

May 23, 2011
2011-2012 Budget Meeting

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on Monday, May 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioners Frances Parks, Harold Raynor, Zettie Williams, Jessie Ladson, and Tim Smith

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager; Ms. Paige Marshburn, Administrative Officer and Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer

Absent: Commissioner David Fussell and County Attorney, Wendy Sivori

Commissioner Parks gave the invocation.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager began the meeting by adding discussion for House Bill 528 and transition of six EMS units to the agenda as part of the budget discussion.

Mr. Charlie Farris, Mayor of Wallace, appeared before the board to discuss the importance of maintaining an Economic Development department within the county budget, because Economic Development helps the County grow. Mr. Farris thanked the board for putting Economic Development back in the budget. In response to the board's request to consider combining Economic Development and Planning, the Economic Board does not think it would be a good decision because both jobs require a full time individual to be successful. Mr. Farris request the board give Mr. Aldridge permission to advertise for an Economic Development Director; since Ms. Heather Beard will not be returning after her baby is born.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Smith, carried unanimously, to give Mr. Aldridge permission to advertise for an Economic Development Director.

Ms. Heather Beard, Economic Director, appeared before the board to discuss The Pork Company and the flex-grant request to the North Carolina Eastern Region. The Flex-Grant for \$20,000 has been approved. Ms. Beard request the board accept the flex-grant and authorize the chairman's signature on the grant (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to accept the Flex-Cap Local Grant Agreement, and authorize the chair to sign, thus approving budget amendment **#198**.

The board discussed the proposed 2011-2012 budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ladson, seconded by Commissioner Williams to proceed with the budget plan as of today. Commissioners Parks, Ladson and Williams voted for. Commissioner Smith and Raynor voted against. Motion carries 3 to 2.

It was the consensus from majority of the board to send the same letter regarding House Bill 528 to the Senate committee on State and Local Government that was sent to the House.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ladson for Mr. Aldridge, County Manager to raise taxes by 5 cents, refigure the budget and come back with the difference that it would make to the budget.

Motion died due to lack of second.

The board adjourned to June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ed Emory Auditorium for a commissioner's board meeting and public hearing on the budget.

Clerk