

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session # 3
April 30, 2019

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 pm on April 30, 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

Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director

School superintendents and staff from Surry County Schools, Elkin City Schools and Mount Airy City Schools

Chairman Tucker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Dr. Myra Cox, Elkin City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Richard Brinegar, Elkin School Board, Judy Walker, Elkin School Board and Elkin City Schools staff presented the 2019-2020 budget request. Elkin City Schools are requesting funding of \$1,210 per-pupil. Last year's appropriation was \$1,160. This would be an increase of \$48,070. Dr. Cox stated they are also requesting a one-cent increase in the supplemental tax rate, a \$70,000 increase, and a capital outlay request of \$150 per-pupil. If approved, one additional teacher will be hired to meet class size requirements. They also want to make the Middle School Counselor a full-time employee. The position is now 75%. Dr. Cox discussed special needs students and the needs of the Middle School population.

Dr. Cox stated soil testing for the gym construction project is in process, and results should be received soon.

Elkin City Schools charge \$200 for in-county tuition for students living out of the district and \$300 for students out-of-district and residing out-of-county. Local fund balance makes up the difference in funding.

Chairman Tucker thanked the Elkin School Superintendent, Board members, and staff for their budget presentation.

Dr. David Shockley, President, Surry Community College, along with Tony Martin, Finance Officer, and Randy Rogers, Facilities Director, presented the Surry Community College 2019-2020 budget request. Dr. Shockley stated the budget was actually a decrease in funding compared to the current year. Dr. Shockley also stated the College is interested in starting a "pay-as-you-go" fund for capital projects for Surry Community College. The County would maintain the funds, restricted for Surry Community College, and

would make a request to the County Board of Commissioners if there was a need for use of the funds.

Surry Community College enrollment is down by 150 students. Most community colleges are seeing decreased enrollments, below 2008 levels. Part-time students outnumber full-time students.

The Board thanked Dr Shockley and Surry Community College staff for the excellent services they provide.

Dr. Kim Morrison, Mount Airy City Schools Superintendent, School Board members Phillip Brown, Tim Matthews, and Bryan Cox, along with Mount Airy City Schools staff, presented the 2019-2020 Budget request. Dr. Morrison stated the new administration building is working well. Dr. Morrison commended all three school systems in the county on the excellent performance records of their students.

Mount Airy City Schools is asking for a one-cent increase in the supplemental tax rate, per-pupil expenditure of \$1,210, and a capital outlay request of \$150 per-student. Their out-of-district tuition is \$500 per student and out-of-state is \$1160. Dr. Morrison presented a list of capital outlay projects, in order of priority.

The Board thanked Mount Airy City Schools for their presentation and the excellent job they do for their students.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, discussed budget requests for Facilities and Public Works. Mr. Mitchell presented updates on building needs and status reports of various construction and relocation projects.

Mr. Mitchell discussed staffing for the Landfill and Recycling Centers.

Mr. Mitchell also discussed the granite on the Cooperative Extension building. The building will be demolished soon. It was the consensus of the Board to save the granite and utilize it for other County purposes, if the removal and relocation can be done at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent, School Board members Dr. Terri Mosley, Clark Goings, Mamie Sutphin, and Surry County Schools staff, presented their budget request for 2019-2020. Surry County Schools is requesting \$1,210 per-pupil, \$150 per-pupil capital outlay, and \$433,400 supplemental appropriation.

The School System has seen a decrease of 237 in student population. Tuition for all students residing in and out-of-county is \$1,160. 110 students have been released from the County to attend Mount Airy City Schools, and 109 are attending Surry County Schools from the Mount Airy School Systems.

The special needs and projects of the School System were discussed.

The Board thanked the Surry County Schools representatives and commended them on the services they provide to their students.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to the Board