

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of April 10, 2018

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. on April 10, 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
Sheriff Jimmy Combs
Samantha Ange, Health Director
Kristy Preston, Social Services Director
Dennis Bledsoe, Public Works Director
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director
Other County staff

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order. Upon motion of Larry Phillips, seconded by Larry Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

John Shelton, Emergency Services Director, presented the Emergency Services budget for 2018-2019. Mr. Shelton discussed the number of increased calls and drug related deaths this year. Mr. Shelton commended the staff of the Fire Marshal's office and discussed the need for them to respond to calls to assist the Volunteer Fire Departments.

Mr. Shelton discussed the Community Paramedicine Program. The program is reducing the number of hospital visits and EMS responses for transport. Mr. Shelton discussed areas of grant funding and the application through Northern Hospital of Surry County for a two-year Duke Endowment Grant. Mr. Shelton stated four paramedics would need to be hired to staff a Quick Response unit for the Community Paramedicine program.

Mr. Shelton also discussed funding a Medic Seven crew which would require adding eight advanced EMT's. When the Quick Response units in Shoals and Beulah were established, personnel were taken from the seventh medic crew of each shift. However, Mr. Shelton stated call volume is too heavy to operate without the seventh crew. He will be asking for staffing consideration in his budget request.

Mr. Shelton discussed the possibility of a future Quick Response unit in Westfield which would require additional staffing of four paramedics. Peak call times were discussed.

Dennis Bledsoe, Public Works Director, presented the Public Works budget for 2018-2019. Mr. Bledsoe recommended the lease of a new compactor rather than an outright purchase. The escalating charges that recycling is facing in taking electronics at the

Landfill was discussed. The County will have to start paying for the disposal of electronics by citizens at the landfill and recycling centers.

Mr. Bledsoe discussed the heavy traffic volume at North Surry Recycling Center and the possibility of an addition or expansion to meet the needs of the Center.

A debt model for the landfill is being prepared by DEC Associates.

Samantha Ange, Health Director, presented the Health and Nutrition Center's budget summary of revenues and expenditures for 2018-2019. Ms. Ange stated it is impossible to predict the impact on her budget of upcoming Medicaid changes.

Ms. Ange discussed the numerous budgets within the Health and Nutrition Center and County, State, and Federal allocations involved in her budgets. Ms. Ange stated her overall budget increased by 8.2%, but the County allocation request is decreasing by 11.9%.

Ms. Ange discussed the advantages of purchasing vehicles for the Health and Nutrition Center versus employees being compensated for driving their own vehicles.

Kristy Preston, Social Services Director, presented the Social Services budget for 2018-2019. Ms. Preston discussed a change in how the State manages payments for Child Care Subsidy and Non-Emergency Medicaid transportation. Counties are no longer required to pass funds through the budget for these programs and prediction of Medicaid paybacks is impossible.

Ms. Preston discussed a reserve for potential Medicaid and Child Care subsidy paybacks.

Ms. Preston discussed budgeting for one bed space to be held at the Children's Center to guarantee availability when needed.

Sheriff Combs discussed the Sheriff's Office budget for 2018-2019. The Sheriff discussed computer and vehicle rotation plans for his department. Sheriff Combs discussed adding K-9's to each squad.

The Middle School SRO grant was discussed. The total cost to the County for the Middle School Resource Officer program for 2018-2019 would be \$168,991 for four positions. School security was discussed.

The Sheriff discussed prisoner safekeeping, the number of inmates being housed outside of the County, and the extensive cost in housing and transporting them. The Sheriff is requesting to increase his prisoner safekeeping budget and to purchase a full-size van with an inmate transport insert.

Sheriff Combs discussed staffing needs for Patrol Officers and Detention. He will be requesting three additional deputy patrol positions to allow an increase in the number of officers

per squad. He will also request six new detention officer positions to meet new State mandated rules and regulations.

There was no additional business to come before the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tilley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.

Sandra Snow
Interim Clerk to the Board