Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of July 16, 2024 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: Bobby Couts, Eric Roberts, Bob Stroud, and Faye Stubblefield were present. Mayor Billy Vogle and Jody Stewart were also present. Billy Ray Dorris was absent.

Mr. Bobby Couts called the meeting to order and following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of July 9, 2024 were approved as presented.

Bobby Couts stated because the General Fund expenses exceed the revenues by $2,228,000, he will explain and present three (3) different property tax rate distribution options as follows:

Option A decreases the current Solid Waste property tax rate by two (2) cents, decreases the Debt Service property tax rate by two (2) cents and add three (3) cents to the current property tax rate for a new proposed total property tax of $1.83 in the FY2025 budget. The proposed changes will add seven (7) cents to the General Fund property tax rate and the revenues and expenses will be equal.

Bob Stroud asked if Korey Stewart, Solid Waste Director, was informed about taking two (2) cents from the Solid Waste Fund property tax rate and Bobby Couts said no.

Option B decreases the current Solid Waste property tax rate by two (2) cents and decreases the Debt Service property tax rate by five (5) cents. These proposed changes add seven (7) cents to the General Fund property tax rate and the revenues and expenses will be equal.

The third Option decreases the current Solid Waste property tax rate by two (2) cents and decreases the Debt Service property tax rate by four (4) cents. These proposed changes add six (6) cents to the General Fund property tax rate and the expenses will exceed the revenues by approximately $320,000.

There was a brief discussion about a proposed property tax rate increase for the second year in a row. It was stated the reason for a three (3) cent property tax increase was because citizens said the tax increase last year was too large and a smaller tax increase will work best in the future. This 3-cent property tax increase, which is a 1.67% property tax increase over last year's rate, will increase the property tax payment by approximately $22.50 per year for the average/median home value of $300,000.

Eric stated that he wants to skip a tax increase this year and maybe have a tax increase next year because there was a big tax increase last year and this will mean two (2) property tax rate increases in a row and Robertson County has never had a property tax increase two years in a row.

1. It was moved by Bobby Couts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend a resolution to approve option A which includes a 3-cent property tax increase (1.67 % increase) for the FY2025 budget with a proposed property tax rate of $1.83 to the County Commission. Bobby Couts and Faye Stubblefield voted yea. Bob Stroud and Eric Roberts voted nay. This tie vote called for Mayor Billy Vogle to vote and he voted yea. This motion passed with a majority vote of three (3) yeas to two (2) nays.

The Committee set the FY 2024-2025 property tax rate for the General Fund 101 at $1.02, for the Solid Waste Fund 116 at $.02, the School Fund 141 at $.59, and Debt Service Fund 151 at $.20 for a new proposed property tax rate total of $1.83. The value of the penny is estimated to be $320,000. Gina Head-Heiber asked if there will be another tax increase next year and Bobby Couts and the Mayor both stated that they hope not. Eric stated if this is voted down by the County Commission, then they can amend it on the County Commission floor just like they did last year. The Committee members stated they realize most citizens do not like a property tax increase.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve all budgets for the County's FY2025 operational budgets as presented to the County Commission for their approval at their August 19, 2024 regular County Commission meeting. Note that there is a proposed 3.5 percent pay rate increase for all County employees included in the FY2025 budget. All voted yea.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director