

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session # 1
April 9, 2019

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 pm on April 9, 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 Eddie Harris, and Commissioner Mark Marion. Commissioner Bill Goins was unable to attend.

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

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Rhonda Nixon, Budget and Performance Director
Sheriff Steve Hiatt
Chief Deputy Paul Barker
Captain Larry Lowe
Captain Scott Hudson
Lieutenant Randy Shelton
Johnny Easter, Development Services Director
George Crater, Airport Director
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director

Chairman Van Tucker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Commissioner Mark Marion made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Larry Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by all Board members in attendance.

Sheriff Steve Hiatt, Chief Deputy Paul Barker, Captain Larry Lowe, Captain Scott Hudson, and Lieutenant Randy Shelton presented the annual budget request for the Sheriff's Office and the Detention Center. They addressed personnel and vehicle needs, Animal Control staffing, and the possible addition of sworn law enforcement officer benefits for approximately twelve positions at the Detention Center.

The Board and Sheriff's Office also discussed the need for a new Sheriff's Office and Detention Center, the number of inmates being routinely housed, and the availability of other detention facilities available to house Surry County inmates.

Johnny Easter, Development Services Director, presented the Development Services budget and proposed changes to a fee schedule for inspections. The revised fee structure would be, in most instances, a reduction compared to the current fee structure. The Board discussed the importance of keeping our fees in line with neighboring counties.

George Crater, Airport Manager, presented the 2019-2020 budget for the Mount Airy/Surry County Airport Authority. Mr. Crater discussed capital projects and upcoming needs for the Airport including the need for a courtesy car and the installation of video cameras.

John Shelton, Emergency Services Director, presented the Emergency Services budget for 2019-2020. Mr. Shelton discussed the need for Quick Response Unit # 1 and the importance of staffing the unit continually instead of the approximate 50% time the unit is staffed currently. Four paramedics would be needed to staff the unit continually.

Mr. Shelton discussed a request for additional compensation for paramedics in the crew chief and field training officer roles. Mr. Shelton also discussed staffing of the Fire Marshal's Office, training needs for Emergency Services, vehicle and radio requests, and the funding of a morgue.

The Board discussed the budget process and the upcoming meeting schedule.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:46 pm.

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to the Board