

Cleveland County Board of Commissioners
May 17, 2017

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Eddie Holbrook, Chairman
Susan Allen, Vice-Chair
Jason Falls, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Ronnie Whetstine, Commissioner
Jeff Richardson, County Manager
Andrea Leslie-Fite, Assistant County Attorney
Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director
Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director
Brian Epley, Finance Director
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director
Betsy Harnage – Register of Deeds
Sam Lockridge – Health Services Director
Dorothea Wyant – Public Health Director
Dayna Causby – Board of Elections Director
Joe Lord – EMS Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eddie Holbrook called the meeting to order and Kerri Melton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion seconded by Commissioner Whetstine and unanimously approved by the Board to, **approve the agenda with following amendments:**

- Replace: Miss Shelby Presentations with the National Police Week Proclamation.
- Add: Item 8 Commissioner appointment to the College of Trustees Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL POLICE WEEK: The Clerk read the following proclamation:



Commissioner Hutchins thanked the Law Enforcement Community for all they do and asked the Cleveland County Deputy in attendance to accept it on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Allen, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *accept the proclamation as read.*

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Sam Walker - 1323 Claremont Dr., Shelby, NC - Mr. Walker shared information about the Cleveland County Seminoles. This group started as a Christian based youth football organization for ages 5 – 11 and they are currently going into their second season. The goal of this faith based youth group is to prepare the young men and women who participate for a successful future.

Dr. Theresa Taylor - 1038 Quail Hollow Dr, Kings Mountain, NC. - Dr. Taylor is the Veterinarian on the Cleveland County Board of Health. She wanted to thank the Board for all they've done for the shelter. Positive improvements continue to be made for the animals and the facility. She hopes the Board continues with their support of the spay/neuter clinic in Cleveland County.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Clerk to the Board included the Minutes of the *May 2, 2017 regular meeting*, in Board Members packets.

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the minutes as written.*

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *April 2017* (copy found on Page ____ of Minute Book ____).

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during *April 2017*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$478.25) monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$53,755.73.

CAPITAL PROJECTS: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #052)

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve the following budget amendment:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
477.715.4.350.00		Cap Proj-Road Paving/State Govt Grants	\$611,566.00	
477.715.5.700.01		Cap Proj-Road/Paving/Grants-Road/Paving	\$611,566.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget Amendment necessary for reimbursement to pass through grant funding for TGS engineers contract for engineering services, right of way services, contract administrative/inspection services for road and rail project for Industrial Park at Washburn Switch.

SOCIAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #053)

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board to *approve the following budget amendment.*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
011.504.4.310.00	93.558-P338	Title XX Services/Federal Gov Grants	\$9,753.00	
011.504.5.420.01		Title XX Services/Mental Health	\$7,703.00	
011.504.5.310		Title XX Services/Travel	\$2,050.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget Amendment necessary to accept Time-Limited Tanf Child Welfare workers funding for fiscal year 2016/2017. The actual allocation received was more than the projected budget estimate. The additional funds will help offset county funds in these areas.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #054)

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board to *approve the following budget amendment.*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
012.532.4.310.00	93940-981C	TB/STD/CD/Federal Govt Grants	\$608.00	
011.504.5.420.01		TB/STD/CD/Salary-Regular	\$608.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget Amendment necessary to offset some of the salary/fringe wages of existing Health Department staff to complete the "2017 North Carolina Annual STD Update" webinar.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

In honor of Emergency Medical Services Week, Commissioners adopted a proclamation to be displayed during EMS Week.

Number 04-2017

A Proclamation in Support of National Emergency Medical Services Week

Whereas, the week of May 21-27, 2017 has been designated as National Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Whereas, Emergency Medical Services is a vital public service, providing lifesaving care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the Emergency Medical Services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, nurses, physicians, as well as trained members of the public; and

Whereas, the members of the Emergency Medical Services team, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of our local Emergency Medical Services providers;

Now Therefore, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of May 21-27, 2017, as National Emergency Medical Services Week 2017 in Cleveland County, North Carolina. The Commissioners call upon the citizens of Cleveland County to observe this week by helping us honor the dedication of the men and women who serve our community through Emergency Medical Services.

ADOPTED ON THIS THE 17th DAY OF MAY 2017.

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *adopt the proclamation as written.*

SALVATION ARMY WEEK

In honor of Salvation Army Week, Commissioners adopted a proclamation which will be presented by Commissioner Hutchins on May 18, 2017.

Number 03-2017

A Proclamation in Support of National Salvation Army Week

Whereas, the week of May 14-20, 2017 has been designated as National Salvation Army Week; and

Whereas, a love of God and a desire to help others is the motivation behind the men and women of the Salvation Army; and

Whereas, the Salvation Army has been providing these programs to citizens of the United States for more than 137 years; and

Whereas, the Salvation Army in Cleveland County, North Carolina, provides much more than spiritual counseling and basic human necessities to the needy and hurting on a daily basis; and

Whereas, the Salvation Army serves as a symbol of compassion, but more so an active participant in the provision of services to many men, women and children in Cleveland County; and

Whereas, the Salvation Army provides its services to people in need without discrimination;

Now Therefore, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of May 14-20, 2017, as National Salvation Army Week 2017 in Cleveland County, North Carolina. The Commissioners call upon the citizens of Cleveland County to observe this week by helping us honor the dedication of these men and women who touch so many lives through the Salvation Army.

ADOPTED ON THIS THE 17th DAY OF MAY 2017.

ACTION: Commissioner Falls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *adopt the proclamation as written.*

REGULAR AGENDA

SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Malinda Barkley, with Republic Services, was introduced to the Board by Dorothea Wyant, Public Health Director. Ms. Barkley thanked the Board for the ability to provide waste collection services to the citizens and businesses throughout the county for the last several years. Republic Services is appreciative of the opportunity to make an application to continue with the program and to grow throughout the county.

On July 1, 2012, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners awarded a franchise to Republic Services of North Carolina, LLC, dba GDS for a period of five years, ending on June 30, 2017. In compliance with the Cleveland County Solid Waste Ordinance, the Health Department sought applications from qualified waste haulers before February 15th. A letter stating the Franchise requirements were mailed to four qualified Solid Waste haulers on January 24, 2017. One completed application was received from Republic Services of North Carolina, LLC, dba GDS. The application was reviewed by the Health Director and General Services Director. The Assistant County Attorney was then asked to review the Franchise Ordinance and make appropriate revisions. Per the ordinance, the term shall be from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022, unless terminated or revoked as provided by the Cleveland County Code of Ordinances.

The Board of Commissioners of Cleveland County, with or without cause, may terminate the franchise at the end of the second, third or fourth years.

On May 2, 2017, during their scheduled meeting, the Cleveland County Board of Health voted unanimously to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to award an exclusive franchise to Republic Services of North Carolina, LLC, dba GDS for the proper collection, transportation, recycling and disposal of solid waste within Cleveland County for the term as stated in the ordinance. Included in the recommendation is that the Health Director evaluate the overall performance of the franchise company's success in working with Cleveland County Solid Waste Staff relating to recycling education and recycling opportunities prior to the end of the first year of the agreement. The Health Director will report findings to the Board of Health and recommended changes, if any, be brought to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Hutchins asked about solid waste fee schedule. County Manager, Jeff Richardson explained the Solid Waste fee schedule will be addressed in the budget presentation and is not included as part of this agenda item. Mr. Richardson will be recommending a 15% increase in the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year budget.

Commissioner Holbrook asked if the 15% increase will adjust yearly or will it be a permanent increase over the five-year period. Mr. Lockridge responded, with this proposed agreement, the Board is following the schedule of fees that was agreed upon years ago. Commissioner Falls stated for clarification this agreement has nothing to do with fees, this motion is only for the agreement.

Commissioner Hutchins also asked about the communication problems residents in Cleveland County were having with Republic Services. He advised the biggest issue he has heard was citizens reaching different call centers throughout the state and no one actually in Cleveland County. Ms. Barkley advised they have call centers in Charlotte, Phoenix, and California. The reasons for these call centers is to provide uniformed standards across the nation. Republic Services is interested in creating a "pod" call center specifically for Cleveland County residents.

ACTION: Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *adopt the Franchise Ordinance as presented.*

**ORDINANCE FOR THE GRANTING OF A FRANCHISE (REFERRED TO AS
LICENSE IN THE CLEVELAND COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES) FOR
THE COMMERCIAL COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION OF SOLID WASTE
IN CLEVELAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 153A-46 North Carolina General Statute 153A-136 and the Cleveland County Code of Ordinances, and for the purpose of providing for the proper collection, transportation, recycling and disposal of solid waste within the County, a franchise is hereby granted, subject to the terms and conditions set Forth herein:

1. The term "license", "licenses" and "licensees" mean "franchise", "franchises" or "franchisees."
2. An exclusive franchise is hereby granted to Republic Services of North Carolina, LLC, d/b/a/ GDS, a North Carolina limited liability company, for the right, subject to the terms of this Franchise Ordinance and the Cleveland County Code

of Ordinances, to collect, transport, recycle and dispose of residential solid waste in Cleveland County. The franchisee shall be required to provide service to residential units in areas with rights to service by Cleveland County.

3. An exclusive franchise is hereby granted to Republic Services of North Carolina, LLC, d/b/a GDS, a North Carolina limited liability company, to collect, transport, recycle and dispose of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste in Cleveland County in the areas which the County has a right to grant such franchise.

4. The franchise shall be subject to the Cleveland County Solid Waste Ordinances and any amendments duly adopted by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners during the term of the franchise. The word “license” or “licenses” or “licensee” shall apply to the “franchise” or franchises” or “franchisee” as provided in this Ordinance and Chapter 11 of the Cleveland County Code of Ordinances shall be applicable to this Franchise Ordinance.


5. The term of the franchise herein granted shall be from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2022, unless terminated or revoked as provided by the Cleveland County Code of Ordinances; provided, the Board of Commissioners of Cleveland County, with or without cause, may terminate the franchise at the end of the second, third or fourth years hereunder.

6. Cleveland County reserves, notwithstanding any other provision of this Franchise Ordinance and Agreement, the right to haul, collect, recycle, dispose or transport any solid waste and operate manned and unmanned collection sites for solid waste within the entire County which is subject to the solid waste regulations of the County by North Carolina Statutes or interlocal governmental agreement.

ADOPTED ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF May 2017

FY 2017 – 2018 COUNTY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET

County Manager Jeff Richardson was called to the podium by Commissioner Holbrook to present the “*Manager’s Recommended Budget FY 2017 – 2018.*”



Cleveland County

Managers Recommended Budget
FY 2017-2018

Budget Presentation Summary

- ▶ Operational Budget
 - ▶ Strategic Goal Resource Alignment
 - ▶ Community Health Initiative Follow-up
- ▶ Capital Budget
- ▶ Rates and Fees

Public School Funding

Property Tax Revenue (15 cent tax rate)	\$	11,733,000
Sales Tax Revenue	\$	3,700,000
Local Operational Appropriation	\$	10,100,000
Local Capital Appropriation	\$	1,400,000
Sales Tax Capital Appropriation	\$	1,450,000
Total	\$	28,383,000

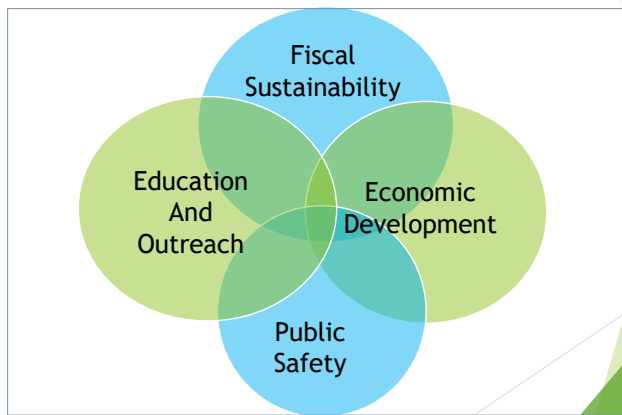
Public School System	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Per Pupil Funding	\$1,890	\$1,890	\$1,923**

**Projected funding would be 37th of 118 LEAs in North Carolina

New Operational Revenue

New Property Tax Revenue (57 cent tax rate)	\$	725,000
Sales Tax Growth (2.0%)	\$	221,000
Economic Development Incentive Roll Offs	\$	100,000
Increase in Investment Earnings	\$	100,000
Re-program of Operational Contingency	\$	300,000
Behavioral Health Fund Balance	\$	265,000
Savings from multi-year capital planning	\$	190,000
Re-Engineering / Indirect Cost Management	\$	455,000
1.) DSS, Health, E-911 - State Dollar DrawDown		
2.) EMS Pharmacy Savings		
Total Budget Flexibility	\$	2,356,000

Commissioner Strategic Goal Focus Areas



FOCUS AREA
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
OUTREACH



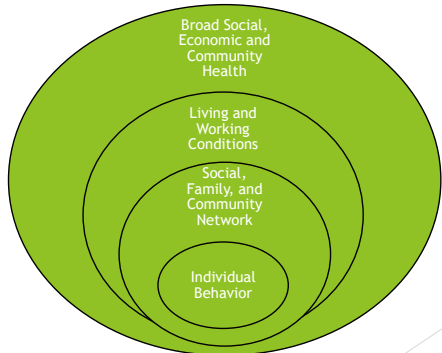
STRATEGIC GOAL: Work with the Board of Health to determine ways of improving the overall health of our community.

Community Health Timeline

- ▶ January 31st Budget Worksession- Discussion Community Health Rankings
 - ▶ March 21st Original recommendations presented by Health Director
- Board of Commissioners Direction:
1. Identify options to address Cleveland County's Community Health Rankings
 2. Generate community prosperity and partnership education programs
 3. Pinpoint ways to increase community collaboration & workforce development/readiness

Partnering for Community Prosperity

▶ Social determinants play a fundamental role in the health of each individual in Cleveland County. Education level, employment status, income, family/social support, and community trust are all driving influences to a persons' daily life.



Health Behaviors

- Influencing individual health behaviors is the first step and most effective way to create change in community health.
- According to Robert Woods Foundation and other Individual Health Behavior statistics, Cleveland County has identified 4 areas in for improvement that would be most impactful.

Focus Area	Service Model	Resources Available
Obesity / Diabetes Prevention	Diabetes Prevention Program - Public Health Center	✓
Single Parent Homes	Family Planning - Public Health Center	✓
Substance Abuse	Phoenix - Ollie Harris - Public Health Center	✓
Core Social Services	Department of Social Services	✓

Transportation

- ▶ Transportation or community logistics have been identified as complicating foundational issues revolving around service delivery.
- ▶ Public Transportation has a direct impact on several key social determinants:
 - ▶ 1.) Community Health Resources
 - ▶ 2.) Work Force Development / Readiness
 - ▶ 3.) Community Vibrancy

Partnering for Prosperity
Cleveland County Action Plan

- ▶ Three-year Pilot Program in West Shelby Community (Graham School)
- ▶ On-site Nutrition Counseling
- ▶ On-site Telemedicine Program
- ▶ Transportation partnership with TACC

Action Plan Budget

Projected Project & Operating Cost	\$100,000 (Annually)
Community Health Partners	\$ 25,000
Behavioral Health Allocation	\$ 25,000
Potential Grant Funding / Local	\$ 50,000

**Vehicle & Capital to be donated by local community partner

STRATEGIC GOAL: Continue to study availability of youth programs to include life coaching, career assistance and healthy lifestyle education to provide opportunities for youth to become successful, productive adults.

Allocation to the Town of Polkville for improvements at Polkville Park to serve the citizens of Upper Cleveland County.



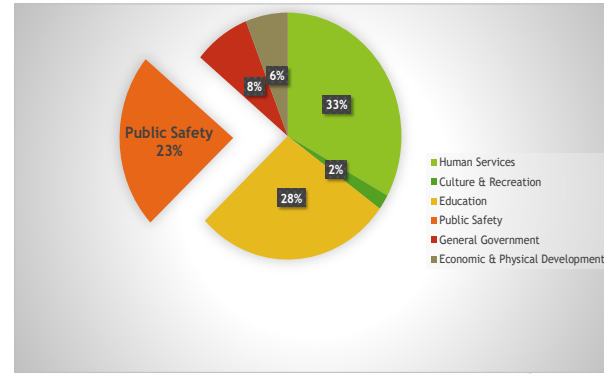
Playground for Persons with Disabilities

City of Shelby
Town of Boiling Springs
Town of Polkville

FOCUS AREA PUBLIC SAFETY



Budget Summary by Function



Law Enforcement Budget Support

Vehicle Allocation	
Sheriff	\$ 35,000 ↑(10%)
Detention	\$ 28,000
Equipment Allocation	
Sheriff	\$ 179,829
Detention	\$ 16,374
Court System	\$ 88,111
Position Allocation	
I.T. Technician	\$ 65,000
Detention	\$ 145,000
Budgeted Overtime	\$ 135,000
Total	\$ 692,314

STRATEGIC GOAL: Encourage Animal Control to find alternative ways of reducing unwanted births of animals.

Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic

Non-Profit Model:

One Time Contributed Capital - in kind	\$ 150,000
Proposed Annual Operating Allotment	\$ 175,000

**Recommending a 24 month moratorium on Animal Control Licensing/Registration Fee Program for additional analysis



FOCUS AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



STRATEGIC GOAL: Research Availability of Transportation funding for projects such as sidewalks, bike trails and Rails to Trails Programs

Partnership with the City of Shelby on proposed 13 mile Rail to Trail Project



rails-to-trails

STRATEGIC GOAL: Manage occupancy tax to support synergetic partnerships aimed at growing travel tourism throughout Cleveland County.

- ▶ ALWS
- ▶ Foothills Public Shooting Complex
- ▶ LeGrand Center
- ▶ Chamber / Travel Tourism
- ▶ Earl Scruggs Center



STRATEGIC GOAL: Examine current Economic Development Partnership structure to insure continued success in growing the County's tax base and increasing jobs by recruiting and retaining industry in Cleveland County.

▶ Existing Incentivized Clients :

- ▶ 41 Clients
- ▶ Net Revenue equates to 6.5 cents of 57 cent tax rate
- ▶ Net Revenue approximately \$4.1M
- ▶ Approved first small business incentive agreement



STRATEGIC GOAL: Examine current Economic Development Partnership structure to insure continued success in growing the County's tax base and increasing jobs by recruiting and retaining industry in Cleveland County.

- ▶ Workforce Development Efforts ✓
- ▶ E.D. Industry Growth / Expansion ✓
 - ▶ Property Acquisition
 - ▶ Infrastructure Improvements
- ▶ Build Out of Washburn Switch Industrial Park ✓

FOCUS AREA FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY





STRATEGIC GOAL: Review the Pay and Classification Study to determine the best option to create a sustainable Cleveland County employee pay plan.

Employee Compensation

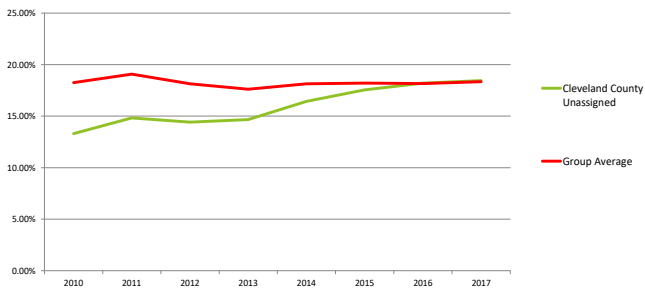
▶ Health Plan Investment (4.8%)	\$ 375,000
▶ CPI Inflation Adjustment (1.7%)	\$ 600,000
▶ 1.3 % COLA	\$ 440,000
▶ Pay & Classification Study	TBD

STRATEGIC GOAL: Review the Pay and Classification Study to determine the best option to create a sustainable Cleveland County employee pay plan.

Additional FTE Positions/Resources

▶ 4 New FTE - Detention	\$ 145,000
▶ Budgeted Overtime- Sheriff/Detention	\$ 135,000
▶ 1 New FTE - I.T. (Public Safety)	\$ 65,000
▶ 1 New FTE - DSS (Local Match)	\$ 31,000

PEER COMPARISON UN-RESERVED FUND BALANCE



• Ending Un-Reserved Fund Balance at June 30, 2017 - 18.4%

Operational Budget Summary

Additional Operational Revenue	\$ 2,356,000
Project Investment	\$ 565,000
Position Investment	\$ 376,000
Workforce Investment	\$ 1,415,000
Total Strategic Plan Allocations	\$ 2,356,000

Multi-Year Capital Planning

Capital Planning

• Master Facility Planning	\$6,500,000
• Organization I.T. Infrastructure	\$2,000,000
• Out Year Capital Planning	
• LEC / Admin Fiber Replacement	\$150,000
• LeGrand I.T. /A.V. Updates	\$180,000
• LEC / DSS Roof Replacements	\$300,000
• BOE Voting Equipment	\$225,000
• E.D. Capital Reserve Fund (10%)	\$205,000

Proposed Rates and Fees

FY 17-18 Fee Schedule

- ▶ Solid Waste Tipping Fees
- ▶ Phase II - Multi-Year Solid Waste Plan
 - ▶ Part of 2013 State approved multi-year feasibility recommendation.
 - ▶ Construction of new landfill cell- \$5M
 - ▶ Post Closure responsibility- \$12M



FY 17-18 Fee Schedule

- ▶ Building Inspections- Solar Farms
 - ▶ Cost recoupment fee structure
 - Residential vs. Commercial
 - ▶ Peer county alignment



Questions

Included in the budget, there is no recommended tax rate increase for public schools or county government. The Manager's Budget is balanced on .57 cent property tax rate and the public-school will remain at a .15 cent tax rate. The Board met on January 31st to discuss the budget process. Everyone worked hard to align resources with their highest priorities in preparation for the budget.

Mr. Richardson began by discussing funding for Cleveland County Schools. Student growth in Cleveland County remains flat. Mr. Richardson noted from FY 2015-2016 through FY 2016-2017, funding remained at \$1,890 per student. In the FY 2017-2018 there is a modest increase of \$33.00 per pupil equaling out to \$1,923 per student. The projected funding would put Cleveland County 37th for schools in the state. The majority of the additional funds will be designated to a pilot program in the public schools called dual tract that will begin this fall. Dual tract is for students who are interested in advance manufacturing. The Work Force Development Team has been working on this program for over a year.

Modest growth in assessed value reflects \$725,000 in new property tax revenue. The moderate sales tax growth will yield \$221,000. We have two economic development projects that will be retiring. These will yield another \$100,000 in programmable revenue for the Board. Increase investment earnings are calculated at \$100,000. Included Mr. Richardson is re-programming \$300,000 in contingency that has been in the County Manager's Office. Partners Behavioral Health fund balance is approximately \$750,000. Mr. Richardson is recommending \$265,000 of that be used for recreation grants for ADA playgrounds for Polkville, Shelby, and Boiling Springs. These numbers combine for budget flexibility of \$2,356,000.

The Commissioner's Strategic Goal focus areas are education and outreach, fiscal sustainability, economic development, and public safety. They over lap and inter connect with each other.

Finance Director Brian Epley was called to the podium to review the focus area "*Community Education and Customer Service Outreach*" portion of the presentation. Mr. Epley recognized Dorothea Wyant – Public Health Director, Bob Davis – TACC, Chris Gash – representing Cleveland County Schools, and Andrew Schrag – Partners, thanking them for all the hard work and contribution to this community goal. All agencies involved are dedicated in making the Partnership for Community Prosperity Project successful. Mr. Epley explained Cleveland County's three-part action plan:

- Partnering with Carolina Healthcare System to provide 100% of the technology and equipment for an on-site Telemedicine Program. Included is a full-time nurse to be housed at Graham School. This program will allow the students and parents of those children who attend Graham School to receive the healthcare needed.
- Provide an onsite nutrition counselor who will teach healthy lifestyle aspects such as meal planning, exercise regiments, and where to shop.
- A partnership with TACC to allow free transportation to the citizens in the Graham School community.

The total cost for the three-part action plan is \$100,000. Mr. Epley explained \$25,000 for this program will come from Community Health Partners and another \$25,000 will come from the Behavioral Health allocation. Mr. Epley noted the County is hoping to secure \$50,000 in state funds to cover the remaining cost of the project.

Commissioner Holbrook opened the floor to the Board for any questions they may have regarding Mr. Epley's portion of the presentation. Commissioner Allen had a question regarding transportation. She inquired if the transportation portion will begin in areas that currently have no readily public transportation available. Mr. Epley answered "yes", they will begin in the high population density areas around Graham School who have no public transportation that goes through the neighborhood.

Commissioner Holbrook noted the need for public transportation in Cleveland County is critical. Transportation is crucial for work force development and growth.

Commissioner Hutchins thanked Mr. Epley, Ms. Wyant, TACC, and everyone else who participated for their hard work in the development and direction of these community programs. Commissioner Holbrook added his thanks to all the entities who have been involved. He said, *"this is a very complex and complicated situation that is going to require a lot of participation and cooperation in this endeavor."* Commissioner Falls echoed the previous comments of the Commissioners and thanked all those who are participating in the launch of this program. He also inquired when the Board could expect the launch of this program. Mr. Epley advised they would need to set up a task force with the program partners and the Graham School Community Leaders to assure this is a successful program. Mr. Epley is hoping by the second quarter of 17-18 this program should be started and moving forward. Dorothea Wyant added the telemedicine portion of this program will be established by the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year in August.

Commissioner Hutchins recommended seeing the planning phase of this program begin immediately. Commissioner Whetstine added the need for these programs in the community is high and the team should proceed swiftly but with caution as not to forget or exclude the community leaders of the Graham School Community.

Mr. Richardson was called back to the podium to continue his presentation. He continued with the Public Safety Focus Area. The Board's commitment to multi-year strategies for the growth of Public Safety has increased the funding from 18% to 23% of the county's budget. Included in this budget is funding to upgrade the video arraignment equipment. The replacement of this system will save money, time, and provide safety for Detention Officers as inmates will not need to be transported to their hearings. The x-ray/scan machines located in the entrance of the courthouse will also be upgraded. We will be adding a position in IT which will be used in Public Safety. The tipping point was last fiscal year with the Sheriff's Office implementing body cameras technology. Total increased allocation for Public Safety in the FY 2017-2018 is \$692,314.

Mr. Richardson recognized Libby Hawkins, wife of the late Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins, as being instrumental in the exploring of a low cost spay/neuter clinic in Cleveland County. Ms. Hawkins was present to show her support for the clinic. Mr. Richardson said they already made the one time contributed capital of \$150,000 for the home the county purchased and relocated to Animal Control. This home is currently being refurbished to be used as a

veterinarian clinic. Mr. Lockridge has been working with several non-profits in the community and will come back to the Board in the fall with a plan and a proposed contract of services to create a non-profit low cost spay/neuter clinic. Mr. Richardson is also recommending a 24-month moratorium on the Animal Control Licensing/Registration Fee Program for additional analysis. Commissioner Hutchins inquired about the funding allotment and the possibility of advancing the money from next year's budget now and replace it with next year's budget so the work for the clinic can begin immediately. Mr. Richardson explained the \$175,000 allotment is set aside for operating expenses and one time capital expenses.

Commissioner Allen thanked Mr. Lockridge for his hard work, guidance, and taking the lead with the local rescue groups by bringing the appropriate people from the community together. Mrs. Hawkins was also thanked for her involvement and support with the clinic. Commissioner Allen stated this clinic is beneficial to the health and safety of Cleveland County by reducing the number of stray animals.

Commissioner Hutchins inquired about the rescinding of the license fee and asked, *"is there still something in place where the public can take an animal that is not spayed/neutered and is a nuisance?"* Mr. Lockridge answered *"yes they can still take care of it under the existing ordinance."*

Commissioner Falls followed advising he has had a lot of conversations in the community, there is a lot of interest and support for this project. Commissioner Falls also thanked Mrs. Hawkins for her leadership.

Mr. Richardson continued with the Economic Development portion of the presentation. One strategic goal under this focus area is to manage occupancy tax to support synergetic partnerships aimed at growing travel tourism throughout Cleveland County. Accounted in the budget is continued funding for the American Legion World Series, the Foothills Shooting Complex, the LeGrand Center, Travel Tourism partnership with the Chamber and the Earl Scruggs Center. Cleveland County has 41 incentivized agreements. Two will retire next year. We currently have six industries that make up 6.5 cent of the 57-cent tax rate. Workforce Development money will be available for the third year in a row. Included is \$225,000 for Workforce Development partnership with the Community College. Mr. Richardson is holding the money to discuss and plan with the college for the continued workforce readiness programs. Included is also \$45,000 for the second year of full funding scholarships for the robotic and advanced machining classes held at the college. Mr. Richardson is going to ask Cleveland Community College to come and present a formal update to the Board on how that program is doing.

The final focus area is fiscal sustainability. Mr. Richardson is asking for a 4.8% increase in health plan investment equaling \$375,000. These numbers show the health plan is flat. Cleveland County employees are making good decisions and taking advantage of the health/wellness programs and initiatives available to them. The \$375,000 will allow for additional individualized health coaching for the employees. Mr. Richardson is also asking for a 1.7% CPI inflation adjustment and a 1.3% COLA totaling a 3% pay plan increase for Cleveland County employees effective July 1st. Allotted in the budget is funding for six additional full-time employee positions; four new full time Detention Deputies and budgeted over-time for the Sheriff's Office, one new I.T. full time employee, and one new DSS/Child Protective

Services. The County will pay half of the salary and the State will pay the other half for this position.

Mr. Richardson concluded his recommended budget stating the un-reserved fund balance on June 30, 2017 will be 18.4%. Upon completion of the budget presentation Commissioner Holbrook opened the floor to the Board for questions. Commissioner Hutchins asked how long the fund balance will last if they needed to depend on it. Mr. Richardson answered the state recommended amount is 8%. Mr. Richardson also stated with Cleveland County's size 18% - 19% is a good amount for fund balance.

Commissioner Falls congratulated the whole team on their continued hard work and asked for clarification regarding the fee schedule for the solar farms and commercial structures. Mr. Richardson clarified the fee is only for solar farms not all commercial structures. Commissioner Falls had a second clarification question regarding the Solid Waste Tipping Fees; he asked, *"Is this something the Board voted and approved in 2013 this is just following through with the schedule that has already been set in place?"* Mr. Richardson answered *"yes, this is multi-year schedule runs through FY 23 – 24. Every two years there is a recommended increase to address out year capital and environmental needs."* Every two years the County Manager will come before the Board and remind them they are at the next phase so it can be recorded on the Minutes, shared with the public, and let the Board execute the multi-year plan.

Commissioner Whetstine stated, solar farms, with their exemptions from taxes don't have an economic life growth like commercial buildings. Mr. Richardson replied he was correct. *"This is not a budget balancing strategy. This is a tax equity issue. It's a fee for service and the county doesn't recover 100% of the cost."* Staff looked at surrounding counties fees and those fees are substantially higher for solar farm inspections. These fees are heavily subsidized out of the general fund. The fee increase would help offset the County's cost.

Commissioner Holbrook advised the Board will come back in two weeks for a vote on the budget. A public hearing will be held at that time.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Due to the recent resignation of Commissioner appointee Ellis Monroe on the Cleveland Community College Board of Trustees, Commissioner Hutchins recommended the Board take action to make an appointment to fulfill his unexpired term.

For many years, the late Ronnie Hawkins served on the Board of Trustees as a School Board appointment and would report to Commissioners on the activity of the Trustees. Commissioners felt it important to continue to have a Commissioner on the Trustee Board most specifically because of the continued financial commitment to the college as well as the county's role in Workforce Development.

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously approved by the Board to *appoint Commissioner Falls to the College Board of Trustees to serve the unexpired term of Ellis Monroe.*

Chairman Holbrook asked the County Manager to notify the President of Cleveland Community College as well as the Chairman of the Board of this appointment and asked that Commissioner Falls be sworn in at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

There was discussion about the term of this appointment. Community Services Director Kerri Melton confirmed the term of this appointment would expire on June 30, 2020.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Whetstine spoke of the Brick Mason Class from Burns High School. The seniors at the school are given recognition and a set of tools to help encourage them to stay in the field of brick masonry. Commissioner Whetstine also attended the Prayer Breakfast in Kings Mountain.

Commissioner Falls attended the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon. He said the luncheon made him think about his property taxes and, that if the property taxes pay for the men and women in law enforcement, he will gladly pay those taxes. Commissioner Falls also said how thankful he was for the Law Enforcement Officers that put their lives on the line every day for the community. He asked the public to think about these officers and thank them with a hand shake, or buying them a meal, or even a kind smile to thank them for what they do.

Commissioner Hutchins The Foothills Shooting Complex 250 yard rifle range will have soft openings on the following dates: March 22 from 3:00pm - 6:00pm and March 27 4:00pm – 7:00pm. March 31 at 9:45 am they are going to open the number one range. Sam Lockridge and his team has worked very hard in operating the Range. Commissioner Hutchins thanked County Manager Jeff Richardson for his hard work on the budget. The hard work of everyone has allowed the Shooting Complex to become more successful than they expected.

Commissioner Allen attended the Banker's House Ribbon Cutting on May 11th. She thought how great it was for the Community to have venue options for special events. Commissioner Allen and Sam Lockridge attended the Travel and Tourism event at the I-85 rest area. Different counties in the area meet and swap ideas on how to make Travel and Tourism successful.

Commissioner Holbrook was in Indianapolis the last few days. The Saturday televised portion of the games for the ALWS is proceeding as planned and will be announced soon. Commissioner Holbrook thanked everyone for making the Appalachian State vs. Wake Forest baseball game successful. There was an estimated 3,500 – 4,000 people in the stands at the start of the game. He also spoke of the police escort the teams received when they entered the county and made their way to the stadium. The coaches and players of the team spoke very highly of Shelby and Cleveland County.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Falls made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn the meeting*. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m in the Commissioners Chamber*.

*Eddie Holbrook, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*