

BUDGET COMMITTEE

May 10, 2021

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	Willie Campbell, Julie Guinn, Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes, Ross Garland, Travis Hill, Aaron Frazier and Robin McKamey
ABSENT:	None
CALL TO ORDER:	Austin Jaynes, Chairman
ROLL CALL:	Quorum Present

AGENDA: Mayor Woodby requested an item regarding landscaping at the Workforce Development Complex be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the agenda with the additional request. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Charles VonCannon, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Roy Livingston addressed the committee asking if the school system had received the 25 million dollars in Federal money yet and who would be in charge of overseeing the funds once received. He was told the money would not come in until July 1, 2021, and would not be distributed all at one time. He said the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board would be in control of this money as it was Federal money and not County money.

OLD BUSINESS: The Highway Department's request for two (2) new dump trucks in the amount of \$132,136.52 was postponed until the next meeting.

The discussion regarding the lease with Northeast State for space in the Workforce Development Center was referred to the full commission for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: Randal Lewis, Trustee, asked the committee's opinion in putting any funds left in their budget in a reserve account for a new computer system when it became necessary. He was told by Finance Director Burke it was not a good idea to carry over funds from one budget year to another but rather put in a request to the Budget Committee when the new computer system is needed.

On behalf of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Sequoyah Group gave a slide presentation on the "Current Benefits and Contributions" for the 2021-2022 employee insurance renewal. A twenty (20) page outline of the Presentation is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

A representative from Assistance and Resource Ministry (ARM) presented the committee with three (3) quotes requesting funds for a new cooler. After discussing the quotes, she was told the committee was inclined to help with the purchase but ask her to check with Kysor in Piney Flats to maybe get a cheaper quote. They also told her to call the electric company/electrician to see if their location had "3 phase power" as it would be needed for the operation of the cooler.

A Resolution was presented to the committee requesting the State Treasurer return the unclaimed balance of any and all available funds held by them remitted by Carter County and/or its agencies in accordance with the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Charles VonCannon to approve the adoption of the Resolution. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Several pages of surplus items from the Mayor's office, Sessions Court and the Clerk and Master's office to be disposed of. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the items to be sold on Gov.deal. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Brad Burke presented the local Health Department Services Contract renewed each year in the amount of \$492,208 for 2021-2022. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Ross Garland to approve the contract presented. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Billy Harrell, EMA Director, informed the committee he had \$11,733.45 in his budget that was allocated for radio tower upgrades that has to be used by June 30, 2021. He stated his office would not be able to use these funds by the deadline and offered to have them transferred to an office that could spend them. He stated he would ask for these funds back for the designated projects during the next budget year. At the request of Mayor Woodby, motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Robin McKamey to transfer the funds the ADA office to be used for the bathroom projects. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Woodby then requested \$10,000 in the Governor's grant in the ADA line item also be transferred to be used for the ADA bathroom projects. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to honor the Mayor's request. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

On behalf of the Sheriff's Department, Capt. Smith requested \$172,695 be taken from Courthouse and Jail Restricted Fund Balance for updates to the jail's camera system. Capt. Smith stated they had done an RFP and received only one (1) bid. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Willie Campbell to transfer the \$172,695 to a designated fund designated for the camera system upgrade. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chief Parrish requested to reserve any unspent appropriations in the 101-5441-425 (gas), 101,54410-716 (law enforcement equipment) and 101-54110-718 (vehicles) line items in their budget for the purchase of an additional vehicle. Again Finance Director Burke stated in his opinion it was not a good practice to carry over appropriations from one budget year to the next. After much discussion and in an effort to not set a future precedence for this kind of procedure unless there was a definite need, motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Ross Garland to move \$29,000 from the gasoline line item to the vehicle line item to purchase a vehicle. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chief Parrish requested to reserve any unspent appropriations in the salary and payroll benefit line items as of June 30, 2021, to pay employees accrued comp-time, holiday pay, overtime and excess vacation leave. He also requested these funds to be used for development of recruiting and retention strategies. After discussing the structuring of the sign on/retention bonuses and the facts surrounding the dire need for new hires, he was told by Chairman Jaynes to have a close estimate of the funds needed for comp-time, holiday pay, overtime and excess vacation leave to report at an upcoming budget meeting. The funds remaining could be used for sign on/retention bonuses if approved. He said an estimate of how much money needed to be set aside to begin any budgeting process. No other action was taken.

Mayor Woodby informed the committee that there no longer a full-time person at the Workforce Development Complex to maintain the landscaping/mowing etc. She submitted a quote from Sycamore Gardens Landscape Services in the amount of \$3,427.75 for landscaping at the facility. She stated it was the plan to eliminate many of the flower beds, some trees and landscaping areas. Motion was made by Charles VonCannon, seconded by Robin McKamey to accept the quote to downsize the landscaping as requested with the funds coming from the Workforce Development budget. With a roll call vote of six (6) ayes and two (2) nays from Austin Jaynes and Travis Hill, motion carried.

The employee insurance renewal presentation by Sequoyah Group was discussed at this time. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to stay with the plan the county has presently with Blue Cross/Blue Shield with no changes. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Jaynes informed the committee Benny Lyons, Landfill Director, had mentioned to him he was having a real problem hiring a CDL certified driver for the landfill. He said the present salary of \$10 per hour was not an

incentive to get applicants. In discussion it was noted the Road Department paid their CDL licensed employee \$13.01 per hour. In order to keep the services of the landfill moving, motion was made by Robin McKamey, seconded by Julie Guinn to pay the present employees with a CDL license and any future CDL licensed employee hires the rate of \$13.01 per hour. These funds to be taken from unassigned fund balance and put in the line item for drivers. By a roll call vote of seven (7) ayes and one (1) nay by Travis Hill, motion carried.

Mayor Woodby informed the committee the Maintenance Supervisor "Ron's" electrical permit had expired and he personally had no reason to renew it. She stated the renewal fee was approximate \$50 and no more than \$100. As it would benefit the county to have him be able to pull permits from the city and such, motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Robin McKamey to move \$100 from the Workforce line item to licensing and county buildings to pay to have his permit reissued. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

A Resolution was presented for the transfer of \$750,000 from General Purpose School Fund #141 (99100-590) to School Federal Projects Fund #142 (49800) for additional cash flow requirements related to COVID-19. This transfer may be repaid at any time. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Robin McKamey approve the resolution to present to the full commission. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Brad Burke made the request to appropriate from General Fund #101 (\$32,529.43 to #101-58900-509) and General Purpose School Fund #141 (\$4,281.82 to #141-72310-509) Unassigned Fund Balance for total payment of \$36,811.25 to the City of Elizabethton for Local Option Sales Tax erroneously credited to the County by the Tennessee Department of Revenue. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Julie Guinn to approve the request. By a roll call vote of seven (7) ayes and one (1) abstain from Travis Hill, motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #11, Items #1 thru #23 in the amount of \$269,434.67. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund #115, Budget Amendment #5, Items #1 thru #2 in the amount of \$3,415.84. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Julie Guinn to approve Health Department Fund #117, Budget Amendment #4, Item #1 in the amount of \$250.00. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve Highway/Public Works Fund #131, Budget Amendment #5, Items #1 thru #3 in the amount of \$18,349.29. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Robin McKamey, seconded by Charles VonCannon to approve General Purpose School Fund #141, Budget Amendment #10, Items #1 thru #9 in the amount of \$1,154,086.11. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Robin McKamey, seconded by Travis Hill to approve School Federal Projects Fund #142, Budget Amendment #10, Item #1 in the amount of \$3,400. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve Head Start Fund #145, Budget Amendment #5, Item #1 in the amount of \$3,200. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Ross Garland to approve the donations to the Animal Shelter for the month of April 2021, in the amount of \$542.50. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the nonmonetary donations from Walmart to the Animal Shelter for the month of April 2021, in the amount of \$295.79. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Jaynes asked Commission Willie Campbell to lead the committee in prayer for the Watauga County Officers who died and their families.

On motion by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Robin McKamey the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved for Entry:

Suzi Wallace

Austin Jaynes, Chairman

