

BUDGET COMMITTEE
February 8th, 2016
6:00 P.M.

APPROVED

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 Buford Peters, second by L.C. Tester to adopt agenda. All ayes. Motion carried
 - **Approval of Budget Minutes:** Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Nancy Brown, to approve minutes, as amended, from the January 11th, 2016 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - **Approval of Budget Workshop Minutes:** Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by L.C. Tester, to approve minutes from January 14th Budget Workshop. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - **Public Comments:** Roy Livingston led off the Public Comments session with questions about a School Fund Amendment and also about the recent Audit findings involving the School Department. Dr. Ward stated that the finding was recognized in October, and communication has already been made with the State Auditor's office. It was recognized that there was an imbalance in a couple of the bank accounts. Basically, there was more money in one fund and not enough in another, and it affected the Auto Draft to the Accounts. Appropriate steps have been made to reconcile the findings and a special School Board meeting was called to take action to correct the findings. Dr. Ward stated that the issue has been resolved since late December. Ronnie Trivett then asked about insurance for teachers, and if they are paid for 11 months. Dr. Ward stated that was correct. Mr. Trivett also asked how many teachers and students were in the school system. Dr. Ward replied 540 teachers and 5,340 students. Then, there was discussion on Nurses in the School System. Dr. Ward provided details that there are currently (2) RN's and (6-7) LPN's in the system. Sonja Miller is the Carter Cares Supervisor and oversees the nurses. She is joined by Beth Bare, a Carter Cares administrator, and their offices are located at the Workforce Development Facility. Teacher/Student ratio was declared at 17:1. Overcrowding at Happy Valley Middle and Central Elementary were briefly discussed.
 - **Old Business:**
 - Salary Comparisons -- A meeting with the School Board and a third-party consulting firm is scheduled for this Thursday, at 4:00 PM. They will discuss what services they can provide on the salary comparisons. Mr. John Lewis feels that the best way for the salary comparisons is to take other local job salary figures into consideration. *Estimated* numbers to provide these services were - \$22,000 for schools and \$20,000 for the County. Robert Carroll mentioned a proposal, in the Governor's Budget, for possible funding towards raises. Dr. Ward feels his teachers are underpaid and would use this additional funding toward their salaries. Approximately \$300,000 could be provided through this proposal. Para-Professional salaries were brought up on Part-Time and Full-Time scales, as well as Substitute teachers and fill-in positions. It appeared the average for Substitute teachers and Para-Professionals was in the \$8+ dollar range. Para-Professional's retirement is based upon 14.94% of their salary.

- **Animal Shelter Donations:** Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by L.C. Tester, to accept donations to the Animal Shelter. Total: \$745.00

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.

- **Landfill Financial Assurance Document:** Motion was made by L.C. Tester, second by, Ronnie Trivett to approve the Annual Inflation Adjustment for City of Elizabethton/Carter Co. Sanitary Landfill, as required by the Regulations of the Division of Solid Waste Management.

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 #6:** Multiple line items. Motion was made by L.C. Tester, second by Nancy Brown, to approve General Fund 101 Amendment #6. Total: \$41,426.00

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.

- **Highway Fund 131 Amendment #3:** Reallocate within the Highway Department. Motion made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Nancy Brown, to approve Highway Fund 131 Amendment #3. Total: \$4,253.07

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 #7:** Motion made by Ronnie Trivett, second by L.C. Tester, to approve School Fund 141 Amendment #7 to reallocate for the purchase of new trucks. Total: \$55,000.00

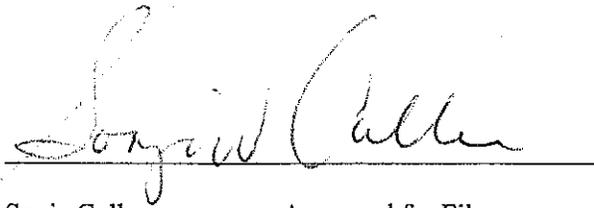
Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
L.C. Tester	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Motion carried.

- **Commission Comments:** There was discussion about the Budget Calendar and the start of the Budget Process. Adjusting the schedule to hold earlier meetings was going to be considered. L.C. Tester asked about funding for the new Taskforce that was formed regarding Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Ward then began to discuss a construction project at Central Elementary. He wanted to inform the committee he would like to bring more details to the full Commission Board and seek their approval at their upcoming meeting. He also discussed how often the School System's funding was mentioned, and salaries of School employees. Dr. Ward stated he would continue to support all of his staff and would continue to push for salary increases based upon comparable scales. He also told how valuable the Referendum money has been, and that it continues to provide needs for our Schools. Ronnie Trivett spoke on the idea of changing the schools insurance coverage.
- Motion to adjourn by L.C. Tester, second by Robert Carroll. All ayes. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Garland



Sonja Culler,

Approved for File

Mar 14, 2016