

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2000

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a budget work session on May 24, 2000, which was recessed from May 23, 2000, which was recessed from May 15, 2000, at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 5:30 PM.

Commissioners Present:

James A. Hallman, Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton, Vice-Chairman
Beth H. Saine
W. J. Waters, Jr.
John R. Gamble, Jr.

Others Present:

Stan B. Kiser, County Manager
Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Hallman reconvened the May 23, 2000 meeting, which was recessed from the May 15, 2000 meeting.

County Manager Stan Kiser stated that the County's bonds have been upgraded from A3 to A2, which is a one notch increase. He stated that this would make the bonds more marketable.

Judy Caudill stated that they had asked for a full time position that was not funded. She stated that they were requested that a half-time position be made full time. She explained some of the Elections Department's duties.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Brotherton, the Board voted unanimously to extend the position to a full-time position, with a total amount of \$14,842 put back into the budget.

Lesley Levine presented samples of carpet for the Board to look at. She presented a quote for woven carpet for \$44,240.50. She stated that they will have to have a dumpster there for removal of the old carpet, and she estimates this will cost \$1,000. Ms. Levine stated that the Library will have to be closed for a period of two weeks to install the new carpet.

Chairman Hallman asked if painting and/or new wallpaper could be incorporated into this closed time, instead of having to be closed again.

Ms. Levine stated that she is not sure, because with the carpet, they were not going to have to move all the books that are on the outside walls. Those bookcases do not have to be moved, the bottom slot of them comes off. The only books that need to come off are the bottom shelf. She stated that she is not sure they can do all of this in a 2 week period.

Commissioner Brotherton suggested calling John Avery to see about having him bring a dumpster.

Ms. Levine stated that she has called Mr. Avery, and he said he could do this if all else fails. Mr. Avery told her that he cannot handle dumping the dumpster.

Chairman Hallman suggested contacting Mayor Huitt about providing a dumpster.

Ms. Levine stated that they would like to do this work the first of August.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Saine, the Board voted unanimously to allow for an additional \$5,240 to complete carpet per specifications from H&A Carpet.

Ms. Levine stated that the Bookmobile was purchased in 1988 from Thomasville, and they no longer make Bookmobiles. Some of the workers went off in their own and starting making them. She stated that the Bookmobile is 12 years old, has 100,000 miles on it, is on it's third engine and second generator. She stated that in the not-to-distant future, it will be time to purchase a new one.

Commissioner Waters suggested waiting until a Bookmobile is needed.

Chairman Hallman stated that additional information is needed.

Commissioner Gamble suggested that a year from now, based on Lesley's statement, she could be prepared to come before the Board a year from now.

Chairman Hallman called for a five-minute recess.
Chairman Hallman called the meeting back to order.

Elaine Harmon stated that in her budget there were two items that she had questions about. She stated that she had put in for an additional full-time employee, which was not included. Ms. Harmon stated that they are depending very heavily on part-time employees to staff the office. She stated that there are 5 full-time employees, including herself and 4 part-time employees in the office. She stated that they have filled the position approved last year, and she will be coming to work on June 19.

Ms. Harmon stated that the other question she had on her budget was the cut on part time salaries, because currently they have already expended \$33,000 this budget year, as of May 9. She stated that this was cut to \$30,000.

Commissioner Waters suggested putting the budget back to where it came from.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Waters, the Board voted unanimously to add \$38,731 back into the budget.

Chairman Hallman stated that he would like to look into seeing what the cost would be to irrigate the Courthouse lawn.

Mr. Kiser stated that Tracy Jenkins has said in the past that it would be between \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Commissioner Saine stated that it upsets her that during the Christmas season, you come up Main Street, go around the Courtsquare, and when you get to West Main Street it stops. She stated that she has spoken to the City about having Christmas lights on the first block of West Main Street, which would include the Citizen Center.

Commissioner Gamble stated that it is the City's responsibility to do this.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that he brought up the matter of helping fund an exercise area at Rocks Springs School a few weeks ago. He stated that he would like to approach this differently tonight. He requested that the Recreation budget for Lincoln County be increased \$10,000, then funneled through the Recreation Department to the schools. Then if the other schools are complaining, the Recreation Department will get it and not the Board.

A MOTION by Commissioner Brotherton to increase the Recreation budget by \$10,000 to be funneled through the Recreation Department to Rock Springs School for an exercise area.

Commissioner Gamble made an amendment to the motion to say \$10,000 per middle school and down, every school in the County.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that these people have raised a considerable amount of money trying to finish a project. He stated that he would support this if it could be termed somewhat of a challenge with matching funds. He asked how many schools it would be.

Mr. Kiser stated that there were around 10 or 11 middle and elementary schools.

Vote on Commissioner Gamble's Amendment to include all middle and elementary schools in Commissioner Brotherton's original motion:

Vote: 4 – 1 AYES: Gamble, Brotherton, Hallman, Saine

NOES: Waters

Vote on Commissioner Brotherton's original motion, which was \$10,000 going to the Recreation Department, which was to be channeled through the Recreation Department for Rock Springs School, which was subsequently amended to add all middle and elementary schools to receive the \$10,000:

**Vote: 4 – 1 AYES: Brotherton, Hallman, Gamble, Saine
NOES: Waters**

Commissioner Brotherton asked Commissioner Gamble how the money would be handled.

Commissioner Gamble stated that it would be handled through the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Waters stated that money has now been given to every school in Lincoln County except for East Lincoln High School.

Stan Kiser stated that he mentioned to Rick McSwain about the 10% pay increase. He asked that his pay grade be changed. Mr. Kiser asked that Rick McSwain, Natural Resources Conservationist and Steve McCurry, Veterans Service Officer's pay grades be changed from pay grades 22 to pay grade 25.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to change the pay grades from 22 to 25 for Rick McSwain and Steve McCurry.

Recess: UPON MOTION by Commissioner Waters, the Board recessed the meeting to May 30, 2000 at 5:30 PM.