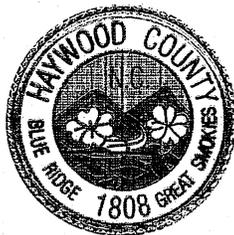


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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LEON M. KILLIAN, III
COUNTY ATTORNEY

May 1st, 2012

Commissioners,

The proposed budget for Haywood County for the next fiscal year is hereby presented for your review and consideration. This proposed budget sets forth a plan of operation for all county departments, programs, and projects for the coming year.

In April, I reported to you that our employees impressively rose to the challenge of doing more with less. The employees have put forth additional effort over the past four years even as we decreased the number of full-time equivalents from five hundred and fifty-seven (557) to a recommended five hundred (500) at the beginning of FY2012-13. Our theme now is "Rising to the Challenge". Everyone remains positive as we continue to provide services to our community.

This budget carries forward a focus on efficiencies and effectiveness of services provided to our citizens. The proposed general fund budget of \$66,596,839 is significantly less than the FY2007-08 budget prior to the economic downturn. There is no proposed tax increase and no proposed change in the solid waste household availability fee.

FY2011-12 was an exciting and historic year, with significant improvements in service delivery areas that affected our citizens the most. The relocation of the Departments of Social Services, Health and Building and Environmental Services to Paragon Parkway in January of this year once again proved what can be accomplished with a great team effort. The renovated facility now allows key essential services to be more centrally located for our citizens, and greatly improves our ability to provide these services in an efficient, professional and technologically advanced manner.

In addition, we completed the installation of our integrated computer aided dispatch (CAD) and mobile data information system (MDIS), which greatly enhanced the communication abilities of all public safety functions – emergency and non-emergency fire, medical and law enforcement services.

May 1, 2012

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The Senior Resource Center now coming to fruition validates the commitment of each of you to our seniors. We will continue to focus on services/programs to allow seniors to maintain their independence and self sufficiency to avoid premature placement in long-term care facilities. The budget reflects the Commissioners' ongoing commitment to provide the necessary Senior Services for those who we all admire and respect.

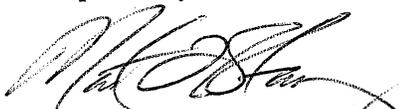
Our most important asset is our dedicated County staff that pull together as a team as noted by each of the Commissioners during the Budget Retreat. Since 2008, as economic difficulties increased and budgets declined, we asked our employees to shoulder more responsibilities even as we reduced their benefits. This proposed budget attempts to reverse that trend of declining employee benefits, as directed by the Board. I have attempted to recognize their dedication by continuing the 0-2% Merit increases for employees based on their performance appraisal, continuation of the Christmas Bonus and reinstatement of 401(k) employer contribution at 1%. It is imperative that I extend my sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff.

The increase in sales tax revenue provided us with the opportunity to recommend the major goals from the Commissioners' Budget Retreat in February. The FY2012-13 budget reflects the guidance received from the Commissioners with increased funding for maintenance of our County facilities, increased funding for the School System and Community College and restoring employee benefits.

Haywood County has an extremely bright future as we move into the next fiscal year. We must remain optimistic and prudent with our business decisions to ensure that excellent customer service is provided to each citizen in our county.

This proposed budget is the primary plan for spending for FY2012-13. This budget takes care of County facilities, provides for County employees, provides the services needed by the citizens and guests of Haywood County and prepares us as best as possible to accept new responsibilities and challenges.

Respectfully submitted,



Marty L. Stamey, MBA/MHA
County Manager