

Public Hearing and Budget Committee Minutes

June 2, 2015 6:30PM

Members Present: Ron Woody, Chairman; Ron Berry; Steve Kelley; Bobby Collier; Randy Ellis

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: Kaley Walker, Director of Accounts and Budgets; James Brummett, Commissioner; Greg Ferguson, Stan Moore, Commissioner; Darryl Meadows, Commissioner; Millard Hendrickson, Jr, Commissioner; Carolyn Granger, Commissioner; Todd Fink, Commissioner; Chris Johnson, Commissioner; Mike Hooks, Commissioner; Benny East, Commissioner; Cindy Simpson, Roane County News; Several members of the public along with county and school employees. See additional sign in sheet for audience attendees who signed up to speak.

Public Hearing Convened: Meeting called to order by Chairman Woody @ 6:30pm

Woody welcomed the attendees and let them know that once a review of the entire budget was covered, then the public hearing would be open to comments.

Woody explained the budgeting process. It begins in January and deliberation with the budget committee starts in March or April and works through the end of June. Upon the budget committee's complete recommendation a public hearing and the final budget committee will be held. The budget committee has met and deliberated at least 120 combined hours this year over the course of several meetings, some of them lasting all day.

Woody reviewed the laws governing the county budgeting process, including state and local policies which have been enacted. Woody described the fund structure of the county and how each fund is operated as a separate company with separate revenue streams. He reviewed the fund balance needs of each type of fund due to revenue receipt.

Woody discussed the reappraisal process and how the intent is to shift the tax burden to areas of growth – or to equalize the tax burden.

New items added to the government this year are a program in the jail for women inmates, 2 part time veteran service officers, and maintenance work at the Swan Pond Sports Complex which is anticipated to be turned over to the county in the next 2-3 months.

After the public hearing, the budget committee may make any amendments to the three (3) resolutions or they may affirm their prior recommendation. At this point the budget committee will adjourn and the full commission will go into a work session in the Qualls Courtroom. At the work session there will be no public input, and no votes taken.

Woody thanked the commissioners present, the school board members present, the elected officials present and the public for their attendance.

A 30 minute presentation was given on the entire budget overview and is available on the website at www.roanecountytn.gov . It is executive summary #15d.

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Comments from the public began around 7:15 pm.

Woody asked if anyone would like to address the committee during the public hearing. The attached sheet which has names checked off commented on the budget. Specific comments were addressed to support a school property tax increase of 20 cents. Also a number of comments opposed any tax increase.

After three calls for additional comments, having none offered the public hearing was closed at 7:51 pm.

Budget Committee Meeting Convened: Meeting called to order by Chairman Woody @7:51pm.

2016 Budget:

Upon completion of the public hearing Woody asked the budget committee if there were any amendments to be proposed.

Motion to separate the 116 & 123 funds back to their previously approved separate tax rates, revenues and appropriations: Collier

2nd: Kelley

On a **voice vote** motion **passed**.

Motion to shift the rural property tax (4 pennies) from the Solid Waste Fund (116) to the Fire and Animal Control Fund (121) as well as shift \$300,000 of sales tax from the 121 fund to the 116 fund: Ellis

2nd: Collier

On a **voice vote** motion **passed**.

Woody asked if the members had any other recommended budget adjustments.

Berry discussed putting the fee offices back on the fee system. An elected official stated on the record that the commission/committee considered “employees last”, and this came from an elected official who’s office fees don’t cover the expenses generated and is paid for by property taxes.

Motion to amend the Appropriation Resolution to remove fee offices from budget system: Berry

2nd: Kelley

Berry – Yes Kelley – Pass Collier – No Ellis – No

Motion by Collier **second** by Kelley to adjourn @ 8:04 pm. On a **voice vote**, Motion **passed**.

Minutes submitted by Director Walker

Public Hearing

Name

Address

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Barbara Brooks

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Zach Williams

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