

MINUTES

June 10, 2003

Workshop Reconvened from June 5, 2003

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 10, 2003, Commissioners' Meeting Room Governmental Center, 913 Greensboro Street, Lexington, North Carolina, to continue the workshop of June 5, 2003 for the study and review of the proposed 2003-2004 Davidson County Budget.

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Fred Sink, Vice Chair Priscilla Hege, Cindy Akins, Billy Joe Kepley, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser, Sam Watford

County Manager Robert Hyatt, Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Senior Services Director Kathryn Gentry and Donna Campbell, Transportation Director Zeb F. Hanner, Cooperative Extension Director Robert Lopp, MIS Joel Hartley, Veterans Director Bob Leonard, Inspections Director Ron Triplette, Fire Marshal Perry Tyler, Mental Health Director Billy West, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, EMS Director Doug Lowe, Tax Administrator Joe Silver, Human Resources Director Keli Greer, Parks and Recreation Director Charles Parnell, Health Director Diane Crouse, Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Soil and Water Director Bruce Wilson, 911 Communications Director Lisa Martin, JTEC Director Pat Everhart, Solid Waste Director Charlie Brushwood. Social Services Director Catherine Lambeth, Board of Elections Director Ruth Huneycutt, Libraries Director Nancy Bates, Sheriff Office Representatives Captain Jody Shoaf and Officer Casey Tarlton

RECONVENED

Chairman Sink reconvened the meeting and asked the County Manager Robert Hyatt to proceed with the discussion of the budget.

Robert Hyatt noted that adjustments had been made since the last workshop to eliminate the tax increase.

Zeb M. Hanner noted cuts to the budget: the requested Animal Control Officer positions, half of a year pay raises (approximately \$396,000), \$70,000 from Medicaid, vehicles, and \$100,000 from Economic Development set-aside.

Robert Hyatt responded to earlier inquiries concerning the required amount needed in fund balance stating that the Institute of Government has indicated that 8% is the minimum which would be \$8,000,000-\$9,000,000. He further explained that the County's credit rating is based on the Economic Development status, fund balance, and the County's responses to community issues.

Mr. Hyatt offered further responses and noted that privatization of ambulance billing and collection and the leasing of vehicles are being surveyed with other counties and studied for future consideration.

Zeb M. Hanner noted the reduced appropriation needed this year to the Scholarship Fund.

Commissioner Truell introduced Captain Jody Shoaf and Officer Casey Tarlton of the Sheriff Office.

Captain Shoaf responded to questions from the Board and noted that DARE money is spent for literature and investment back into the program. He further responded that overtime is used for annual commitments, special courts, homeland security, searches, special investigations, schools and training. Captain Shoaf further responded to inquiries about part-time employees and stated that part-time employees have no benefits and it is more cost effective. He stated that high mileage front line cars are passed on to less demanding positions and other departments. He stated that officers do drive their Sheriff vehicles home as they are subject to call any time. He noted that the Sheriff Office has 210 employees with 115-120 as sworn officers. He stated that the detention officers are sworn but have no arrest power or vehicles, and that bailiffs are sworn and do have vehicles. Captain Shoaf further responded to the Board that motorcycles are used for parades and for funerals at the request of the family and at no charge. He responded to Commissioner Kepley that crime has been reduced but not the office work. He responded to Commissioner Watford that public safety takes priority over other situations. Captain Shoaf then presented a suggestion of fees for transportation of mental health commitments.

Commissioner Truell expressed his concern about proposals to cut one-half year of payroll raises and people programs and inquired about cutting box sites.

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Charlie Brushwood noted that approximately 16,000 people use eleven box sites each week.

Commissioner Walser asked if the cuts proposed will balance the budget without using other options.

Robert Hyatt replied that the proposed cuts would balance the budget.

Commissioner Walser noted that he is satisfied with a 3% increase to the schools and with proposed funding to Economic Development.

Vice Chair Hege requested that in-home meals in the Senior Services budget not be depleted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn the workshop.

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The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 10, 2003, for a public hearing on the proposed 2003-2004 budget and a regularly scheduled meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

County Attorney Stephen Holton, Davidson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Mock and Don Palmer

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Sink called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

B. INVOCATION

Commissioner Billy Joe Kepley

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. RECOGNITION

Doug Lowe, EMS Director, introduced Drexel Kraft, Chief of the North Carolina Emergency Medical Services Department. Mr. Kraft then introduced his associates Donnie Sides, Eddie Jordan, and Virginia Crawford who were accompanying him for presentation of an award to Davidson County EMS. Mr. Kraft presented an award to Doug Lowe and Chairman Fred Sink for the Davidson County EMS for their achievement in becoming a model system. He noted that the Davidson County EMS staff had written their plan on rules and regulation on being a model system and it was done on a voluntary basis. He further

noted that Davidson County is the fifth in the state and first in the Piedmont Triad. He noted that it would mean better care for citizens and further noted that Davidson County Community College has taken an active part in education for emergency services.

E. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS

Chairman Sink noted the register for public address.

F. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Watford and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the agenda with the addition of *Appointment of Voting Delegate to the NACo Conference* as I.14. and the deletion of Closed Session for Personnel. (Exhibit 1)

G. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

H. PUBLIC HEARING – Davidson County Proposed Budget FY2003-2004

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to open the public hearing to receive comments from the public on the proposed FY2003-2004 budget and the funding plan of the North Carolina Division of Aging Home and Community Care Block Grant included within the budget.

Fred McClure – requested a reduction in property tax and a refund to citizens of Davidson County of any overage from the one-half cent sales tax. He suggested giving two cents back to the citizens on property tax, cutting the Parks and Recreation study, implementing a hiring freeze, and giving raises to the employees.

Gail Whitehead, Director of Crisis Ministries - requested funding for Crisis Ministries.

Ray Darnell – opposed an increase to county property tax.

Bob Koonts – spoke in support of the Crisis Ministries request.

Ann Corn – spoke in support of Senior Services funding to accommodate the needs of senior citizens.

Don Palmer- advocated using fund balance before reducing the proposed Davidson County Schools Budget.

George Sowers – spoke in support of the proposed budget, referencing “if you’re going to talk the talk, you have to walk the walk.”

Doug Norman – spoke in opposition to the tax increase.

Sam Bostic – spoke in opposition to the tax increase.

Martha Nicholson, Chairman of the Senior Services Advisory Board – requested no reductions to the Senior Services budget.

Barney Hill – spoke in opposition to the increase in property tax and the \$.54 per \$100 valuation property tax. He spoke in favor of \$.18 per \$100 valuation property tax and a zero 911 surcharge.

Dr. Fred Mock - spoke in support of the Davidson County Schools Budget and noted that 19,300 children are involved.

Owen Moore – requested the removal of the postponement of the new Ledford School construction and funding per student from the list of options to reduce the budget.

Kenny Meredith – spoke in support of the requested Davidson County Schools Budget.

Commissioner Billy Joe Kepley – spoke in support of the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation and Tourism Development funding and asked that the Board support and reconsider the previous cuts that impacted the study. He advocated that the Board add an additional \$50,000 to the \$50,000 already included in the proposed budget and noted that the Tourism Development Board would raise the remainder of the funding.

Brenda Saintsing – spoke in support of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Tourism Development funding.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to close the public hearing.

Vice Chair Hege requested an explanation of the one-half cent sales tax money.

Robert Hyatt explained that the \$3.6 million reimbursement from the State was not received so the one-half cent sales tax was approved in an effort to supply the shortage. He noted that \$2,200,000 should be received by June 30, 2003 from the implementation of one-half cent sales tax in December, but the County will still be short by another \$2,200,000 as the State also withheld an additional \$850,000 in ADM

funding due for schools which brought the total shortfall to \$4.4 million for the County. He further noted that County services have continued and there is no extra money or overage.

Commissioner Akins spoke in support of the proposed Commissioners' budget and noted that there is no excess proposed in that budget.

Commissioner Truell spoke in support of the requested funding to Senior Services.

Vice Chair Hege also spoke in support of requested funding to Senior Services.

The Board agreed by consensus to consider the adoption of the FY2003-2004 Budget at the June 24, 2003 meeting. (Exhibit 2)

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION

Commissioner Kepley requested that I.2. Budget Amendments be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Consent

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve I.1. and I.3 through I.10. on the consent agenda.

1. Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of May 27, 2003.

3. GIS Data Changes by Joel Hartley, MIS Director

The Board approved GIS Data Changes: 1) the placement of GIS data layers on the County website for downloading - Street Centerlines, Watershed Map, Corporate Limits, Zoning, FEMA, Soils, and Hydrography; 2) a cap of \$1,000 on the County GIS fee schedule; 3) a new fee of \$65 for first hour of work and \$40 per hour thereafter for customized GIS information; 4) reduction in price of Maps on CD product from \$500 to \$250. (Exhibit 3)

4. SMAT III Equipment by Doug Lowe, EMS Director

The Board approved the application for the SMAT Type III Equipment Grant to provide EMS responders with protective, detection, decontamination equipment and training. (Exhibit 4)

5. Homeland Security Grant by Doug Lowe, EMS Director

The Board approved the application for the Homeland Security Grant to provide first responders with protective, assessment, detection, decontamination equipment and training. (Exhibit 5)

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6. School Resource officer Agreement by Jane Kiker, Finance Director

The Board approved the School Resource Officer Agreement effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. (Exhibit 6)

7. Resolution Supporting Preservation of Historic Trading Ford District

The Board adopted the Resolution Supporting Preservation of Historic Trading Ford District. (Exhibit 7)

8. Proposed Property Lease by Stephen C. Holton, County Attorney

The Board approved the Farm Lease Agreement between Davidson County and Michael Hanes Swicegood. (Exhibit 8)

9. Pyrotechnics Permits by Perry Tyler, Fire Marshal

The Board approved the Pyrotechnics Permits for First Pentecostal Holiness Church and the three events for the Hi-Toms Baseball organization. (Exhibit 9)

10. Additions to the NC Secondary Road System by Guy Cornman, Planning and Zoning Director

The Board approved the addition of Ridgewood Road in Oaktree subdivision, Boone Township and adopted the SR2 Resolution. (Exhibit 10)

Deliberation

2. Budget Amendments by Zeb M. Hanner, Budget Officer

On a motion by Commissioner Kepley and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the budget amendments with a change in wording for the Recreation line item transfer contained in the *Summary of Budget Amendments for Approval* to read “to replace two obsolete computers.” (See exhibit 11)

Personnel – Line item transfer of \$2,232 to cover shortfalls on certain line items for the year.

Recreation – Line item transfer of \$3,000 from Departmental supplies to Capital Equipment to purchase 2 computers.

Library – Line item transfer of \$5,016.34 to purchase removable partition for North Davidson Branch and shelving for Thomasville Branch.

Tax – Appropriate additional tax revenue for discoveries of \$8,551.31 made by Evans & Associates Consulting Group.

Lexington City Schools – Move leftover funds of \$49,332 from previous projects to complete current roofing needs.

Fire Districts – Appropriate excess funds collected for South Emmons, \$2,000; Central, \$3,690; Linwood, \$4,930; Fairgrove, \$18,490; North Lexington Triangle, \$6,050.

(Exhibit 11)

11. Mental Health Management Agreement by Billy West, Mental Health Director

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Mental Health Management Agreement between Davidson County and Piedmont Behavioral Health.

(Exhibit 12)

12. Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract by Dwayne Childress, Purchasing Director

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Walser the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve Johnson Controls, Inc. as Davidson County's partner in the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract and the Project Development Agreement Schedule.

(Exhibit 13)

13. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Funding Plan for FY2003-2004 by Catherine Lambeth, JCPC Chair

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Plan for FY2003-2004.

(Exhibit 14)

14. Appointment of Voting Delegate to NACo Conference

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to appoint Sam Watford as voting delegate to the NACo Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July 2003.

(Exhibit 15)

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J. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted
unanimously 7-0 to adjourn.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman
Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Stephen C. Holton, Clerk to the Board
Davidson County Board of Commissioners