

Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of April 18, 2017

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met in session at 6:30 p.m. on April 18, 2017 for a budget work session and other County business. The meeting was held in Room 335, Surry County Government Center, Dobson, North Carolina.

Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Eddie Harris, Vice-Chairman Van Tucker and Commissioner Larry Phillips.

Commissioner R.F. "Buck" Golding and Commissioner Larry Johnson were unable to attend.

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:  
Chris Knopf, County Manager  
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager for Human Resources and Operations  
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer  
Rhonda Nixon, Internal Auditor  
Kristy Preston, Social Services Director and staff  
Samantha Ange, Health and Nutrition Center Director and staff  
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director  
Dennis Bledsoe, Public Works Director  
Kim Bates, Planning Director  
Sheriff Graham Atkinson and staff  
News Media

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Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Phillips delivered the invocation.

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Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, stated the agenda needed to be amended to include two items from the Facilities Director.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, addressed the Board regarding the surplus of two parcels located on Willis Road, Mount Airy. The property was acquired by the County through foreclosure. An offer was made on the property for \$13,000. The tax value is \$11,550 with \$8,764.10 in back taxes. Mr. Mitchell stated if the Board accepted the bid, that would initiate a 10-day upset bid process. Mr. Mitchell stated there is a house that had burned on the property and the offeree will remove the house.

The Board discussed the need for a hold harmless agreement.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to surplus Willis Road, Mount Airy.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$13,000, contingent upon a 10-day upset bid process and a hold harmless agreement.

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Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, addressed the Board regarding a preliminary design, by Brite Engineering, for the renovation of the second floor, basement, and a portion of the third floor of the Historic Courthouse. Brite Engineering proposes to do a preliminary design for \$12,625.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

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Kristy Preston presented the FY 2017-2018 Social Services budget request. Ms. Preston stated that the Social Services budget is close to last year's budget. Ms. Preston discussed Foster Care increases and Medicaid transportation.

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Samantha Ange presented the FY 2017-2018 Health and Nutrition Center budget request. Ms. Ange discussed the loss of State funding, an Animal Control truck, two vehicles for Environmental Health, and WIC funding.

Commissioner Phillips asked Ms. Ange to work with the Sheriff and Emergency Services on an initiative to assist with drug abuse in Surry County.

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John Shelton presented the FY 2017-2018 Emergency Services budget request. Mr. Shelton discussed the need for a Quality Assurance Officer, salary study for 911 Center personnel, and 911 Communications hardware and software for networking. Mr. Shelton also discussed Emergency Services can no longer get diesel chassis for the Type III ambulances and must revert to gas units. Mr. Shelton discussed the need for three CPR Mechanical Chest Compressors, three mobile computers, a tripod rescue device and eight air packs. Mr. Shelton also discussed the convalescent units, and the potential need for two Quick Response Units in the future. Mr. Shelton discussed paid full-time fire fighters.

Commissioner Phillips asked Mr. Shelton to work with the Sheriff and Health and Nutrition Center Director on an initiative to assist with drug abuse in Surry County.

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The Board took a ten-minutes recess.

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Dennis Bledsoe presented the FY 2017-2018 Public Works budget request. Mr. Bledsoe discussed the repaving at two recycling centers and engineering fees for a new landfill cell. Mr. Bledsoe also discussed the Electronic Recycling Program and the potential for a fee for the program in the future.

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Kim Bates presented the FY 2017-2018 Planning Department budget request. Mr. Bates discussed the Surry Land Use Plan and

the need for an update. Mr. Bates discussed a proposal from the planning staff of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to assist with the updated Land Use Plan. Mr. Bates discussed the proposed cost estimate of \$44,750 which could be budgeted over three years.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to assist Surry County in updating the 2020 Land Use Plan.

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Sheriff Graham Atkinson presented the FY 2017-2018 Sheriff's Office budget request. Sheriff Atkinson discussed the need for additional Narcotics Investigators and Patrol Officers. Sheriff Atkinson discussed the need for the replacement of mobile data terminals, ten computers, copier, ten vehicles, and nine in-car camera systems. Sheriff Atkinson also discussed needs for the Detention Center: toilets, in-car cameras for the transport vans, replacement of a transport van, and a washing machine.

Sheriff Atkinson also discussed the costs for housing prisoners at other facilities due to overcrowding.

Commissioner Phillips asked Sheriff Atkinson and staff to work with Emergency Services and the Health and Nutrition Center Director on an initiative to assist with drug abuse in Surry County.

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Chairman Harris called a Special Meeting on May 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Surry County Government Center, Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, to accept the recommendation of Democrat Executive Committee for filling the vacancy of the Office of Sheriff and to elect the person recommended by the Democrat Executive Committee to serve as Sherriff for the unexpired term of Graham Atkinson.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, reminded the Board of County Assembly Day on May 10, 2017 in Raleigh and the Local Officials Conference on May 11, 2017 at the Elkin Center.

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There was further business to come before the Board.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

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Conchita Atkins  
Clerk to the Board