

2018 Budget – Budget Committee Minutes

June 22, 2017 6:00PM

Public Hearing

Present: Chairman of Budget, Ron Woody; Commissioners of the Budget Committee: Darryl Meadows; Junior Hendrickson; Steve Kelley; Carolyn Granger; Additional Commissioners: Greg Ferguson; Chris Johnson; Mike Hooks; Benny East; Ron Berry; and Stanley Moore

Additional: Director of Accounts and Budgets, Connie Aytes; guests –Leah Watkins, Director of Schools, Eric Harbin, Business Manager, Purchasing Agent, Lynn Farnham; OES Director Scott Stout; EMS Director Tim Suter; and Roane County News reporter, Damon Lawrence

Meeting Convened: Meeting called to order by Chairman Woody @ 6:00 PM

Opening the floor for the public:

Chairman Woody opened the floor to the public to speak on the budget. Eddy Jones, with the Roane County came to the podium to inform the Budget Committee members that a request for additional funding for the South Building's and the Midtown Station's operation was made previously to the DoAB but was not addressed in the budget process. Non-Profit items are to be addressed through the Non-Profit Committee was relayed to Mr. Jones at this time by Chairman Woody.

Mr. Jones mentioned the request is to help with operating cost as their call volume has almost doubled in the last six years. A total of \$26,000 of additional funding has been requested. Unfortunately, if the south station funding is not secured this year the Rescue Squad will be selling the site.

Committee members had asked what the cost of the building would be and a round figure of approximately \$300,000. Additional comments were made on the occupancy of that building and we were informed that there are four bays with one of those bays supporting one Ambulance. There are also sleeping quarters for both departments.

At this time, an additional request for any other citizen to come and speak to the committee was made and no other public comments were made, the meeting was closed at 6:21pm.

Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Convened: Meeting called to order by Chairman Woody @ 6:22 PM

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Public Hearing Decisions:

Presented to the committee was the **motion** by Kelley, 2nd by Meadows to defer the request from Mr. Jones to the Non-Profit Committee and also that the following departments (OES, Ambulance, and the Rescue Squad) for their recommendations.

At this meeting, it is the wishes of the budget committee that they come together and put forth effort to discuss a plan on what to do with the South Building.

Operational Statement:

Chairman Woody opened the next discussion on the operational statement and the beginning fund balances. He advised the committee that there were major increases in the inmate medical as well as other departments that had cause the decrease in beginning fund balance to the General Fund. All other funds saw either increases to revenue or they too had additional costs that were not projected in the early months of April/May.

Motion by Kelley 2nd by Granger to approve the changes to the beginning estimated fund balances (See Attachment) and to have the understanding that changes will be made as the actual unaudited numbers are determined after the close of 2017 books.

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

Appropriation Resolution:

The Appropriation Resolution was presented by Co. Executive Woody. This appropriation is the final approval made by the budget committee and is subject to change during the County Commission's approval of the budget.

Motion by Kelley 2nd by Granger to approve and recommend to the County Commission the Appropriation Resolution as presented by the Budget Committee

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

Tax Levy Resolution:

The Tax Levy Resolution was also presented by Co. Executive Woody. This Tax Levy does not have a tax increase, only a penny moved from the Ambulance department to the General Fund.

Motion by Kelley 2nd by Granger to approve and recommend to the County Commission the Tax Levy Resolution as presented by the Budget Committee.

Executive Woody then gave the Committee an opportunity to amend the Resolution if support exhibited for the school building program and related timing.

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School Timing on Project:

Once speaking of the tax levy and seeing no tax increases, Co. Executive Woody proceeded to inform the committee, commission and the audience that the main problem with the High School Project is its timing. Commissioner Ron Berry brought to the table for discussion about Wheel Tax or to increase the local sales tax. Both which would/should have the approval of the citizens through a referendum.

Commissioners noted several points that he wanted to see happen before any decision is brought to the commission:

1. The School Board and School Department should flush out plans that are better understanding and to take up to next year to present their plan.
2. Have a better understanding of the census of the citizens and having a tax increase
3. Where are the pictures. What are the schools going to look like?
4. At what point do we cross when there is a no point of return if at any time after this commission votes that another commission in the future can rescind the future funding of the projects? Will it cost more to break the contracts or just push forward to borrow the funds?

Some concerns were about the increasing of the maintenance of effort and all the hidden costs that are associated with a project of this magnitude.

Director of Schools, Leah Watkins listen to all the discussion and wanted to take what was said and to also reiterate that there is still important input that is needed to be collected and formulate to have a more precise plan on the new High School and what to do with the existing buildings and middle schools.

At this time, the discussion on the schools ceased and Chairman Woody asked for any amendments to the Tax Resolution. Hearing none, Woody asked for a motion on the motion.

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

Woody then asked if any commissioner desired to review the 52-slide power point that summarizes the Budget. Woody indicated that all budget materials and power point was posted on the website. Hearing no request, the budget committee was adjourned and no formal work session developed.

Adjournment

Motion by Granger 2nd by Meadows to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Connie Aytes