



Chatham County, NC

Legislation Text

File #: 16-1819, **Version:** 1

FY 2016-2017 Budget Critique

Background:

Each year following completion of the budget, commissioners give staff feedback on how the process and the document can be improved.

Last year, commissioners did not give staff any areas for improvement of the process or document.

Last year commissioners adopted the attached calendar for preparation of the FY 2016-2017 budget. In addition to the dates shown on the calendar, staff met with commissioners one-on-one to review the recommended budget immediately prior to presentation of the recommended budget.

At their budget retreat the commissioners set goals to guide the development of the FY 2016-2017 budget. For the most part, the goals from the prior year budget were adopted for the new budget. The overarching vision was that Chatham County is a thriving community of healthy people living in a safe environment that provides opportunities for prosperity for all. A thorough discussion of the goals is presented in the Budget Message on pages 10-14. The goal setting process included a survey that asked for feedback to determine which existing goals had unanimous agreement, which goals commissioners wanted to revisit, and proposals for new goals. From a staff perspective this process worked well in that it allowed us to prepare a draft set of goals that could be modified during the retreat. If this process is not effective from a board perspective, you may want to consider a facilitator for the goal-setting portion of the retreat.

Discussion and Analysis:

Staff requests feedback on the following issues:

Budget retreat

- Was the goal-setting process helpful and should it be repeated or modified?
- Information that was distributed for consideration at the retreat is attached. Is there any information that is not necessary? Is there additional information that will make the next retreat more effective?
- Is the Heads Up document helpful in informing commissioner priorities? Could this document be improved?

Document

- Are the Recommended Budget and CIP documents effective for board decision making?
- Are the department work plans in the Recommended Budget document effective for informing commissioner decisions?
- Are there any changes commissioners would like to see in the Fiscal 2018 documents?

Process

- Was the calendar that was followed effective?
- Are there additional changes that the commissioners think would make the process more effective and efficient?
- During the prior year (FY 2015-2016) budget work sessions, commissioners asked staff to research some issues and present information at the retreat. During the work sessions for the FY 2016-2017 budget, no issues were identified. Is there any new information or research that commissioners want staff to prepare for the retreat?