



# *Hyde County 2012-2013 Budget*

*No Time Like the Present*

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**Budget Development**

**Reflections on 2011-2012**

**Budget Drivers & Trends**

**Anticipated Revenues**

# *No Time Like the Present*

**Expenditures**

**Board Goals**

**Manager's Goals**

**Work Plans**

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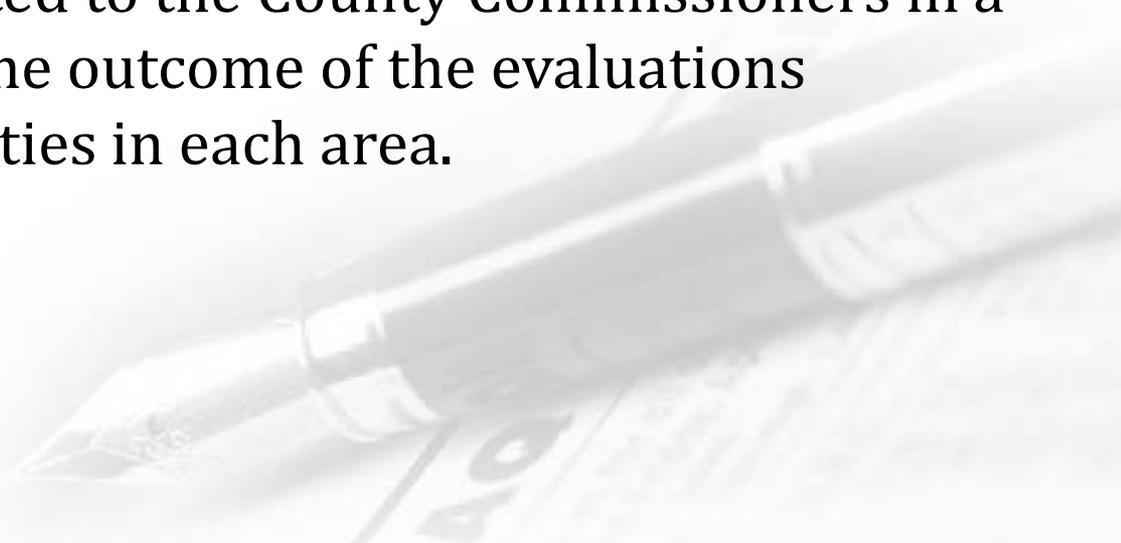
- The proposed 2012-2013 budget for Hyde County has been developed over the course of several months, starting in January with the passage of the budget calendar.
- It is constructed according to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act passed by the North Carolina General Assembly.



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- The process for developing this year's budget has been somewhat different from previous years.
- The time table was advanced by two weeks to give the County Manager and her staff more time to evaluate conditions, set priorities, and gauge economic and legislative factors.
- The process for garnering requests from non-profit agencies for funding was improved with new policy and guidelines that provide better information and greater accountability of groups receiving funding.

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- Each County department head evaluated the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of their services to guide their budget requests.
  - These were presented to the County Commissioners in a day-long retreat. The outcome of the evaluations highlighted similarities in each area.
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- Under **strengths**,
  - Every department head listed their employees as their greatest assets.
  - Each felt that their department had become more active in all communities of the county, including the island and that operations had become more transparent.
  - New policies, procedures and programs have been developed that are not only emulated by others but have been recognized at state and national levels.

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- The County Manager commended all departments for the good job they had done managing their budget this year while still providing a high level of customer service.



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- The list of **weaknesses** identified was a bit longer. On the list was:
  - Not enough staff
  - Little or no opportunities for cross-training
  - Redundancy of tasks across departments
  - County-owned facilities, equipment and vehicles are aging and require increasing repairs and maintenance

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- Computer equipment is antiquated and slow, software is outdated and not web based, and IT support is expensive or non existent
- Networking capabilities are almost nil, and county systems are vulnerable to viruses and hacking
- County records are difficult to store and access



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- **Threats** to continued provision of services included:
  - More regulations and governmental red tape at the state and federal level (ferry tolls, beach access)
  - Local government is now being asked to provide services, often without funding, that used to be provided by the state and federal government
  - Crisis events like hurricanes, forest fires and even homeland security create stress

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- The depressed economy and its instability have made taxpayers and employees afraid of what lies ahead



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**Opportunities** identified in the SWOT analyses will be discussed as part of the work plans and goals overview for the coming year.



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- As you can see, the County Commissioners, County personnel and citizens have contributed and all worked very hard to develop a balanced budget under unprecedented conditions.
- There has truly been **no time like to present**, perhaps ever in Hyde County's 300-year history, where stakes have been higher or demands greater on local government.

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## **Where revenues are expected to decline:**

- Amount of delinquent taxes is diminished due to an increase in collections by the Tax Office and County Attorney
- Amount of delinquent DMV taxes has also been decreased due to collections
- DMV current collections may decrease due to changes in collection practices by the State
- Tax interest and penalties will also decline due to less delinquencies

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## **Other expected revenue decreases:**

- Decrease in white good disposal tax
- Decrease in court facility fees
- Decrease in grant funds and administrative fees as grants are being expended and closed
- Interest on investments is expected to drop by approximately \$85,000 as interest rates decline

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- Decrease in funding from state and federal government to Social Services and the Health Department for mandated programs
- Reduction in Medicare reimbursements (also impacts EMS billing for medical services performed)
- EMS Collections expected to decline slightly as economy becomes worse

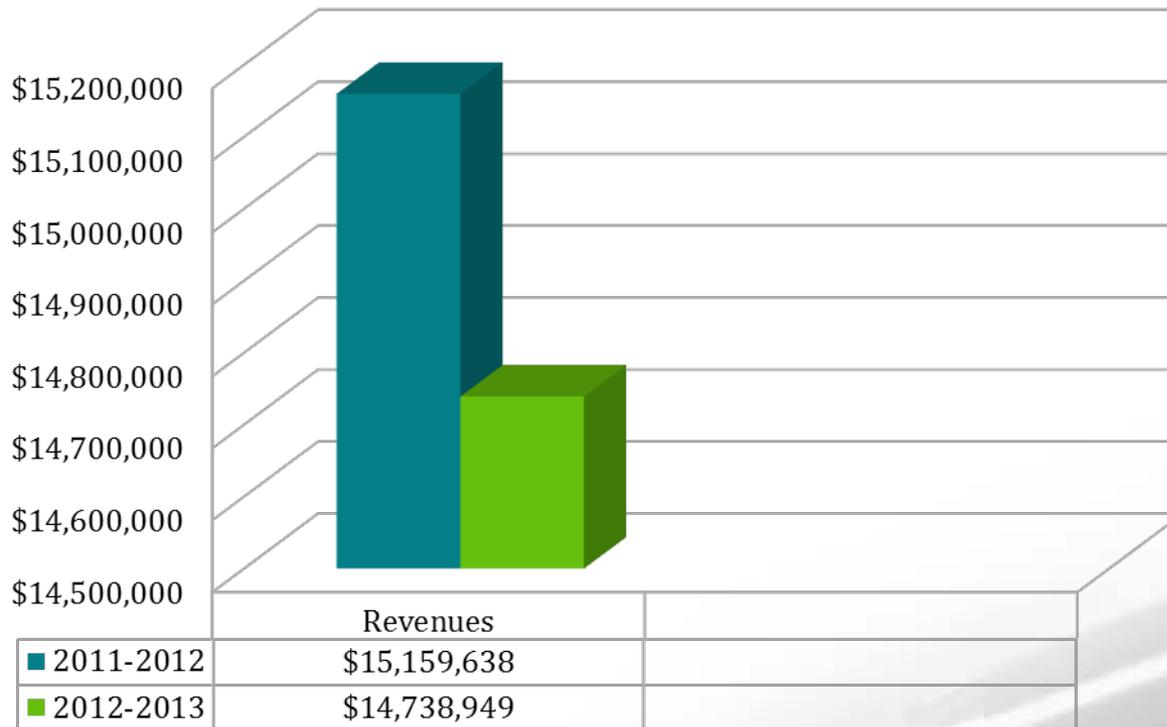
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- Revenues from Solid Waste have declined due to the elimination of curbside pickup service. This also resulted in a savings of over \$200,000!
- The Water Department also anticipates a decline in revenue as penalties and interest decline on outstanding accounts due to collections of old debt



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**Anticipated Revenues**



**\$440,688  
decrease  
across all funds  
compared to  
fiscal year  
2011-2012  
approved  
budget**

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## **Expenses are expected to increase in the following areas:**

- Group health insurance for employees went up \$42.01 per employee, per month, resulting in a net increase of \$63,015
- Property Insurance on county property increased \$15k due to underinsured property
- Unemployment insurance went up from \$8000 last year to \$60,000 due to the extension of unemployment benefits and the reduction in force two years ago
- Warranty coverage on elections equipment has been passed down to the county (\$12,389) & new computers are needed

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- The Tax Department requested and received an increase in the amount of funds being set aside for the revaluation from \$25k to \$50k. The next revaluation is scheduled to take place in 2016 and will cost approximately \$450,000. The budget for this has been cut the last two years.
- The Register of Deeds switched to a new computer and software system at an increased cost of \$29,700

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- Salaries increased in the Sheriff's budget due to the absorption of the DARE officer position and expected increased as deputies earn additional credentials
- The Jail Administration budget increased due to legislation by the state that passes the costs of housing misdemeanants for their first 180 days of incarceration down to the county level. Costs are expected to increase by \$40k for a total of \$80,000

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- The Emergency Management budget increased slightly due to an adjustment made in the proportion of time being spent on those duties by the EM Director. The EMS budget decreased however reflecting the re-appropriation.



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## **Major cuts were made in the budget by Department Heads, the County Manager and the County Commissioners:**

- The Public Information Officer Position will become a part-time position
- The Grants technician position will become a part-time, clerical position
- The Planning Director position will be combined with the Grants technician position and reclassified
- Two positions will not be filled by the EMS Department

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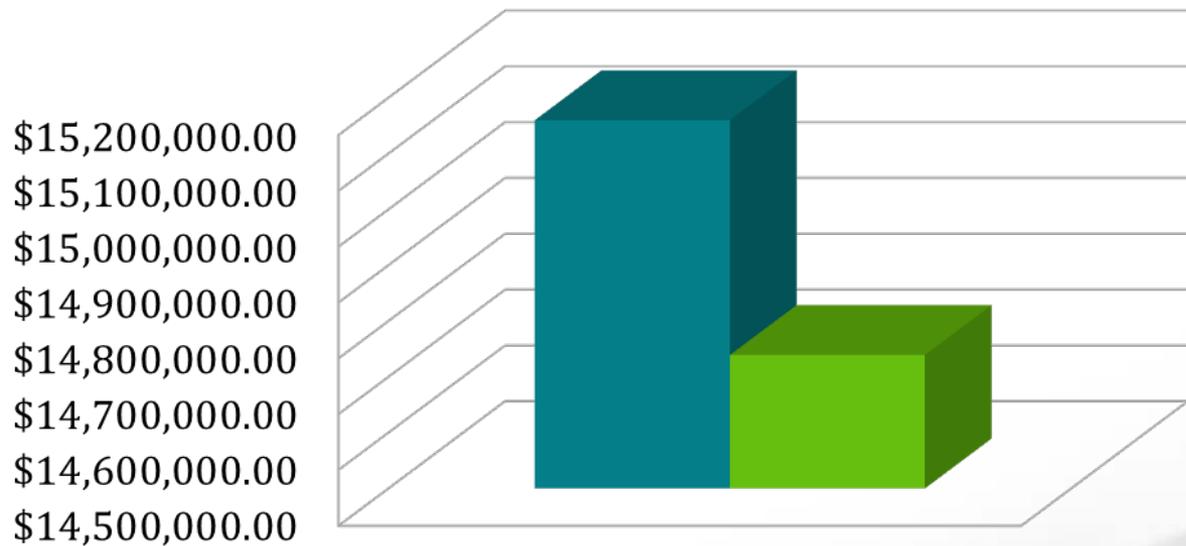
- The purchase of an ambulance by EMS was cut from the budget at a savings of \$100k
- The purchase of four new cars by the Sheriff's Department was also cut, resulting in a savings of \$100k
- Mosquito control on the mainland was cut completely and animal control will be reduced to only the efforts required by law only (rabid animals, vicious animals)

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- The Social Services department agreed not to fill a vacant position to save money. The overall department budget decreased by \$8537.
- The budget for Hyde County Schools was cut by \$125,000
- Funding for the Volunteer Fire Departments was kept intact
- Funding for the Senior Citizens program was initially cut but restored by the County Commissioners

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## Total Expenditures



- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

Expenditures
\$15,159,638.00
\$14,738,949.00

**\$420,689  
decrease  
across all  
funds**

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## The Bottom Line:

Anticipated Expenses	\$14,738,949
Less Anticipated Revenues	<u>-\$13,929,776</u>
Total	\$809,172
6 cents tax increase	<u>\$612,126</u>
Appropriation from fund balance	\$197,045

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## **Where do we go from here**

- Look for ways to streamline operations and work “smarter”
- Audit phones, electricity and other accounts to ensure we are operating at the most efficient level
- Continue to study ways departments can work together to reduce redundancy
- Work with other agencies and the community to form partnerships
- Develop work plans that keep our work targeted on high priority areas.

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In summary:

- We have weathered a hurricane
- Lobbied against tolls
- Passed proclamations against all sorts of things
- Updated ordinances
- Fought new regulations,
- and spent way too much time with FEMA.

Through it all, one thought has prevailed....

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People are never closer than  
when they are in the same boat!

