

## HAYWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

### REGULAR MEETING – May 18, 2015

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark S. Swanger convened the regular meeting of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Courtroom at the Haywood County Historic Courthouse, Waynesville, North Carolina, with Chairman Mark S. Swanger, Vice-Chairman J.W. “Kirk” Kirkpatrick III, Commissioners L. Kevin Ensley, Michael T. Sorrells and Bill L. Upton present. Staff members present were County Manager Ira Dove, HCHHSA Director/Asst. County Manager Stoney Blevins, County Attorney Leon M. “Chip” Killian, III, Finance Director Julie Davis, and Public Information Officer David Teague.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Swanger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **INVOCATION**

Commissioner Upton offered the invocation.

#### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Presentation – Ira Dove, County Manager**

Chairman Swanger recognized County Manager, Ira Dove. Mr. Dove commended the work of Ms. Davis and her staff in the Finance Department, Kathi McClure for her work on the pay study, David Teague for his work on demographic information and David Francis for providing some of the powerpoint information during this budget preparation. He noted that the County has been working on this proposed budget since December, with work sessions and presentations in the following months. He reviewed the demographics and economic indicators in Haywood County, noting that the economy is recovering.

He reviewed the Goals fixed by the Budget:

- Increased funding to the public schools
- Contingency to cover expenses of Charter Schools
- Increased funding to the Community College
- Continue planning and begin construction of a new EMS and Emergency Management Facility
- Increases salaries of Haywood County employees to make them more competitive
- Adequate maintenance on the facilities owned by the County
- Takes into account the review of the Work Force in Public Safety areas, and fixes temporary labor usage in Detention
- Reviews salaries and gave raises to the lowest paid workers first. All full time employees will make at least \$9.69 per hour
- Provides safe, convenient service in Solid Waste and complies with all regulations; specific projects include the Francis Farm remediation and upgrades to convenience centers
- Maintains current levels of service to the public including maintenance of current operations schedule
- Begins planning, needs assessment and subsequent construction of a new animal services facility
- Maintains funding to community clubs
- Maintains the Wellness Center and health benefits for employees
- Increases 401K contribution; adds a 2% COLA
- Continues merit pay 0-2%; maintains holiday and longevty pay
- Maintains adequate contingency

Mr. Dove stated that he was not able to achieve all the goals set at the Work Session and maintain the tax rate at the present level. He said that the tax rate is proposed to increase to 56.61 cents per \$100 valuation and the General Fund expenditures are proposed to increase by \$3,870,995 (5.60%).

Mr. Dove reviewed revenues: ad valorem taxes, federal and state revenues, and local option sales taxes. Expenditures he covered included: vehicles, technology, facility repair; salaries, increases in education, noting that charter schools would have a recommended \$200,000 contingency. He discussed needs in Central Services, General Services, Public Safety, Detention, Sheriff's Office, Health & Human Services, Economic & Physical Development, Cultural and Recreation, Debt Service/Transfers/Non-Departmental. He noted that a USDA loan, if obtained for Animal Services, would not generate a debt service in this service year, and would be around \$200,000 per year after this.

Mr. Dove spoke of the Salary Review, stating that data was obtained from multiple counties and the North Carolina Office of State Human Resources related to classification and compensation. He discussed the pay grade scales, COLA, and the importance of looking at the salaries of the County employees to make it competitive with the surrounding Counties and retaining valuable employees. Recommendations from the study are:

- Minimum hourly rate to \$9.69
- 2% COLA
- 2% employer contribution to the 401K (1% increase)
- Do our best to hire, train and retain employees
- Compensate workers fairly based on regional standards and provide them with tools and training needed to do their jobs
- Clear discretion to compete in small departments critical to economy

Mr. Dove explained the year in the Solid Waste department, highlighting the work done at the Francis Farm landfill and the convenience centers.

He reviewed the Summary of Recommendations by Fund:

- General Fund - \$72,939,354
- Special Revenue Fund – (E-911) - \$376,063
- Special Revenue Fund – Solid Waste - \$6,266,987
- Special Revenue Fund – Road Districts - \$184,603
- Special Revenue Fund – Fire districts - \$3,893,688
- Special Revenue Fund – Junaluska Sanitary District - \$195,000
- Special Revenue Fund – Law Enforcement Officer Separation - \$58,131
- Southwestern Child Development Center Fund – \$3,000,000 this is all pass through money
- Internal Service Funds - \$6,150,857

The total for the larger ticket items is \$3,320,296.06. He recommended to the Board to not lower the budget for this year since so many of these items need to be taken care. He stated so many were deferred in that past several years that need to be addressed. He noted that this is a right and reasonable way to take care of employees. He further noted that the County has been operating at the 2008 funding.

He thanked the Board for their time and attention during this presentation.

Chairman Swanger commented that there are more opportunities to address the proposed budget with the next being Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Courtroom during the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Upton commented that he appreciated the amount of work and thoroughness that has been done with this budget.

Mr. Dove explained that if anyone in the public would like to provide input on the proposed budget, they have the opportunity at the Public Hearing, the regular meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the regular meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and may mail in, call or drop off any comments to the County Manager's office, or may email to [comments@haywoodnc.net](mailto:comments@haywoodnc.net).

Commissioner Ensley commented that he noticed that sales tax is \$1,000,000 less than 2008, noting that the economy is still not fully recovered.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Chairman Swanger opened the public comment session. Comments are generally limited to three minutes per individual, unless the speaker is representing a group for which the comment period may be extended to five minutes.

Debbie King addressed the Board. She commented that Haywood County's tax rate has increased over the years, but other surrounding counties have not increased their taxes while giving their employees raises. She stated that she objects to any property tax increase, but not to giving County employees raises. She feels that the County should have enough money coming in to provide these raises and asked the Board to reconsider the proposed budget changes.

Jonnie Cure' addressed the Board. She objected to the timeline for comments. She feels that the Public Hearing is too close to the public being provided access to the proposed budget, and asked that the County staff be accessible to the public comment during the comment time.

Chairman Swanger clarified the four opportunities for the public to address the Board.

Chairman Swanger called for Dan Massey who had signed up to address the Board, however he had left the room.

A public comment was received from Penny Wallace to the County Manager stating that she supports an increase in taxes for salaries and for IT. She commented that Animal Services salaries were dreadful.

### **CONSTITUENT CONCERNS**

Commissioner Ensley acknowledged the hard work of the Sheriff's Office during the past weekend's tragedy.

Chairman Swanger agreed, adding his appreciation to the personnel that worked on the incident.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE/AGENCY REPORTS**

There were no reports.

### **DISCUSSION / ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA**

Other than the adjustment made in the agenda for the budget presentation, there were no further discussions/adjustments to the agenda.

Chairman Swanger confirmed that the Public Hearing will be at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Commissioner Sorrells confirmed that the telecast of tonight's BOCC meeting will be on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Swanger agreed, noting that it will be a month before the adoption of the budget.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick confirmed that the budget was on the County website, and that it has been posted since Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Upton made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Sorrells seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of May 4, 2015 regular meeting minutes.
2. Approval of April 2015 Refunds, Release, Amendments and Discoveries – David Francis, Tax and Solid Waste Administrator  
Mr. Francis reported that there was nothing unusual to report.
3. Approval of April 2015 Tax Collections update – Mike Matthews, Tax Collector –  
Mr. Matthews reported that the County is at 95.89% which is up .62% from last year. He explained that collections are on track this month as to where it should be. Delinquent collections show \$297,000 down from last year. He commented that there is a plan in place to make the collections.

Ms. Davis commented that on the Motor Vehicle collections last year, the County was able to budget four months, so it will reflect a lower amount. She explained that at the end of the year, there will be a clear levy, which will be the current year.

4. Approval of A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Haywood, North Carolina Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2015 of the County of Haywood in a Principal Not to Exceed \$12 million – Julie Davis, Finance Director –

Ms. Davis explained that this resolution is about the refunding for the school system's 18 million dollar bond. It also includes information where the escrow amount will be kept. There will be a savings of \$110,000 over the next ten years.

5. Budget Amendments – Julie Davis, Finance Director

- a. General Fund – Health & Human Services Agency - \$15,288.

Ms. Davis explained that this is four separate grants for Haywood Health Foundation; \$5,000 for Adult Health, \$4,673 for the Dental Clinic, \$1,500 for Meals on Wheels and \$4,115 for Adult Daycare.

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

PER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JNL: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Adult Health Services				
Special Program Materials	11 5151 523100 SHHF1		5,000	5,000
Dental Clinic				
Other Medical Supplies	11 5113 523000 SHHF2		683	683
C/O-Office Furn & Equipment	11 5113 551000 SHHF2		3,990	3,990
Meals On Wheels				
Food & Provisions	11 5360 522000 SHHF3		1,500	1,500
Adult Day-Care-DSS				
Professional Services	11 5401 519200 SHHF4		3,000	3,000
Special Program Materials	11 5401 523100 SHHF4		1,115	1,115

which will result in a net increase of \$ 15,288 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Miscellaneous				
Misc-Health	11 0100 451800 SHHF1		5,000	5,000
Misc-Health	11 0100 451800 SHHF2		4,673	4,673
Contribution DSS-Misc	11 0100 454840 SHHF3		1,500	1,500
ADC-Client Cost	11 0100 454841 SHHF4		4,115	4,115

15,288

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 18 day of May, 2015.

ATTEST:   
Clerk to the Board

  
Chairman  
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

Explanation:	
To recognize grant proceeds from Haywood Healthcare Foundation for four grants - to promote 5-2-1 Almost None Obesity campaign, to purchase dental equipment	
To provide liquid nutrition supplements for MOW, and for physical occupational therapy and gardening supplies for the ADC Health programs.	

- b. General Fund – Mass Transit - \$8,000.

Ms. Davis explained that this is a transfer from the North Carolina Department of Transportation that goes to the County for Mountain Projects or HHSA Work First. This transfer will be for Mountain Projects.

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

PER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JNL: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department line item	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Mass Transit - Mountain Projects	114520-86900	280,089	8,000	288,089
HHSA - Work First	114372-431300	45,000	(8,000)	37,000

which will result in a net increase (decrease) of \$ 8,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 18 of May 2015.

ATTEST:   
Clerk to the Board

  
Chairman  
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

Explanation:	
To reappropriate the NC Dept. of Transportation funding from the HHSA Work First program to Mountain Projects transportation program per the attached letter.	

- c. General Fund – Health & Human Services Agency - \$44,126  
 Ms. Davis explained that this is for Public Assistance Crisis Intervention and is transferring money from salaries and wages. She further explained that it is grant money coming through the County.

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
 FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

PER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 JNL: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
115340 Public Assistance				
Crisis Intervention Admin	115340-549910-BADMN	44,126	(44,126)	-
115310 Social Services				
Salaries & Wages - Temp	115310-612600	25,506	44,126	69,632

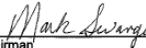
which will result in a net increase of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 18 day of May, 2015.

  
 Chairman  
 Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
 Clerk to the Board

Explanation:  
 Temporary staff were hired to provide services for the Energy Assistance programs rather than the service being outsourced. The budgeted expenditure needs to be transferred to Salaries & Wages Temporary to cover the need. These are 100% Federal funds provided to administer the Energy Assistance program.

- d. General Fund – WIC - \$1,834  
 Ms. Davis explained that this for HHSA to promote a nutrition program in the Women, Infant and Children's program.

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
 FISCAL YEAR 2014-15

PER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 JNL: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
115170 WIC				
Operating Expense	115170-549500	4,479	1,834	6,313

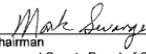
which will result in a net increase of \$ 1,834 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
110050 Restricted Intergovernmental				
WIC	110050-451545	279,238	1,834	281,072

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 18 day of May, 2015.

  
 Chairman  
 Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
 Clerk to the Board

Explanation:  
 To recognize the additional Federal funding for Client Services in the WIC program.

- e. General Fund - Animal Services - \$2,100  
Ms. Davis explained that this is Public Safety in Animal Services, and will come from contributions to provide supplies.

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

PER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JNL: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department line item	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Public Safety:				
Animal Services - janitorial supplies	114380-521100	3,800	2,100	5,900

which will result in a net increase (decrease) of \$ 2,100 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

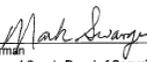
To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Miscellaneous Revenue:				
Animal Services contributions	110100-443842	500	2,100	2,600

2,100

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 18 of May 2015.

  
Chairman  
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Clerk to the Board

To allocate the amount collected as contributions to Animal Services to provide supplies for animals.

Mr. Killian clarified from an earlier public comment that the money received from the sale of the hospital cannot be used at this time. These funds are dedicated for future uses in the healthcare needs of the County.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick commented that citizens should be encouraged to get online and review the proposed budget and come forth with suggestions. He noted that in his opinion, the proposed County budget is designated for the problems that present, the employees that haven't received raises in quite a while and taking care of County property. He said that this is the focus of the tax increase and taking care of those areas. He said that he will not approve a budget where the County employees do not get a raise because of the fact that he feels they have been diligent and loyal to the County over the last six years. He said that he would welcome any and all suggestions on how to do this without increasing taxes. He said that his own personal property valuations vary around the County and are not controlled. He commented that if the people that make the comments would stay at the full meeting instead of making their comments and leaving, they would learn how and why the decisions are made, and maybe they would understand.

Commissioner Upton stated that there is nowhere to "kick the can down the road" anymore. He noted that the 500+ County employees will also be affected by the tax increase.

Chairman Swanger remarked that it is the right thing to do at this time. He commented that if you looked at the 45 year history of the tax rate, it has been as high as \$1.92.

Commissioner Ensley commented that Macon and Jackson County have many multi-million dollar homes which is one reason why their tax rates are low. He stated that 45% of our County is owned by the Federal Government, 25 % is in a park. He said that the County is not able to get money from these lands. He also said that the County has 16 schools and now a charter school that have to be supported, unlike the other counties mentioned during the public comment.

Commissioner Sorrells commented that for the past five years, there have been the same discussions that have been heard tonight about the needs of the County. It has been building all this time and if it is not taken care of now, next year it will be compounded.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Request approval of Offer To Purchase And Contract for County owned property on 50 Henson Dr., PIN#8615-69-3975, Deed Book 459, page 1800, for the purchase price of \$164,900 per NCGS 160A-269 – Ira Dove, County Manager

Chairman Swanger stated that an offer to purchase this property has been received. He explained that if approved, it is subject to the upset bid procedure.

There were no issues from the commissioners concerning the offer.

Mr. Dove recommended that the offer be accepted and the upset bid procedure begin.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion that the offer to purchase and contract for the property on 50 Henson Dr. for the purchase price of \$164,900 be approved and Commissioner Sorrells seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Request approval of The Articles of Association And Agreement For The Southwestern Workforce Development Consortium – Todd Douglas, Southwestern Commission Workforce Development Director**

Chairman Swanger recognized Todd Douglas. Mr. Douglas requested the ratification of The Articles of Association and Agreement for the Southwestern Workforce Development Consortium. He explained that the new Federal Workforce Legislation Workforce Innovation And Opportunity Act requires a new consortium agreement be in effect by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. He said that it is federal grant money and will cost the County no money.

Commissioner Sorrells remarked that as the commissioner on this committee, it is a continuation of what has been going on for the past fifteen years with a new name and some new legislation.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to approve The Articles of Association And Agreement For the Southwestern Workforce Development Consortium and Commissioner Ensley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed for five minutes.

### **Request approval of wedding fireworks display at Laurel Ridge Country Club on June 13, 2015 – Johnny Glance, Fire Marshal**

Chairman Swanger recognized Johnny Glance. Mr. Glance explained that according to North Carolina General Statute, the Board of Commissioners is required to approve all firework displays. He noted that he has all the paperwork and licenses required from Class A Services and Storage Co. for the display.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the wedding fireworks display at Laurel Ridge Country Club on June 13, 2015 and Commissioner Ensley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Request approval of Underground Utility Easement Agreement between Haywood County and ERC Broadband for underground installation of fiber optic cable – Dale Burris, Facilities & Maintenance Director**

Chairman Swanger recognized Dale Burris. Mr. Burris explained that the ERC Broadband has requested to install fiber optic cabling running from Branner Avenue along the parking deck. He said that there is already an easement from the Town of Waynesville for water and sewer. It will come up behind the Justice Center to the mechanical rooms inside. He said that this could be a benefit in the event there was use for County fiber.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to approve the underground utility easement agreement as described and Commissioner Upton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Burris commended the Board on the budget that is proposed and what has been said about raising the employees pay and what they are considering for them.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion to enter into Closed Session for:  
Personnel - G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6)  
Attorney/Client Privilege – G.S. §143.318.11(a)(3)  
Commissioner Ensley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned from Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business for the Board, Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Upton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The time of adjournment was 8:45 p.m. The DVD is attached by reference to the minutes.

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CLERK

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CHAIRMAN

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