

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET SESSION
MAY 23, 2002**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met for a Budget Session on Monday, May 23, 2002, at 5:30 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present: Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Karen B. Ray
Tommy E. Bowles
Steve D. Johnson
R. Godfrey Williams

Staff Present: County Manager Joel Mashburn and Finance Director Susan Blumenstein.

Guests: Carroll Goodman, Chairman of the Fire Tax District Board

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS: The remaining departmental budgets (Sheriff, Jail, Courts, Legal, ECOM/911, EMS, Fire/Rescue, Fire Marshal, Health, & DSS) were reviewed. There were no changes from the county manager's recommendations.

FIRE TAX DISTRICT BOARD: Carroll Goodman, Chairman of the Fire Tax District Board, requested guidance on the funding decisions for the fire departments.

LOCAL OPTION HALF CENT SALES TAX: The board briefly discussed the possibility of continuing the Article 44 half-cent sales tax. (Local governments originally had the option of continuing the tax in July of 2003. Now, there is a possibility the General Assembly might allow counties to move the effective date to August of 2002.) No action occurred on the matter.

OPTION SELECTED TO BALANCE THE FY 2002-2003 BUDGET: The county manager said that should the state not release the reimbursements owed to the county, a decision needed to be made on how the budget should be balanced. He mentioned the five options that were presented to the board on May 13, 2002.

MOTION by Commissioner Bowles to direct the staff to balance the budget by (1) borrowing \$2,351,216 from the Solid Waste Escrow fund for Closure & Post-Closure Costs, and (2) retain \$761,904 in a reserve fund for school current expense, should the state not release the reimbursements.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board