

The Florence County Audit, Budget, and Administrative Committee met at the Courthouse on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Dzekute, Kelley, and Steber. Absent and Excused: Johnson. Others present: Financial Manager Joe Bestor and Sheriff Jeff Rickaby.

Moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Steber to approve the Agenda. Ayes: Four (4). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Chair Kelley asked the Financial Manager to lead the discussion of the continuing work on of the 2016 Proposed Budget. Mr. Bestor updated the committee on meetings conducted with those departments that were not asked to make presentations to the committee. He reported that the Administrators have generally been very cooperative and receptive to making changes to budgets where warranted. Bestor provide copies of the Budget Worksheets for each of these departments and invited questions. Bestor also reported on several questions raised by the committee at their last meeting.

1. Bestor provided an updated summary of the levy limit requests for each department with comparison to the levy limit for 2016. Significant progress has been made in closing the gap.
2. Sheriff Rickaby was available to answer questions related to his departments. As requested by the committee, expense reductions have been made for proposed changes to staffing and personnel policy pending approval by the Personnel Committee.
3. Sheriff Rickaby also answered questions related to the budget for contributions to the Rescue Squads of Florence County. He agreed to convene a meeting of the squads to invite suggestions for the allocation of county dollars to each squad.
4. Based on input from our bond advisor, there is no need or advantage to budgeting or allocating funds in anticipation of a possible balloon payment of our General Obligation Notes due in 2024.
5. Bestor reported on his discussions with the Health Department and the committees concerns about the 2016 levy request. The committee provided an amount to reduce the levy and asked Bestor to work with the department on a revised budget.
6. The committee discussed the amounts needed for contingency funds in 2016. Several departments have identified line items that have been budgeted at normal amounts, but which can sometimes exceed those amounts due to extraordinary events. The committee understands and endorses this approach to budgeting and will be supportive of requests for budget revisions when needed.
7. The committee also discussed the possibility of crediting interest earned on a board designated fund, commonly referred to as the "Barron's Fund". The committee will consider action at their next meeting.

Chair Kelley called for committee concerns for future agenda items. The committee was pleased with progress on the budget and did not see a need to meet prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

There being no further business or concerns of the Committee, Supervisor Bomberg moved for adjournment. Supervisor Steber seconded the motion. Motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph L. Bestor
Financial Manager