

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

June 8, 2022

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Willie Campbell, Ross Garland, Julie Guinn, Travis Hill, and Brad Johnson
ABSENT: Aaron Frazier, Austin Jaynes, Robin McKamey
SUBSTITUTES: Daniel McInturff, Jerry Proffit, Thomas Proffit
CALL TO ORDER: Julie Guinn
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

Julie Guinn outlined the meeting agenda and added an addition to include discussion about the Highway Department Budget. The Committee will review revision to the Parks & Rec, County Buildings, and Highway Department budgets. Director of Schools Dr. Tracey McAbee will then present the budgets for General Purpose Schools, Food Service, Head Start, and Educational Capital Projects funds. Brad Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda and Ross Garland was second. All approved.

Charlie Mattioli spoke first about the Gap Creek Park Project. He updated the Committee on the changes in the original plans and informed them of the 319 Grant that was secured, which will provide funds for several sites throughout the county. He then presented the budget request for 2022-23. The request is \$259,725. This includes \$124,000 for Park Construction and \$71,825 for Park Expenses. Brad Johnson made a motion to grant the same funds as provided this year 2021-22 of \$81,670. Travis Hill seconded the motion, with the addition of a friendly amendment to add \$30,000 for a total of \$111,670. It was confirmed that the \$30,000 is to provide matching funds for the 319 Grant. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Director Carolyn Watson advised the Committee of a line-item change in the County Buildings budget. There were no changes in the total dollars. Motion was made by Travis Hill and seconded by Ross Garland to accept the change. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried unanimously to approve the County Buildings Budget for 2022-23.

Director Watson then updated the Committee on the revised Highway Budget. The Highway Department will receive additional funds from the State of Tennessee. It was decided to allocate these additional funds to the diesel fuel, gasoline and asphalt line items. Motion was made by Travis Hill and seconded by Jerry Proffit to accept the 2022-23 Highway Budget. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the school budgets. Director of Schools Tracy McAbee presented the General Purpose School budget. This budget has total revenues at \$42,710,874 and total expenditures at \$43,681,162, leaving a deficit of \$970,288. Dr. McAbee

stated that this budget includes an increase of 3% for teachers and 4% for paraprofessionals. He asked the Committee for permission to use the fund balance to cover the budget deficit.

Because there were some substitutes who were not at the previous meeting, Julie Guinn stated that they need to explain what the Committee has decided regarding school funding. Because of the loss of students, the committee had decided to reduce their maintenance of effort by \$231,592. This amount was computed by Maryann Durski. Dr. McAbee stated that the decrease would affect the plans for teacher raises. Because there has been a continual decline in student population for the past seventeen years, Travis Hill stated he would like a commitment from the School Board to consolidate some of the schools. Dr. McAbee stated that he could not speak for the School Board, but the plans for Hunter Renovation included space to house the students from Keenburg and Siam Schools. This is a project which will require \$29 million in funding, and it will take time to complete that large of a project.

Chairwoman Holdren asked to be recognized. She thanked the Committee for their hard work during this budget process and said that looking at ways to reduce expenditures was prudent on their part. However, she felt that there might be ways to cut expenditures other than by cutting salaries. She asked the Committee to consider the effect this would have on people's lives during difficult economic times because of the cost of living going up at such a fast pace. After some more discussion with Dr. McAbee, all present agreed that going forward with a plan to reduce the number of schools would be beneficial to all.

Attorney Josh Hardin was consulted regarding the Maintenance of Effort decision at the previous meeting. He stated that since it had not gone to the full commission, they could reverse their decision with no adverse consequences.

After discussion was completed, Motion was made by Travis Hill and seconded by Brad Johnson to accept General Purpose budget as presented. Those voting in favor were Willie Campbell, Ross Garland, Julie Guinn, Travis Hill, Brad Johnson, Jerry Proffit, and Thomas Proffit. Daniel McInturff abstained. Motion carried.

The Committee recessed for a 10-minute break.

When the Committee reconvened, they considered the remainder of the School Funds budgets. The following items were passed:

Food Service Budget presented revenues of \$3,340,898 and expenditures of \$3,710,823, leaving a deficit of \$369,928 to be covered by Fund Balance. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Jerry Proffit to approve the Food Service Fund budget as presented. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Head Start Budget presented revenues of \$1,315,767 and expenditures of \$1,344,254, leaving a deficit of \$28,487 to be covered by Fund Balance. Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Daniel McInturff to approve the Head Start Fund budget as presented. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Capital Projects Fund budget was presented. Proposed Revenues are \$1,308,817 and proposed Outlay is \$4,131,691. Motion was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Thomas Proffit to approve the Capital Projects budget as presented. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Director Watson presented the cost of employee raises. The cost to give the full-time employees a \$2,000 raise and part time employees \$1,000 is \$540,000 for the County and Highway combined. County's portion is \$425,000 and the Highway's portion is \$115,000. Motion was made by Brad Johnson, seconded by Thomas Proffit to approve the raises as presented, with the difference in cost coming from Unassigned Fund Balance. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried. Those voting in favor were Daniel McInturff, Ross Garland, Julie Guinn, Travis Hill, Brad Johnson, Jerry Proffit, and Thomas Proffit. Willie Campbell abstained. Motion carried.

Director Watson re-capped the rest of the budget process. The full Commission will meet for a Budget Workshop on June 9, 2022. This will not be a voting meeting.

There will not be time to publish the budget in June and have the full commission to vote so that a budget will be passed before June 30. The new goal will be to pass the budget in July.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Thomas Proffit. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Teresa Montgomery

Approved for entry:

Aaron Frazier, Chairman