

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session # 2
April 23, 2019

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 pm on April 23, 2019 for a budget work session. The meeting was held in Room 136, Surry County Historic Courthouse, Dobson, N. C.

Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Van Tucker, Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson, Commissioner Bill Goins, Commissioner Eddie Harris, and Commissioner Mark Marion.

Also present for the meeting, at various times, were:

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Rhonda Nixon, Budget and Performance Director
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director
Doug Jones, Fire Marshal
Representatives from various fire departments

Chairman Van Tucker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson delivered the invocation.

Commissioner Bill Goins made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Marion and passed unanimously.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented a proclamation recognizing May 2, 2019 as the National Day of Prayer. A service will be held at noon, May 2, 2019, on the Historic Courthouse lawn. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Eddie Harris. The motion passed unanimously to approve the proclamation as follows:

Proclamation Declaring
The National Day of Prayer

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer has been a part of our nation's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, leaders in our nation have relied on the power of prayer throughout our history as a way of bringing citizens together to demonstrate all that we have in common; and

WHEREAS, leaders commonly and frequently urge citizens of faith to pray for our country and those who defend our freedoms at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, prayer has given strength to people who are facing daily trials and tribulations and it serves as a way to express love, gratitude, and concern; and

WHEREAS, prayer is an important part of many citizen's daily lives so it is incumbent upon our County's leaders to recognize the National Day of Prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Surry County Board of Commissioners recognizes the National Day of Prayer, which will occur on May 2, 2019, and encourages all citizens who desire to participate in this special occasion.

Rhonda Nixon, Budget and Performance Director, presented a resolution to enter into a five-year "lease to purchase" agreement for a compactor, as discussed previously, for the Public Works department. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Vice Chairman Larry Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Chris Knopf, County Manager, to enter into a five-year Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance the purchase of a Bomag BC972RB-4L Landfill Compactor in the amount of \$721,769.83 purchased from James River Equipment.

White Plains Volunteer Fire Department Chief Garth Badgett and Treasurer Eddie Jordan presented the budget for the department. They stated White Plains Fire Department is not requesting a tax increase. The department has approximately twenty volunteers on the roster. White Plains has an ISO rating of 9.

Chief Badgett and Treasurer Jordan expressed appreciation to the Board members for their continued support.

Ararat Volunteer Fire Department Chief Wes Key and Assistant Chief Tim Chilton presented the department's budget request for 2019-2020. The department lost a truck last year but purchased a used truck which is in the process of getting upfitted. A large upcoming expense for the department is paving the driveway.

The Chief and Assistant Chief stated they did not need a tax increase in the upcoming year. Ararat has an ISO rating of 9. The department applied and was awarded a FEMA grant for upfit of radios. They have also applied for a recruitment grant which, if awarded, would assist in recruiting new members. Ararat has approximately twenty-seven members on the roster. Future needs, in addition to paving, are maintaining a second brush truck and purchasing a tanker within the next couple of years. Ararat has no paid staff at the present time. They plan to work on their ISO rating in the near future. Chairman Tucker commended Ararat Fire Department for the excellent service they provide.

Franklin Volunteer Fire Department was represented by Chief Johnny Hiatt and Board President Doug Coble. Franklin is not asking for a tax increase for 2019-2020. The department has two part-time paid staff and approximately thirty-two volunteers. Chief Hiatt stated the department was successful and wants to purchase a new engine soon. Their ISO rating is 8.5 to 9.

Chief Hiatt and Board President Coble discussed the need for installation and repair of fire hydrants at Franklin and Meadowview schools.

John Shelton, Emergency Services Director, commended Franklin Fire Department for having the largest emergency shelter in the area and on their response to medical calls.

CC Camp Volunteer Fire Department was represented by Chief Lannie Whitaker and treasurer Ronnie Wilmoth. They stated the department's ISO rating recently went from 9 to 6. The department plans for a building expansion in the next three to five years. They also have a 1992 tanker that is aging out. CC Camp is asking for a .02 tax increase.

Westfield Volunteer Fire Department was represented by Jonathan Sutphin, Chief, Jimmy Harrison, President, and Dana Linville, Treasurer. They stated their ISO rating had just been lowered to 5 for a significant savings to citizens in the area. Westfield is asking for a 1.5 cent tax increase to assist with their building project. Last year they received a two-cent tax increase which was set aside for their building project.

Chief Sutphin thanked the Board for the support they have received.

Tony Tilley, South Surry Volunteer Fire Department Chief, presented the department's 2019-2020 budget request. South Surry has three buildings and twelve pieces of equipment. South Surry is working on their ISO rating.

Mr. Tilley discussed the recent building project and the additional expense over budget. South Surry is not requesting a tax increase.

Scotty Coe, treasurer, presented the budget for Central Surry Fire Department. Chief Rodney Whitaker was unable to attend. Central Surry did not receive a tax increase last year. Their ISO rating is being evaluated and a significant improvement in rating is anticipated. No tax increase is requested.

James DeHart, Chief of Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, presented the 2019-2020 budget request. The department does not anticipate any large expenditures unless a building project should occur. Mr. DeHart does not anticipate needing additional vehicles. Pilot Knob has approximately 27 volunteers on staff and four paid firefighters. The department is not requesting a tax increase.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:53 pm.

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to Board