

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus conducted a remote virtual meeting, as allowed by the Board's Remote Participation Policy during the Covid-19 state of emergency, for a Budget Workshop for Cabarrus County in Concord, North Carolina at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

Public access to the meeting could be obtained through the following means:

live broadcast at 4:00 p.m. on Channel 22
<https://www.youtube.com/cabarruscounty>
<https://www.cabarruscounty.us/cabcotv>
 (704) 920-2023, Pin 1234

Present - Chairman:	Stephen M. Morris
Vice Chairman:	Diane R. Honeycutt
Commissioners:	F. Blake Kiger
	Elizabeth F. Poole
	Lynn W. Shue

Also present were Mike Downs, County Manager; Jonathan Marshall, Deputy County Manager; Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager; Kyle Bilafer, Area Manager of Operations; Debbie Brannan, Area Manager of Innovation and Technology; and Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mike Downs, County Manager, provided opening comments regarding the status of the budget process and an overview of today's agenda. He reported Steve Langer, Fire Marshal, would be available for the fire districts portion of today's workshop.

EDC - Presentation of FY2021 Budget Presentation

Robert Carney, Jr., Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Executive Director, presented the FY2021 budget request for the EDC via PowerPoint presentation that included the following topics:

- Mission
- Our Team
- FY20 in Review - Projects - 106
- FY20 in Review (July 2019 to May 2020)
 - New jobs announced - 820
 - New Investments Announced - \$184,000,000.
 - Generates \$1,361,600 annual tax revenue after any incentives provided
 - New RFIs received - 106
 - Able to respond to 98 RFI requests with building/site
 - Business retention and expansion support
 - 122 as of May 20, 2020
 - 135 estimated for entire fiscal year
- Recruitment
 - Target industry clusters
 - Recruitment partners
- Product Development
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Entrepreneurial Development
- Marketing and Communication

There was discussion following the presentation with Mr. Carney responding to a variety of questions from the Board.

CVB - Presentation of FY2021 Budget Requests

Donna Carpenter, Cabarrus Visitors Bureau (CVB), President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), presented the FY2021 Operating budget for the Board of Commissioners review and approval to continue CVB operations. Ms. Carpenter also presented a PowerPoint presentation, which included the following topics:

- The State of the industry
- COVID-19
 - Cabarrus County Impact
 - What the CVB has been doing during COVID-19
 - COVID-19 Business Training
 - Count on Me NC Program

- Family Travel After Sheltering-in-Place
- Excitement to Travel Now
- What Travelers Will Avoid After Coronavirus
- Primary Reason for Next Leisure Trip
- Maximum Distance From Home
- States Visited on Next Leisure Trip
- Key Takeaways

John Mills, CVB Executive Vice President, continued the presentation related to the following information:

- FY20 Cabarrus Occupancy
- Cabarrus ADR
- FY2020 Budget
- FY2021 Budget

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussion, Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Mills responded to questions from the Board.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Vice Chairman Honeycutt and unanimously carried, the Board suspended its Rules of Procedure in order to take action on this item due to time constraints by the following vote: Ayes: Chairman Morris, Vice Chairman Honeycutt, and Commissioners Kiger, Poole and Shue. Nays: None. Absent: None.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Kiger, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Tourism Authority's FY2021 budget totaling \$5,075,950, in accordance with Article IV, Room Occupancy and tourism Development tax, Tourism Authority of the Cabarrus County Code of Ordinances by the following vote: Ayes: Chairman Morris, Vice Chairman Honeycutt, and Commissioners Kiger, Poole and Shue. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Fire Districts - Presentation of FY2021 Budget Request

Steve Langer, Fire Marshal, provided a Justification Summary of Increased Funds to Fire Departments Due to Reevaluation from each fire district. He stated fire districts operate on a revenue neutral budget and stated the reevaluation would create a decrease in the fire district tax rates for all but one fire department. He advised Midland would see an increase and therefore asks that their fire district tax rate remain the same. In the FY 21 budget, the fire districts plan to increase staffing or increase compensation for paid staff. Mr. Langer also discussed the effects of the loss of sales tax due to Covid-19.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Langer responded to questions from the Board. Commissioner Poole requested a spreadsheet that shows the sales tax loss for each fire district.

General Board Discussion

Mike Downs, County Manager, provided closing comments regarding the budget and thanked staff for their work on the preparation of the proposed budget.

Commissioner Shue commented on the budget and expressed appreciation for staff's work on it.

Chairman Morris reminded everyone the regular meeting and public hearing for the FY 2021 budget will be held on June 15, 2020.

Rodney Harris, Deputy County Manager, expressed appreciation to Susan Fearington, Finance Director, for her work on the proposed budget.

Chairman Morris provided closing comments and provided information for the public for their participation in the public hearing and its adoption on June 15, 2020.

Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Vice Chairman Honeycutt and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Chairman Morris, Vice Chairman Honeycutt, and Commissioners Kiger, Poole and Shue. Nays: None. Absent: None.



Lauren Linker
Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board