

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, May 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Madison County Public Library Marshall Branch, 1335 N. Main Street, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Mark Snelson, Vice-Chairman Craig Goforth, Commissioner/Interim County Manager Norris Gentry, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, Commissioner Michael Garrison, Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Snelson.

Item 1: FY 2021-2022 Budget Discussion

Dr. Will Hoffman, Superintendent of Madison County Schools presented and discussed proposed budget information and requests on behalf of the school system with the Board as well as answered questions from Board members. Proposed budget and programming information discussion was had by the Board with Dr. Hoffman, Michael Wallin, and Lisa Gahagan with the school system.

Connie Harris, Social Services Director presented and discussed proposed budget information and requests on behalf of the Social Services Department with the Board as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the department's proposed budget was had by the Board with Ms. Harris.

Tammy Cody, Health Director presented and discussed proposed budget information and requests on behalf of the Health Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the department's proposed budget was had by the Board with Ms. Cody.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Commissioner Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to return to the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Marla Gouge, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator presented and discussed information regarding employee health insurance benefits to the Board. Discussion was had by the Board and Ms. Gouge.

Discussion was had by the Board with Interim Finance Officer Kary Ledford and Human Resources Director Brooke Ledford regarding the proposed budget as well as current expenses that the County is paying for the current fiscal year.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted 3-2 in favor of budgeting 70% for the health insurance rate with Vice-Chairman Goforth and Commissioner Garrison voting opposed.

Discussion was had by the Board and Interim Finance Officer Kary Ledford regarding requests for funding from non-profits in amounts as in previous years as well as requests for increases from some agencies.

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted 3-2 to allocate \$10,000 in funding to Pisgah Legal Services with Commissioner Wechtel and Commissioner Garrison voting opposed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$10,000 in funding to the Madison County Fairgrounds.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Chairman Snelson with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$25,000 in funding to My Sister's Place.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$10,000 to the Community Housing Coalition of Madison County.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$15,000 in funding to the Madison County Arts Council.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously to not consider anymore non-profits in this budget cycle.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, at 7:05 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting until May 4, 2021 at 5 p.m. at the Library.

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to return to the meeting on May 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Madison County Public Library located at 1335 N. Main Street, Marshall, North Carolina. In attendance were Chairman Mark Snelson, Vice-Chairman Craig Goforth, Commissioner/Interim County Manager Norris Gentry, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, Commissioner Michael Garrison, Clerk Mandy Bradley.

Discussion was had by the Board, Interim Finance Officer Kary Ledford, and Human Resources Director Brooke Ledford regarding the proposed budget.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Goforth and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted 3-2 to allocate \$2,123,593 to the Sheriff's Office for allowances for the pay plan, cost of living increases, and shift differential with Commissioner Wechtel and Commissioner Garrison voting opposed. Discussion was had by the Board.

Human Resources Director Brooke Ledford discussed information regarding the countywide compensation and classification plan with respect to requests made by each department for employee salaries.

Discussion was had regarding salary requests from the Emergency Services Department. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Commissioner Gentry, with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously to approve the department's requests.

Discussion was had regarding salary requests from Emergency Management. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Health Department. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted 4-1 to approve as requested with Commissioner Garrison voting opposed.

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted to recess the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to return to the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Library. Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Commissioner Wechtel, with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously to approve in accordance with the County Pay Plan.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Transportation and Operations Department and the department's request of salary increases of \$12/hr. for all drivers as well as the Administration's proposed request which included a salary increase for the Director. Further discussion was had by the Board regarding salary allocations. Commissioner Gentry made a motion to accept the administration's recommended plan with no increase for the director. Discussion was had by the Board. Commissioner Gentry requested to withdraw his motion. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to move with the administration recommendation with the change of a 50% reduction of the proposed increase in the director's salary.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Garrison made a motion that Animal Control fall under the pay plan information as provided, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentry. Discussion was had by the Board. Commissioner Garrison requested to withdraw his motion. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to move to adopt the pay plan for Animal Control, but include a \$2,200 increase in salary for the director.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from Solid Waste. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted 3-2 to go with the department requests with Commissioner Wechtel and Commissioner Garrison voting opposed.

Discussion was had regarding the Economic Development budget. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted unanimously to leave it as proposed.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Board of Elections. No action was taken on behalf of the Board.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Soil and Water Conservation. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Goforth and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to approve as is.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the IT Department. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve as is. Discussion was had by the Board.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Inspections Department. Commissioner Wechtel made a motion to approve, based on the department recommendations. The motion was seconded by Chairman Snelson. Discussion was had by the Board. Commissioner Wechtel requested to rescind his motion. Discussion was had by the Board and Kary Ledford regarding salaries for the department. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to fund this department at the figure to reflect Kary's number of \$191,674.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Register of Deeds Office. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to split the difference on all three between the pay plan and the department request.

Discussion was had regarding the salary request from the Parks and Recreation Department. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Goforth and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommended salary.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests from the Maintenance Department. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Goforth and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to approve as recommended.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests for the Tax Assessor's Office. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously to give the employees the recommendation of the Administration of \$1,500 for long term employees and \$0 for new employees.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests for the Tax Collector's Office. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted 3-2 to approve the department's request with Matt Wechtel and Michael Garrison voting opposed.

Discussion was had regarding the salary request for the Extension Office. Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the department's request.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests for the Child Support Department. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the department's request.

Discussion was had regarding the salary requests for the County Administration Building. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations.

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to return to the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Discussion regarding the determination of the tax collection rate for the proposed budget was had by the Board and Interim Finance Officer Kary Ledford.

Commissioner Wechtel made a motion to propose a \$33,000 cut to the school's budget for the meals that they are not providing to the juveniles at the jail. Discussion was had by the Board regarding juvenile inmate meals. Chairman Snelson called for a second to the motion with no second being provided. Chairman Snelson noting that the motion dies for lack of a second.

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth with discussion being had by the Board and Interim Finance Officer Kary Ledford, the Board voted 3-2 in favor of a 50 cent millage rate with Commissioner Wechtel and Commissioner Garrison voting opposed.

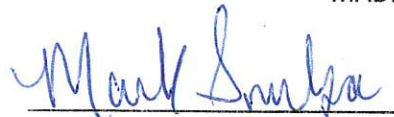
Discussion was had by the Board regarding the amendment of the meeting content to include personnel with counsel being provided via telephone by County Attorney Donny Laws.

Item 2: Adjournment

Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

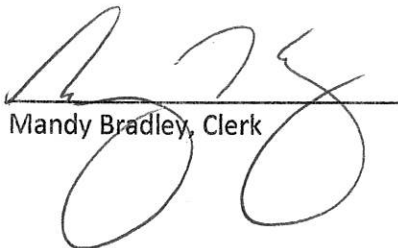
This the 3rd day of May, 2021.

MADISON COUNTY



Mark Snelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Mandy Bradley, Clerk