

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Oak Room of Sloop Medical Plaza, Cannon Memorial Hospital, 434 Hospital Dr., Linville, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Budget.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chair; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

FY Budget 2011/2012

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, stated that he met last week with Phillip Barrier, Tax Assessor and Sandy Long, Assistant Tax Collector. Statutorily, a tax collector must be sworn in. Mary Daniels position will not be filled and the office will be restructured. Mr. Barrier and Ms. Long were both confident that Ms. Long could run the department a great majority of the time by herself with the help of employees from the Tax Assessor's department being cross-trained. Mr. Wiseman stated that he recommended that there be a reduction in force of the Deputy Tax Collector's position. There was unanimous consensus of the Board to reduce in force the Deputy Tax Collector's position.

Mr. Wiseman advised that after the budget is balanced, it is the intention to start interviewing candidates for the Economic Development Director. There were 31 applicants which have been narrowed down to 9 to be interviewed.

Chairman Poteat stated that at the last meeting the Board agreed to the fire tax being left at 4 cents with the Fire Commission receiving the money that the 4 cents generated which would equate to approximately \$1,768,000. There was considerable discussion regarding the Fire Commission budget. By consensus of the Board, an additional \$100,000 will come out of general fund to wipe the debt completely out in the upcoming fiscal year. The Board also agreed that there would be no new truck purchased in the 2011/2012 fiscal year; all debt would be paid off; no pay per call and the increase in salaries would not exceed 2%.

The Board of Education budget was discussed. The Board agreed to allocate \$510,000 for capital and allocate an additional \$12,000 in operational. The Board agreed that the lottery money would be used for construction only.

The Board discussed working toward the goal of combining fire and rescue. There was consensus of the majority of the Board to allow Linville Central to operate Avery Rescue and to allocate an additional \$50,000 which would allow operational monies and a payment plan on a crash truck.

The MAPS salary classification plan was discussed. The Board agreed to implement a portion of the MAPS salary classification plan up to \$150,000 for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

Chairman Poteat stated that the Board agreed on:

- Extra \$10,000 for the Newland Tag Office
- YMCA would be reduced by \$10,000
- Fire Commission would receive \$100,000 to pay off the debt completely from the general fund above and beyond the 4 cent fire tax
- \$75,000 would be cut from the Recreation Department budget for architectural fees
- \$36,000 would be cut from the Sheriff's budget
- \$22,000 additional monies allocated to the Board of Education
- \$50,000 allocated to Linville Central to finance a crash truck and operational
- \$150,000 allocated to implement a portion of the salary classification plan

This totals \$500,000 that would be taken from fund balance.

The lottery money would not be touched and the one-on-one initiative would not be addressed this year.

Motion by Phyllis Forbes and second by Scott Heath to leave the tax rate the same as last year (33 cents for ad valorem and 4 cents fire tax—total of 37 cents) and take \$500,000 out of fund balance to balance the budget. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Phyllis Forbes to adjourn this meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk