



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2017

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Commissioners Approve FY18 Budget with 79.9-cent tax rate

FAYETTEVILLE – The Board of County Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2018 annual budget tonight with a tax rate of 79.9 cents per \$100 valuation.

The vote was 5-2. Commissioners Glenn Adams, Larry Lancaster, Jeannette Council, Charles Evans and Marshall Faircloth voted in favor, while Jimmy Keefe and Michael Boose voted against the budget.

The budget increases the property tax rate from 74 cents to 79.9 cents, which is 1.7 cents above the revenue neutral rate of 78.2 cents. Cumberland County conducted a revaluation effective Jan. 1, 2017, that resulted in a \$4.8 million reduction in taxable value. The revenue-neutral tax rate is the rate estimated to produce revenue equal to the amount collected in the previous fiscal year, plus natural growth, if no reappraisal had occurred. A penny on the tax rate is expected to generate \$2.2 million.

The commissioners will approve the formal budget ordinance at their June 19 regular meeting, which starts at 6:45 p.m. in the Courthouse.

“This is a doable budget and one that required compromise. This budget will ensure there are funds available to move this county forward. That has been my desire all along,” said Adams, the board’s chairman.

The budget includes:

- The elimination of 90 positions, 41 full-time and 49 part-time, from 10 different departments. Currently, 53 of the positions are filled and 37 are vacant.
- The elimination of 67 service hours a week across the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center system.
- A restructuring of the Law Library services in the Courthouse.
- A 2-percent cost-of-living raise for County employees that will go into effect mid-year.
- Changes in service delivery at the Dental Clinic at the Department of Public Health. Diminishing patient volume in the clinic did not support operating a full-time clinic. The recommended budget includes \$5,000 for school screenings and \$30,000 for limited dental clinic hours.
- Closing the Adult Health Clinic and providing \$70,000 to fund an additional day of coverage by Cumberland HealthNET at the Public Health Center.
- An \$8 increase in the Solid Waste Fee, from \$48 to \$56 a year.

“This has been a difficult budget year. Management and staff appreciate the time the Board of Commissioners has put into reviewing the recommended budget. We will support and implement this as our financial plan for

the coming fiscal year, as well as continue to look for additional operational efficiencies,” said County Manager Amy Cannon.

Expenditures include:

- Cumberland County Schools \$80,362,412
- Fayetteville Technical Community College \$12,101,992
- Mental Health \$ 4,800,000

Community Funding – Some agencies that received funding in this year’s budget had their funding reduced by 15 percent. The Boys and Girls Club, Child Advocacy Center, Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults, Cumberland Veterans Council, Southeast North Carolina Radio Reading, Vision Resource Center and the 2-1-1 information referral system sponsored by United Way were renewed at current levels.

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