

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 24, 1991

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a continuation of the June 19 mid-month meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Henderson County Office Building. The purpose of tonight's meeting is Budget Workshop.

Those present were: Chairman J. Michael Edney, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner F. Richard Baker, Commissioner Hugh D. Randall, Commissioner William McKay, County Manager David F. Thompson, Finance Director David E. Nicholson, Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn, and the news media.

Commissioner Baker's Statement

Chairman Edney called the meeting to order and recognized Commissioner Baker who read a prepared statement. Commissioner Baker feels that budget cuts will be necessary and he will question whether line item increases are absolutely necessary for operation. This is a lean budget year and he feels that we cannot tolerate a 9 cent tax increase. The Clerk was directed to attach a copy of the entire statement.

County Manager

Mr. Thompson made a recommendation regarding the Assistant County Manager position. He recommended to the Board that they:

1. establish the position of Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, and
2. appoint David Nicholson in that position.

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that Mr. Nicholson is already performing many of the duties expected of an Assistant County Manager. Mr. Thompson feels that in the coming years this will need further review and a full time Assistant County Manager will be necessary.

Commissioner Baker made the motion to accept the County Manager's recommendation and appoint Mr. Nicholson as Assistant County Manager/Finance Director. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Budget Review

Chairman Edney turned the meeting over to Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Thompson for budget review. The Board of Commissioner reviewed the following departments and discussed their budget by line items:

- Civil Preparedness
- Fire Commission
- Inspections
- Emergency Medical Services
- Animal Shelter

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Sanitary Sewage Plant
 Landfill
 Planning
 Cooperative Extension Service
 Land Records Management

Most of the Department Heads were present to answer any questions the Board members had. Mr. Baird was not present and there were questions regarding Land Records Management budget. Mr. Nicholson was directed to have Mr. Baird in attendance tomorrow night to answer the questions.

Other budget review:

General Health
 Environmental Health
 Grant Programs: Aids Grant
 Risk Reduction
 W.I.C.
 Maternal Health
 Child Health
 T.B.
 Family Planning
 Teen Pregnancy
 Orthopedic Clinic
 Dept. of Social Services (DSS) Staff Operations
 DSS Federal and State Program
 DSS General Assistance

Mr. Nicholson handed out a proposed "Inspections" fee schedule for the Boards' review and consideration. It was decided to hold the budget workshop tomorrow night in the conference room of the Planning Department because of a conflict with another meeting in Room #209.

The meeting was recessed until tomorrow night (June 25, 1991) at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


 Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk


 J. Michael Edney, Chairman

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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J. MICHAEL EDNEY
CHAIRMAN
VOLLIE G. GOOD
F. RICHARD BAKER
HUGH D. RANDALL
WILLIAM MCKAY

DAVID F. THOMPSON
COUNTY MANAGER

HENDERSON COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners approved the position of Assistant County Manager/Finance Director at their Board Meeting of June 24, 1991. David Thompson, Henderson County Manager, proceeded to appoint David Nicholson, currently serving as the County's Finance Director, to this position with the unanimous consent of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Nicholson will continue in his role of Finance Director but will assume more county-wide responsibilities in the way of special projects, serving as staff for internal and external committees, serving as a liaison for the County Manager with various departments, agencies, and community groups, and serving as the administrative head of the County upon absence of the Manager.

David Nicholson has made a long-term commitment to Henderson County in that he has served as Finance Director for the past 15 years. During this time, he has served as the President of both the North Carolina Association of County Finance Officers and the North Carolina Cash Management Trust. He was selected as the Outstanding County Finance Officer in North Carolina in 1983. David and his wife, Sheila, have two daughters, Heather and Melissa.

June 24, 1991

Mr. J. Michael Edney, Chairman &
Henderson County Commissioners
Hendersonville, N. C.

Dear Chairman Edney and Fellow Commissioners:

As we proceed with the task of reviewing the proposed 1991-1992 Henderson County budget, I challenge each of you to join with me in providing the leadership that the citizens of Henderson County, who elected us, expect and deserve.

Prior to the June 17 meeting, at which time the budget review was begun, I personally spent two days scrutinizing the entire budget, line by line, to attempt to determine in my own mind which proposed line item figures are "absolutely" necessary as well as those line items that may not be totally necessary and, therefore, deserve more careful review.

During the process I consulted with a number of the department heads including the Finance Director.

The net result of my effort is a suggested list of possible line item reductions or eliminations that total more than 1.5 million dollars.

I readily admit that I cannot defend all of the reductions or eliminations included, however, I am convinced that all of them deserve very careful review.

The proposed budget includes significant increases in the existing permit and service fees, as well as a proposed tipping fee at the landfill.

In this critical economic time, we must insist that our department heads accept the fact that some line items must be reduced, that some line items must at least remain the same and that other accounts as well as any additions of people or equipment must be rejected unless the department in question can absolutely not operate without them.

Fellow Commissioners, I suggest to you that the time has come to bite the bullet. Being a County Commissioner places the obligation and demand on each of us to have the ability and capability to make tough decisions, some of which may not be very popular.

The people of Henderson County have elected us to make those difficult decisions, and I am prepared to do just that. I trust that each of you will join with me in fulfilling that obligation. Should any one of us be unable or unwilling to bear that responsibility, then we do not belong here.

The "Buck Stops Here.":

Sincerely,

F. Richard Baker

F. Richard Baker