

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 8, 1993

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Office Building. The purpose of the meeting was a Public Hearing on the FY '93-'94 Budget.

Those present were: Chairman Vollie G. Good, Vice-Chairman J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Hugh D. Randall, Commissioner Renee Kumor, County Manager David F. Thompson, Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, Finance Director Peter A. Molleur, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn. Absent was Commissioner William McKay.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Good called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

Chairman Good informed the public of the process that the County follows prior to adoption of the budget. On May 31, 1993 the County Manager presented his proposed budget. He stressed that this is a proposal only and that after the public hearing, the County Board of Commissioners will review the proposal and will make final decisions through the month of June. Under State Law the Board must adopt a budget by July 1 of this year.

He asked that if people wished to speak and had not signed up yet to please do so.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Good led the Pledge to the American Flag.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Randall gave the invocation.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Noel Watts - Mr. Watts passed around some hand-outs. He spoke regarding funding for Something Special. He requested assistance from the County Government in the form of \$50,000 per year for five years for a total of \$250,000.

2. Cliff Whitfield - Mr. Whitfield, who has taught for 17 years, is a teacher at Hendersonville Junior High School. He requested the Board's support of the proposed budget of the Henderson County Public School System.

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3. Janet Arwe - Ms. Arwe has been an employee of the Hendersonville City School System for two years. She moved here from New York and compared our school systems to the school systems in New York. She named small class size and the need for additional teachers as reasons to fund the school budget.

4. Sharon Taylor - Ms. Taylor taught at Hendersonville Middle Grade. She spoke in support of the Henderson County School Systems budget proposal.

5. Kim Gasperson - Ms. Gasperson is an Attorney in town and has been a member of the Mountain Home Fire Department for a year and one half. She requested a 2 cent increase in the millage for the Mountain Home Fire District from 6 cents to 8 cents. She gave reasons for the needed increase.

6. Donna Klepp - Ms. Klepp is a parent with two children in school in the Mills River area. She spoke in favor of the education budget. She stated that \$850 per child is not sufficient; it is \$4.72 per day per child or equal to an average lunch.

7. Jennifer Albea - Ms. Albea spoke as a representative of the parents of Etowah Elementary School and supports the education budget as proposed. She spoke in support of children with special needs. She spoke in favor of smaller class size and opposed split classes.

8. Helen Butts - declined to speak.

9. John Sheiry - Mr. Sheiry requested that the education budget be funded at \$990 per pupil.

10. William Dunn - Dr. Dunn requested approval of the education budget as presented.

11. Frank Ewbank - Mr. Ewbank supports the education budget, even with a tax increase (\$990 per student).

12. Ellen Henion - Ms. Henion is a volunteer at Mills River School. She supports the education budget as proposed.

13. Doug Burns - Mr. Burns has been the hospital/home-bound teacher for Henderson County. He stated the need for an additional home-bound teacher and supports the education budget as presented.

14. Preston House - Mr. House has been a teacher with the City School system for 18 years and supports the education budget even with a tax increase.

15. Joy Rockett - Ms. Rockett is the parent of a home-bound student (for many years).

16. Hardy Caldwell - Mr. Caldwell requested support of the education budget as presented.

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17. Jane Orwoll - Ms. Orwoll supports the education budget as presented.

18. Donnie Andrews - Ms. Andrews has been a teacher with the City School System for 16 years.

19. Evelyn Nichols - Ms. Nichols is the mother of two elementary students in the County School System. She requested that before the Commissioners approve the education budget that they require a detailed budget from them and a list of surplus school properties. She spoke regarding the misuse of bond referendum money. She requested that the Board of Commissioners withhold the decision on the education budget until surplus school properties are deeded to the county for \$1 consideration.

20. Linda Harris - Ms. Harris does not support the education budget as presented. She stated that sensitive personnel matters have been resolved in the most unfeeling way imaginable (Coach Pryor being an example). She stated that a line item budget needs to be revealed and justification for all costs shown.

21. Charlene Harris - Mrs. Harris is the mother of Karen Harris who fell through the bleachers about a year ago at Edneyville High School. She pleaded with the Board to fund the education budget in its entirety. She requested the necessary funds to bring the bleachers up to a safe standard.

22. Chuck Henson - Mr. Henson requested that the millage for Green River Fire District be increased from 5 cents to 8 cents.

23. Deborah Cason - Ms. Cason is a parent of children in the Etowah School District. She requested the Board approve the education budget as presented.

24. Greg Price - Mr. Price is a Guidance Counselor at West Henderson High School. He supports the funding of the education budget as presented.

25. Pat Davis - Ms. Davis is a Special Education teacher at Rugby Junior High. She requested the Board approve the education budget as presented.

26. Mary Small - Ms. Small is a teacher in the County School System for BEH students. She spoke of the needs for Behaviorally /Emotionally Handicapped students (BEH).

27. Lucy King - Mrs. King requested a line by line account of the school board budget as well as an account of surplus school properties.

28. Don Freeman - Mr. Freeman is the Chief of Gerton Fire Department. He requested an increase in their tax district rate to 5.5 cents.

29. Ken Weitzen - Mr. Weitzen spoke regarding the Comprehensive

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Land Use Plan and its ability to serve all ages in the County. Funds will be needed to implement the plan. He stated that education is not the only responsibility of the County.

30. Waleria Wysoloski - Ms. Wysoloski spoke in support of the Blue Ridge Literacy Council. She stated that 40% of these illiterate or functionally illiterate participants need English as a second language. She requested that the Board honor their request for financial support.

31. Deborah Lancaster - Ms. Lancaster is a resource teacher in the County School System. She supports the education budget as presented.

Chairman Good thanked everyone for coming and contributing. He informed them that there will be much deliberation on the proposed budget before its adoption.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth W. Corn
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

Vollie G. Good
Vollie G. Good, Chairman