

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP (Resumed)**

June 15, 2006

6:00 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of holding a Workshop for the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget that is being resumed from the June 12, 2006 Budget Workshop.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kipling Godwin, **Chairman**
Amon E. McKenzie
James E. Prevatte
Sammie Jacobs
Bill Memory
Lynwood Norris

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Jimmy Varner, **Interim County Manager**
Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

David L. Dutton, Jr., **Vice Chairman**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Roxanne Coleman, **Finance Officer**

MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:00 P.M., Chairman Godwin called the Budget Workshop to order, and stated this Budget Workshop is being resumed from the June 12, 2006 Budget Workshop, and the purpose is to continue reviewing the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget. Chairman Godwin stated the following:

1. We will consider the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget;
2. We will pick up with the items not addressed or put on hold at the June 12, 2006 Budget Workshop;
3. We will have the Budget up for adoption at the June 26, 2006 Special Called Meeting at the Riegelwood Community Center; **and**
4. We will hold a Public Hearing on June 19, 2006 on the Proposed 2006 - 2007 Columbus County Operating Budget.

Chairman Godwin recognized the presence of Superintendent Dan Strickland, Columbus County Schools, and Dr. Kathy Matlock with Southeastern Community College. Both representatives gave a short presentation.

BUDGET ITEMS for DISCUSSION:

Jimmy Varner, Interim County Manager, stated that \$2.8 Million would have to be pulled from the Fund Balance to cover what is in the Proposed 2006-2007 Columbus County Operating Budget. Mr. Varner also stated that \$5 Million would have to be pulled from Fund Balance to cover all items listed.

1. **Detention Center - approximately \$1.3 million (to finish paying for construction):**
-Borrowed \$7.2 Million -Bid Amount: \$8,551.863

Chairman Godwin reiterated the three (3) options that were available to the Board on this matter as follows:

- A. Pull this amount from the Fund Balance;
- B. Borrow this money from the bank; **or**
- C. Increase ad valorem tax by five (\$.05) cents.

Commissioner McKenzie made a proposal for the \$1.3 million needed, to be borrowed, as

was the original plan.

Jimmy Varner, Interim County Manager made a proposal to raise the ad valorem tax by five (\$.05) cents.

After lengthy discussion was conducted, the general consensus was to borrow the \$1.3 million dollars, with a straw poll vote taken with the following results:

AYES: Four (4)
NAYS: One (1)
NON-VOTING: One (1)

2. **3 Bailiffs - \$139,480 versus overtime \$106,764 for Sheriff's Office:**

After discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board to include one hundred thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) dollars. A straw poll vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Five (5)
NAYS: One (1)

3. **Deuce Niven - Tabor City Water Rescue - \$10,543:**

After discussion was conducted, it was the general consensus of the Board to take this matter under advisement.

4. **Chadbourn Parks and Recreation - \$20,000 (approximate):**

Include ten thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) dollars.

5. **Tabor City Parks and Recreation - \$50,0000 (approximate):**

Include twenty-five thousand and 00/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars.

6. **Request from Vietnam Veterans of America for assistance in bringing the Moving Wall to Columbus County - \$10,000:**

Include five thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) dollars, with matching funds.

7. **Cape Fear River request - \$3,000:**

Do not include.

8. **Families first - requested \$10,000 - funded at 05/06 appropriation of \$8,000 (\$2,000):**

Include eight thousand and 00/100 (\$8,000.00) dollars.

9. **Increase in Inspections fees (will generate approximately \$20,000 in revenues):**

Hold off until the new inspector comes on board and has had time to review.

10. **Development Fees - \$2250 per new residential unit:**

Needs further review.

11. Proposed Cuts from Commissioner Prevatte:

The following information was distributed for Board consideration. A column has been added at the end that states the Board action.

DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	REQUESTED	DECREASED to	SAVINGS	BOARD ACTION
Governing Body	Office Supplies	6000	5000	1000	Okay
Administration	Travel	8000	6000	2000	Okay
Personnel	Office Supplies	3000	2000	1000	Okay
	Staff Development	20000	10000	10000	Hold
Elections	Staff Development	11101	8025	3076	Okay
	Contract Services	44410	41410	3000	Okay
Finance	Travel	3000	1000	2000	Okay
Tax Office	Office Supplies	35000	30000	5000	Okay
	Capital Outlay	6600	5000	1600	Okay
MIS	Dept Supplies	6500	5000	1500	Okay
	Capital Outlay	5000	4000	1000	Okay
Attorney	Professional Serv	15000	10000	5000	15000
	Travel	6000	4000	2000	Okay
	Rent Equipment	1000	0	1000	Okay
	Capital Outlay	5000	0	5000	Okay
Tourism	Salaries	36000	31331	4669	Okay
	Travel Allowance	3000	2500	500	Okay
	Dues/Subscript.	2757	2150	607	2757
Maintenance	Capital Outlay	16000	0	16000	Okay
Fire Marshal	Uniforms	7500	1000	6500	Hold
EMS	Rental	13500	12000	1500	Okay
Medical Director	Dept. Supplies	3000	2000	1000	Okay
Inspections	Professional Serv.	3500	2500	1000	Okay
	Contract Services	8000	4000	4000	Okay
	Capital Outlay	5000	2000	3000	Okay
Planning	Capital Outlay	1500	500	1000	Okay
Environmental Health	Dept. Supplies	8767	6000	1767	Hold
DSS*	Salaries	4192380	4102032	90348	Okay
	Travel	85000	65000	20000	85000
	Contract Services	70000	55000	15000	70000
Recreation	Special Programs	28000	19000	19000	28000
	Capital Outlay	17500	12200	5300	17500
Library	Office Supplies	24500	21898	2602	Okay
Solid Waste	Capital Outlay	40100	20000	20100	Okay

Total Savings:

258,069

* This figure is for the eight (8) new positions, minus an approximate fifty (50%) percent state reimbursement.

Commissioner Jacobs stated the Personnel Committee had met with Ms. Marva Scott and was satisfied with the eight (8) new positions at the Columbus County Department of Social Services.

Jimmy Varner, Interim County Manager, stated he was proposing a three (3%) percent (COLA) pay increase for the employees and a two (2%) percent 401K contribution.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:31 P.M., Commissioner Prevatte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

KIPLING GODWIN, Chairman