

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION
JUNE 4, 2009**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009. Due to the lack of air conditioning Chairman Jordan moved the meeting from the Commissioners' Room to the main courtroom, 202 Court Street, Gatesville, NC. Commissioners Jordan, Jernigan, Askew, Nickens and Twine were present. Also present was County Manager, Toby Chappell.

Chairman Jordan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reba Greene-Holley, Cooperative Extension Director, appeared before the Board to explain Budget Amendment 96. The Baby Love Plus Grant contract ended May 31, 2009 and the new contract is to take affect on June 1.

Sandy Pittman, Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendments 96 and 97.

Commissioner Twine made a motion to accept Budget Amendments 93-A, 96 and 97 as presented. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Ray Felton, Gates County Board of Education member and concerned citizen, voiced his concern for increased funding for the schools.

In response, the consensus of the full Board was the schools were very important and wanted to support the schools as much as possible.

Mr. Chappell wanted to make the Board aware the proposed Budget was a balanced budget; if expenditures were increased then revenues would also have to be increased. At this time one cent in taxes will generate \$87,059.00.

Budget Ordinance, Section 3. Solid Waste Fees: Mr. Chappell stated as a cost reduction, solid waste management (convenience sites) will be reducing the hours of operation by two (2) hours per day. A summer intern will be cross referencing citizen addresses with water department client addresses to bring everything up-to-date regarding solid waste billing.

Section 6, c., the Chairman proposed to change the text by adding the word *major* to state: "The Manager may enter and execute change orders or amendments to *major* construction contracts when the appropriate annual budget or capital project ordinance contains sufficient appropriated funds. Commissioners Jernigan, Askew and Twine voted to not amend the text; Commissioners Jordan and Nickens voted to amend the text. By a majority vote the text will not be amended.

Commissioner Askew made a motion to recess at 3:30 pm. until 4:30 pm. Commissioner Twine seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

June 4, 2009

The Gates County Board of Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Equalization and Review at 3:30 P.M. in the Court Room, June 4, 2009.

Those present were Chairperson Henry Jordan, Wade Askew, Carlton Nickens, Graham Twine, Kenneth Jernigan, County Manager Toby Chappell, Robert Ezell of Pearson Appraisals and Tax Administrator Renée McGinnis.

Chairperson Jordan called the meeting to order. The Board was given files containing 2007-2009 sales data, spreadsheet of current lot values, values considering a 5%, 10%, or 15% reduction in value, revenue loss (based on .62 rate) due to reduction and increase in rate to cover the loss. Also in the file were request for appeals from Bobbie Johnson (07-00076) and Joseph H. Greene, Jr. (02-00263).

After review of the above stated data and considering the tax rate would need to increase to cover the loss in value which would give little relief to the taxpayer and in some cases create an increase in tax, Commissioner Twine moved the values remain at the current rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jernigan and passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the two requests for appeals. Commissioner Jernigan moved Tax Administrator McGinnis and revaluation appraiser review the property of Bobbie Johnson and report back to the Board with any recommendations. He also added that all appealed properties be reviewed prior to being presented to the Board. The motion was seconded and carried. It was suggested that Mr. Greene should receive his notice from the informal hearing prior to coming before the Board.

The following dates were set for additional meetings of the Board:

June 23, 2009	9:30AM – 3:30PM
July 6, 2009	5:30PM – 8:30PM

Commissioner Twine moved the Board adjourn until June 9, 2009 at 9:30 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nickens and carried.

Renée H. McGinnis
Clerk

At 4:30 pm Commissioner Twine made a motion to reconvene the Budget Work Session. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Twine suggested raising the tax rate one-half cent to begin putting aside funds for a new computer system for the Tax Department.

Chairman Jordan stated the Tax Department needs a Deputy Tax Collector.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to recess until 10:00 A.M., Monday, June 8, 2009. Commissioner Twine seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.