

May 19, 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 4:00 PM in the Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Alexander, Collins, Johnson, and McCray were present. Also present were County Manager David Peoples, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Gayle Critcher and County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young.

Chair Johnson called the May 19, 2011 meeting to order.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to open the public hearing; Commissioner McCray seconded.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE WASHINGTON COUNTY RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR 2011-2012:

John Farrelly, Washington County Schools Superintendent spoke to the Board and expressed his appreciation to the Board for their consideration in the crisis that the school system is dealing with. Superintendent Farrelly stated that there will be significant cuts in school system—they are cutting 19 positions and will be trying to do a lot more with a lot less. Superintendent Farrelly thanked the Commissioners for keeping the school system's budget the same as last year. It will help to keep the ROTC program going; the ROTC program is very big in the school system and Superintendent Farrelly doesn't want to have to cut that program. Supt. Farrelly also stated he has a Maintenance team of five (5) individuals serving five (5) schools and doesn't want to have to cut any of them either.

Commissioner McCray made a motion to close the public hearing; Commissioner Alexander seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Peoples then spoke to the Board and stated that they have several options on which to proceed. The budget calendar had a timetable of acting on the budget on June 6, 2011. Mr. Peoples recommended to the Board that they wait till June 6 to adopt the budget. Mr. Peoples stated the reason the Board should wait is in case the legislature in Raleigh makes changes in the next couple of weeks that could affect our budget. Mr. Peoples noted that the House and Senate budgets are drastically different than the Governor's budget. They are working through their differences right now. Mr. Peoples stated that our budget as presented was based on information the County had in hand at that time, but if there are changes in the Governor's budget we would have time to react to any of those changes. If our budget is adopted sooner and then we have to make changes, there is a process for amending it, but it's quite convoluted. The Board agreed with Mr. Peoples.

Mr. Peoples made a tentative announcement that the dedication and open house for the new Medical Clinic has been scheduled for June 24 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Mr. Peoples asked the Commissioners to check their calendars and get back with him to let him know if that date is ok.

With there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Collins made a motion to recess the meeting. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

Julie J. Bennett
Clerk to the Board