

BUDGET COMMITTEE

May 13, 2013

5:15 PM

---

**PRESENT:** Ken Arney, Charlie Bayless, Tom Bowers, Nancy Brown, Pat Hicks, Lawrence Hodge, Scott Sams, and Harry Sisk.

The meeting was called to order by Harry Sisk.

Quorum present.

Motion made by Tom Bowers, second by Lawrence Hodge to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lawrence Hodge, second by Tom Bowers to approve the March 11, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

---

- **Animal Shelter Donation Recognitions:** Finance Director Ingrid Deloach presented donations given to the Animal Shelter since the March 11, 2013 budget meeting. A listing of donations is attached.

Motion was made by Pat Hicks with a second from Nancy Brown to accept the donations totaling \$280. Motion carried.

- **Deep Ocean Engineering, Inc. Refund:** Mrs. Deloach advised the committee the County has received funds from the bankruptcy court on behalf of Deep Ocean Engineering. She said the County's account was already credited in full therefore the funds disbursed by the bankruptcy court do not belong to Carter County. She requested the funds be returned. Attached are two letters from County Attorney Keith Bowers on the matter.

Motion was made by Ken Arney with a second from Tom Bowers to refund the \$17,195.39 received on behalf of Deep Ocean Engineering, Inc back to the Bankruptcy Trustee. Motion carried.

- **Courthouse & Jail Maintenance Reserve Projects:** Mayor Humphrey discussed the need to replace the roof at the Courthouse Annex and pave the parking lot at the old jail. He stated the estimate to complete both projects is \$599,000 which exceeds the amount in a reserve account for these projects. Building & Grounds recommended the roofing project be brought to the Budget Committee. Mayor Humphrey said he felt both projects need to be addressed. Charlie Bayless asked if a whole new roof is necessary on the Annex. Mayor Humphrey said yes, the roof currently on the Annex is well past its expected life and in need of replacement. Harry Sisk asked what the cost would be to replace the roof. Finance Director Ingrid Deloach said they currently have a rough estimate on the roof but the project would have to be bid out. Mayor Humphrey added the estimate they do have is approximately \$70,000 more than the balance in the reserve account. Tom Bowers said he has spoken with officials from The City of Elizabethton and they are willing to give the County more time to get the parking lot paved if we will clean up that area for the time being.

Motion was made by Charlie Bayless with a second from Lawrence Hodge to transfer funds from fund balance to the reserve account to cover the cost of a new roof on the Annex, not to exceed \$70,000. Finance Director Ingrid Deloach said that over the last five years the County has averaged over \$70,000 going into the reserve account. Funds will be put into the reserve account for this year at the end of the fiscal year. Tom Bowers asked to amend that motion to not to exceed \$30,000. Charlie Bayless considered the motion friendly. A voice roll call vote was as follows:

Ken Arney: aye	Pat Hicks: aye
Charlie Bayless: aye	Lawrence Hodge: aye
Tom Bowers: aye	Scott Sams: aye
Nancy Brown: aye	Harry Sisk: aye

All ayes, motion carried.

- **EMA Request:** Andrew Worley said as part of a Homeland Security Grant his department was given funds to purchase a vehicle. He is requesting to move funds within his budget to cover the additional cost of the vehicle not covered by the grant. Attached is the requested amendment.

Motion was made by Nancy Brown with a second from Scott Sams to approve the requested amendment for the purchase of a new vehicle for EMA. Motion carried.

- **General Fund 101 Amendment #7:** Motion was made by Lawrence Hodge with a second from Ken Arney to approve General Fund 101 Amendment #7 with twenty-nine items, with \$42,786.16 coming from fund balance. A voice roll call vote was as follows:

Ken Arney: aye	Pat Hicks: aye
Charlie Bayless: aye	Lawrence Hodge: aye
Tom Bowers: aye	Scott Sams: aye
Nancy Brown: aye	Harry Sisk: aye

All ayes, motion carried.

- **Solid Waste Fund 116 Amendment #4:** Motion was made by Tom Bowers with a second from Ken Arney to approve Solid Waste Fund 116 Budget Amendment #4 with 1 item. Motion carried.
- **Highway Fund 131 Amendment #1:** Motion was made by Ken Arney with a second from Pat Hicks to approve Highway Fund 131 Amendment #1 with 1 item. Motion carried.
- **General Purpose School Fund 141 Amendment #7:** Motion was made by Nancy Brown with a second from Tom Bowers to approve General Purpose School Fund Amendment #7 with 3 items. Motion carried.
- **General Purpose School Fund 141 Amendment #8:** Motion was made by Pat Hicks with a second from Tom Bowers to approve General Purpose School Fund Amendment #8 with 4 items. Motion carried.

- **General Purpose School Fund 141 Amendment #9:** Motion was made by Lawrence Hodge with a second from Tom Bowers to approve General Purpose School Fund Amendment #9 with 1 item. Motion carried.
  
- **Health & Welfare Referral of Rescue Squad:** Jo Ann Blankenship said she spoke with The City of Elizabethton to find out why they gave the Rescue Squad a four year contract. Jerome Kitchens informed her the decision was based on the city's four nursing homes and to give some stability. The City has budgeted \$2,000 to be used if needed for hazardous cleanup for fiscal year 2013-2014. Ms. Blankenship said she has spoke with people from the State, reviewed records, contacted the better business bureau as well as talk to people from Sycamore Shoals and has not seen any major complaints. Through her research she found Unicoi County pays Medic One \$181,000 annually for their rescue services. A representative from Medic One told Ms. Blankenship if his company were to provide the services as provided by the Carter County Rescue Squad it would likely cost three times what the Rescue Squad is requesting. Ms. Blankenship has spoken with the Administrator for Roan Highlands Nursing Center in Roan Mountain. The administrator worried the nursing home would not get prompt attention with a different ambulance service. Ms. Blankenship said Tom Anderson had previously voiced concerns to her about hiking and biking events already planned for this summer in rural areas. Mr. Anderson is concerned there may not be ambulance service available during these events. Ms. Blankenship said there are approximately 43,248 people living in Carter County, outside the Elizabethton City limits that will be affected by the decision made.  
Mayor Humphrey stated neither the Sheriff's Department nor EMA is able to provide search and rescue services. He also reiterated the statements of Medic One. The Carter County Rescue Squad has sent a letter stating funding of \$225,000 would be required for services to continue as they have in the past. Tom Bowers said he has had several complaints about the Carter County Rescue Squad, mostly with regard to their rates. Mr. Bowers said he has spoken with the gentleman from Medic One and he has trained the local volunteer fire departments in rescue procedures. Mr. Bowers said he is confident there will be ambulance service in place after June 30, 2013 whether it is the Rescue Squad or another organization. Tom Bowers would like to bid out rescue services to see if there would be a cost savings with another company.  
Nancy Brown urged the committee to make a decision and do the right thing. Mayor Humphrey suggested the County come to an agreement with the Rescue Squad for fiscal year 2013-2014 and use that year to research options. Ken Arney and Tom Bowers stated they did not feel it was appropriate for a not-for-profit to sue patients who do not pay. The Rescue Squad's attorney Richard Norris responded by saying any business has to have the authority to sue. He also stated there is a form anyone who owes the Rescue Squad can fill out if they are indigent and no further action will be taken to collect debt. Ken Arney stated he did not understand why the Rescue Squad previously seemed ok with a four year contract at the current level of funding but when the County proposed a one year contract the acceptable funding over doubled. Harry Sisk asked Terry Arnold if the requested \$225,000 is negotiable. Mr. Arnold responded he is not going to get into it. He said he was instructed to bring the offer to the County by the board of directors. Harry Sisk said it seems risky to try to change service providers on such short notice. Mr. Sisk added the people of Carter County deserve the service that \$225,000 can provide. Tom Bowers said he would like to be provided with detailed information on the historical cost of providing rescue services to Carter County before a decision is made.

Motion was made by Scott Sams with a second from Nancy Brown to accept the offer of \$225,000 for a one year contract from the Rescue Squad. A voice roll call was as follows:

Ken Arney: no	Pat Hicks: aye
Charlie Bayless: pass	Lawrence Hodge: no
Tom Bowers: no	Scott Sams: aye
Nancy Brown: aye	Harry Sisk: aye

Four ayes, three no, one pass, motion failed.

Motion was made by Tom Bowers with a second from Ken Arney to entertain negotiations with the Carter County Rescue Squad for the limited time of the next two weeks. A voice roll call was as follows:

Ken Arney: aye	Pat Hicks: pass
Charlie Bayless: aye	Lawrence Hodge: aye
Tom Bowers: aye	Scott Sams: aye
Nancy Brown: no	Harry Sisk: pass

Five ayes, one no, two pass, motion carried.

Mayor Humphrey said he feels the Budget Committee can find the additional money to fund the Rescue Squad request. Scott Sams noted the amount of funding the Rescue Squad is requesting equates to less than \$6 per county resident.

Adjourn to budget workshop

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Byrd

---

Harry Sisk,                      Approved for File