MINUTES
RECESSED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY

BUDGET WORK SESSION

JUNE 4, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 260, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. William Wooten, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mrs. Viola Harris and Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Mr. Eric Evans, Assistant County Manager, Mrs. Joanne Harrell, Finance Director, Mr. William Johnson, Assistant Finance Director and Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

PRAYER:
Prayer was provided by Rev. Hines.

BUDGET WORK SESSION:
Mr. Carmon stated that the budget message was modified in light of information gathered in the last couple of days. He stated that the revision includes a 3.5 cent tax increase instead of a 4.5 cent increase, which is based on a reduction in health insurance costs due to self-insured claims being better than in the past. Mr. Carmon recommended that $200,000 be appropriated to Edgecombe Community College instead of $300,000. He recommended a 5% COLA for Edgecombe County employees and $300,000 for Edgecombe County Public Schools.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Manager has provided the Board with his recommendation and asked if there was a recommendation or motion from the Board.

Mr. Boswell asked if with the 3.5 cent will we go into the reserve $1.5 million.

Mrs. Harrell stated that we will break even at the end of the year.

Mr. Felton stated that this does not work for him. He stated we are talking about appropriating $4.5 million and possibly using $1 million, now we are talking about doing nothing to affect the fund balance, but having it all there at the end of the year. The two don't work together. It is either one or the other. He stated that fund balance is over appropriated and under used yet we raise taxes because we don't use the fund balance.

Mr. Boswell made a motion to set the tax rate at .97 cent, a 7.5 cent tax increase. Mr. Wiggin seconded the motion.

Mr. Wooten stating that is time to build up the reserve and get our fund balance back up. He stated that we keep putting a band-aide on this every year. If we go through what is proposed we will actually add back to our fund balance.

Mr. Wiggins was in support stating that we do not need to come back every year with a tax increase.

After discussion Mr. Felton made a substitute motion to approve Mr. Carmon's recommended budget, which includes a 3.5 cent tax increase. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion.

Voting for the motion were Mr. Felton and Mrs. Harris. Voting against the motion were: Mr. Wiggins, Rev. Hines, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Wooten and Mrs. Powell. Motion failed by a 5 against, 2 for vote.

Voting for the motion introduced by Mr. Boswell to approve the budget to include a 7.5 cent tax increase were: Mr. Boswell, Mr. Wiggins, Mrs. Powell, Mr. Wooten and Rev. Hines. Voting against the motion were Mr. Felton and Mrs. Harris. Motion carried by a 5 for, 2 against vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to adjourn the meeting until June 22, 2015 for the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget public hearing. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Frangie Mungo

Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board