

BUDGET MEETING  
May 20, 2016  
6:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Robert Carroll, Sonja Culler, Ross Garland, John Lewis, Buford Peters, Danny Ward and Ronnie Trivett.

The Budget Meeting was called to order by Sonja Culler.

- **Carter County Rescue Squad:** Mr. Arnold from the Carter County Rescue squad was present at the meeting for questions regarding his budget request of \$330,000. Nancy Brown asked Mr. Arnold the reason we are asking for the full \$330,000 again this year when we have a contract of only \$170,000. Mr. Arnold stated that the rescue squad is just maintaining at the moment. According to Mr. Arnold the reason he put in the request for the full \$330,000 this year is to request the money into the budget pending the results of the EMS task force.

Mr. Arnold stated that things are starting to get better with the new collection agency. The collections have increased to approximately \$4,800 average a month. The collection agency has approximately 1.2 million outside to collect on. Mr. Arnold states that approximately \$116,000 have been written off due to bankruptcy. The current policy regarding paying for rescue squad services is 3 notices before being sent to the collection agency who charge approximately 3%. If the collection agency cannot collect then the collection agency will take the individual to court over the amount in question. Mrs. Brown made comment that she would like to hear the results from the EMS task force. There is currently 41 full time employees that are receiving fully paid insurance.

Ross Garland asked the rescue squad if they participated in any fundraising. Mr. Arnold stated that it is a very difficult task considering they can no longer do road block fundraising. Mr. John Lewis made the comment that we cannot put a price on the rescue squad. Mr. Lewis stated that we are going to have to take care of the rescue squad. Mrs. Brown's last comments were that the rescue squad needs to have a good justification to the full request.

Motion was made by John Lewis, second by Robert Carroll to approve the budget with last year's numbers and then process further later

Buford Peters	No	Ross Garland	No
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	No
Danny Ward	No	Robert Carroll	Aye

Four ayes, **motion failed.**

- Christ Byrd recommended that we begin the budget voting meeting with small budgets first because these are funded by the general fund.
- **Approval of Health Department Fund 117 Budget:** Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Ross Garland to approve Health Department Fund 117 budget as presented. A voice roll call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

- **Solid Waste Fund 116 Budget:** The Solid Waste fund requested a \$30,000 increase in revenues from General Fund to offset expenditures. Solid Waste is requesting a 5% raise increase and insurance

increase for all employees. Disposal Fee's did increase but Blue Ridge revenue went up to offset the expense. We have also decreased some fuel lines to offset some other line items. Mr. John Lewis made a comment that we need to treat this county as a business.

- **County Employee Salary Raise Discussion:** The Budget committee had an in depth discussion regarding the possibility of approving raises for Carter County employees. Mr. John Lewis believes that we need to run the county like a business and strike the raises out of the budget requests. Mr. Lewis made comment that we either raise salaries or raise insurance. Ms. Culler made comment that we need to at least consider a possible raise for employees even though we already agreed to pay for the more expensive insurance option. Mr. Carroll had questions on the timing of the possible salary study. Buford Sanders asked Chief Parrish what the approximate State Board Revenue will be coming in for the year. Mr. Parrish stated that it will be about \$150,000 in State Board Revenue. Mrs. Byrd stated that the insurance increase will cost the county approximately an extra \$240,000. Ronnie Trivett asked what fund balance total was currently. Mrs. Byrd stated that it is approximately 4.6 million dollars. Buford requested the amount the county will bring in with the new reassessment. According to Mrs. Byrd if the tax rate stays the same we will bring in approximately \$301,000 but this amount is subject to change.
- **Approval of Sports and Recreation Fund 123 Budget:** Motion was made by Buford Peters, second by Ronnie Trivett to approve Sports and Recreation Fund 123 budget with last year's funding of \$11,281.25.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	No	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven ayes, motion carried.

- **Approval of Drug Control Fund 122 Budget:** Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Nancy Brown to approve Drug Control Fund 122 budget as presented. A voice roll call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, motion carried.

- **Approval of Courthouse & Jail Maintenance Fund 112 Budget:** Motion to approve Courthouse & Jail Maintenance Fund 112 budget as presented was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Ross Garland. A voice roll call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, motion carried.

- **Questions for Christa to take back to office holders for discussion:** John Lewis wants the county to go back to employees and ask if they want a raise or to keep current insurance. Mr. Buford Sanders stated that he wanted to go back to office holders ask them if they would be willing to take a 2% or 3% raise. The agreeance of the committee was to go back to the county and ask if the office holders will be willing to accept a 2 or 3% raise for all county employees. It was also requested that Finance Director, Christa Byrd, ask all office holders requesting the custodial personnel

- **Approval of General Fund 101 Budgets:** Finance Director, Christa Byrd reviewed outside agency requests and General Fund 101 Budgets as requested for the committee. Mrs. Byrd made the suggestion to review the funds with salary items but only approve funds that did not have any salary line items.

Motion was made by Sonja Culler, second by Danny Ward to cut travel line item on County Commission budget request by \$5,000. A voice Roll Call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Ross Garland, second by Nancy Brown to **approve County commission** with the \$5,000 cut in travel amendment. A voice Roll Call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Buford Peters, second by Nancy Brown to **approve Board of Equalization** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows:

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Danny Ward to **approve County Attorney budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Nancy Brown to approve **Judicial Commissioners budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Ronnie Trivett to approve **Other Admin of Justice-Juries** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Robert Carroll to approve **County Coroner/Medical Examiner budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by John Lewis, second by Ronnie Trivett to add **\$500 more to Other Public Safety - Civil Service Board budget**. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	No	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	No	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	No
Danny Ward	No	Robert Carroll	No

Three ayes, **motion failed.**

Motion was made by Danny Ward, second by Nancy Brown to approve **Other Public Safety - Civil Service Board budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven Ayes, **motion carried.**

- **Carter County 911:** Mr. Blevins was asked to come before the committee to present his budget request again. Mr. Blevins stated that the request will mainly be used to cover other salaries and benefits for the dispatchers. Mr. Blevins made comment that in order to entice possible employees the 911 service pay insurance and retirement benefits for the employees. According to Mr. Blevins, the reason for this increase in request is due to the steady increase in call volume. The money will also go to helping the Carter County 911 replace radio systems and equipment that are outdated. Mr. Blevins commented that 911 has not requested increasing funding since 2012. After to failed motions the committee asked Mr. Blevins to come back with documentation regarding the need for this increase.

Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Ross Garland to **approve Carter County 911 budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	No	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	No	Robert Carroll	No

Four ayes, **motion failed.**

Motion was made by John Lewis, second by Robert Carroll to **approve Carter County 911 budget** with last years approved funding of \$173,858. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	No	Ross Garland	No
Nancy Brown	No	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	No
Danny Ward	No	Robert Carroll	Aye

Three ayes, **motion failed.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by John Lewis to **approve Other Local Welfare Services - Pauper Burials budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Ronnie Trivett to **transfer Other Social, Cultural, and Recreational Budget funding of \$3,748.16 to Sports and Recreational Fund 123 budget.** A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven Ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Ross Garland to **approve Agricultural Extension budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	No

Six ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Ross Garland, second by Nancy Brown to **approve Flood Control budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Nancy Brown, second by Danny Ward to **approve Tourism budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	No	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	No

Five ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by John Lewis, second by Nancy Brown to **cut Industrial Development fund from the budget.** A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Buford Peters, second by Ronnie Trivett to **approve moving the \$1,000 of funding from Industrial Development to Sports and Recreational Fund 123 budget.** A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	No
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

Seven ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, second by Ross Garland to **approve Other Charges budget** as presented. A voice Roll Call was as follows.

Buford Peters	Aye	Ross Garland	Aye
Nancy Brown	Aye	John Lewis	Aye
Ronnie Trivett	Aye	Sonja Culler	Aye
Danny Ward	Aye	Robert Carroll	Aye

All ayes, motion carried.

- **Miscellaneous Fund Budget:** Mrs. Byrd presented this budget request to the committee again for review. She stated that it would be best to approve the Solid Waste 116 budget before approving this budget because Transfer to other Funds is affected.

Sonja Culler said the Budget Hearing will be in recess until May 31, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kennedy

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Sonja Culler, Approved for File