

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 31, 2013

The budget work session of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 8:30 a.m., in the Gordon Wicker Conference Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners Charles T. Parks, Robert T. Reives, Kirk D. Smith, and James K. Womack were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Amy M. Dalrymple joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and Dr. Andre Knecht joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Staff in attendance included County Manager John Crumpton, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Lisa Minter, and Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee.

Chairman Parks called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed the budget request submitted by the Sheriff's Office, Jail and Animal Control. Chief Jailer Kent Everett discussed reduction in fees for the Jail which involves an agreement with Fort Bragg to house military personnel for \$55.00 per day. Over the past few years there has been a decrease in services; therefore, creating a reduction in Jail revenue. Mr. Everett is looking into the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program that pays \$40.00 per day to house inmates. A total of \$35,000-\$50,000 is anticipated in revenue for the first year under this new program. No changes were recommended for the Jail budget.

Chief Deputy Randall Butler stated the Sheriff's Department requested two part-time dispatchers, the part-time Lab Evidence Technician be made a full-time position, one full-time Internal Affairs position, and one Data Entry worker. The County Manager only recommended the Data Entry position.

Commissioner Dalrymple joined the meeting during this discussion at 9:20 a.m.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked for a breakout list of staff who receives uniforms which showed a \$55,000 request in the budget.

It was noted that fifteen (15) new vehicles were asked for with only seven (7) being recommended. There are currently 68 cars, including trailers, in the Sheriff's Department fleet. It was noted by Commissioners that all deputies are allowed to take their vehicles home, even those living out of county. Commissioners suggested that for future hires, as a part of the condition of employment, only staff living in the county be allowed to take vehicles home. Commissioner Dalrymple asked for a breakdown of vehicles by shift.

Commissioner Womack recommended the night vision equipment requested in the budget be funded.

Commissioner Knecht joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The Board discussed the Animal Control budget which showed a request for two (2) new vehicles which had not been recommended by the County Manager. The Board made no recommendations for changes to the Animal Control budget.

Chief Deputy Randall Butler discussed the Internal Affairs Officer position requested in the budget but not recommended by the County Manager. Mr. Butler stated this position would assist him and David Prevatte in keeping up with all the complaints received from the public on internal issues. Mr. Butler stated since the department has taken over Animal Control and the School Resource Officers (SRO) he is stretched to the limit and would like the Commissioners to consider funding this position.

Sheriff Carter stated he would like to see the Internal Affairs Officer position funded and also asked the temporary salaries line item be increased.

Commissioner Reives left the meeting at this time.

At this time the Board took a 10 minute recess. Upon returning from recess with Commissioners' Dalrymple, Knecht, Parks, Smith, and Womack in attendance, the meeting resumed.

Social Services Director Brenda Potts discussed her FY 2013-14 budget requests for Social Services and Youth Services. Ms. Potts discussed recommendations from the Evergreen Report which required each unit to develop and implement a method for soliciting customer feedback at least once during the year. They used their complaint calls as a tool for collecting information during the past year. The main issue was long wait times to be signed in which was hard on the elderly and disabled. They have now put into effect a "take a number system" where the individual can sit down in the waiting room until their number is called to be registered. The second issue involved clients coming to the 4th floor for appointments and having to come through the reception desk on the first floor to be signed in which sometimes made them late for their appointment. Some would need to only pick up a voucher or check and would not need to be seen but had to sign for the receipt of the item. Due to this issue, DSS is moving the switchboard to the 4th floor lobby and the switchboard operator will man the reception log for that floor. The third issue involved a need to move the traffic through registration faster for those that only need to be here for a short while. To solve this issue, DSS will open a third window (where the switchboard was moved from) to support the new eligibility structure. When a client comes to report a change that can be handled in a few minutes, they will access this window.

Ms. Potts stated a new contract for attorney services for Child Support, Adult Services, Fraud, etc. had been signed with the same attorney that was doing Child Welfare.

Ms. Potts addressed the need to move the operation of specific non-social services functions out of the Lee County Department of Social Services, including the Hillcrest Shelter and Youth Services program. It was suggest that a non-profit take over the Hillcrest and Youth Services programs but she has not had much success as the non-profits are facing the same thing as us, the level of child they would be serving. The census would not be there to support the project. Ms. Potts stated the County, at this time, had a golden opportunity to enter into an agreement with Ms. Laurie Conaty from the Center for Behavioral Healthcare to keep the shelter service in Lee County along with some services to support the shelter that we could never afford and did not have access to that level in-house, and did

not have the money to pay for the services. Ms. Conaty realizes the County has been in an economy slump and in no position to continue to put money in the program. She has no problem with going after the mental health funds that are there for the higher level children, and no qualms about jumping through the Medicaid and Health Insurance hoops so she can bill. Our only part of the "partnership" would be use of the Youth Services building. She would be responsible for the programs and costs; the County would provide the place to provide the service. Ms. Conaty would also be willing to provide "parenting classes" as there is a great need for this service. The UDO was changed to Office & Institution in 1990 so there should not be a problem for her to increase the number of beds it would be licensed for as a Level 2 – currently it is a Level 1 with 9 beds. It could probably be increased to a 12 bed facility. This would meet with the Evergreen Study recommendation – a public-private partnership. Ms. Potts stated this is a great opportunity for us to continue the service with the only investment being the use of the building.

Ms. Potts discussed the In-Home Aid Program that currently has four (4) full-time employees. The budget has recommended one position be cut and one worker has plans to retire at this time. She would like to replace the In-Home Aid position if the Commissioners could find extra money.

The Board discussed the Health Department budget requests. The Primary Care Program was discussed in great detail and the possibility of eliminating the program since it is not a mandated program. Commissioner Womack stated he felt the County was duplicating services since Urgent Care's, the Helping Hand Clinic, and the Emergency Room at the hospital is available to assist citizens that currently use the Primary Care Clinic. Commissioner Dalrymple stated she thought the Board should talk with the medical community before closing the Primary Care Clinic. Commissioner Womack suggested an increase to the fee schedule where it would be revenue neutral – then he would be more in favor of keeping the program. Currently a flat rate fee is charged – not on a sliding fee schedule.

Health Director Terrell Jones stated he needed an Administrative Assistant position to handle grants and a one-half staff person to help man the front desk on the first floor. He also stated the Evergreen Report recommended a Nurse Director position to replace the Nursing Supervisor and the hiring of an additional nurse to replace the Nursing Supervisor.

Commissioner Knecht left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

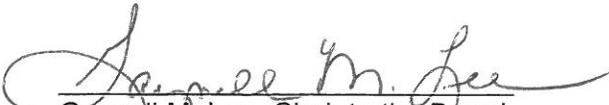
Mr. Jones asked that the Environmental Health position be left in the budget since they are just barely keeping up with inspections at this time. Commissioners asked Mr. Jones to check into more automation for his department. County Manager John Crumpton stated that if Mr. Jones can find ways to justify keeping the Environmental Health position the Board will consider keeping it in the budget. No changes were recommended for the Health Department budget at this time.

The budget work session adjourned at 3 p.m.



Charles T. Parks, Chairman
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board