

BUDGET COMMITTEE

February 10, 2020

6:00 P.M.



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PRESENT: Willie Campbell, Patty Woodby, Mark Tester, Austin Jaynes (for Isaiah Grindstaff), Ross Garland, Travis Hill, Aaron Frazier and Kelly Collins

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Ross Garland, Chairman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

1. Approval of Agenda: Chairman Garland amended the agenda by adding the matter of a full-time employee at the Planning Department. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve the agenda with the amendment. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020, meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
3. Public Comments: Roy Livingston complained the public/taxpayers were not being fully informed regarding the county's finances and budget process.
4. Old Business: None
5. New Business
 - Sheriff Lunceford informed the committee his department was “getting out of the animal control business”. He stated the Animal Control Officer should be under the direction of a professional employed by the Animal Shelter. He pointed out there was nothing statutory that required his department to handle animal control issues. He requested the remainder of the \$38,000 put in his budget to pay overtime to deputies/jailers to perform animal control duties be transferred to the Animal Shelter's budget and the duties be taken over by them effective March 1, 2020. Shelter Director Shannon Posada stated she was not prepared to take over these duties at this time and would not be ready in the next thirty (30) days. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes to refer the matter the the Shelter Board and the Law Enforcement Committee. After further discussion, the Sheriff agreed to continue the animal control duties for another month or so until Ms. Posada could get prepared for the transition. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Kelly Collins to table Commissioner Jaynes previous motion and postpone the issue until next month. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
 - Patty Woodby addressed the committee stating the quote presented to and approved by the full commission for a vehicle for the Coroner in the amount of \$32,000 was misquoted. The \$32,000 was for a Dodge Charger and not the Dodge Durango as requested. The quote for the Durango was \$35,764.55. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve the additional \$3,764.55 for the purchase of the Durango. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
 - The committee was informed David Batchelder, Veterans Service Officer for Carter County, had been made aware of an upcoming job in a similar capacity was to be offered in Sullivan County in the near future. It was stated Mr. Batchelder had applied for the position and it's starting salary would be an increase in his present salary. Several committee members and members in the audience commended Mr. Batchelder for his impeccable military service and job performance. It was mentioned that the committee could give him a vote of confidence for the time being in an effort to not set a future precedence and wait until the salary increase

was approved during the budget process for the next fiscal year. Patty Woodby stated Mr. Batchelder had requested an increase of \$3,600 and it was in no way an ultimatum but just his effort to reach out to the committee. Due to the fact Mr. Batchelder is VA certified to file the proper paperwork required by his position, Chairman Garland stated a replacement could be hard to find at the present salary. Also the fact that Mr. Batchelder was not covered with insurance provided by the county was another factor considered. Motion was made by Patty Woodby, seconded by Willie Campbell to request the full commission to appropriate from unassigned fund balance the amount of \$1,615.85 for the salary increase starting March 1, 2020, thru June 30, 2020. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

- At the request of Commissioner Hill, Chairman Garland explained to the committee that the Buildings/Grounds, Law Enforcement, Health/Welfare and Rules/By Laws Committees which presently meet at one time had discussed dividing the four committees into two meetings. This was due to the fact some of the meetings were extremely long if their agendas were lengthy. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Travis Hill to request the full commission to fund up to \$2,000, for commissioner pay for an extra five meetings until the end of the fiscal year. By a roll call vote of 1 abstaining vote from Austin Jaynes and 7 ayes, motion carried.
- An audit report by the Comptroller's Division of Investigation of the the Elizabethton/Carter County Animal Shelter for the period of December 1, 2015, through June 2, 2017, showed a cash shortage of \$9,516. Funds in the amount of \$7,717.38 were paid back to the Carter County Finance Department by the Friends of the Shelter group leaving unaccounted for a balance of \$1,798.62. The ECCAS Board on January 14, 2020, voted to write off the remaining balance from the Friends of the Shelter. According to State auditors, the ECCAS Board was required to obtain permission from the Budget Committee to write off these funds or they would be forever a part of their audit. This request was made following the proper procedures and attached to these minutes. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the request from the ECCAS and present it to the full commission for their approval. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- At the request of the Planning Commission, motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Willie Campbell to move \$11,584.79 from the full-time line item in their budget to the part-time line item in order to hire a part-time mapper. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried. This amount is reflected in the revised version of the budget amendments given to the committee members by the Financial Director.

(6) Budget Amendments

- Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #7, Items #1 thru #4 and #6 thru #17 in the amount of \$92,933.02. At the request of Aaron Frazier, Item #5 was voted on separately later in the meeting. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #7, Item #5 in the amount of \$29,860.06. This item was for the salary and benefits for the incoming Clerk & Master while he is training for his appointed position which begins on July 1, 2020. Aaron Frazier included in the motion that this matter be brought to the Rules/By Laws Committee to develop a policy for appointed positions and

their compensation during training. By a roll call vote of 6 ayes and 2 nays (Patty Woodby and Willie Campbell) motion carried.

- Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund #116, Budget Amendment #6, Items #1 thru #3 in the amount of \$43,100. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve the Health Department Fund, Budget Amendment #1, Item #1 in the amount of \$6,000. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Austin Jaynes to approve the Drug Control Fund #122, Budget Amendment #5, Items #1 thru #2 in the amount of \$1,662.02. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Willie Campbell to approve the Highway/Public Works Fund #131, Budget Amendment #7, Items #1 thru #2 in the amount of \$7,100. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve the General Purpose School Fund #141, Items #1 thru Item #11 in the amount of \$155,501.01. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Travis Hill to approve the Central Cafeteria Fund #143, Budget Amendment #5, Item #1 in the amount of \$208,347. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

(7) Donations

- Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the cash donations to the Animal Shelter for the month of December 2019, in the amount of \$1,600 and to the School Fund in the amount of \$36,450. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion was made by Willie Campbell, seconded by Austin Jaynes to approve the non-cash donations from Walmart to the Animal Shelter for the month of January 2020, in the amount of \$745.61. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Mayor Barnett informed the committee there was \$468,495 in the Governor's proposed budget to come to the county. He stated the funds were designated for roads, I.T. Upgrades, capital maintenance, utility upgrades and public safety.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for Entry:

Ross Garland, Chairman