

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY**

**June 12, 2024, 2:00 PM
Commissioners' Meeting Room
124 West Elm Street
Graham, NC 27253**

Board Members Present: Vice-Chair Steve Carter
Commissioner William "Bill" T. Lashley
Commissioner Pamela Thompson
Commissioner Craig Turner

Board Members Absent: Chairman John Paisley Jr

Call to Order - Vice-Chair Carter

Vice-Chair Carter called the meeting or order. He announced that Chairman Paisley was under the weather and would miss the work session.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - Vice- Chair Carter

Budget Work Session Introduction - County Manager York

County Manager York said this work session moved the Board into adjustments to the proposed budget and any proposals from the Board.

Proposed Budget Adjustments & Discussion

Rebecca Crawford, Budget and Management Services Director, reviewed the staff recommendations already adjusted in the manager's recommended budget.

Commissioner Thompson had questions about ABSS's utility bills. County Manager York explained that the recommended budget did not include preventative maintenance and increased utilities. She said that would need to be added as an agenda adjustment. County Manager York clarified that was ABSS's request but had not included that in her recommended budget. County Manager York confirmed that the Board was interested in adding \$2,553,000 for utilities and \$495,000 for preventative maintenance was being added.

Commissioner Thompson wanted to ensure that ABSS's maintenance was covered, just like any other county department in an emergency.

Vice-Chair Carter said he did not see much in the budget that could be cut because so much had already been cut out.

Commissioner Lashley called on Chief Deputy Jackie Fortner to discuss the shortages at the Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Fortner said they had proposed a \$10,000 sign-on bonus for new 12-hour employee positions only. The new hire would receive \$5,000 at the initial hire date once they were sworn in and \$5,000 after 12 months, pending no disciplinary actions. He explained how the department would implement this new program.

Commissioner Lashley asked if the funds were allocated to the Sheriff's Office and not used, would they be designated only for that purpose?

Chief Deputy Fortner said they wanted to use this as a professional recruitment process and hope to recruit 8-10 new officers by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Lashley suggested an allocation of 25%, estimating ten new officers at \$106,443.

Vice-Chair Carter said he thought this would have little impact on the budget.

Commissioner Thompson said the detention center was a whole different game. She wanted to make sure they were looking at the core issue of the detention center exodus.

County Manager York asked if they wanted to set aside the funds and the amount. She noted it did take some time to incur lapsed salaries, so there would be only lapsed salaries once the positions were vacant for a while. She said they could use the lapsed salaries throughout the year if they start with \$100,000 as seed money.

Commissioner Turner said he was glad to see them going in this direction. They had discussed a similar plan for DSS last year but opted not to pursue it. He said he would be happy to discuss this option for DSS social workers and EMS paramedics who fall into the hard-to-fill positions. He thought there were about 12 vacancies in adult protective services and 7 for EMS paramedics. County Manager York mentioned that the detention center, DSS, and EMS were included in the first phase of the market study.

Commissioner Lashley stated that he had asked Ms. Johnson from ABSS how much the school system paid for teacher's supplements last year and the previous year. She was not present at that meeting, and he had not heard back from her.

Dr. William Harrison, Interim Superintendent of ABSS, shared how cutting the budget request would affect the school system.

Vice-Chair Carter announced that Commissioner Turner needed to leave so he asked if he could get a consensus to resume the meeting on Friday, June 14th at 2:00 pm.

Commissioner Thompson requested that the \$6.8 million that Commissioner Turner referenced earlier in the meeting be penciled in to see what it would look like on paper.

Upcoming Budget Meetings:

Budget Adoption: June 17, 2024 6:30 pm

Meeting Recessed

At 4:01 p.m., Vice-Chair Carter recessed the meeting until Friday, June 14, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Steve Carter, Vice- Chair
Alamance County Board of Commissioners

Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board