

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met on May 28, 1997 at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting public hearings on the 1997-98 budget for Lincoln County and the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District. The following were present:

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

Jeffrey Taylor, Assistant County Manager  
Richard French, County Manager

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING--BUDGET FY97-98****Lincoln County**

Chairman McConnell announced that this was the date, Wednesday, May 28, 1997 and the time, 6:30 p.m., which was advertised in the *Lincoln Times-News* on May 16, 1997 for a Public Hearing on the 1997-98 Lincoln County Budget.

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE  
CONCERNING TENTATIVE BUDGET  
FOR LINCOLN COUNTY**

The tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997 for Lincoln County has been presented to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the office of the County Manager on the Third Floor of the Lincoln County Citizens Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

The Public Hearing will be held 6:30 P.M. on May 28, 1997, in the County Commissioners' Room on the Third Floor of the Lincoln County Citizens Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, at which time any person that wishes to be heard on the budget may appear.

This 16th day of May, 1997.

By Order of the Board of Commissioners  
Lincoln County, North Carolina  
Rebecca B. Shoupe  
Clerk to the Board

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the 1997-98 proposed budget for Lincoln County includes the following:

General Fund  
Capital Improvement  
Capital Reserve  
Law Enforcement Fund  
Emergency Telephone Fund  
County C. I. P.  
Water and Sewer Fund  
East Lincoln Water and Sewer District  
County Landfill

The total budget is \$55,268,665. The total net budget after transfers is \$49,763,561. This is \$5,361,171 less than last year's budget.

The 1997-98 proposed General Fund increases \$1,474,598 or 4% more than the 1996-97 budget. The major new expense items in the General Fund are as follows:

\$545,400 for school current expense  
\$415,929 for capital reserve  
\$242,183 for new debt for schools and the jail project  
\$226,000 for a 2 1/2% cost-of-living increase to all full time County employees  
\$266,412 for mandates for Social Services  
\$200,000 contribution to the East Lincoln Sewer Project

The County Capital Improvement Plan increases \$127,000. An amount of \$400,000 is budgeted for the Gaston College/Senior Center Project, \$104,000 to finance a major upgrade to the AS/400 County Computer System, \$489,500 for the Julius Blum Sewer Project, of which \$403,500 is a CDBG-ED grant.

The proposed overall funding for education is budgeted at \$10,872,483. This is \$1,076,696 more than the 1996-97 budget of \$9,795,787. This increase is divided into the following educational categories:

Current Expense  
Capital Outlay  
Capital Reserve

Res. Sales Taxes  
Gaston College Opr.  
Gaston College Project  
Communities in Schools

Lincoln County's total debt amount is \$66,381,510.

The proposed tax rate for the General Fund is 61.5 cents or the same as the 1996-97 budget. There are no new county employees in the budget. The employment cap of 367 employees was set on July 1, 1995. All proposed water and sewer rates remain the same as the last fiscal year.

Building permit fees are proposed to substantially increase. The Lincoln County Homebuilders Association have reviewed and endorsed the increase.

The General Fund also includes:

Lincoln County Landfill has no increase in fees this year.  
Consolidation of two county departments  
Eliminating a lease with Nations Bank  
\$218,000 funding for Economic Development  
Funds to start a roads program  
Funds for Ramsour's Mill project  
Funds for completion of air conditioning at the Block Smith Gym

Chairman McConnell Chairman McConnell asked if there was anyone wishing to speak regarding the 1997-98 Lincoln County Budget.

Ray Cloninger spoke against the county air conditioning the Block Smith gymnasium. Mr. Cloninger stated that east Lincoln County needed money for a park.

Jean Dellinger spoke on behalf of the Lincoln County Board of Education she expressed deep appreciation to the Board of Commissioners. Thanks for the interest and support to our school system.

Jody Rhyne concerned about funding on communities in school program needs to be funding more money to these programs.

Dr. Marty Eaddy on behalf of school districts he expressed appreciation of support on current expense need \$22,000 - \$25,000 more in current expense.

Chairman McConnell asked if anyone else would like to speak. Being no additional speakers, Chairman McConnell declared the Public Hearing on the 1997-98 Lincoln County Budget, closed.

## **East Lincoln Water and Sewer District**

Chairman McConnell announced that this was the date, Wednesday, May 28, 1997 and the time, 6:30 p.m., which was advertised in the *Lincoln Times-News* on May 21, 1997 for a Public Hearing on the 1997-98 East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District.

### **PUBLICATION OF NOTICE CONCERNING TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE EAST LINCOLN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

The tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997 for East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District has been presented to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the office of the County Manager on the Third Floor of the Lincoln County Citizens Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

The Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 P.M. on May 28, 1997, in the County Commissioners' Room on the Third Floor of the Lincoln County Citizens Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, at which time any person that wishes to be heard on the budget may appear.

This 21st day of May, 1997.

By Order of the Board of Commissioners  
Lincoln County, North Carolina  
Rebecca B. Shoupe  
Clerk to the Board

Chairman McConnell declared the public hearing on East Lincoln Water and Sewer District open.

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the budget for the East Lincoln Water and Sewer District is \$1,996,450. The proposed tax rate for the East Lincoln Water and Sewer District is .22 cent and the Board of Commissioners have asked him to look at alternatives to decrease the tax rate.

Chairman McConnell asked if there was anyone wishing to speak regarding the 1997-98 East Lincoln Water and Sewer District Budget.

Ray Cloninger stated that his concern was who is going to make sure people that needs to be on the sewer get on the sewer or fix their septic tanks. Mr. Cloninger urged the Board to take a look at the various options that they may have.

Jim Perry of 3890 Burton Lane stated that the Board of Commissioners have the oversight responsibility of making this system work and that the Board needs to look at options very serious.

Jack Morgan of 3858 Fox Run stated that the reason people are not hooking onto the sewer system is the unreliability - the rules change all the time.

Robert Parrett of 3102 Threewood Drive stated that there is a communication problem and there should be a standard price.

David Woodruff of Dick Wilson Road stated that he had 71 signatures from the Dick Wilson Road, Executive Circle, and Stratford Lane that want to hook up on sewer but not in the sewer district. Mr. Woodruff stated get sewer out there then can force people to hook on.

Frank Kiszely of 3784 Burton Lane asked the people that were at the meeting to stand if they agreed with comments made by Ray Cloninger and Jim Perry.

Fred Meyers of Westport stated that there was lack of communication regarding the sewer.

Norman Mitchell of 8012 Blue Water Court stated that one of his concerns was there is no standard price.

Gerald Edwards of 1954 Edgar Hill Drive stated that he strongly urges the Board of Commissioners to hold any tax increase to a minimum not to exceed the .08 cent.

Chairman McConnell asked if anyone else would like to speak. Being no additional speakers, Chairman McConnell declared the Public Hearing on the 1997-98 East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District, closed

## **FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT APPROVAL**

### **Lee Killian**

Chairman McConnell stated that Final Subdivision Plat Approval for Lee Killian will be rescheduled at a later date.

Chairman McConnell asked Jim Perry to report on the Lincoln Medical Center.

Jim Perry stated that Lincoln Medical Center received final certification on the joint commission review. Mr. Perry stated that the Lincoln Medical Center

had been accredited with accomdation and is one of 250 hospitals nationwide that has accomdation from a joint commission.

Chairman McConnell called for a brief recess.

Chairman McConnell called the meeting back to order.

## **OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS**

Commissioner Hallman stated that the Gaston College project needs an additional \$500,000. Commissioner Hallman stated that the City of Lincolnton has tentatively committed to another \$100,000, Jerry Cochran feels that he can generate \$200,000 from the Gaston College Fund, and if Lincoln County could commit to \$200,000 in the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

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

Commissioner James Hallman motioned that the Board go in to Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Larry Craig.  
Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Terry Brotherton motioned for the Board to come out of Closed Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.  
Unanimously approved.

Chairman McConnell advised that the Board would return to Open Session.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Commissioner Larry Craig made a motion to offer the County Manager a 10% salary increase and employ an Assistant County Manager to encourage him to stay in Lincoln County.

Commissioner James Hallman stated a new updated agreement could be part of this motion, but should be discussed in closed session.

Assistant County Attorney Jeff Taylor stated this matter should be discussed in closed session.

## **RECESS/ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, Chairman McConnell entertained a motion to adjourn until June 2, 1997.

Commissioner Larry Craig motioned that the Board adjourn until June 2, 1997.

Seconded by Commissioner Beth Saine.  
Unanimously approved.