The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Eddie Holbrook, Chairman
Susan Allen, Vice-Chair
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Ronnie Whetstine, Commissioner
Doug Bridges, Commissioner
Brian Epley, County Manager
Chuck Wilson, County DSS Staff Attorney
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Kerri Melton, Assistant County Manager
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director
Shane Fox, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Norman, Sheriff
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshall
Clifton Philbeck, Board of Elections Director
Betsy Harnage, Register of Deeds
Jason Falls, LeGrand Director
Carol Wilson, Library Director
Marty Gold, IT Director
Joe Lord, EMS Director
Mark Dellinger, Electronic Maintenance Director
Stephen Bishop, Soil and Water Conservation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holbrook called the meeting to order. Tax Administrator Chris Green led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges and unanimously approved by the Board to, approve the agenda with the addition of item 2b, Law Enforcement Week 2018.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Emergency Medical Services Week 2018: Chairman Holbrook recognized Joe Lord, Emergency Medical Services Director. Mr. Lord thanked the Commissioners for this proclamation and their support of EMS. He reminded Commissioners of EMS Week Breakfast at Carolinas Health Care-Cleveland May 21-23, from 7 am-10am. Commissioners commended the work Mr. Lord and all of his staff do for the citizens of Cleveland County.

Deputy Clerk April Crotts read the following proclamation:
Law Enforcement Week 2018: Chairman Holbrook recognized Sheriff Alan Norman and asked that he come to the front to except the proclamation for Law Enforcement Week, May 20-26, 2018. Commissioners all thanked the Sheriff and his employees for everything they do to keep the citizens of Cleveland County safe. Sheriff Norman thanked his staff and commended them for a job well done. Deputy Clerk April Crotts read the following proclamation:
CITIZEN RECOGNITION

No citizens registered to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Clerk to the Board included the Minutes of the May 1, 2018 regular meeting, in Board Members packets.

ACTION: Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and passed unanimously by the Board to, approve the minutes as written.
TAX COLLECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during April 2018.

**TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during April 2018. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as $4,087.89 and monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as $46,959.57.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #048)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, approve the following budget amendment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Department/Account Name</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010.437.4.310.00</td>
<td>93889-5SMT</td>
<td>Public Safety Grants/Fd. Gov. Grants</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010.437.5.210.00</td>
<td>93889-5SMT</td>
<td>Public Safety Grants /Departmental Supply</td>
<td>$1,755.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010.437.5.240.00</td>
<td>93889-5SMT</td>
<td>Public Safety Grants /Automotive Supplies</td>
<td>$245.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation of Revisions: Budget reimbursement based grants funds from NCOEMS and Metrolina Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (MHPC) for the purchase of Mobile Shelving carts, Husky HB 4500 Jacks, Heavy duty tote and vinyl door hanging.
**SHERIFF’S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #049)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, **approve the following budget amendment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Department/Account Name</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010.444.4.991.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Detention Center/Fd. Balance Approp</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010.444.5.357.02</td>
<td></td>
<td>Detention Center /H/Inmate-SSA</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation of Revisions:** Request to budget funds received for purchase of materials and novelty items for special projects not covered in general budget.

**LIBRARY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #050)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, **approve the following budget amendment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Department/Account Name</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010.611.5.810.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library/Donations/Contributions</td>
<td>$35,418.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010.611.5.790.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library/Donations/Contributions</td>
<td>$35,418.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation of Revisions:** budget donation received over the budgeted amount for FY 18 in order to purchase needed furniture, equipment and other needs for the library.

**PUBLIC SAFETY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #051)**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, **approve the following budget amendment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Department/Account Name</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010.437.4.310.00</td>
<td>97067-HSGP</td>
<td>Public Safety Grants/Fed Govt. Grants</td>
<td>$7,600.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010.437.5.700.00</td>
<td>97067-HSGP</td>
<td>Public Safety Grants/ Grants</td>
<td>$7,600.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation of Revisions:** To budget additional grant funds from NC Department of Public Safety for trailer supplies. This is supplemental funds on top of $54K grant from FY17 that was for the trailers to be purchased for Cabarrus, Rowan and Catawba Counties.

**COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, **approve the following Proclamation for Salvation Army Week 2018.**
LEGAL

ACTION: Commissioner Allen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board, approve the following Plato Lee 100 kV Transmission Easement:
and for telecommunications and/or data uses of DEC, its successors and assigns, which lines may consist of single or multiple rows of poles, towers, or other structures (at appropriate intervals and without limitation as to number) and related footings and foundations; crossarms; insulators; aboveground and/or underground conductors; static wires, grounds, cables, conduits, electronic equipment, and other apparatus, apparatuses, fixtures, hardware, and appliances; and guy wires and anchors inside and/or outside the right of Way Strip to support DEC's overhead facilities at angle poles. DEC shall have the right to: (i) place and keep the Right of Way Strip free of all trees and other vegetation (except as provided in subsection (b) below), structures, and other objects of any nature including, without limitation, satellite signal receiver systems, billboards, signs, building, manufactured homes, mobile homes, green, walls, retaining walls, fencing, detachable, overlapping, or attached tents, sheds, fire pits or barbecues, swimming pools and any associated decking, septic systems or storage tanks and systems (whether aboveground or belowground); flammable materials, building materials, wrecked or disabled vehicles, equipment, junk, refuse of any type, and all other objects (whether aboveground or belowground); and (ii) install and maintain roads within the Right of Way Strip and install gates in any fences located within the Right of Way Strip, to afford DEC access to the Right of Way Strip.

(b) Granter's Reserved Use. Granter shall be entitled to use the Right of Way Strip for all purposes not inconsistent with the rights and easements herein granted to DEC, including the right to: (i) cultivate and harvest annual seasonal crops (not including orchards or furrows); (ii) pave, improve and use the Right of Way Strip for vehicular guiding, provided that such vehicles are operable and readily movable under their own power and further provided that Granter installs protective barriers satisfactory to DEC for the protection of DEC's facilities; (iii) use the Right of Way Strip for recreation, provided no structures or objects (aboveground or belowground) are erected or placed therein without the prior written approval of DEC (which DEC may withhold in its sole discretion), (iv) use and maintain existing roads and drives and sewer, water, and other utility lines within the Right of Way Strip at their existing locations at the date of this instrument; (v) construct, use, and maintain new paved or unpaved roads, streets, and driveways and new water, sewer, drainage, and other utility lines or pipes crossing the Right of Way Strip, provided such facilities conform to the following requirements: (a) such facilities cross the Right of Way Strip from one side of the Right of Way Strip to the other side at an angle not less than thirty (30) degrees between the center line of said facilities and the center line of the Right of Way Strip, (B) no road, street, or driveway shall intersect with any other road, street, or driveway, in whole or in part, within the Right of Way Strip, (C) no portion of such facilities and their associated easements area, if any, is located within twenty-five (25) feet of any of DEC's poles, towers, structures, guy wires, or guy anchors, (D) such facilities are constructed in such a manner as to withstand the weight of DEC's equipment, and (E) such facilities are constructed in strict compliance with all clearance requirements of DEC and all other regulations and ordinances then applicable to electrical facilities; (vi) maintain existing fences, provided that DEC may add gates to allow access as set forth in subsection (a)(i) above, (vii) build new fences on the Right of Way Strip with the prior written approval of DEC (which DEC may withhold in its sole discretion), provided such new fences conform to the following requirements: (A) such fences shall not be attached to DEC's poles, towers or structures, (B) such fences shall be installed at least twenty-five (25) feet from DEC's poles, towers, structures, guy wires, and guy anchors, (C) such fences shall not exceed 10 feet in height, (D) such fences shall cross the Right of Way Strip from one side of the Right of Way Strip to the other side at an angle of not less than thirty (30) degrees between the centerline of the fence and the center line of the Right of Way Strip, and (E) if a fence crosses the Right of Way Strip or makes part of it inaccessible to DEC, Granter shall install a gate pursuant to DEC's specifications to allow free access required by DEC's vehicles and equipment; and (viii) excavate, grade, and fill, provided Granter receives DEC's prior written approval (which DEC may withhold in its sole discretion), which approval may contain conditions including, without limitation, the allowable grade and distances from DEC's facilities that cannot be excavated.

c) DEC's Use of Premises Outside of the Right of Way Strip. Granter further grants to DEC, its successors and assigns, the right to enter upon the Premises outside of the Right of Way Strip for the following purposes and uses: (1) to cut, fell and remove any and all trees on the Premises that are or may become tall enough, in DEC's opinion, to fall on or otherwise endanger a line or other facility or structure within the Right of Way Strip ("Danger Trees"). (2) to gain access to the Right of Way Strip and Danger Trees at any time and from time to time by vehicles, equipment, and pedestrians, provided that DEC's use of the Premises outside of the Right of Way Strip shall be confined to then-existing streets, roads, and driveways to the extent they provide sufficient access to the Right of Way Strip and Danger Trees by vehicles, equipment, and pedestrians. If then-existing streets, roads, and driveways do not provide sufficient access, then DEC shall be entitled to use a reasonably convenient and feasible access route or routes over the Premises to access the Right of Way Strip and Danger Trees and shall be entitled to construct and maintain a roadway or driveway for such purposes.

(d) Antennas and Related Equipment. Granter further grants to DEC, its successors and assigns, the following rights: (1) to attach antennas or other equipment or devices for wireless or other telecommunications or data transmission ("Communications Equipment") to poles, towers, or other support structures within the Right of Way Strip, including the right to add, modify, enlarge, and/or extend any poles, towers, or other support structures for such purposes. (2) to use one or more portions of the Right of Way Strip, having dimensions not exceeding twenty-five (25) feet by twenty-five (25) feet and located adjacent to or at the base of each such pole, tower, or other support structure to which Communications Equipment is attached (such as "Communications Areas") to construct, reconstruct, replace, rebuild, enlarge, modify, remove, install, maintain, and use electronic equipment and other equipment necessary or desirable in connection with wireless or other communications from and to the Communications Equipment installed upon such pole, tower, or other support structure. DEC shall be entitled to designate the location of the Communications Areas and may relocate such Communications Areas within the Right of Way Strip if such pole, tower, or other support structure to which Communications Equipment is attached is relocated.
(3) to enter upon the Premises outside of the Right of Way Strip to gain access to the Communications Areas and Communications Equipment by vehicles, equipment, and pedestrians, provided that DEC's use of the Premises outside of the Right of Way Strip shall be confined to then-existing streets, roads, and driveways to the extent they provide sufficient access to the Communications Areas and/or Communications Equipment by vehicles, equipment, and pedestrians. If then-existing streets, roads, and driveways do not provide sufficient access, then DEC shall be entitled to use a reasonably convenient and feasible access route or routes over the Premises to access the Communications Areas and/or Communications Equipment and shall be entitled to construct and maintain a roadway or driveway for such purposes, provided that Grantor shall be entitled to relocate any such roadway or driveway constructed by DEC for such purposes, at Grantor's sole cost and expense and after obtaining DEC's prior written approval, elsewhere on the Premises, but in such case, Grantor also must construct and install a comparable replacement roadway or driveway, at Grantor's sole cost and expense and without interrupting access to the Communications Areas and/or Communications Equipment. DEC shall not unreasonably withhold written approval of Grantor's request to relocate such roadway or driveway hereunder; provided, however, that DEC's failure to approve shall be deemed reasonable if reasonably convenient and feasible access to and from the Communications Areas and/or Communications Equipment is not affected by the proposed replacement access route or routes.

(4) to construct, reconstruct, replace, rebuild, inspect, maintain, and use underground telephone and electrical lines to serve the Communications Equipment and Communications Areas, which underground lines may be installed along and generally parallel to the access route or routes established pursuant to subparagraph (d)(3) above. Provided, however, that if Grantor relocates a roadway or driveway pursuant to subparagraph (d)(3) above and within which DEC has installed underground lines pursuant to this subparagraph (d)(4), then Grantor also must relocate such underground lines, at Grantor's sole cost and expense and without interrupting service to the Communications Areas and/or Communications Equipment along or in the vicinity of the access route or routes as relocated by Grantor.

(e) DEC's Repair Obligations. DEC shall repair damage to the Premises, including roads, driveways, and fences, resulting directly from DEC's exercise of its rights granted herein. Provided, however, for purposes of the initial clearing of all trees which DEC is entitled to cut and remove from the Premises pursuant to Paragraphs (a) and (c) hereof, said trees shall, upon such cutting, become the property of DEC. Nothing in this Easement shall impose upon DEC any duty to repair or remove any condition or any type of injury or damage to the Premises existing prior to the date of this Easement nor shall DEC have any duty to repair or remove any condition or any type of injury or damage upon the Premises caused by the Grantor, any third party, any Act of God, or any natural process, including, without limitation, erosion or conditions caused by vegetation.

The failure of DEC to exercise or continue to exercise any of the rights herein granted shall not be construed as a waiver or abandonment of the right theretofore at any time or from time to time to exercise any and all of such rights.

Nov 10, 2015

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid rights, privileges and easements unto DEC, its successors and assigns forever.

And Grantor, for the Grantor and for the Grantor's successors and assigns, covenants to and with DEC, its successors and assigns, that Grantor is lawfully seized of the above described land in fee and has the right to convey the said rights and easements, that the same is free and clear from any and all encumbrances, and that Grantor will forever warrant and defend the title to the said rights and easements against the lawful claims of all persons whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument is executed on the date first above written.

GRANTOR:

Cleveland County
a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina

By: __________________________

Print Name: [Redacted]

Title: [Redacted]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Cleveland

I certify that [Redacted] personally appeared before me this day, acknowledging to me that he or she signed the foregoing Easement.

Date: 5-15-18

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 5-7-2025

(Notary Seal)
Chairman Holbrook requested County Manager Brian Epley come to the podium to present the 2018-19 Manager’s Recommended Budget.

Mr. Epley thanked the board for the opportunity to present his recommended budget. This year’s budget is centered on sustaining a balanced and priority based budget, improve and maintain service levels and operational efficiencies and enhance transparency. Multiple Commissioners meetings have led to the budget presentation, including the October 3, 2017 Capital Work Session and the February 8, 2018 Budget Work Session.

The Manager’s Budget is balanced on .57 cent property tax rate, the public-schools will remain at a .15 cent tax rate and the Fire Service District will remain at 8.75 cents. The .57 tax rate is distributed by:

- 36.3 cents in annual payroll
- 15.7 cents to schools and the community college
- 4.5 cents to the capital improvement plan
- .5 cents to community and municipal grants

The tax rate has remained un-changed since 2007 and has decreased three times since 1997, while the unemployment rate has gone from approximately 14.5% in 2009 to 4.4% in 2018.

Since 2016 the change in assessed value has grown from $8.105 Billion to $8.759 Billion. Projected tax base growth for 2018 includes NTE effect of 3.10%, Natural Base Growth of 1.10% and Duke Energy Effect of -1.00% totaling 3.20% growth. Mr. Epley stated that Duke Energy is assessed by the state and the state lowered the taxable value due to less utilization of plant equipment but he is hopeful with the natural gas line that has been installed this will return to full utilization in future years. Mr. Epley stated the Public School Funding for FY 18-19 would be $1,975 per pupil and total funding for public school equals $29,751,053.

Budgeted Revenue for 18-19 comes from Ad Valorem Taxes (54%), Sales Taxes (12%), Restricted Governmental (23%), Permits and fees (4%), Sales and Services (6%) and Other Miscellaneous (1%). Mr. Epley commended the board and the staff for having diverse budgeted revenue. Included in the budgeted available dollars for 2018-19 are new tax base growth at 3.2%, sales tax growth of 2%, Health and Human Services Cost Share Reduction and Reengineering all totaling $3,207,000 budget flexibility.

Expenses are broken down by function and are reflective with other counties in North Carolina, the top three being Human Services, Education and Public Safety.

The total 2018-19 budget is $114,667,935. In the past 5 years the net-change in the budget has been a little over 1%. That is possible due to reengineering including Federal/State funding utilization, process re-design and cross departmental collaboration with an annual impact of $2,894,630 and an average 5 year savings of $14,473,150. In the Health and Human Services Department which makes up about 50% of our FTE, budget trends
are lowering. From 2015, the Social Services Budget went from 7,948,055 to 7,732,622 in 2019 and the Public Health Center Budget went from 4,014,273 in 2015 to 3,511,276 in 2019.

Mr. Epley presented about the Boards Strategic Goals first being Fiscal Sustainability. Implementation of Phase I of the Pay and Class Study was completed in January of 2018 and will continue in the 2019 budget with an amount of approximately $2 Million. Also included in the budget is Phase II which includes the Policy and Administration. Mr. Epley will present those recommendations to the board in the 1st quarter of 2018-19. Staff is continuing to work on the Software Upgrade, has completed and is working through the Facility Master Plan, is strategically growing Fund Balance and developing re-engineering and cost saving strategies. Our current fund balance is 18.5% which is close to our peer counties. The Manager has three recommendations for Re-engineering cost savings that include Employee Pharmacy Modifications, Medical Billing & Collections and Process/L.T.

Redesign. Currently the pharmacy has a 3-tier system and would like to move to a 4-tier system. This could result in a cost saving of approximately $130,000. Mr. Epley stated he had 28 personnel requests for this year’s budget and would like to recommend 5 in the Detention Center in the amount of $180,000. This recommendation for additional FTE at the Detention Center comes from a consultant who works for the State Detention Board and writes jail standards. His analysis gave the Manager the recommendation of 5 additional detention officers, one for each shift and 1 floater in case of vacation or sick. Compensation recommended in the budget is a 1% inflation Adjustment. With the implementation of Phase I of the Pay and Class Study in January of this current year, a 1% inflation adjustment will keep the county competitive and in line with the market. Mr. Epley pointed out that in 2007, the average pay of a county employee was 13% below the average pay of a Cleveland County citizen, now the average pay of a county employee is 3% higher than the average pay of a Cleveland County citizen. Mr. Epley recommended this year a Health Plan Investment increase of 9% to the employer only, approximately $567,000. This is less than the double digits other counties are seeing. Mr. Epley is not recommending any additional spousal or dependent increases.

The second focus area the manager concentrated on is Public Safety including Jail Construction, Animal Services, refresh of 800mhz Motorola Trunking System and VFD Strategic Plan. The total budget for public safety for 2018-19 is $22,759,494. Animal Services has dramatically reduced the number of euthanized animals from 4540 in 2013 to 313 so far this 2017-18 budget year. Currently animals are fully vaccinated on intake as well as spay/neuter and micro-chipping before adoption. We have free adoption clinics, a full time Vet Tech and have a contract with a Veterinarian. Recommended in the budget is a 5 year refresh for the 800mhz trunking system. This system is used by public safety agencies all over Cleveland County.

The third focus area is Economic Development. Included in this focus are workforce development, Dover Mill demolition/ highest & best use plan, analyze county owned property and assist the agriculture community to promote agriculture as Economic Development. Over the past 11 years over 17% of the state’s taxable economic development capital investment has been in Cleveland County. Currently the county is promoting Charlotte’s
Backyard through the Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership. We are working in partnership with Cleveland Community College and Cleveland County Schools on the Dual-Track High School Program and two new promotions called Edge Factor and Taste of Industry. Recently 75 high school students went to an open house at Clearwater to see what our local manufacturing company has to offer. Cleveland County has 6 major businesses whose net revenue equates to 6.5 cents of the .57 cent tax rate and their revenue is equal to $4.1 Million. If these industries had not been recruited, taxes would have had to increase or services cut.

The fourth focus area is Community Education and Customer Service Outreach. Under this focus are the County Manager concentrated on 4 items including the Municipal Grant Program, Organizational Rebranding, Educating to encourage a cleaner community and Increased veteran services. The manager recommends to continue to allocate $60,000 to Municipalities through a competitive application process to be used for Parks and Recreational projects. This year they will be allocated to Casar and Belwood. A litter task force has been created and Cleveland County is working with CVI for hands on reactive trash pickup on county roads, and working with Cleveland County Schools on a poster contest.

The last and newest focus area is Community Wellness consisting of community health with a focus on lowering the health ranking, the fight against the opioid epidemic, providing public access to recreation and increase county-wide recycling. The Manager recommends continuing the Telemedicine and West End Reach Programs in the Graham School area. The Board has adopted a resolution to join the fight against the Opioid Epidemic. Also included in the budget is to continue to have Medicine drop boxes, distribute medication disposal kits, providing training to health care professionals about prescribing opioids for acute and chronic pain management and distribution of Narcan. The recommended budget includes a $15,000 allocation to the Rail to Trail project which will extend from Shelby towards Patterson Springs and Grover.

As a reminder, the current flexibility and available funding for 2018-19 is $3,207,000 aligned to the Board’s Strategic Plan. Those additional funds are allocated to Pay & Class- $2,000,000, 1% COLA-$400,000, Employee Wellness-$567,000, Five FTE in Detention- $180,000 and Municipal Grant Program-$60,000.

Mr. Epley took a minute to talk about capital projects. Multi-year Capital Planning includes the Doran Mill site cleanup, a County-wide Software System Upgrade, IT Fiber Infrastructure, Energy Savings and Conservation Initiative and Consolidation of the Detention Facilities. The Doran Mill cleanup contractor plans to be on site starting June 4. Currently, Keystone is working with staff to implement the software upgrade during the 18-19 budget. The rewiring of IT Fiber in the older buildings is included in this budget as well as continuing with Phase II of the Energy Saving initiative. The Manager is waiting to get the study back for the consolidation of the Detention Facilities.

Mr. Epley recommended no fee changes within the Solid Waste budget. The balanced budget for Solid Waste is $7,519,425. Improvements such as lighting, safety features and parking lots will be made to convenience sites during FY 18-19.
Mr. Epley thanked the Board for allowing him to present his recommended budget and asked the board if they had any questions.

Commissioner Whetstine thanked Mr. Epley for all his hard work on this budget. One question Commissioner Whetstine asked was if the Duke Energy Coal project trend of going backwards is going to continue? Mr. Epley had spoken with Carl Debrew on this subject. Fuel cost for powering the plant have been challenging. There has been a natural gas option added that may fire that station 9 months out of the year. Mr. Epley believes there is some level of stability moving forward.

Commissioner Allen thanked Mr. Epley as well. She asked if the closing of Schletter would affect our tax rate? Mr. Epley explained, last year Schletter contributed about $345,000 to the tax base, we have known of their challenges and have planned for that loss in revenue during budget discussions.

Chairman Holbrook asked to speak on a couple of those subjects. The Duke Energy Coal project has several old furnaces that were shut down due to pollution, what’s left in operation are fairly new furnaces. It’s hard to imagine Duke investing in new furnaces and not having a plan to have them in operation. Chairman Holbrook believes the new gas line will keep those furnaces in operation. The building that Schletter has occupied is very marketable, that size of building is very popular and the particular product they are marketing is luring other businesses to look into the building. Our hope is for both of those companies is Cliffside stabilizes and that there is little negative impact from Schletter because a sale to another company for a different use or to a company that has a comparable product line. Chairman Holbrook commended all the staff for the give and take they have endured to cooperate and make sure all departments in the County organization get what is needed to move in the right direction. The success of the organization does not depend on the Board it depends on departments and how well they do their job, and staff has a tendency to make the Board look good.

Commissioner Hutchins thanked Mr. Epley and his staff as well. One question he had was does the 1% inflation adjustment keep our people in the market place. Mr. Epley stated “Yes, with the pay and class study implemented January 2018 in which everyone was moved up to minimum in their job title, we also added a multiplier for years of service, we believe the 1% does keep us at market”.

Commissioner Bridges thanked the staff for all their hard work. His question was how does our budget of approximately $115 Million rank with other counties of our size and population? Mr. Epley explained, Cleveland County is in the top 30% in the state that have a budget that size. What the board accomplishes with that budget, with our management philosophy of doing more with less, and if you compare your strategic plan with our deliverables we are very competitive.

Chairman Holbrook noted that one of the challenges going forward is without these companies coming to Cleveland County we would have to increase taxes 6.5 cents or we would have dramatic cuts in the workforce. The County, Cleveland County Schools and Cleveland Community College must keep recruiting our youth population to stay in Cleveland County and providing them with opportunities. If we do not keep our population here we could
potentially eliminate ourselves from new economic development. The Public Hearing for the FY 18-19 Recommended Budget will be held during the next Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, June 5th. At that time the board will approve or deny the budget.
**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Whetstine – attended several prayer events over the past two weeks. He stated he is very grateful for all the volunteers that Cleveland County has. He attend the Council on Aging meeting last Friday and also had an IPDC meeting.

Commissioner Bridges – asked Register of Deeds Betsy Harnage to stand and give an update on her office. Starting next Tuesday the Register of Deeds office will start accepting applications for Passports. Commissioners thanked her for getting this service in her office.

Commissioner Hutchins – stated the Senior Center in Shelby lost power for several hours and is reaching out to the community if they can help in anyway it would be much appreciated. They lost a lot of food for their meals on wheels program.

Commissioner Allen – spoke about the “don’t be a litter bug” poster contest. They received 245 posters. The winners will have their posters on a billboard in Cleveland County.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Allen, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn the meeting*. The
next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Chamber.**

________________________________________
Eddie Holbrook, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

___________________________________
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners