

BUDGET HEARING

May 19, 2016

6:00 PM

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

Budget hearing was called back to order by Sonja Culler.

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- **Proposed Budget Meetings:** Sonja Culler and Christa Byrd developed potential budget meetings just in case the committee needed more time to set the 2016-2017 Budget. The proposed dates are as follows:
  - Tuesday, May 31, 2016
  - Thursday, June 2, 2016
  - Thursday, June 16, 2016
  - Monday, July 18, 2016 (Present to Commission)

Motion was made by John Lewis, second by Ross Garland for proposed meeting dates:

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

All ayes, motion Passed.

- **Butler Fire Department:** Randall Jenkins and Mr. Shaw presented a proposal regarding the Butler Fire Department to the budget committee. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Shaw proposed a plan to use the Butler Fire Department as the primary fire responders to a 3 mile radius of Carter County from the Butler Fire Department location. The main reasons to agree with this proposal is cutting response time drastically, insurance cost decreasing for the residents in that 3 mile radius, and providing overall comfort to the Carter County residents in that area. The request to fund this proposal is \$20,000. According to Mr. Jenkins, the Butler Fire Department has been responding to these calls free of charge for years. Chris Scheuttler was asked his thoughts on this subject and his response was that this would be the fastest way to get response times increased. It was agreed that Mrs. Byrd would add this proposal to the outside agencies requests. If this request was approved the money would have to stay in reserve till a contract was made between Carter County and the Butler Fire Department.
- **Mayor- Presented the Job Description for his Secretary:** The Mayor led off with his presentation saying the new job title will be Economic Development Director. The position will perform a variety of administrative, technical, and professional duties of economic development plans and services. This new position will work directly with site selectors, existing businesses, and new businesses. Help establish a plan for business to expand or relocate to the Carter County area. This position will directly report to the county Mayor and help the mayor with all Mayoral duties. The new position will be on call on an all time basis with approximately 40 to 60 hours a pay period. Mrs. Robinson has been forced to relinquish duties on multiple occasions due to running over the County policies regarding overtime. Mayor Humphrey made comment that the budget he has submitted is a balanced budget and the only problem that could occur with the presented budget is possible if an emergency occurred. The person whom fills this position will join all boards that deal in Economic Development. Mrs. Robinson will also design the website for helping promote Carter County. Mrs. Culler is suggesting that the change from Secretary to Economic Development Coordinator should go through commission to be voted on. Mayor Humphrey believes that the budget committee is overstepping their bounds in regards to questioning his decision on employees he hires and what compensation he pays these individuals. John Lewis believes that the budget committee should look into proceeding with this proposal. Buford Peters is worried that we are putting an inexperienced individual in a position that

she has no background in. Mayor Humphreys rebutted that Mrs. Robinson is extremely diligent in working and has plenty of experience and educational background to fulfill the position in question.

- **Carter County Rescue Squad:** Sonja Culler explained that the Carter County Rescue Squad director was informed to present to the committee on May 20, 2016 and did not attend the current meeting. The director of the Rescue Squad informed Ms. Culler that the request for \$330,000 was made because it is the full cost of running the rescue squad but he does understand that was not part of the contract. Mr. John Lewis stated that he agrees that this is a one-time gift but we need to fund the rescue squad for the residents of Carter County.
- **Carter County Medical Insurance Questions:** Mr. John Lewis wanted to know the deductible for Carter County employees insurance. Finance Director, Christa Byrd stated that the deductible for County employee medical insurance is \$500 with a max out of pocket of \$1,300. Mr. Trivett wanted to know that amount of County participants on the medical insurance. Mrs. Byrd stated that the approximate number is 243 employees. The 13.65% increase in medical insurance is approximately a cost of \$236,145.
- **Election Commission Department:** John Lewis requested that we reserve money at an amount appropriate to cover two elections a year in the Election Departments budget and hold the excess money in reserve during years of no elections. Mrs. Byrd stated that this would not be the most appropriate option to occur because the money needs to be held in an expense line and not an equity line.
- **County Employee Raises:** Mr. Trivett wants Finance Director, Christa Byrd, to find the total cost to the county for all employee raises.
- **Outside Agencies Request:** Mrs. Byrd reviewed all the outside agency request for the commissioners. Christa Byrd added the \$20,000 request for Butler Fire Department that was presented at the meeting.
- **Property Tax Budget Calculation:** Finance Director, Christa Byrd presented the property tax budget calculation showing the value of a penny increasing from \$81,099 in 2015-16 year to \$82,331 in 2016-17 budget year.
- **Youth Club Money:** Buford Sanders would like to see this money go to parks and recreational or some other agency that can use this money. Mrs. Byrd was requested to discover how much of youth club money has been used.
- Mr. John Lewis wants everyone to consider the tax payers when voting on budgets tomorrow.

Sonja Culler said the Budget Hearing will be in recess until May 20, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kennedy

Sonja Culler, Approved for File