

May 11, 2015

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Washington County Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, Phelps, Sexton and Walker were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney Curtis Potter.

Chair Sexton called the May 11, 2015 meeting to order.

Mr. Rhodes stated that at the last meeting, staff was directed to go back over the budget and made additional cuts and to bring back options for helping with the EMS deficit.

Commissioner Phelps asked Mr. Rhodes if he had heard from the Martin and Tyrrell County Managers about what they are giving the MTW Health Department. Mr. Rhodes said the County Managers are meeting this week to discuss this.

Mr. Milazi said he met with Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Potter, Ms. Wallace, EMS, Ms. O'Neal, EMS and Ms. Watters, Finance/Payroll. Mr. Milazi provided options for EMS.

<u>OPTIONS</u>	<u>EMS</u>	<u>Transport</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>DIFF</u>
24/48 1.5 Current	1,516,794	646,238	2,163,032	1,045,000	1,118,032
36/48 \$14 Lead Paramedic	1,299,029	598,805	1,897,834	1,045,000	852,834
36/48 \$12 Lead Paramedic	1,290,288	593,739	1,884,027	1,045,000	839,027
36/48 \$10 Lead Paramedic	1,281,552	588,671	1,870,223	1,045,000	825,223

Discussion ensued. Ms. Watters explained how the EMS overtime was calculated. When EMS went from a fluctuating work week and ½ pay overtime to a 24/48 work week and time and ½ overtime, there was a huge increase in the funds needed to pay EMS.

Mr. Rhodes mentioned that since EMS members are County employees, they also receive all County benefits.

Mr. Milazi said there will be reduction of expenses and more collection of revenue in the Water Department. Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Milazi said changes need to be made in the Waterworks Ordinance/policy regarding collection of payment. There needs to be no more allowing customers to pay \$21/month (the minimum) on a \$700 water bill, for example.

Mr. Milazi explained that the County has no money in reserve, just operating money.

Ms. Wilkins said the Tax Office is collecting more money due to foreclosures, however, as Mr. Milazi said, there will be more money will be coming in the September/October timeframe.

Mr. Milazi said the 2% salary increase was still in the budget for a total of \$138,000 for County employees.

Commissioner Manning asked Ms. Wallace about how the money is distributed to Tyrrell County and how do we know if we are getting revenues. Ms. Wallace said every time Tyrrell County's truck rolls, the money goes to Tyrrell County. Mr. Rhodes feels that the County is getting the bulk of the revenue from services Washington County provides to Tyrrell County.

Commissioner Phelps asked if there are any entities that can speak to Washington County to advise us how to make EMS run more efficiently. Mr. Rhodes said probably so, but he doesn't know of any.

Mr. Milazi said there is not a lot of history to compare Washington County's EMS to since we are only one of two counties with multi-county programs in EMS. Mr. Milazi said he still feels that the County is capturing most of the expenses. Mr. Milazi said he will discuss this with Maximus. (They are the company the County uses to do cost allocation.)

Ms. Wallace stated that Transport and EMS are totally separate. Commissioner Manning asked if EMS feels the partnership with Tyrrell County Transport is working. Ms. Wallace said some days are good and some days are not. It helps citizens in Tyrrell County and the eastern end of Washington County.

Ms. Wilkins was asked by the Commissioners what the value of one cent is in the County. Ms. Wilkins said that 1 cent = ~\$83,000.

Mr. Rhodes said the budget stays the basically the same for the schools including the \$600/certified teacher supplement = ~\$78,000, plus additional funding of ~\$21,000 for Driver's Education instruction.

Mr. Rhodes asked what the Board wants to see regarding EMS. Commissioner Phelps wants to see the straight time figures for EMS. Chair Sexton wants to see everyone's base pay in EMS. Ms. Missy Dixon, Financial Analyst said if EMS goes to 36/48 it will limit overtime.

Commissioner Johnson and Chair Sexton both agreed that the County may have to initiate a 3 cent EMS tax to be able to provide services.

Chair Sexton told Mr. Rhodes to look at holding the funds for the requested ambulance (~\$80,000).

Commissioner Manning said Mr. Milazi doesn't need \$35,000 for salaries/overtime in Finance.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the water rates. Mr. Rhodes said there was a discussion to increase rates by \$2.00. It was felt that the Water Department should pay for the two positions in the Water Department (Finance). Commissioner Phelps would like to see what water rates would look like with an increase. Commissioner Johnson said the County needs to find a way to get a better collection rate for water.

Chair Sexton said to back up the budget calendar 2 weeks. Ms. Bennett will revise the Budget Calendar.

At 7:10 PM, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Phelps made a motion to recess the meeting until Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:00 PM for another budget work session. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

William R. Sexton, Jr.
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board