

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a Budget work session on **May 31, 2018 at 2:30pm** in the Commissioners Conference Room. Those present were Chairman Walker T. Norman; Commissioner Virginia T. Williams, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three; Commissioner Lamar Wade, District Four; Ms. Traci Bussey, Finance Director; Mr. Robert Seymour, Planning & zoning/Public Works Director; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney; Ms. Kay Toto, The Lincoln Journal and Ms. Sherry McKellar, County Clerk.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

3.

FY2019 Budget Proposals

The Board met with several department heads in regards to their budgets; Director Blount, Sheriff Reviere and Chief Hatfield, Director Bolton, Director Broom, Director Adair and Director Seymour.

Director Blount discussed other methods for income in the Transit Department and will present more after further research. She also asked for raises for her employees as some have been there 20+ years and still make less than \$8.00/hour.

Sheriff Reviere and Chief Hatfield informed the Board that they are working on a policy that should help with some of the overtime his departments incur. They have also asked for pay increases for their departments. Chairman Norman informed the Sheriff that when his new vehicle goes active he is to give a vehicle back to the county so his fleet stays at 17 vehicles.

Director Bolton voiced her opinion on the timing of the new vacation policy that went into affect the first of this year. She then informed the Board that the State will soon be requiring new machines and she will let the Board know more once the mandate comes from the state. Her Board has requested raises for her and Ms. Harris.

Director Broom stated that wages are his biggest concern for his department. Lincoln County has the lowest wage for EMT's and Paramedics in our region. He also stated that his department does more than just ambulance calls. They respond to fire calls also. Chairman Norman stated that he hears a lot of calls go out and feels we may need to go to three (3) on-call ambulances soon.

Chairman Norman called for a break at 4:12pm. The meeting resumed at 4:20pm.

Director Adair informed the Board that he has a decrease in his budget from \$246,000 to \$184,000 due to replacing GMASS and tower appraisers with a new appraisal position.

Director Seymour shared with the Board the new GIS topography imaging and stated that it will be useful to the OES, 911, Planning & Zoning and the Tax Assessors offices.

Chairman Norman stated that we may need to engage the Regional Commission or Carl Vincent Institute to do a pay grade scale assessment for all positions.

Commissioner Collins stated that Columbia County had given their patrol officers a 6% increase that would go into effect 2% at a time at six (6) month intervals. He wanted to know if we could do something like that here.

Commissioner Wade stated that he could not support a tax increase to meet the 2019 budget.

Chairman Norman stated that over the years, the County has not spent General Fund dollars to maintain the upkeep of the county infrastructure. There have been no raises for employees, any repairs/up keep to buildings, computers are old and worn out. The server that stores all the county data is over 12 years old! The County is getting in a mess due to no increases in the tax digest or mileage rate.

Chairman Norman then informed everyone that the new website will go live later today. Director Dockery has spent numerous hours on this and has done a real good job creating this website. Next he will be working on a FaceBook page for the County and maybe even a Twitter account.


4.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the work session was adjourned at 5:30pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman



Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk