

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in special session regarding the budget on Friday, June 27, 2008, at 4:00pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, NC.

Present: Chair Ken Richardson, Vice-Chair Warren Taylor, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy, Commissioner Milly Richardson, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. County Attorney Donna Shumate was absent.

Chair Ken Richardson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

County Manager Don Adams discussed a letter received from Dr. Cox regarding the amount of difference in the uncontrollable costs.

Chair Ken Richardson recapped the prior meeting; \$70,000 to the schools and release \$65,000 to the schools. He asked if this is correct.

County Manager Don Adams explained the costs above and beyond this year's Board of Education amount.

Commissioner Milly Richardson, Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy and County Manager Don Adams discussed the NCWISE program and the need for the NCWISE oversight person. County Manager Don Adams reiterated his prior conversations with Dr. Cox regarding the NCWISE position, purpose and function.

The Board of Commissioners discussed taking the NCWISE money out. They talked about taking off \$25,000 for the position with \$30,000 more accurately reflect the numbers. They agreed on \$170,000; \$65,000, \$65,000 and \$40,000 over this year's amount.

County Manager Don Adams read a portion of Dr. Cox's letter.

Chair Ken Richardson reiterated that those figures include releasing \$65,000.

The Board discussed the school amount.

Commissioner Warren Taylor made a motion to provide \$70,000.

The Board discussed the amount of \$70,000 and the fund balance numbers, and other needs already discussed.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about cutting the NCWISE monies and put the money on EMS.

The Board discussed the NCWISE funding.

Chair Ken Richardson seconded the motion on the floor for the \$70,000 for the school system. Vote 2:3 (Randy Miller, Doug Murphy, Milly Richardson).

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve \$40,000 for a total of \$170,000 above last year's monies for the schools. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 4:1 (Warren Taylor).

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the additional \$4,200 for Alleghany Group Homes.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to approve the additional \$4,200 for Alleghany Group Homes. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about the \$10,000 for the Family Resource Center.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to approve \$10,000 for the Family Resource Center. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about the \$73,450 for the fire departments providing \$5 per call based on 10 responding to each call. She talked about ways to provide the monies. She said she is proposing to cut the Chamber of Commerce at \$24,781. She talked about the Chamber's budget, and that money could go towards the fire departments.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about if the Board is going to cut departments, do an interim budget and allow them to come present the impact.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked where the Commissioners can find the money.

Commissioner Randy Miller, Commissioner Doug Murphy and Commissioner Milly Richardson discussed how this impacts the volunteers.

Commissioner Milly Richardson asked if the Board can take money from Governing Bodies budget.

County Manager Don Adams explained each line item in the Governing Bodies budget.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that it sounds like nothing can be cut from that budget. She talked about forgetting it right now, get the budget done then come back to look at it another time.

Commissioner Doug Murphy and Commissioner Randy Miller agreed to look for the money for the needs.

Chair Ken Richardson mentioned the full-time position in Elections.

Commissioner Randy Miller made a motion to make the position full-time. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked about the jailers.

Commissioner Warren Taylor stated that he doesn't see how to do anything if the Board isn't raising taxes.

Commissioner Doug Murphy asked about the Building Inspections request.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about a lot of issues that will come forward after the budget.

Commissioner Randy Miller talked about the Jail has lost two employees in the past two weeks, and they will lose others. He further talked about pay in the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Milly Richardson reminded everyone about the \$33,000 that they think is their money.

The Board discussed salary increases for jailers and across the Board.

County Manager Don Adams talked about justifications.

Commissioner Milly Richardson talked about providing the jailers' increase.

Chair Ken Richardson talked about Milly presented information as the fire commissioner, he can provide information that Social Services is in the same situation and many others that are in the same situation.

Chair Ken Richardson, Commissioner Milly Richardson and Commissioner Doug Murphy discussed the jailers.

Chair Ken Richardson and County Manager Don Adams discussed the amount for the 10% increase and costs for overtime for the jailers.

County Manager Don Adams asked if the 2% across the board increase is not adjusting starting salaries, just moving everyone up 2%.

The Board of Commissioners agreed.

The Board of Commissioners and County Manager Don Adams discussed the amount needed for jailers.

Commissioner Doug Murphy made a motion to provide 5% in regards to jailers for a cost of living adjustment. Commissioner Milly Richardson seconded the motion.

Chair Ken Richardson stated that this does not impact starting pay, only moves them up. He suggested changing the table to 1% between steps after this motion.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor. Vote 5:0.

Chair Ken Richardson explained why he believes the table should be on 1% steps rather than 1.875%.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that he wants the Board to look at addressing the salary and longevity issue.

Commissioner Randy Miller and Commissioner Milly Richardson agreed.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Board needs to recognize people aren't on steps. He further talked about making it 1% steps and then put people on a step. He explained that would require a little more money.

Commissioner Doug Murphy stated that this will be addressing the need and wanting to be fair across the board.

Commissioner Milly Richardson stated that the Board is committed to addressing the longevity issues.

Chair Ken Richardson asked for further comments.

Commissioner Milly Richardson made a motion to adjourn at 5:05pm. Commissioner Doug Murphy seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Ken Richardson
Chairman