

Special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Hoke County Court Annex to discuss the FY 2017 budget.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Leach, Chairman
Harry Southerland, Vice Chairman
Tony Hunt
Robert Wright
Allen Thomas, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Letitia Edens, County Manager
Grady Hunt, County Attorney
Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Leach called the meeting to order with a quorum present and welcomed everyone.

Commissioner Wright gave the invocation.

Mrs. Edens, the County Manager, presented the Board with her proposed budget. Mrs. Edens told the Board that this balanced budget totals \$43,835,261 for the General Fund. Included is a 2.5% COLA, a \$300 bonus for full-time employees and a \$200 bonus for part-time employees. There are 13 full-time and 1 part-time new positions and 12 new vehicles. The funding for the Hoke County School System is \$542 per student for a total current expense of \$4,824,884. Also included for the schools is \$945,768 for capital outlay projects; the bulk of that expense being for the Technology 1:1 Initiative, which provides an iPad or Chromebook for every student in the system. With \$2,930,947 budgeted for FY 2017 debt service, the total school funding comes to \$8,701,599.

For the Enterprise funds, Utilities has a total budget of \$7,374,101, made up of \$5,373,077 in water revenue and \$2,001,024 in sewer revenue. Included is one new full-time position and three new vehicles. Sewer rates will increase from \$15 to \$16 for the flat rate and the usage rate will increase from \$6.60 per 1,000 gallons to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons. No change for water rates. Solid Waste's budget is \$2,850,430 with no significant changes from last year.

Chairman Leach asked for clarification on the capital outlay funding for the schools. Mrs. Edens explained that funds were budgeted for improvements to Upchurch Elementary to accommodate all pre-school children and funds to replace the gym floors at Scurlock Elementary and West Hoke Elementary. Funds are also budgeted for a portable freezer. This will allow bulk purchases of food.

Commissioner Wright asked about the funds that were approved at the last meeting to allow Senior Services to feed 25 more people per day. Mrs. Edens said that the funds are included; \$15,000 for Meals on Wheels and \$10,000 for congregate meals.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Mrs. Edens about the additional positions requested by DSS. Mrs. Edens said that included in the DSS budget are funds for six time-limited Case Worker positions and one permanent Office Assistant III. Commissioner Hunt asked Mrs. Della Sweat, DSS Director, who was in attendance, if the time-limited positions can be filled by current temporary employees. Mrs. Sweat replied that the current temporary employees can apply for

the time-limited positions. Mrs. Sweat added that the Medicaid caseworker positions are 75% reimbursable and the Food & Nutrition positions are 50% reimbursable. Commissioner Hunt asked for clarification about the job duties. Are they data entry only? Mrs. Sweat replied that these positions will see clients for new cases and for re-certifications. Vice Chairman Southerland asked if the new positions will help keep overtime costs down. Mrs. Sweat said that it will. Commissioner Thomas said that he believes that the positions should be permanent; they will be needed next year. If the economy takes a downturn, positions could be frozen and these could fill positions vacated by attrition.

Chairman Leach asked if the freezers for the school system are moveable. Commissioner Hunt replied that they are.

Chairman Leach said that, now that the Manager has presented the Board with a balanced budget, it is up to the Board to review it and make any necessary changes. A date needs to be set for a Public Hearing for the budget. Commissioner Wright said that he would like to further discuss the need for additional parking at the Sports Complex on Red Springs Road. Mrs. Edens said that the estimate came in at \$113,000. Chairman Leach said that the Board needs a workday before the Public Hearing. Commissioner Hunt asked Mrs. Edens for a list of regraded positions within the proposed budget.

Chairman Leach asked everyone to check their calendars and be prepared at the June 6 meeting to set a date for a budget workshop.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the FY 2017 budget for Monday, June 20, 2016 before the regular Commissioners meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Leach asked for clarification as to what exactly was the request from the DSS Board to the Board of Commissioners with regard to the new positions. Mrs. Sweat replied that the request was for one full-time Office Assistant III position and six time-limited positions. Commissioner Thomas said that the DSS Director met with the County Manager and agreed upon the six time-limited positions. Commissioner Thomas continued by saying that the DSS Board actually preferred that the six positions be permanent, full-time positions. Commissioner Thomas continued by saying that the DSS Board is open to compromise on the number of permanent positions. Commissioner Wright asked the County Manager if they could make two of the six time-limited positions permanent. Commissioner Thomas suggested that the DSS Director and County Manager meet and decide which positions should be changed to permanent.

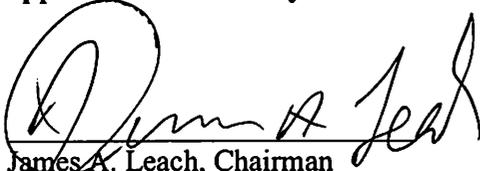
ADJOURN

Chairman Leach thanked everyone for attending.

(minutes continued from June 2, 2016 special meeting)

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There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Thomas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wright and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.



James A. Leach, Chairman



Gwendolyn McChougan, Clerk to the Board

