

Camden County Board of Commissioners

Budget Work Session

May 9, 2006

7:00 P.M.

**Upstairs Courtroom, Courthouse Complex
Camden, North Carolina**

MINUTES

A budget work session of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom, Courthouse Complex, Camden, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Chairman Melvin J. Jeralds
Vice Chairman Clayton Riggs

Commissioners Jeffrey B. Jennings, Carolyn Riggs, and Mike Andrews

Also present was County Manager Randell Woodruff, Clerk to the Board Ava Murgia, and Finance Officer Clarann Mansfield.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds called the work session to order and stated the purpose was to conduct a FY2006-2007 budget work session.

Comments from Commissioners

Chairman Jeralds stated that before presentations were made from the department heads, Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings wanted to speak.

Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings stated he had reviewed the budget and does not think that the five (5) cents increase of the fire tax should be in the South Mills Fire Department budget. Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings also stated that the utility franchise tax should not be included in the FY2006-2007 budget.

Commissioner Mike Andrews stated that the increase of the South Mills fire tax had not been approved but nothing in the budget work book has been approved and did not agree with Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings regarding the South Mills fire tax increase.

Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings stated that voting on the entire budget is a normal procedure, but raising taxes is not.

Commissioner Mike Andrews apologized for not being well versed regarding the budget because he did not receive the budget work book until late on Monday, May 8, 2006, and thanked Deputy Butts for delivering his budget work book.

County Manager Randell Woodruff stated the budget work books were delivered according to the schedule, and stated that the South Mills Fire tax will be taken out of the budget.

FY2006-2007 Budget Presentations by Department Heads

Board of Education

Dr. John Dunn, Superintendent, Camden County Schools, presented the schools budget and thanked the Board for their support in helping the school in the past year. Dr. Dunn stated the temporary classrooms have been ordered and the drawings are nearing completion for the addition of twenty four (24) classrooms at the Intermediate School and bids will be bid in June 2006. Dr. Dunn discussed the Proposed Budget Resolution distributed to the Board and gave an overview of how the money is received: 64% of the budget comes from the state general fund sources used to employee teachers and operate the school system; 3% and 10% comes from low wealth and small schools funding. The schools receive more monies in special appropriations from the state than from the

county and 3% comes from federal and 5% comes from a self operating nutrition fund. Dr. Dunn reviewed the Budget Message: the Board of Education is asking the county for \$1,143,359.00, which includes a 5% (\$51,000.00) increase above the minimum that is required by the low wealth, small schools supplant formula. The budget includes twelve (12) new teachers to accommodate the growing enrollment among the schools. Dr. Dunn stated that teachers' supplements have been increased according to the plan for raising supplements \$100.00 per year until teachers with a Master's degree would receive \$1,500.00 per year and a teacher with a BS degree would receive \$1,250.00. The proposed Capital Outlay budget includes funding for the purchase of previously authorized temporary classrooms as well as furniture for these spaces; the purchase of a new school bus, due to enrollment increases; replacement furniture and general maintenance Capital Outlay items are also included.

Dr. Dunn called upon Ron Melchiorre to discuss the new items in the state budget and new items in the local budget. The new items in the state budget is four (4) new elementary teachers, three (3) new elementary teacher assistants, three (3) Middle School teachers, three (3) new High School teachers, one (1) CamTech Principal, two (2) new CamTech High School teachers. The new items in the local budget is a teacher supplement increase by \$100.00 for one hundred thirty eight (138) teachers, and a Director/Supervisor supplement increase of a total of \$6,800.00.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs asked if the teachers are calculated on the formula of student to teacher ratio.

Dr. Dunn replied yes.

Commissioner Carolyn Riggs questions the monies from the state lottery.

Dr. Dunn stated those monies are not included in the budget and is not sure when and how much the school would receive.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds stated that the Board would take the budget into consideration.

Faye Perry, Finance Officer, reviewed the proposed budget regarding the local current expense fund revenues for \$1,143,359.00.

Dr. Dunn reviewed the capital outlay fund appropriations.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Tony Perry stated the increase in the Sheriff's department budget includes the request for four (4) new deputies to give shift strength to each shift and to cover absent deputies.

Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings was excused at 8:35 p.m. due to illness.

Sheriff Perry stated training is mandatory and Major Worthington oversees the training.

Sheriff Perry reviewed the list of vehicles and stated he requested six (6) new vehicles; four (4) to be added for new personnel, and two (2) as replacements for high mileage vehicles. Two (2) cars will replace high mileage cars, and four (4) high mileage cars will be sold.

Sheriff Perry reviewed other items in his budget, asked for another source for obtaining gas in order to save money, and reviewed grants that have been applied for.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds confirmed that two (2) cars were bought in FY2005-2006 budget.

Commissioner Carolyn Riggs questioned the organizational structure of eight (8) full time deputies shift hours and how many deputies per shift.

Sheriff Perry stated there are two (2) deputies on duty, who work twelve (12) hour shift, except on the day shift when the second deputy works 12 noon to 12 midnight.

Commissioner Carolyn Riggs asked if the twelve (12) hour shift is normal.

Sheriff Perry and Major Worthington stated that is state standard.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs stated there is money currently set aside in the 2005-2006 budget to purchase cars. In previous budgets the Board has worked with the Sheriff to buy two (2) cars up front and then purchase two (2) in December. Commissioner Clayton Riggs asked Sheriff Perry if the Board could stagger purchasing the vehicles.

Sheriff Perry stated two (2) cars immediately would help his department, but the normal turn around time is months and then the equipment has to be ordered and installed.

Social Services

Social Services Director Sylvia Holley reviewed the Social Service increased budget. Mrs. Holley stated the increases are due to state projections and current spending, plus an increase in clients.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs stated the total budget increase is \$18,000.00 and asked how much is the actual county contributions.

County Manager Randell Woodruff stated approximately \$100,000.00.

Water Department

Water Systems Manager David Credle reviewed the South Camden Water and Sewer budget and requested an increase in supplies, utilities, gas and oil, and added \$200,000.00 for land purchase for well sites.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs asked Mr. Credle when the next Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator was anticipated to be hired.

David Credle stated within two (2) years.

The Board reviewed the current and projected staff requests.

Planning Department

Planning Director Dan Porter discussed the future needs and developments in Camden County, new items and increases in the Planning Department budget.

Commissioner Carolyn Riggs questioned the purpose for a community outreach person envisioned by the Planning Director.

County Manager Randell Woodruff spoke in favor of hiring outside agencies, consultants and organizations.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs inquired how much money this community outreach person would require.

Dan Porter stated he had \$50,000.00 requested in the Planning Department budget but would take whatever the Board gave him.

Commissioner Mike Andrews questioned the increase in attorney fees.

Dan Porter stated there will legal fees associated with land development.

Senior Center

Senior Center Director Michaelene Sawyer stated the budget for vehicle maintenance, gas and oil was due to the new van, a new electric stove will have to be purchased to keep the food warm while serving meals in the center, and a new treadmill needs to be purchased due to the repair bills on the existing treadmill exceeds the cost of a new treadmill.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds asked Mrs. Sawyer to investigate the cost for a gas stove instead of an electric because a gas stove can be used if there is no electricity and check with the Building Inspector to see if a gas stove is a permissible and the Fire Marshall to make sure it is not a safety hazard.

South Camden Volunteer Fire Department

Finance Officer Clarann Mansfield stated the South Camden Fire Department planned to buy a new custom pumper fire truck over a five (5) year period at a cost of \$425,000.00.

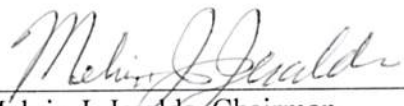
Joyce Creek Drainage District

No changes made to the FY2006-2007 budget regarding the Joyce Creek Drainage District.

Recess

Chairman Melvin Jeralds recessed the budget work session until the 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11, 2006 scheduled budget work session.

The meeting recessed at 11:23 p.m.



Melvin J. Jeralds, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Ava Murgia
Clerk to the Board

**Camden County Board of Commissioners
Joint Meeting with South Mills Volunteer Fire Department
May 10, 2006
7:30 P.M.
South Mills Ruritan Club
South Mills, North Carolina**

MINUTES

A joint meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners and South Mills Volunteer Fire Department (SMVFD) was held Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Mills Ruritan Club, South Mills, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Chairman Melvin J. Jeralds
Vice Chairman Clayton Riggs
Commissioners Jeffrey B. Jennings, Carolyn Riggs, and Mike Andrews

Also present was County Manager Randell Woodruff, and Clerk to the Board Ava Murgia.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive citizen input regarding a fire tax increase in South Mills Township.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds called upon Fire Chief Kenny Swinson.

Chief Swinson stated his powerpoint slide presentation was to inform the citizens of South Mills about the current financial status of the SMVFD and the need for a seven (7) cents fire tax increase to pay for a new fire station and equipment.

Following Chief Swinson's presentation, Fire Commissioner Larry Johnson asked to go on record as supporting the increase of the fire tax for the SMVFD and presented the drawings of a new fire station.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds explained, by providing visual examples of property values, how the increased fire tax would affect the citizens of South Mills.

The following citizens spoke in favor of a fire tax increase in South Mills Township:

Jerry Haigler, Keeter Barn Road	Jennifer Adams, 117 Pine Ridge
Holly Swinson, Swinson Road	Tammy Inge, 204 Spencer Ave.
Dave , 274 Bingham Rd.	Gene Linstrom, 107 Deer Trail
Pam Boyd, Beechnut Ave.	

The following citizens spoke against a fire tax increase in South Mills Township:

Brenda Prime, McBride Street	Melvin Albertson, 173 Old Swamp Road
Ray Albertson, Bass Lake Rd.	Kimberly, Country Meadows
Curtis Lawson , 138 Carolina Rd.	Robert Gower, Carolina Rd.
Bill Strafford, 102 Lake Drive	Terri Albertson, 117 Bass Lake Road
Delbert Riggs	

Several questions were addressed to the Commissioners:

Tony Conant, 105 Jones Ave. asked if the Fire Chief has been asking for help for eight (8) years, why didn't the Commissioners help before.

Suma Fishalow, stated her kids want to be firefighters and this is setting a bad example.

Lynn Jolley, 180 Keeter Barn Road, inquired if a tax increase is instituted, would it be adjusted once revaluation is done and asked about grants.

Charles Thomas, 1359 North NC343, asked what the magic number was for the SMVFD.

Joe Jackson, South Mills Water Association (SMWA), stated that the SMWA is not a fire fighting water plant.

Marshall Powell, Horseshoe Road, asked is the county can assume the responsibility of the SMVFD if the tax increase does not go forward.

Chairman Melvin Jeralds stated that South Mills will not be without fire protection and the citizens did not have to worry.


Several questions were directed to Fire Chief Kenny Swinson. While the citizens voiced their concern and support for the Fire Department, there were comments and questions regarding how the Fire Department managed their budget, equipment, lack of fundraisers from numerous unidentified citizens.

Fire Commissioner Larry Johnson assured the citizens that the Fire Commission is addressing the budget issues.

Adjournment

Commissioner Jeffrey Jennings made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting. The motion passed with Commissioners Jeffrey Jennings, Carolyn Riggs, Clayton Riggs, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeralds voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.



Melvin J. Jeralds, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Ava Murgia, Clerk to the Board