

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**May 15, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a budget work session on Monday, May 15, 2017 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman  
Jeff Dixon  
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., (*arrived 2:55 PM*)  
Frankie Meads  
Bettie Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cecil Perry, Chairman  
Lloyd E. Griffin, III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
Sheri Small, Finance Officer  
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The work session was called to order at 2:00 PM by Vice-Chairman William Sterritt.

**1. BUDGET WORK SESSION:**

Vice-Chairman Sterritt called on Chief Billy Lewis who expressed his concerns with staff's recommendation to reduce Providence Volunteer Fire Department's budget request for 2017-18. Chief Lewis feels Providence VFDs 1981 tanker truck should be replaced because the department serves the urban growth area and they are the busiest fire station in Pasquotank County. Staff asked if this truck was replaced in the past. Chief Lewis acknowledged that it was, but they kept it as a backup. He provided three options for the Board to consider; 1) \$500,000 for a new front line engine, 2) \$350,000 for a multiuse tanker, or 3) \$300,000 for a new tanker. He noted that there has been a lot of growth in the northern part of the county in the last twenty years.

Finance Officer Sheri Small reviewed the proposed budgets for Board of Elections, Public Buildings, Health & Social Services Building, Debt Retirement, and Parks and Recreation. She said they all remain relatively flat, with the exception of salaries and benefits.

Ms. Small reviewed special appropriations requests. All agencies asked for level funding, except Elizabeth City Downtown and River City CDC. Elizabeth City Downtown is requesting \$3,000, which is a \$500 increase from last year. After discussion, the Board voted three to two (Sterritt, Dixon, and Parker) to appropriate \$3,000. Commissioners Meads and Winslow both said they felt there was no extra money to increase any budget request. River City CDC is requesting \$10,000, which is an increase of \$7,500 from last year's appropriation. After discussion, the Board voted four to one (Dixon, Sterritt, Winslow and Parker) to appropriate \$3,000. Ms. Small said she also received a new request from Diamond Development, Inc. in the amount of \$400,000. The Board agreed that no new non-profits would be funded at this time.

The Board briefly discussed the school system's budget request. Ms. Small provided a spreadsheet. She said with everybody's budgets plugged in except the school systems, there is a balance of \$10,949,474 to allocate between school current and capital and/or debt service. She noted that the proposed budget includes upping sales tax from the current year by \$500,000, as well as adding \$600,000 from fund balance appropriated. The proposed budget assumes that we will borrow money for the bookmobile, Sheriff and Animal Control vehicles, Inspections vehicle, and an EMS remount. She said the proposed budget also includes the twelve priority items submitted by the schools totaling \$1.38M, \$900,000 of which will be financed. She explained that 3 pennies of tax generates \$934,560. Commissioner Dixon asked Ms. Small to provide numbers for funding the school system at \$11M for operating expenses. Commissioner Winslow asked that Ms. Small also calculate an appropriation of \$10.5 million for operating expenses. Commissioner Dixon said if the .0025 sales tax would have passed last November we would not be having this discussion.

County Manager Bunch said if the Board chooses to appropriate \$11M, plus the twelve capital projects, we will be \$538,950 short based on the projected revenue growth. Commissioner Meads said he does not feel we should increase taxes.

The Board briefly discussed the Senate Budget, which includes additional funds for school capital projects. Ms. Small said she is not sure how the money will be allocated or if it will require matching funds. She said there are still many unknowns.

The Board scheduled another budget meeting for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

---

CHAIRMAN

---

CLERK TO THE BOARD