

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

JUNE 11, 2019
OTHERS PRESENT

David B. Newell, Sr.
Gordon Powell
Jimmy B. Clayton
Kyle W. Puryear
B. Ray Jeffers

Heidi York, County Manager
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in recessed session on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 9:00am in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Newell called the recessed meeting to order. Chairman Newell announced that a Closed Session for economic development was requested to be added following budget discussion.

Commissioner Puryear stated at the end of the last budget work session, he would bring back a proposal for a budget that included no property tax increase. He proposed the following:

- 1% reduction across the board for county departments (\$382,151),
- Health Department \$400,000 General Fund allocation to Health Department Fund Balance appropriation (\$400,000),
- Hold compression study implementation for 1/3 of workforce until a potential new revenue received (\$216,000),
- Retain the former cell phone policy (\$22,590),
- Hold Land Use Plan County appropriation (\$140,000), and
- Cut the Manager recommended property tax rate increase of \$.02 (\$896,000)

Commissioner Puryear stated the above reflected a savings of \$264,741 in the proposed budget without a property tax increase; that coupled with a fire tax increase fully funds the Manager's recommended budget with \$11,592 for undesignated contingency.

Commissioner Puryear confirmed his proposal includes the appropriation as recommended by the Manager for the Schools, but does not include any appropriations for an increase in the operating budget for Economic Development nor any appropriation for a Water & Sewer Fund. He added he would consent to a Fund Balance appropriation for Economic Development.

Vice Chairman Jeffers voiced his concern how the across the board cuts for county departments would affect funding revenue sources with a match, i.e., the Department of Social Services and the Health Department. County Manager, Heidi York stated the cuts would impact operating budgets but the 1% cuts could be made without affecting the match

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amounts. She reiterated that staff needed time to calculate a 1% reduction for all department's operating budgets, if that was the consensus of the Board.

Vice Chairman Jeffers proposed the following adjustments to the Manager's Recommended Budget:

- Increase Economic Development operating budget by \$250,000,
- Include the study for the YMCA at \$25,000,
- Fund the Compression Study for 2-year implementation (versus the 3-year implementation proposed by the Manager at \$216,330) for \$363,471.50 for an increase of \$147,141.50,
- Establish a water/sewer fund for future infrastructure projects using \$1M from Fund Balance,
- Cut Woodsdale VFD appropriation by \$30,000 (review breach of contract for not attending ISO Training or working to reduce ISO rating) retaining that amount in the VFD unallocated fund,
- Study Health Department services offered and while under the study, cut the Public Health Nurse Director I position (currently funding around \$80,000), as well as freeze all vacant positions, and
- Reduce the Agricultural well permit fee from \$300 to \$100 (note: this is not applicable for home/dwelling well permits).

Vice Chairman Jeffers' funding to achieve the above noted items was to increase taxes one additional cent over the Manager's proposed two-cent increase (\$.70 to \$.73).

Commissioner Powell asked if a study was warranted based on the recent meeting with the YMCA. Ms. York stated that she, Chairman Newell and Vice Chairman Jeffers met with the Danville YMCA Executive Director and a few of their board members noting they were not in a position to confirm expansion of their services to Person County until a consultant conducted a feasibility study to determine whether or not the community would be able to support and sustain a YMCA at certain price points and at certain location options. Ms. York further noted positive results were required of the survey before the umbrella YMCA would expand into a new market. Commissioner Powell confirmed that this would not be a free public swimming pool that indeed charges for use by individual or family rates would apply which was affirmed. Commissioners Powell and Puryear stated they were not supportive of the \$25,000 cost of the study. Vice Chairman Jeffers stated this was one of the items that was recently approved by the Board in its strategic plan.

Commissioner Powell asked about the YES program budget reduction to which Assistant County Manager, Sybil Tate said the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council had reduced the amount of funding for that program and the staff had agreed to staying on at the reduced amount, therefore it was a wash in the budget.

Commissioner Powell asked about the extension agent increase to which Ms. York explained she recommended in the Cooperative Extension contracted services budget an increase of \$32,500 funding to move the extension director from part-time to full-time.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear to direct county staff to review his proposal to confirm the figures and for the County Manager to prepare a Budget Ordinance reflecting such.

A **substitute motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton and **carried 3-2** to accept Vice Chairman Jeffers' budget proposal as presented and to direct the County Manager to prepare a Budget Ordinance reflecting that proposal. Commissioner Clayton, Chairman Newell and Vice Chairman Jeffers voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Puryear and Powell cast the dissenting votes.

Chairman Newell stated the Board of Commissioners only had control of the checkbook relating to the Health Department noting circumstances and risks are out of the Commissioners' control. He suggested working with the Board of Health to protect the County's interest as the County is liable for any such consequences. Commissioner Puryear went on record to say that Janet Clayton has been the best Health Director in the state of NC.

Finance Director, Amy Wehrenberg confirmed a Budget Ordinance would be ready by the Board's next meeting. Laura Jensen, Assistant Finance Director and Budget Manager stated staff would amend the proposed budget as per the prevailing motion. She provided the Board the following chart outlining a running total noting some figures may adjust based on the prevailing motion with any left over funding to be appropriated in the Contingency undesignated fund.

Running Total	\$0.00		
GENERAL FUND			
Revenues	Amount	Expenditures	Amount
1 cent property tax increase	\$438,586.00	Transfer to Water & Sewer-Mt Tirzah	\$1,000,000.00
General Fund FBA	\$1,000,000.00	Compression Study	\$147,142.00
		EDC-Contracted Services	\$250,000.00
		YMCA Feasibility Study	\$24,000.00
		Finance reclass reduction	-\$4,266.00
		YES Program	\$55,166.00
		JCPC Administration	-\$55,166.00
		Contingency-undesignated	\$21,710.00
OTHER FUNDS			
Revenues	Amount	Expenditures	Amount
E911 Telephone Surcharges	\$32,487.00	E911 Telephone Fund	\$32,487.00
Transfer from General Fund	\$1,000,000.00	Water & Sewer Fund-Mt. Tirzah	\$1,000,000.00
Econ Catalyst Fund FBA	\$100,000.00	Workforce Pipeline 6-14	\$100,000.00
		VFD - Wooddale reduction	-\$30,000.00
		VFD- unallocated	\$30,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,571,073.00	TOTAL	\$2,571,073.00

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CLOSED SESSION 1:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Powell and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session at 9:38am per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) for the purpose of discussion of matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the county (economic development) with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager, Heidi York, Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves, and Economic Development Director, Sherry Wilborn.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Jeffers and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 9:47am.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Jeffers and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 9:48am.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

David B. Newell, Sr.
Chairman

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