

**LINCOLN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****MINUTES
MAY 14, 1998**

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a budget work session on May 14, 1998 at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 6:30 PM. The following were present:

Louis E. McConnell, Chairman
James A. Hallman, Vice Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton
Beth H. Saine

Richard French, County Manager
Stan Kiser, Assistant County Manager
Leon Harmon, Director of Finance

Also present were Doug Chapman, County Engineer and Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the May 14, 1998 meeting to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman McConnell presented the agenda for the May 14, 1998 budget work session for approval.

AGENDA**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****BUDGET WORK SESSION 1998-99****MAY 14, 1998**

	6:30 PM	Call to Order
1.	6:30 PM	Adoption of Agenda
2.	6:35 PM	Discussion of General Fund Budget for the 1998-99 Fiscal Year – County Manager, Rick French
3.	7:45 PM	Discussion of Budget Process 1998-99 June 1, 1998 6:30 PM

4. 7:50 PM Other Business

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner James Hallman to adopt the agenda as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR THE 1998-99 FISCAL YEAR – COUNTY MANAGER, RICK FRENCH

Rick French, County Manager, presented the Commissioners with the proposed budget. He presented the following memorandum.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Louis E. McConnell, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rick French
County Manager

SUBJECT: 1998-99 Proposed General Fund Budget

DATE: May 14, 1998

The proposed 1998-99 budget for the General Fund is \$41,507,947 or 5% more than the adopted current year 1997-98 budget. The adopted 1997-98 budget totaled \$39,827,334 and is \$1,680,613 less than the proposed budget. There is no proposed tax increase in the budget and most fees stay the same.

The two main sources of revenue which increased the most were property taxes at \$824,563 and sales taxes \$399,000. There are no monies budgeted from fund balance.

The budget has been reduced by almost \$2.4 million over request, but still contains all departments, programs, and projects. \$493,365 has been set aside in contingency as a method to allow County Commissioners to deal with unmet budget requests, or affords the Commissioners the opportunity to move these funds into the General Fund – Fund balance which is currently below the 8%

level. This opportunity has not been available during the past five years budgets. Please note normally \$100,000 is budgeted in contingency.

The following are highlights of the proposed 1998-99 budget for the General Fund.

- Building and Grounds expense increased \$393,708 due to increased maintenance at the new jail and Lincoln Campus of Gaston College / Senior Center.
- School budget increases \$885,000 which covers all mandatory cost as outlined in the school request on May 4, 1998. The schools total request was \$1,660,344. Please note, some additional funds can be developed by working on sales tax refunds with schools. For example, sales tax refunds could be used to purchase furniture for West Lincoln Middle and North Brook Elementary.
- 20 new positions are budgeted for the new Harven Crouse Law Enforcement and Detention Center. Sheriff Barbara Pickens has worked out a revised staggered schedule which will have significant savings. (270,000)
- 7 new employees are budgeted in Building and Grounds for maintenance for the new jail and Gaston College / Senior Center project.
- 2 additional new employees are proposed to operate the new Senior Center which is scheduled to open in Fall of 1998.
- 2 part-time positions are proposed to be increased to full-time positions in Animal Control. One of these positions will operate the new animal shelter which will be constructed in conjunction with the new jail.
- 2 ½% cost of living increase for county employees (\$225,000)
- \$44,000 is proposed as a first phase for a new sound system for the Citizens Center Auditorium.
- \$200,000 is budgeted for Gaston College / Senior Center Project. Lincoln County with this payment will fulfill the \$1,000,000 pledge for the project. In addition, Lincoln County maintains the facility, pays the utilities, and operates the Senior Center.
- \$100,000 five recreation projects, \$50,000 toward seed money for East Lincoln facility and funds for option on property in the west.

Most departments adhered to the 2% in reduction request made by County Commissioners. (Operation portion of departments are all accounts 5200 and

numbers above) There were several departments which could not adhere to the 2\$ request such as Mental Health and Library. The exempt departments were Law Enforcement and Schools. Law Enforcement was expanded to mean emergency type services.

Please note there are no funds budgeted for the YMCA project.

The public hearing for the entire 1998-99 budget is scheduled for June 1, 1998 at 7:30 PM. The next work session on the budget is scheduled for May 27, 1998 at 6:30 PM.

Thank you.

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the proposed budget, highlighting certain areas.

Chairman McConnell stated that he believed that the County should stop charging the Fire Departments for collecting taxes. He stated that this would help them out and allow them to have a little more money. He stated that the Fire Departments do a good job.

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the only fees increasing in the General Fund are the fees for the use of the Citizens Center Auditorium. He stated that these fees have not been increased since 1988, and the new sound system is being put in this year.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PROCESS 1998-99

Rick French stated that the next Work Session will be held on May 27, 1998. He stated that the Regular Meeting is scheduled for May 18, 1998. Mr. French stated that the Public Hearing for the Budget will be on June 1, 1998 at 7:30 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French stated that there will be a ribbon-cutting at Packaging Unlimited at the Shell Building will be on Tuesday, May 19, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. He stated that on Wednesday, May 20 two Commissioners will need to attend a meeting with the Local Government Commission about the fund balance.

ADJOURN

Being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, Chairman McConnell entertained a motion to adjourn the May 14, 1998 meeting.

Commissioner James Hallman motioned that the Board adjourn the May 14, 1998 meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.