

**LINCOLN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES
APRIL 28, 1997**

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a budget work session on April 28, 1997 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
Larry S. Craig
Beth H. Saine

Richard French, County Manager

Also present was Rebecca B. Shoupe, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McConnell called the April 28, 1997 meeting to order.

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION--LEON HARMON

Leon Harmon, Director of Finance, reviewed an analysis of the county's current financial position.

DANTE' PATTERSON--DATA PROCESSING BUDGET

Dante' Patterson, MIS Director, was placed in Sheriff Pickens space on the agenda.

Mr. Patterson stated in the 1997-98 budget for the Data Processing Department there is a large increase from the past few years budget in the CIP spending. The two primary areas of increase are the AS400 System Expansion which is an upgrade of the county's entire computer system and the Enterprise Networking which is to install servers in the Citizens Center and the Courthouse. Mr. Patterson stated that the current computer system's response time is very poor and the abnormal batches processing takes longer than it should.

SHERIFF BARBARA PICKENS--LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET

Sheriff Pickens will present the 1997-98 Sheriff's Department Budget on May 5, 1997.

ERMA DEEN HOYLE--RECREATION BUDGET

Erma Deen Hoyle, Recreation Director, stated that the biggest need for the recreation department is facilities. Mrs. Hoyle updated the Board on the revised plans of the East Lincoln Park.

Mrs. Hoyle stated that the Block Smith Gym's conditional use permit needs to be renewed in 1998. Mrs. Hoyle also stated that the Block Smith Gym needed to be air conditioned.

Mrs. Hoyle stated that the county needs to look at purchasing property for park land in western Lincoln County.

Chairman McConnell called for a brief recess.

Chairman McDonnell called the meeting back to order.

PHYLLIS MACDONALD-OWENS--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Phyllis Owens, Economic Development Association Director, stated that Economic Development is in desperate need of office space. Mrs. Owens stated in her 1997-98 budget request under the park development section she is requesting \$234,000 to build roads in to the Lincoln County Industrial Park. Mrs. Owens stated that the Lincoln County Industrial Park is a major asset and believes it will become a major distribution center. Mrs. Owens stated that there is a great need to build the roads in the industrial park because clients can not visualize the park just looking at it on paper.

Danny Richard, Chairman of the Economic Development Association Board, stated that the Economic Development Association Board needs help to prepare the industrial park in order to recruit industry.

MAGGIE DOLLAR--HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Maggie Dollar, Health Department Director, reviewed the 1997-98 Health Department Budget proposal. Ms. Dollar stated that the 1997-98 Health Department budget request is \$3,158,481 an increase of \$105,000 (3.45%) over last year's budget. The increase is due to cost of living salary increase, supply costs, fixed costs and capital outlay.

Joanie Belk, Clerical Supervisor, reviewed the Health Department's capital outlay projects.

ANDY PITTMAN--SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET

Andy Pittman, Department of Social Services Director, stated the Department of Social Services proposed 1997-98 budget has a total increase of \$419,956 (15%) over last year's budget. Of the \$419,956 increase \$245,910 (58%) of the budget increase is due to anticipated public assistance increases. Mr. Pittman stated that he has requested eight new staff positions \$148,936 (36%) of the budget increase and automation equipment which is \$25,110.00 (6%) of the budget increase.

Mr. Pittman stated that the 1997-98 proposed budget for the Department of Social Services is \$3,197,034.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, stated that at the May 5, 1997 public hearing meeting Sheriff Barbara Pickens will present the Sheriff's Department Budget and Dr. Marty Eaddy will present the Lincoln County School's Budget.

Mr. French stated that based on the current tax rate there is \$1.1 million of new money and \$2.5 million in request.

Set Budget Work Session Dates

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following dates for 1997-98 budget meetings:

May 15, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. Budget Work Session on the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Budget which is also the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer Advisory Board meeting.

May 20, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. Budget Work Session

May 28, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. 1997-98 Budget Public Hearing

It was a consensus of the Board to approve the above dates for 1997-98 budget meetings.

Health Massage/Bodywork Therapists Ordinance

Rick French, County Manager, reported that Jeff Taylor, Assistant County Attorney, asked that the county delay the process on the Health Massage/Bodywork Therapists Ordinance until zoning text is in place and then set a public hearing date.

Approval of Community Block Grant Agreement Designation of Signatures

Rick French, County Manager, presented the Community Block Grant Agreement for Julius Blum. The Community Block Grant Agreement for Julius Blum is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A. Mr. French asked the Board to authorized signatures for the Community Block Grant.

A motion by Commissioner Larry Craig to approve the Community Block Grant Agreement for Julius Blum and to authorize the signatures of Chairman Louis McConnell; County Manager, Rick French; and Finance Director, Leon Harmon for the Julius Blum Grant.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

May 15, 1997 Commissioner Representation at East Lincoln Water and Sewer Advisory Board Meeting

The East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board will be meeting on May 15, 1997 in east Lincoln County for a budget work session on the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer Budget.

Out-of-State Travel Request

Rick French, County Manager, stated that he had received a memorandum from Maggie Dollar, Health Director, stating that she had been selected to attend this years National Association of County and City Health Officials annual conference and is requesting approval to count the three conference days as work days not vacation days.

It was a consensus of the Board to deny Maggie Dollar's out-of-state request.

Mr. French stated that on Tuesday, April 29, 1997 he would be going to Charlotte for an air quality meeting.

Mr. French reminded the Board of the "Report to the People Meeting" with the Cooperative Extension at 7:30 a.m. on May 9, 1997.

Commissioner Larry Craig requested that the Board check on purchasing more property behind the Department of Social Services.

It was a consensus of the Board that County Manager, Rick French, check on purchasing one-half acre of property behind Department of Social Services.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman McConnell advised that there was a need for a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the Board go in to Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner James Hallman motioned for the Board to come out of Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.
Unanimously approved.

Chairman McConnell advised that the Board took no action in Closed Session.

ADJOURN

Being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, Chairman McConnell entertained a motion to adjourn the April 28, 1997.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the Board adjourn the April 28, 1997 meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.
Unanimously approved.