

**May 7, 2013**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for a Special Called Meeting at 4:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Conference Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman E. Shane Mitchell, Vice-Chairman Sidney E. Dunston, Commissioners David T. Bunn, Harry L. Foy, Jr., John M. May, Cedric K. Jones and Don Lancaster.

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order for the purpose of a discussion on specific departmental budget requests for additional funding to be incorporated into the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

**DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS**Administration

- County Manager Angela L. Harris reminded the Board a budget proposal would not be presented at this time. She reiterated the discussion would include specific departmental requests for additional funding to be considered for the upcoming budget.

Education

- Dr. Ed Ingram, Franklin County Schools Superintendent, said requests for education included three large items: a new Franklinton Middle School, the addition of ten school resource officers and an increase in teacher supplements. Doug Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, offered further details about the funding requests. Mr. Moore said the new Franklinton Middle School would be located in the former Franklinton High School building and any students reassigned there would relieve overcrowding at Cedar Creek Middle School. He suggested placement of a sworn law enforcement officer at each elementary school, the new Franklinton Middle School and the Creative Education Center. Mr. Moore suggested an increase in the annual teacher supplement by \$300. As of March 12, 2013, he said 24 teachers had been lost to Wake County and stated there had been no supplement increase in quite some time. Vice-Chairman Dunston asked if a vehicle would accompany each of the school resource officers and if that was included in the school's budget request. Mr. Moore said a vehicle would not accompany each officer and said the request is not included in the school system's budget request. Commissioner May said he is concerned about the \$600,000 that would be repeated each year and asked if other safety/security options had been investigated. Dr. Ingram said the school system is looking at card readers on side doors as well as other action steps that can be taken internally. Tommy Piper, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, stated fencing is already in place, as well as exterior security lighting and surveillance cameras at each school campus.

Emergency Medical Services

- Jeff Lewis, Emergency Services Director, said his departmental requests included four large items: 12 new Paramedic positions, four new ambulances, a new station in Epsom as well as a Deputy Fire Marshal position. Mr. Lewis said volunteer support is dwindling and due to the increase in call volume, specifically in the Youngsville rescue district, new Paramedic positions are needed in order to maintain 24/7 Paramedic coverage. Mr. Lewis said there had been major

issues with the 2008 model ambulances and the department is currently at 180% of its vehicle maintenance budget. Commissioner Lancaster asked if there was truly a need for a Deputy Fire Marshal and if so, could the addition be postponed another year. Mr. Lewis said it could be postponed and explained the request is for a Deputy Fire Marshal Safety Inspector that would assist the Inspections Department not only with inspections, but with some investigations as well.

### Health

- Dr. Chris Szwagiel, Health Director, said his departmental requests included three large items: Health Clinic budget, Dental program and Home Health budget. The department is requesting three positions to include a Computer Specialist, Medical Lab Technician and Social Worker II. Dr. Szwagiel said in the early 2000's, the department had approximately 80 staff. Currently he said there are approximately 57. He said the department is not receiving enough revenue and that it cannot compete with the private sector and Wake County. He said In order for the department to have the correct proportion of dentists to patients, it would need 16 dentists rather than the eight it has currently. As of April 2013, he said Medicare reduced its payments by 2% across the board to all home health agencies due to Health Care Reform. Chairman Mitchell asked for a justification for increase in the dental program if the number of patients and income is decreasing. Dr. Szwagiel said expenses are not decreasing and said it is mainly for salaries and fringe benefits. Dr. Szwagiel said in 2012, the lab processed 22,279 tests, with 13,109 tested "in-house" and 9,170 sent out. He said with sufficient staffing, some of the 9,170 tests sent out could be tested in-house, resulting in a cost savings. Chairman Mitchell asked if there is a cost associated with some tests that are paid for versus the ones that are not. Dr. Szwagiel said he did not know the estimated test cost.

### Library

- Holt Kornegay, Library Director, said the Library's budget specifically addresses a request for part-time personnel and opening a branch in Centerville. In order to meet patron demand, provide adequate security and continuity of services at all libraries, he said additional part-time personnel are needed. He suggested a branch in Centerville would address a service population of 6,709 persons in the Sandy Creek, Gold Mine and Cedar Rock townships. Vice-Chairman Dunston said in light of the need for more space, he would think the Library's budget would include expanding and improvements for the central library in Louisburg.

### Administration

- Mrs. Harris asked for further discussion from the Board regarding the presented requests. Commissioner Lancaster said the County should fund the middle school, but said further discussion is needed regarding the request for resource officers. Commissioner Lancaster asked Jeff Lewis if EMS needed four new ambulances, and Vice-Chairman Dunston asked if two new ambulances would suffice. Mr. Lewis said EMS needs four new ambulances, but that he would accept what is approved. He commented the vehicle maintenance budget would be extremely high. Chairman Mitchell and Commissioner Lancaster said the Board needs more information and explanation from the Health Department on their requests. Commissioner Foy said he fully supported a COLA (cost of living adjustment) for county employees, as long as there was no tax increase. Mrs. Harris said in order to avoid a tax increase, the middle school and COLA would

likely have to be taken off the table, unless fund balance is used. The Board was in agreement that an appropriation from fund balance was necessary.

At approximately 7:45 P.M., Chairman Mitchell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Foy. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

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E. Shane Mitchell, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

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