

BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 12, 2015

6:00 P.M.

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**Present:** Buford Peters, Nancy Brown, Ronnie Trivett, L.C. Tester, Ross Garland, John Lewis, Sonja Culler, Robert Carroll

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sonja Culler.

Roll was called during Nominating Committee. All present.

Quorum present.

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- **Adopt Agenda:** Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by John Lewis to adopt amended agenda. All ayes. Motion carried
- **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by John Lewis, second by L.C. Tester to approve minutes from the September 14th, 2015 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Roy Livingston began by asking what a budget is and how it's operated. Remarks were given by Chairwoman Culler and Finance Director Byrd. It was noted our Budget has been sent to Nashville and is pending approval. The recent bonuses, to county employees, were taken from the General Fund that was returned from the budget last year and was accepted through the State Comptroller's office. L.C. Tester noted the County Commission has not given employees a raise since 2006. The County School Budget was also discussed and details were given by School Director Ward and Mrs. Byrd.

- **Old Business:**

**Pay Scale Discussions:** Several handouts were dispersed regarding Department personnel and wage schedules. Discussion followed regarding comparisons of percentage to revenue values within the county, benefit and insurance packages, job loss percentages and turnover rates. Director Ward discussed some of his experiences within the school system, and felt the need to compensate our employees who remain loyal and remain within the system. Chief Deputy Parrish also believes that most employees want to remain loyal and provide their service within Carter Co. but would ask the county in turn to show their loyalty and commitment to the employees also. Buford Peters expressed interest in a Cost of Living raise and to include this in our annual Budget Process. The research process is ongoing concerning this matter and Employee raises are still under consideration.

- **EMA Request:**

Director Smith approached the committee regarding the implementation of a mass notification system. Everbridge, who previously gave a detailed presentation to the Full Commission, would provide the service. The County would be responsible for roughly \$15,000.00 annually for the system. The City of Elizabethton has agreed to provide around \$5,000.00, the Sheriff's Dept. and a small utility district have also given their consideration for the system. Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett to allot \$15,000.00 from Fund Balance to cover the cost of the system. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

After the Highway Dept.'s request was addressed, the request was brought up again for reconsideration. Ms. Culler stepped down from her role as Chairwoman as Buford Peters assumed the role as Chair. Ms. Culler made the motion, second by Ronnie Trivett to reconsider the EMA request for the Mass Notification system.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Nay
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Nay

Motion carried.

Ms. Culler then made the motion, second by Ronnie Trivett, to take \$15,000.00 from General Fund to cover the County's portion for purchase of the system.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Nay
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Nay

Motion carried.

The Chair was then turned back over to Ms. Culler from Mr. Peters.

- **Highway Dept. Request:** Superintendent Colbaugh gave an update on the bridge in Roan Mountain and what means would be necessary for repairs. The bridge was determined structurally safe, by TDOT, as long as the decks were repaired. An estimate has been obtained for the bridge deck panels of \$38,500.00, as well as an estimate for construction of a safety platform to remove/install the new deck panels. An estimate of \$10,000.00 would be needed for Guardrail installation. Estimate totals were around \$94,479.00. Mr. Colbaugh requested \$100,000.00 to be taken from the Highway Dept. Emergency Fund to cover repair costs.

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by John Lewis, to take \$100,000.00 from the Highway Dept. Emergency Fund to cover costs of bridge repair.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **Animal Shelter Donations:** Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by L.C. Tester to accept donations to the Animal Shelter. Total: \$570.00

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **General Fund 101 Amendment #3:** Multiple line items. Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by L.C. Tester to approve General Fund 101 Amendment #3. Total: \$71,824.42

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **General Purpose School Fund 141 Amendment #3:** Motion made by Nancy Brown, second by L.C. Tester, to approve School Fund 141 Amendment #3. Total: \$827,666.45

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **Federal Projects Fund 142 Budget Recognition:** Motion made by Ronnie Trivett, second by L.C. Tester, to accept Federal Projects Fund 142 Budget Recognition. Total: \$96,554.40

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **Federal Projects Fund 142 Amendment #1:** Motion was made by L.C. Tester, second by Ronnie Trivett, to approve Federal Projects Fund 142 Amendment #1. Total: \$856,695.87

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **Commission Comments:** Mrs. Nancy Brown had a question regarding Federal School funding for Cloudland High School, and how 7-8 grades receive free lunch and the 9-12 grades were required to pay for lunch. Dr. Ward replied that the 7-8 grades were funded by a decision by the School Board so that all county K-8's received free lunch. Mrs. Culler then congratulated Finance Director Byrd on her appointment as County Finance Director, followed by a round of applause.
- Motion to adjourn made by Buford Peters. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Garland

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Sonja Culler,

Approved for File

