



COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885
252-926-4400
252-926-3701 Fax

Hyde County, NC News Release

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CONTACT: Sarah Johnson, Public Information Officer, 252-542-0842

Hyde County Commissioners Approve Budget, Lifeguard Services on Ocracoke Up and Running

On Monday, June 2, 2014 the Hyde County Commissioners, by a unanimous vote, approved the County's \$13 million budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Manager Rich and Finance Officer Gibbs worked thoroughly to create the balanced budget. Despite a slow economy the new budget does not include any tax hikes and still manages to increase revenue granted to the Hyde County School System and the Department of Social Services. A 3% raise for County employees is included as well. The budget was first presented to the Commissioners on May 5, 2014 and critiqued in more depth during a budget workshop and public hearing.

Manager Rich also shared information concerning the status of the contract for lifeguard services on Ocracoke. Traditionally the National Park Service (NPS) has provided lifeguard services 7 days/week between Memorial Day and Labor Day at the Ocracoke Day Use Area, often referred to as the "lifeguard beach". This year, however, the NPS elected to only provide lifeguards 5 days/week. As a result the Board of Commissioners voted on May 5, 2014 to approve special one-time funding from Ocracoke occupancy tax revenue to cover the remaining two days. Manager Rich reported that the contract is finalized and lifeguard services on Ocracoke are already in full swing.

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