

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 11, 1992

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Henderson County Office Building. The purpose of this called meeting was to receive the 1992-1993 Budget Message, as well as a Cane Creek item and a Mud Creek item.

Those present were: Chairman J. Michael Edney, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner F. Richard Baker, Commissioner William McKay, County Manager David F. Thompson, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director David E. Nicholson, Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn, and the news media. Absent was Commissioner Hugh E. Randall, who was expected to arrive later. Commissioner Randall did arrive at 7:37 p.m., during the budget message.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Edney called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. He also wished Liston Smith a Happy Birthday, Director of the Social Services Department.

FISCAL YEAR 1992-1993 BUDGET MESSAGE

David Thompson presented the budget message with a general overview of the past year and also of the coming year. Mr. Thompson stated that the budget should be a statement of the priorities for the up-coming fiscal year as well as serving as a planning base for the future direction of the county by its leadership. He felt confident that the proposed budget would accomplish the first priority but county government needs to place a strong emphasis on planning during the next fiscal year so that next year's budget will contain strategies for dealing with up-coming service demands.

This budget contains additional funding to finish up the Land Use Plan which is now underway. Mr. Thompson stated that the challenge that this Board faces as well as future boards, will be to maintain the financial integrity of the county while being proactive in the planning and implementation of county services to a growing population.

Mr. Thompson stated that our goal during this current budget year ('91-'92) was to adopt and maintain a balanced budget throughout the fiscal year. "The county has lived within its means during the last fiscal year."

Education - One of the major issues addressed in this proposed budget is the merger of the Henderson County and Hendersonville City School Systems. The primary goal for this next year is to make significant progress in reaching the Commissioners' goal of funding the combined system by July 1, 1993 at an operating level

May 11, 1992

2

of \$800-850 per student. The board will have to provide additional funding to reach the \$800 level minimum, replace the funding that the Hendersonville Supplemental School Tax District provides, and make an effort to support capital expenses justified by the transitional board.

County schools requested a capital budget of \$853,465. The recommended capital budget is \$593,400. Staff feels that this amount will allow the County school system to maintain their facilities and to fund their high and medium priorities.

The proposed general fund budget is increasing by only 4.5%, illustrating that education is one of the highest priorities in this upcoming budget.

Human Services - Henderson County is struggling to keep up with the increasing mandates of the State and Federal Governments for provision of services. The vast majority of these costs are beyond the control of local officials. The increases are due to reductions in revenues from the State and Federal Governments at the same time that more regulations and mandates are being passed on to the county.

New Positions - Enclosed with the budget handouts is a listing of new positions that were requested as well as management's recommendations. If all requested positions were approved, the costs for the salary and benefits would be \$468,896. The costs for the recommended positions is \$192,496 which is a reduction of \$276,400 in the requests. Included are the related costs other than salaries and benefits for such items as vehicles, uniforms, and desks to support the positions.

Capital Outlay Items - Staff has prepared a list of individual capital items that have been requested. If the requests had been funded in full, they would have required an appropriation of \$715,364. Staff recommendation is an appropriation of \$364,447.

The Board may want to focus on the Election Boards' request for 25 additional Shouptronic Voting Machines which will cost \$121,250 if purchased outright. Staff has included \$66,271 in this budget which will allow the Board to either purchase 13 of these machines outright or all of them on a two-year lease purchase. Also worthy of note is the related equipment that will be necessary for the County to begin work on development of a geographic information system.

New and Replacement Vehicles - The request for new and replacement vehicles in the general fund totaled \$614,900. The recommended funding level is \$337,900. Major expenditures include 14 Sheriff vehicles, an ambulance, and a van.

May 11, 1992

3

Projects - Funding is proposed to continue or maintain momentum on various projects for the County including the following that are found in both the general fund and the County's enterprise accounts:

- A. Expansion and Renovation of the Health Department
- B. Siting and construction of a new high tech landfill
- C. Construction of the new Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, and Jail Facility
- D. Mud Creek Phase I Section 2 Sewer Project
- E. Geographic Information System (GIS)
- F. 1995 Tax Revaluation
- G. Cane Creek Section 2 Sewer Project
- H. Continuation of Street Sign Program
- I. Completion of Land Use Development Plan
- J. Establishment of the Fire Marshal Department
- K. Youth Development Shelter

Ad Valorem Tax Rate - Fiscal Year 1992-1993

The total amount requested by general fund departments, agencies, and the school systems this year was \$39,259,739. After reviewing the requests, Staff has reduced this amount by \$2,360,187. If this amount had been funded, it would have resulted in a tax rate increase of 6.75 cents.

The general fund budget for Henderson County in this proposal is \$36,899,552 as compared to a general fund budget of \$35,314,845 this current year. This is an increase of 4.5%. To balance the proposed budget, a tax rate of 51 cents per \$100 valuation is necessary. Thus, no tax rate increase is proposed.

MUD CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

The Board adjourned as Henderson County Board of Commissioners and convened as Mud Creek Water & Sewer District.

CANE CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

The Board adjourned as Mud Creek Water & Sewer District and convened as Cane Creek Water & Sewer District.

The Board adjourned as Cane Creek Water & Sewer District and reconvened as Henderson County Board of Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner McKay made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session as allowed under General Statute 143-318.11 to consult with the County Attorney to the extent that confidentiality is required. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

May 11, 1992

4

Commissioner Good made the motion for the Board to go out of Executive Session. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth W. Corn
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

J. Michael Edney
J. Michael Edney, Chairman