

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

JUNE 5, 2015

The Budget Work Session of the Lee County Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 2 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room, First Floor, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners present when the work session was called to order was Amy M. Dalrymple, Dr. Ricky D. Frazier, Larry "Doc" Oldham, Timothy S. Sloan, and Robert T. Reives. Commissioners Dr. Andre Knecht and Kirk D. Smith were absent for the meeting. Staff in attendance included County Manager John Crumpton, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Lisa Minter, and Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee.

Chair Dalrymple called the work session to order.

Commissioner Frazier delivered the invocation.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The first budget item discussed was funding for two positions at the Cooperative Extension Office. Commissioner Sloan stated that after hearing comments from the last public hearing, he has concerns in reference to the Cooperative Extension vacant Horticulture position. County Manager John Crumpton stated the Horticulture position has been vacant for the past 2 years; hard to keep the position filled. Currently the position is frozen by the State. He also stated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and North Carolina State University needs to be re-written. Funding in the amount of \$23,400 is needed to fund the Horticulture position for the entire year. Mr. Crumpton further stated the County will be receiving \$132,000 from the State for the School Resource Officers (SRO's) that were not expected. The Board can fund the Horticulture position this year with those funds if the Board so desires. Commissioner Dalrymple stated the Board needed concrete information from the State by the 15th of the month for Cooperative Extension issues. The vision plan for Cooperative Extension lacks in funding and must be addressed on the State level. Mr. Crumpton stated staff at the Cooperative Extension office are State employees – not County employees and the local level needs more control. Commissioner Reives stated he had no problem with funding the Horticulture position but only if we (County) have control. Mr. Crumpton stated he could not justify funding to keep the Administrative position that is scheduled to be eliminated by the State at the end of June. He further stated he tried several years ago when other departments were having to make reductions to ruff the position but couldn't due to the MOU. He stated he would put money back in the budget for the Horticulture position (80%) and would also be asking for a new MOU.

The Board next discussed the purchase of new vehicles. County Manager John Crumpton stated the County currently has many old vehicles in the current fleet that need to be replaced (some as old as 1992). Based on "new vehicle justification" General Services, Sheriff Department, Animal Control, SRO's, Jail, Health, Social Services, Senior Services, Library and Recreation are scheduled to receive new vehicles. Commissioners had questions on the size of some vehicles to be purchased. It was noted that Social Services receives 50% revenue on the purchase of new vehicles and COLTS vans are purchased through grants. Commissioner Oldham stated he would like to see a comparison on "lease arrangements" instead of purchasing new vehicles. Mr. Crumpton was asked to do more research on the purchase of new vehicles.

Other items briefly discussed was funding for Johnston-Lee-Community Action, sales tax structure (per capital vs. ad valorem), increase in Parks & Recreation budget, communication system for the Sheriff's Department, increase in Juvenile Detention funds, increase in Animal Control budget, and questions in reference to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program (JCPC).

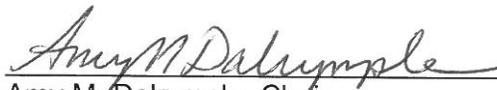
County Manager John Crumpton stated he had received an email stating that permits were issued today (6/5/15) for coal ash storage in Lee and Chatham counties. He and Chair Dalrymple will be meeting with Duke and Charah representatives in the coming weeks to discuss well testing and reports to the citizens in the area on the time line that will be taken for the project.

Mr. Crumpton also discussed a position reclassification for a vacant position in General Services. There is currently an open position in General Services that he would like to change from Deputy General Services Director to County Engineer. The department is in need of someone with more engineering expertise at this time. The reclassification will cost approximately an additional \$2,000 and the individual selected will report to Administration and not General Services. When the current General Services Director retires the County Engineer will replace him at General Services. Mr. Crumpton further stated he would be advertising for someone with a Professional Engineering (PE) degree.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the Budget Work Session. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Dalrymple, Frazier, Oldham, Reives, and Sloan
Nay: None
Absent: Knecht and Smith

The Chair ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.



Amy M. Dalrymple, Chair
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board