

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Susan Pittman, Vice-Chair; Phyllis Forbes; and Scott Heath

Members Absent: Dan South

Others present: Jeff Jaynes; Diane Jaynes; Board of Education

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Chairman Poteat offered prayer.

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, stated that at present the budget is short \$161,000.

**Sheriff**

The Finance Officer advised at the present time the Sheriff's budget was cut down to approximately 11.62% increase over last year's budget and this did incorporate the workman's compensation, general liability and three cars but no grade increase. The Sheriff had asked at the last meeting to cut out his capital items and to do a two grade increase. The Finance Officer stated that for the Sheriff's department to do a one grade increase and movement over to the regular salary scale would be a 2% additional salary increase and this would equate to around \$17,000 for the Sheriff's Department and approximately \$6,700 for the jail. The County Manager advised that the figure did not include the Chief Deputy or Sheriff. The Sheriff is reviewed at a later date. The Chief Deputy was not included because a grade increase would up the Chief Deputy to department head status. Chairman Poteat stated that he believed the Sheriff felt very strongly about getting a salary increase for his employees. The Finance Officer stated that the Sheriff's budget has extra men in this year's budget that was not included in last year's budget; the school resource officer and the courtroom security officer.

Phyllis Forbes entered the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion about sheriff's budget. Susan Pittman stated that the Board should give the Sheriff \$18,000 increase and then the Sheriff could choose if he wanted to give raises or get equipment. Chairman Poteat advised that a one grade increase would be given for everyone except the Sheriff which would equate to a 2% raise above the 3% cost of living raise by consensus.

**Fire Commission**

Chairman Poteat stated that the Fire Commission had asked for the half time positions to go to full time positions. The County Manager stated that full time positions would be in excess of \$100,000. Chairman Poteat advised that he didn't think this was the year to go to full time positions or increase the fire tax. Chairman Poteat stated that the Fire Commission budget would stand at \$1,516,000 by consensus.

**Board of Education**

The Finance Officer advised that right now there is a 3% increase built into the budget for the Board of Education. The Finance Officer stated that the capital outlay was at \$604,000 which \$104,000 was for rubberizing of the track at Avery High School. The Finance Officer advised that \$4,422,000 was already included in the 2008/2009 budget. The total capital that was requested by the Board of Education was \$2,245,500 and operational was \$6,123,725. Discussion regarding the Board of Education budget. Mr. Jeff Jaynes stated that any additional increase in the budget that the school system would prefer it go to the operational budget. Chairman Poteat proposed that an additional \$28,000 be added to the \$4,422,000 already budgeted for the school system. Phyllis Forbes stated that she did not believe that \$28,000 is enough because of the increase in fuel prices. Ms. Forbes asked the projected cost for fuel and heating. Mr. Jaynes stated that the projected increase for fuel cost is \$275,000. Chairman Poteat proposed that the Board of Education receive \$4,500,000 which would be an increase of \$78,000. Chairman Poteat said he believed that this year was not the year to raise taxes. Scott Heath stated he didn't want to raise taxes because the Board had taken advantage of obtaining a lot of capital items. Mr. Heath said he felt that the Board should look at taking the money out of fund balance and in the upcoming year the Board needed to learn to say "no" to some things that come about. Mr. Heath stated that the Board needed to still be aggressive with the capital for the Board of Education. Chairman Poteat asked if there was an objection to the \$4,500,000 which would be \$78,000 more which is a 6% increase overall. Consensus by the Board to give \$4,500,000 to the Board of Education.

The Finance Officer stated that a 3% increase was given to nonprofits. The County Manager advised that no new programs were considered for the 2008/2009 budget.

Chairman Poteat stated that several counties were envious of Avery County and he believed this was because of the good management over the last several years.

The County Manager advised he believed that at some point the Board needed to consider a resolution that would address emergency issues that come in the middle of the year and that would be the only thing to amend the budget but he also didn't want to "tie their hands" and would need to be some leeway with a policy like this.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Phyllis Forbes and second by Scott Heath to adjourn this meeting at 4:46 p.m. Motion unanimous with members present (4-0).**

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**Kenny Poteat, Chairman**  
**Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk