

Budget Workshop Minutes -Revenue and Public Comment

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County, North Carolina

Monday, May 15, 2017

The FY 2017-2018 Budget Workshop meeting reconvened by Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr. at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2017 in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room, and the Ocracoke Community Center using electronic conferencing equipment.

The following members were present on the mainland: Vice-Chairman Barry Swindell, Commissioner Dick Tunnell, Asst. County Manager Kris Noble, Deputy Clerk to the Board Rosemary Johnson, and, members of the public. Commissioner Ben Simmons was not present.

The following members were present on Ocracoke: Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr., Commissioner Tom Pahl, County Manager Bill Rich, Public Information Officer Teresa Adams and, members of the public.

Consideration of Agenda

Vice Chairman Swindell made a motion to approve the agenda for the May 15 Budget Workshop and Public Comment meeting as presented by the deputy clerk. Commissioner Tom Pahl seconded the motion and the motion carried on the following vote: Ayes-Pugh, Swindell, Pahl and Tunnell; Nays-None; Absent or not voting; One.

2% Increase on Occupancy Tax

County Manager Bill Rich informed everyone that a meeting to discuss the proposed 2% increase on occupancy tax was held at 3 pm today at the Ocracoke Community Center. Approximately 30 people attended, which consisted of Ocracoke lodging owners, board members of the Ocracoke Business and Civic Association and board members of the Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board, along with Manager Bill Rich, Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr. and Commissioner Tom Pahl. County Manager Bill Rich made a presentation to the group outlining the reasons why he is in favor of increasing Hyde County's occupancy tax from 3% to 5%. Most of the attendees present are against the increase. Commissioner Pahl pointed out that the primary reason everyone there was against the increase was because the lodging owners feel they will be bearing the burden of generating revenue that will be used for improvements to public services and not tourism promotion. They also feel that the county should tap into other revenue sources to fund the improvements. Sundae Horne, who was present at the meeting, suggested that the county hold a second meeting to discuss the occupancy tax increase and invite all residents on Ocracoke to determine their opinion on the occupancy tax increase.

Public Comments

At this time, Chairman Pugh asked for comments from the public. There were no additional comments from the mainland or Ocracoke.

FY 2016-2017 Budget Review – REVENUES

County Manager Bill Rich and Finance Officer Corrinne Gibbs presented the revenues for the FY 2016-2017 budget.

Ad Valorem Taxes

103010.0000 – Ad Valorem Tax Prior - \$225,000.00 (unchanged)
103010.0091 – Ad Valorem Tax Current - \$6,040,000.00 (unchanged)
103020.0000 – DMV Current - \$275,000.00 increased to \$280,000.00
103170.0000 – Tax Penalty & Interest - \$15,000.00 (unchanged)
103170.0001 – Tax Penalty & Interest-Prior Year - \$60,000.00 (unchanged)
103170.0002 – DMV Tax Penalty & Interest-Current - \$1,500.00 decreased to \$500.00
103170.0003 – DMV Tax Penalty & Interest – Prior Year - \$5,000 decreased to \$500.00
103171.0000 – Legal Fees-Delinquent Tax Collection - \$5,000.00 (unchanged)

Finance Officer Corrinne Gibbs reported that the current ad valorem tax is a projected figure based on estimated property values as of January. Actual ad valorem taxes collected as of 3/31/17 total \$6,433,540.93. DSS, Health and restricted revenue are monies collected to offset that particular expenditure.

Sales & Use Tax budgeted revenues for FY 2016-2017 in Article 39 equal \$618,000 and are 100% retained by the county; in Article 40 revenues equal \$288,400 and are split 70/30 (70% county, 30% schools); and in Article 42 revenues equal \$309,000 and are split 60/40 (60% schools and 40% county).

Finance Officer Corrinne Gibbs will make requested changes to the proposed budget and will present the final FY 2017-2018 Hyde County Budget for Public Hearing and then to the Board of Commissioners for adoption on June 5, 2017.

Public Comments:

Chairman Pugh called for comments from the public.

Mainland:

Dr. Randolph Latimore – Dr. Randolph Latimore, Superintendent for Hyde County Schools asked the county to re-consider the budget request from the school system. He expressed appreciation of the commissioners' consideration of the school's funding requests in the past and asked that the commissioners keep the county's school children in mind when finalizing the budget this year. Funding is used for personnel, athletics and other expenses. He encouraged meetings between the county and the school's management to discuss any budgeting requests.

William Robbins – Mr. Robbins is an employee of Hyde County Schools and a member of the Hyde County Chapter of NC Public Educators. He asked the commissioners and the county to please reconsider the assessment for the school's budget and to remember that education, safety and health are the three pillars of the school's foundation.

Christy Marslender – Ms. Marslender is a kindergarten teacher with Hyde County Schools. She stated that she hoped that the county could continue funding for the schools.

Myra Chandler – Member of the Hyde County Board of Education thanked the commissioners and the county for their support of the schools. She stated that more money is needed for the library and for additional teacher assistants.

Thomas Whitaker - Member of the Hyde County Board of Education for 16 years also asked the commissioners and the county to reconsider the budget request for the schools. He mentioned the teachers that lost their positions due to the reduction in force a few years back, saying that these same teachers returned as volunteers in order to continue to help the children.

Ocracoke:

Leslie Cole – Assistant Principal and social studies teacher at Ocracoke School, stated that she would appreciate any assistance the county can give to the schools.

Lynn King-Bowen - 21st Century Technician for Ocracoke, stated that any assistance would be beneficial.

Commissioner Pahl stated that the county needs to continue to pay attention to the collection of ad valorem tax.

Mainland:

Dr. Latimore addressed the commissioners a second time, asking them to reconsider the budget request, adding that the increase proposed by the county is not significant enough and that the school may have to consider a reduction in staff.

Ocracoke:

Susan O'Neal - Pre-K and Special Needs teacher for Ocracoke School asked that the budget be reconsidered.

This concluded the public comments.

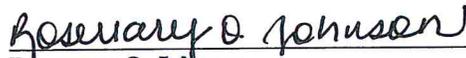
Closed Session: (none)

Adjourn:

Vice Chairman Swindell moved to adjourn the May 15 Budget Workshop/Public Comment Meeting. Commissioner Pahl seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Swindell, Pugh, Pahl, Tunnell; Nays-None; Absent or not voting – Commissioner Simmons.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 5th day of June, 2017



Rosemary O. Johnson
Deputy Clerk
Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Earl D. Pugh, Jr., Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

