. The park is owned by the Town of Elkin but used by Elkin High School for their softball program. The lack of lighting is a Title IX issue according to Elkin City Schools. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the majority of the Board to keep the allocation in the FY 2018-2019 budget.

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The Board discussed the recommended allocation of \$5,000 for the Children's Center of Surry County. Commissioner Johnson requested an increase in their funding from \$5,000 to \$7,000. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to increase their funding as suggested.

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The Board discussed the recommended allocations for Surry SCAN and YVEDDI. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to make no changes to their recommended allocations.

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The Board discussed the requested tax increases by various volunteer fire departments (VFD) and reasons for the requested increases including costs relating to paid personnel and equipment. Four Way VFD has advised that they are seeking a \$0.013 increase and not \$0.02. Shoals VFD has advised that they are no longer seeking a tax increase as previously requested due to an improved financial position in recent months.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that CC Camp VFD and South Surry VFD receive \$0.013 increases versus the \$0.02 requested. Commissioner Johnson suggested that Westfield VFD receive the \$0.02 increase they have requested for new debt service on a building project they are planning.

The Board requested that Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, provide them with a 10-year tax rate history for each volunteer fire department.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the requested fire district tax rate increases on June 18, 2018.

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The Board discussed the issues surrounding the Fire Grant that has been dispersed in recent years. Following FY 2018-2019, it was suggested that the grant terminate in its current form.

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The Board discussed in detail the requested \$0.01 tax increases for the supplemental school tax districts in Elkin and Mount Airy. Discussion included how these revenues create a gap in per pupil spending between the two city school systems and the County school system, the process by which the County school system could request a referendum for their own supplemental tax district, and the history of current expense funding for all three school systems.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the requested supplemental school tax district rate increases on June 18, 2018.

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The Board discussed the \$486,800 request for supplemental funding from Surry County Schools. It was not included in the recommended budget. The FY 2017-2018 budget included \$150,000 but it was approved as a non-recurring allocation. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to include \$200,000 in the FY 2018-2019 budget, but as a non-recurring allocation.

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The Board discussed the recommended ADM Current Expense figure of \$1,150 and the recommended ADM Capital Expense of \$110 for the three public school systems. It was the consensus of the Board to leave both ADM figures as recommended.

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The Board discussed a request from the EMS Director to include \$29,000 for two new stretchers and \$14,400 for three new ambulance computers that are not in the recommended budget. It was the consensus of the Board to include the \$29,000 for the stretchers. The Board requested that staff investigate lower

costs, but comparable alternatives to the computers, for review before the June 18, 2018 meeting.

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Ms. Bowen requested the Board consider using Craig, Gibson, and Coe to conduct compilations for the volunteer fire departments.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Tilley, the Board voted unanimously to approve to use Craig, Gibson, and Coe to conduct compilations for the volunteer fire departments.

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There was no additional business to come before the Board.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

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Sandra Snow  
Interim Clerk to the Board