

CARTER COUNTY  
BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 13, 2018

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Robert Acuff, Al Meehan, Ronnie Trivett, Isaiah Grindstaff, Ross Garland,  
John Lewis, Sonja Culler and Kelly Collins

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Sonja Culler, Chairwoman

ROLL CALL: Quorum

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• ADOPT AGENDA

Ross Garland asked that an item Susan Robinson had requested be put on the agenda regarding Industrial Park signage be added to New Business. Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by Ross Garland to approve the amended agenda. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by John Lewis, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2018, budget meeting as presented. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

• PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Clark from Watauga addressed the committee at this time stating he had looked over the budget and questioned why, when a line item had money left over in the previous budget, there was an increase in the amount requested for the same line item in the new budget. Mark Tester stated he had reviewed the budget, excluding the School Department's budget, and found over 1.5 million difference in actual spending than what was budgeted.

• OLD BUSINESS

None

• NEW BUSINESS

The proposed budget for 2018-2019 was now on the floor for discussion. Chairwoman Culler stated the proposed budget had been sent back to the Budget Committee having been vetoed by the Mayor. She further stated Commissioner Mike Hill had received information from the Comptroller the County's Debt Service account was in good shape and could be used to fund the proposed budget. Mayor Humphrey informed the committee a check in the amount of \$94,702.12 had been received from Tennessee Unclaimed Property and would like to see that money used to restore cuts previously made to the Highway and EMS budgets and the Senior Citizens non-profit funding. Motion was made by John Lewis, seconded by Ronnie Trivett to take .11cents from Debt Service to fund the proposed 2018-2019 budget leaving the tax rate at the present \$2.47. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	nay
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Dr. Acuff asked for a discussion of the pros and cons of paying down two (2) capital outlay notes on the schools. His concern was by taking down the Debt Service balance the county may lose it's ability to borrow money or that it could affect the bond rating. He asked Finance Director Brad Burke for the total of the school notes and was told it was \$128,053.72 as of the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018. Motion was then made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Ross Garland to take the \$128,053.72 from the General Fund unassigned fund balance to pay these debts off. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Kelly Collins voiced her disapproval of cutting the Senior Citizens budget in an amount of almost \$600 and made a motion to take the money from unclaimed property in the amount of \$94,702.12, and replace the budgets cuts to the Highway Department in the amount of \$60,000, the EMS in the amount of \$20,000 and the Senior Citizens in the amount of approximately \$600. At this time Josh Hardin, County Attorney, informed the committee there had to be a percentage of the money from unclaimed property put into a reserve fund and could not be completely disbursed at one time. Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to put 20% of the money into reserve which totals an amount of \$18,940.42. This would leave \$75,761.70 available for disbursement. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Commissioner Collins' motion was back on the floor to refund the cuts to the Highway Department, EMS and the Senior Citizens. Due to the 20% put into reserve she proposed to give the Highway Department \$50,000, EMS \$20,000 and Senior Citizens \$600. At this time the County Attorney stated the Budget Resolutions were already prepared and Kelly Collins withdrew her motion, postponing the reallocation until next month's meeting.

Financing for the Courthouse Security project was next on the agenda. As the Resolution passed for said funding was vetoed by the Mayor at the last Commission meeting, the means of funding this project was once again an issue. On behalf of the Building and Grounds committee, Isaiah Grindstaff stated this matter had been discussed at length at their last meeting and the primary problem was with paying the money borrowed from Debt Service back with 2% interest. Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by Ronnie Trivett, to take \$100,000 from litigation and borrow \$500,000 from Debt Service with 2% interest giving his reasons for thinking it was "good business". Mayor Humphrey stated his disapproval of borrowing money from yourself and charging yourself interest. He further stated this was the exact motion he vetoed before and would veto again. By roll call vote as follows, motion failed.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	nay
Ronnie Trivett	nay	Isaiah Grindstaff	nay
Ross Garland	nay	John Lewis	nay
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	nay

Motion was then made by Ross Garland, seconded by Ronnie Trivett, to take \$150,000 from litigation and \$450,000 from fund balance for the Courthouse Security project. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	nay	Kelly Collins	aye

Chairwoman Cullers informed the committee Melissa Moreland, Clerk and Master, had been put in charge of grants toward the courthouse security, stating she had just turned in a grant request this past week.

At the request of Susan Robinson, Director of Economic and Community Development, motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Al Meehan for the Budget Committee to give their approval for her to continue a Signage Project for the industrial parks in the county which she has been working on with the TVA. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

• BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Robert Acuff, to approve General Fund 101, Budget Amendment #2, Items #1 thru # 3 in the amount of \$130,380.50 as presented. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Motion was made by John Lewis, seconded by Robert Acuff, to approve Highway/Public Works Fund #131, Budget Amendment #1, Item #1 in the amount of \$586,987.03 as presented. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by John Lewis to approve the donations to the Animal Shelter for June 2018 in the amount of \$2,467.33. There was also two (2) checks from the Delwader Estate in the amounts of \$227,000 for dog runs and \$2,000 for HVAC repairs. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Al Meehan to approve the donations to the Animal Shelter for the month of July, 2018, from Walmart in the amount of \$1,412.35. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Al Meehan	aye
Ronnie Trivett	aye	Isaiah Grindstaff	aye
Ross Garland	aye	John Lewis	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Kelly Collins	aye

Robert Acuff reported he had read in the J.C. Press the Washington County Commissioners were moving toward digital tablets to keep their packets, budgets, etc. He strongly suggested the county look into that as well as a Commission Web Page. He stated it would save the county time and money in the long run and make it easier to share county business with constituents as county business, as well as resolutions, could be put on the site.

On motion by John Lewis, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sonja Culler, Chairwoman