

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 23, 1996

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Henderson County Office Building. The purpose of the meeting was Presentation of the FY 1996-1997 Budget.

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chair Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David E. Nicholson, Assistant County Manager/Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett, County Attorney Don H. Elkins, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Also present were: Finance Director Carey McLelland and Budget Analyst Selena Coffey.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kumor called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. She reminded those in attendance that under the County Manager form of Government, the County Manager is the Budget Officer and therefore is responsible for presenting a balanced budget.

FY 1996-1997 BUDGET PRESENTATION

As Budget Officer, Mr. Nicholson presented his 21st budget in Henderson County. The total proposed budget is right at \$68,000,000 which is about a 2.4% increase over the current year budget. The total proposed general fund budget (operating budget) is just short of \$49,000,000 which is a 3.6% increase. Henderson County has a strong economic base.

Traditionally the Board of Commissioners has received a line item budget in booklet form. The Board received that at today's meeting and also received a new budget format in summary form.

Our Budget Analyst, Selena Coffey, developed the new format.

Mr. Nicholson stated that Department Heads have developed or are in the process of developing their own Mission Statements for their individual departments.

After discussing growth in population in Henderson County, growth in our school system and the recommended 8% fund balance, Mr. Nicholson stated that he has prepared a balanced budget with no recommended tax increase. Our current tax rate is 50.5 cents. The Board may wish to increase the tax rate to fund some CIP projects.

Henderson County's largest source of revenue is property tax and the biggest expense is human services and education.

May 23, 1996

Page 2

Mr. Nicholson informed the Board that Department Heads requested 56 new positions this fiscal year. Mr. Nicholson looked at a revenue neutral budget. He stated that 3.5 positions have been deleted from this fiscal year budget that were in last years budget. He only recommended ten of the positions that were requested at only an increase to the county of \$17,500. No county money is required for most of the positions recommended.

Education

Mr. Nicholson stated that in last year's budget Henderson County funded education on a per pupil basis at \$923.62. Based on the projected number of students to be enrolled next year (ADM) and allowing a 3% increase, he recommended funding education at \$951.33 per pupil or \$10,042,570 which is a 5% increase over last year.

David Nicholson thanked Carey McLelland and Selena Coffey for all their many dedicated hours in helping to prepare this proposed budget.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

Mr. Nicholson discussed three scenarios with the Board of Commissioners but stated that there are many different combinations.

#1

Put no money into a fund for CIP projects this fiscal year.

Do first two CIP projects (historic courthouse and justice academy). This would require a 2 cent increase in FY 1997-1998.

#2

Put ½ cent into fund for CIP projects this fiscal year which would require increasing the tax rate this year by ½ cent. Could add Edneyville Library, work on Parks, and Satellite Substation for EMS. It would also require the additional 2 cent increase in FY 1997-1998. Of course, all these projects could not be done in a year's time but could be started in a three year time period.

#3

Put 1 cent into fund for CIP projects this fiscal year which would require increasing the tax rate this year by 1 cent. Could do all the above projects named but would get to them in a two year time period.

Mr. Nicholson stated that this is just a starting point for the Board to start thinking about CIP projects and funding. A lot will depend on how soon the Commissioners wish to start and finish certain projects.

He informed the public that a copy of the Budget and the Budget Message would be on file with the Clerk to the Board for public inspection. He requested the Board to set the public hearing on the budget.

May 23, 1996

Page 3

Commissioner Edney made the motion to set the Public Hearing on both the FY 1996-1997 Budget and the Capital Improvements Program for Monday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

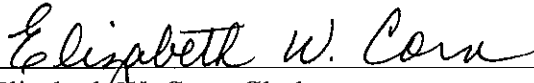
The Board then set the following dates and times for budget work sessions:

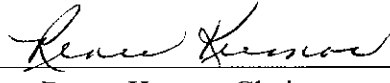
Monday	June 3	7 p.m.
Monday	June 17	7 p.m.
Wednesday	June 19	afternoon of regular BOC meeting
Thursday	June 20	7 p.m. (school budget discussion)
Monday	June 24	7 p.m.

Budget notebooks as well as the Budget message were passed out to the Board of Commissioners for their review prior to the June 3 Public Hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:


Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk


Renee Kumor, Chairman

