

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

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

Members Absent: None

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Poteat reviewed the previous meetings. We were in "the red" \$1,014,319. The Fire Commission has requested an additional \$245,292, Sheriff's Department has requested \$21,054 for auto supplies, Board of Education requested \$158,158 for supplemental pay for employees and then \$253,992 for new requests, Plumtree lease for \$6,000; Health Department for \$24,610, Library for \$8799 and Mayland \$10,808; emergency management and maintenance positions \$100,000. Now the total deficit is \$1,842,978 (this is fattening the cat). Chairman Poteat said if we all said that all of this was good it would require 16.96 increase in taxes. He said he was not here to honor 1.8 million dollars. 11.6 cents would put us at revenue neutral with no effective tax increase. As an individual you might have no tax increase, a tax increase or a tax decrease.

Discussion regarding the fire commission request. Chairman Poteat stated that we have a wonderful fire commission and we give them x number of dollars and we should not tell them how to use the money. Chairman Poteat said that he advocated \$100,000 to come out of capital reserve fund for the Frank Fire Department Building. He also said that he had looked at disallowing the \$60,000 for the building because there were some other options with this. Reo Griffith said that he was not for a tax hike but Frank Fire Department really needed a building. He said that he would reduce by \$60,000 for the building and \$20,000 for a person at Linville Central Rescue.

Discussion regarding the Sheriff's Office request for \$21,000 for auto supplies line item recommended by Joe Trivette, Maintenance Department. Decision to add only \$8,000 for the auto supplies line item for the Sheriff's Office.

Discussion regarding the request from the Board of Education for supplemental pay for teachers. Decision not to fund the \$158,157 for the supplemental pay.

Discussion regarding the new requests. Chairman Poteat said it was not the time to honor new requests. Decision to fund the Newland Tag Office an additional \$18,600 as that is a necessary service.

Discussion regarding Drug Court. Decision was made to fund Drug Court at \$10,000.

Chairman Poteat advocated that \$5000 be funded for Carey's Flat Community Building. Decision was made to fund Oasis \$10,000.

**Recess**

Chairman Poteat called for a brief recess.

Chairman Poteat declared the meeting back in session after a brief recess.

Decision to add \$6,000 for the Plumtree trash site lease.

Discussion regarding the Health Department, Morrison Library, and Mayland Community College. Decision not to honor the full request but to honor \$5,000 each.

Discussion regarding the assistant emergency management position. Decision not to fund a maintenance position. Emergency Management position will be investigated further.

**Recess**

Chairman Poteat called for a brief recess.

Chairman Poteat declared the meeting back in session after a brief recess.

Discussion again regarding the Fire Commission budget. Martha Hicks, Glenn Johnson, Phyllis Forbes consented to raise fire tax 0.3 cents and earmark the \$100,000 for the Frank Fire Department building. Fire Commission will need to cut their budget \$155,000.

Economic Development Department will be discussed at the next budget meeting.

The next budget meeting will be May 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The deficit now is at \$1,138,329.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Reo Griffith to adjourn this meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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

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