



Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Budget Work Session #2 Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Pender County Public Assembly Room
805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC

PRESENT: Commissioner Brad George
Commissioner Jerry Groves
Chairman Randy Burton
Vice Chair Brent Springer
Commissioner Jimmy T. Tate

ABSENT:

OTHER PRESENT: Meg Blue, Interim County Manager
Trey Thurman, County Attorney
Lexi Stanfield, Clerk to the Board
Allen Vann, Assistant County Manager
Other Staff and Members of the Press and Public

1. 4:00PM PENDER COUNTY SCHOOLS: DR. BRAD BREEDLOVE

Dr. Brad Breedlove presented the Pender County Schools' budget. The budget was a "zero-based budget process", meaning the school created the budget from the ground up and only allotted money where it was needed. Breedlove made inquiries about raises for teachers seeking higher education and the bus drivers to maintain being within a competitive range with surrounding counties. The schools' priorities for this fiscal year are recruitment/ retention, school-based administrative support, and instructional support.

2. 4:30PM FORESTRY: DAVID ROOKS

David Rooks presented the forestry budget. Rooks provided a brief run down of how monies have been spent over the last few fiscal years. He is requesting \$339,908.00, a 2.5% increase over last year's budget.

3. 4:40PM SOIL AND WATER: JIM BURNS

Jim Burns presented the Soil and Water budget. He gave an overview of the budget from last year. He is requesting \$102,863.00.

4. 4:50PM FIRE-ATKINSON: CHIEF DOYLE RETHERFORD

Chief Retherford presented the Atkinson Fire budget. He reviewed the budget from the current fiscal year and answered questions regarding employed and volunteer firefighters. He is requesting \$331,586.00.

5. 5:20PM FIRE-PENDERLEA DUPLIN: CHIEF TAYLOR JOHNSON

Chief Taylor Johnson presented the Penderlea Duplin Fire budget. The Chief reviewed the past budget. He reported there were thirty-seven volunteers and one paid employee. He is requesting \$19,833.00.

6. 5:35PM FIRE-ROCKY POINT: CHIEF STOPHEL

Deputy Chief Short presented the Rocky Point Fire budget in place of Chief Stophel. Deputy Chief Short reviewed the budget from 2024-2025 and its correlation to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget. He reported that \$75,000.00 to replace the QRVs, which is necessary. The budget Rocky Point is requesting is \$250,000.00.

7. 5:50PM FIRE-PENDERLEA CENTRAL (BURGAW): CHIEF JOHNATHAN PREVATTE

Chief Prevatte reported the Penderlea Central Fire budget. He is requesting \$250,000.00 however, the County proposed \$150,000.00.

8. 6:00PM BREAK

9. 6:10PM FIRE-NORTHEAST PENDER (SURF CITY): CHIEF ALLEN WILSON

Chief Wilson presented the Northeast Pender Fire budget. He reviewed the budget priorities and summarized his requests, additions, and improvements needed. The proposed budget is \$300,000.00.

10. 6:20PM FIRE-PENDERLEA: CHIEF RICKY RIVENBARK

Chief Ricky Rivenbark presented the Penderlea Fire budget. The proposed budget is \$643,000.00. Riverbark reported that in the last calendar year, the stations answered 600 calls.

11. 6:30PM FIRE-MAPLE HILL: CHIEF HAROLD MOTLEY

Chief Motley gave a brief overview of the Maple Hill Fire budget. He requested \$61,355 and the proposed budget from the County matched that cost.

12. 6:40PM FIRE AND EMS: CHIEF EVERETTE BAYSDEN

Chief Baysden for Pender Fire and EMS presented his budget. Baysden reviewed the budget lines. He is requesting, and the County proposed a budget of \$4,971,147. He reviewed lines that increased from last year and reviewed lines that were matched from last year because of uncertainty with the upcoming merger plan.

13. 7:00PM SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL: SHERIFF CUTLER AND MAJOR COLLIER

Sheriff Cutler and Major Collier presented the Sheriff's Office and Jail budget. The Sheriff's office and Jail budget is broken into seven organizations. The Sheriff requested eight new deputies. However, it was cut from the budget early in the process. The Board of Commissioners requested Meg Blue to include the eight new positions and to bring the starting salary to \$58,000.00.

14. 7:30PM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: TOMMY BATSON

Tommy Batson reviewed the Emergency Management budget. Batson requested two new positions, but they were cut earlier in the budget process. The Commissioners asked Meg Blue to include a new position. Batson reviewed the grants the EM department received.

15. 7:45PM FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE: AMY BURTON

Fire Marshal Burton presented the Fire Marshal budget. She reported the number of inspections and permits done in the last year. Burton reviewed the department's history and its correlation to risk reduction. The only change in the budget is to reclassify Burton's position so it matches other department head classifications.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]