



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session
Thursday, May 2, 2024 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad George
Jacqueline A. Newton
Fred McCoy
Jerry Groves

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

OTHERS PRESENT: David Andrews, County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board
Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public.

1 PENDER COUNTY SCHOOLS

4:00PM Dr. Breedlove - Superintendent

1.1 Superintendent Dr. Brad Breedlove presented the Pender County Schools' budget for FY24-25. Dr. Breedlove explained this year they utilized a zero-based budget process, meaning they did not base their budget on last year's but rather started at zero. Dr. Breedlove discussed the state and local budget factors for the budget and went over areas of need which included an increase in instructional support personnel, local supplement, and student support. Pender County Schools will not be receiving ESSER funds next year which has resulted in an increase of funds requested from the County. Dr. Breedlove answered questions from the Board.

2 FORESTRY

5:00PM Hagan Blake - Ranger

2.1 Ranger Blake Hagan presented the forestry budget. Ranger Hagan explained the County funds forty percent of their budget and the state funds sixty percent. Forestry is asking the County to fund \$331,344.00. This is a \$19,000.00 increase from last year and is mostly due to salaries. Ranger Hagan answered questions from the Board.

3 SOIL AND WATER

5:10PM Don Rawls - District Supervisor

- 3.1 District Supervisor Don Rawls presented the soil and water budget. Rawls asked the Board for \$99,346.00, an increase of roughly \$3,000.00 from last year. This is due to salaries. Rawls answered questions from the Board.

4 FIRE - ATKINSON

5:20PM Jason Turner - Chief

- 4.1 Chief Jason Turner presented Atkinson Fire's budget. Chief Turner discussed changes between last year and this year's budget which include a radio project, computer systems, etc. Chief Turner answered questions from the Board.

5 FIRE - PENDERLEA DUPLIN

5:30PM Taylor Johnson - Chief

- 5.1 Chief Taylor Johnson presented the Penderlea / Duplin Fire budget. Chief Johnson asked to increase the tax rate to seven cents. He answered questions from the Board.

6 FIRE - ROCKY POINT

5:40PM Michael Stophel - Chief
Andrew Short - Deputy Chief

- 6.1 Chief Michael Stophel and Deputy Chief Andrew Short were not present to discuss the Rocky Point Fire budget.

7 FIRE - PENDER CENTRAL (BURGAW)

5:50PM James Gantt - Manager
Sam George - Interim Chief

- 7.1 Manager James Gantt and Interim Chief Sam George presented the Pender Central (Burgaw) Fire budget. Manager Gantt asked the Board for \$250,000.00 for staffing. Manager Gantt and Chief George answered questions from the Board.

8 BREAK

6:00PM

9 FIRE - PENDERLEA

6:10PM Wray Lefler - Chief

- 9.1 Chief Wray Lefler presented the Penderlea Fire budget. Chief Wray requested County funding for staffing, radios, etc. He answered

questions from the Board.

10 FIRE - MAPEL HILL

6:20PM Harold Motley - Chief

10.1 Chief Harold Motley presented the Mapel Hill Fire budget. Chief Motley requested \$77,522.00. He answered questions from the Board.

11 FIRE - SHILOH

6:30PM Amy Burton - Fire Marshall

11.1 Fire Marshall Amy Burton presented the Shiloh Fire budget. Fire Marshall Burton requested all tax funds to be sent to Penderlea fire. The Board directed their questions to Fire Marshall Burton and County Manager David Andrews.

12 PENDER EMS AND FIRE

6:45PM Everett Baysden - Chief

12.1 Chief Everett Baysden presented the EMS and Fire budget. Chief Baysden noted there has not been a tax rate increase for fire since 2016 and for EMS since 2018. He discussed the growth in the County needs from EMS and Fire.

13 SHERIFF, JAIL, ANIMAL CONTROL

7:15PM Alan Cutler - Sheriff

13.1 Sheriff Alan Cutler presented the Sheriff, Jail, and Animal Control Budget. Sheriff Cutler expressed that he agreed with the budget laid out by County Management and Finance.

14 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

7:45PM Tommy Batson - Director

14.1 Director Tommy Batson presented the Emergency Management Budget with Fire Marshall Amy Burton. They both discussed what the budget would look like moving forward with the Fire Marshall office separating from Emergency Management.

14.2 The budget work session ended at 7:24PM.