

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

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BUDGET WORK SESSION
OF THE
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
106 HILLCREST DRIVE
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27330

MAY 30, 2013

The budget work session of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 10 a.m. in the Gordon Wicker Conference Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners Kirk D. Smith and James K. Womack were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Charles T. Parks joined the meeting at 10:30 p.m., Commissioner Amy M. Dalrymple joined the meeting at 11:32 a.m., and Commissioner Dr. Ricky D. Frazier arrived at 1:12 p.m. Staff in attendance included County Manager John Crumpton, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Lisa Minter, and Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee.

Ms. Crystal Morphis with Creative Economic Development Consulting gave an update on Economic Development. Since October 2012, 16 new project inquiries have been received in the EDC Office with 6 active projects at this time. She has toured several local businesses over the past few months to see if EDC can help or assist the business in any way. It was noted that the 500 acre Triassic (Colon Road/US Hwy. #1) site has been certified but is not shovel ready or does not have road access at this time. Work still needs to be done on this site for marketing. Ms. Morphis stated that at this time EDC has no outstanding revolving loans. It was noted the new EDC organization should be in place by January 1st. It was noted that the Lee County Economic Development Corporation submitted the same budget request for the upcoming year as last year. No changes were recommended for the EDC budget.

Commissioner Parks joined the meeting during the end of the EDC presentation.

The Board discussed the budget request submitted by Communities in Schools in the amount of \$6,000.00. Ms. Heather Little from that organization appeared and answered questions. Ms. Little stated this was the first time the organization had requested funding from the County. The \$6,000.00 request will be used for the BackPac Pal Program which is their largest project. The purpose of the BackPac Pal Program is to provide food for under-privileged school age children over the weekends.

The Board discussed the budget request submitted by the Arts Council in the amount of \$2,400.00. Ms. Beth Bray appeared and answered questions in reference to their request. It was stated that the Arts Council oversees grassroots grants and provides money to local non-profits for art programs. It was noted this is the only arts council in the county.

Commissioner Womack reminded everyone that the Board of Commissioner policy is not to give grants to non-profits, but rather to contract with non-profits using a fee-for-service arrangement. He suggested that all of the non-profit applicants add value to the community, but few were providing services that merit taxpayer subsidy in the coming fiscal year. He further explained that, in his opinion, only two of the non-profit applicants were providing essential services the county government has a statutory

requirement for with no suitable alternative source for the services – Lee County Industries (providing vocational training for handicapped county residents), and the Boys and Girls Club (providing essential transportation for children from the schools to the club for after school programs). In both cases, Commissioner Womack suggested less funding than the applicants had requested - \$5,000 for Lee County Industries, and \$10,000 for the Boys and Girls Club.

Commissioner Dalrymple joined the meeting during this discussion at 1:32 p.m.

At 12 noon the Board recessed for lunch. Upon returning from lunch at 1 p.m., with Commissioners Dalrymple, Parks, and Womack in attendance, the work session resumed.

The Board discussed the requested budget for the Register of Deeds office. Register of Deeds Mollie McInnis discussed revenues received in her office.

Commissioner Frazier joined the meeting during this discussion at 1:12 p.m.

After further discussion, no changes were recommended to the Register of Deeds budget.

The Board next discussed the budget request from the Clerk of Court. Clerk of Court Susie Thomas discussed the main concern for her office which is a storage issue. Currently many of her records are stored offsite at the old Lowe's Building off Industrial Drive. A recent audit was completed by the State but due to limited staff, her office has not had time to purge records. Commissioner Womack asked for a list of other counties that are facing storage issues like Lee County. Ms. Thomas asked that the Jury Commissioner line item be increased from \$1,500 to \$1,750, an additional amount that was relayed to her after she submitted her budget to the County Manager. The additional funding request will be used to help with Jury upgrades. At the time the Clerk of Court's budget was presented to the County Manager, Ms. Thomas was also unaware that future storage costs would come out of her budget; therefore, nothing has been budgeted for this expense. It was agreed that the County Manager would work on an amount to be budgeted for this expense. No other changes were recommended to the budget request.

The Board discussed the budget requested for the Board of Elections. Elections Director Nancy Kimble asked the Board to consider funding a temporary part-time position during election season to assist with answer the telephone and one-stop voting – approximately 200 hours. She had asked for a new full-time position that had not been recommended by the County Manager. A lengthy discussion followed in reference to the Board of Elections being responsible for issuing voter ID if the bill passes and what might be involved for her office. No changes were recommended to this budget.

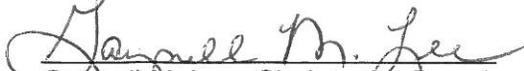
Commissioners Smith and Womack left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

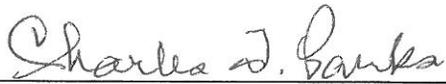
Chairman Parks called for a 10-minute break at this time. Upon returning from break, with Commissioners Dalrymple and Parks present, the budget work session continued.

At this time the Board discussed intergovernmental department contracts. After discussion, no changes were recommended to any of the contracts. It was suggested that the sub-committee meeting on June 10th would need to discuss the Inspections contract.

The budget work session adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board



Charles T. Parks, Chairman
Lee County Board of Commissioners