

# ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## AGENDA

BOCC Virtual Budget Work Session  
May 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

Due to current public health concerns, the Board of Commissioners is conducting a Virtual Budget Work Session on May 21, 2020 utilizing Zoom. Members of the Board of Commissioners will be participating in the meeting remotely. As in prior meetings, members of the public will be able to view and listen to the meeting via live streaming video at [orangecountync.gov/967/Meeting-Videos](http://orangecountync.gov/967/Meeting-Videos) and on Orange County Gov-TV on channels 1301 or 97.6 (Spectrum Cable).

- (7:00 – 7:30) 1. FY 2020-21 Fire District Tax Rates, Pgs. 216-222
- New Hope Fire District, Pg. 219
  - Orange Rural Fire District, Pg. 220
- (7:30 – 10:00) 2. Discussion of County Departments' FY2020-21 Recommended Budgets within the Public Safety, General Government, and Support Services Functional Leadership Teams (including Operations, Capital, and Fee Schedule Changes):

### **Public Safety**

- Courts, Pg. 122
- Criminal Justice Resources, Pg. 123
- Emergency Services, Pg. 200
- Sheriff, Pg. 331
- Non-Departmental, Pg. 289

### **General Government**

- Board of County Commissioners, Pg. 74
- Board of Elections, Pg. 78
- County Attorney, Pg. 110
- County Manager, Pg. 113
- Register of Deeds, Pg. 327
- Tax Administration, Pg. 361
- Non-Departmental, Pg. 273

### **Support Services**

- Asset Management Services, Pg. 66
- Community Relations, Pg. 101
- Finance and Administrative Services, Pg. 211
- Human Resources, including Employee Pay & Benefits, Pg. 248 and Appendix A, Pg. 367
- Information Technologies, Pg. 256
- Non-Departmental, Pg. 292

Orange County Board of Commissioners' regular meetings and work sessions are available via live streaming video at <http://www.orangecountync.gov/967/Meeting-Videos> and Orange County Gov-TV on channels 1301 or 97.6 (Time Warner Cable).

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** May 21, 2020

**Action Agenda  
Item No. 1**

**SUBJECT:** FY 2020-21 Fire Districts' Tax Rates

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**DEPARTMENT:** County Manager and Finance and Administrative Services

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- A. Fire Districts' Requests for FY2020-21
- B. Historical Fire District Tax Rates (from FY 2004-05 to FY 2020-21)

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bonnie Hammersley, (919) 245-2300  
Travis Myren, (919) 245-2308  
Paul Laughton, (919) 245-2152  
Gary Donaldson, (919) 245-2453

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**PURPOSE:** To review and discuss the FY 2020-21 fire districts' tax rates, including tax rate increases recommended for two (2) fire districts.

**BACKGROUND:** During tonight's work session, Commissioners will have the opportunity to dialogue with New Hope Fire District and Orange Rural Fire District, who have requested tax rate increases for FY 2020-21. As in the past, fire districts requesting tax rate increases present their needs for a tax increase to the Commissioners at a work session. Staff has invited representatives from the departments listed above to tonight's virtual work session to answer any questions and/or provide additional information to the Board regarding their increase.

**Attachment A** provides information regarding tax rate requests from all twelve (12) fire districts and/or fire service districts in Orange County for FY 2020-21, the amount of funds one cent on the tax rate generates, fund balance information, as well as information detailing the reasons for the requested tax rate increases. Information regarding all fire districts is located in the Fire District section of the FY 2020-21 Manager Recommended Budget beginning on page 216.

**Attachment B** reflects historical Fire District tax rates dating back to FY 2004-05.

The Fire Districts requesting tax rate increases in FY 2020-21 are as follows:

- **New Hope Fire District (Page 219)** – increase of .73 cents, going from a current tax rate of 9.94 cents to 10.67 cents, for FY 2020-21. This rate increase is to restructure their staff, add three (3) paid positions, and maintain their current level of service.
- **Orange Rural Fire District (Page 220)** – increase of .33 cents, going from a current tax rate of 9.15 cents to 9.48 cents, for FY 2020-21. This rate increase is to add a full time Chief position, and to cover ongoing increases in worker's compensation insurance. The

district is also requesting \$89,000 from their available fund balance for the replacement of fire suppression equipment and purchase of a vehicle for the new fire chief position.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Included in the Background Section above.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT:** There are no Social Justice Goal impacts associated with this item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** There are no Orange County Environmental Responsibility Goal impacts associated with this agenda item.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Manager recommends that the Board discuss the above mentioned fire districts' tax rate increases and give direction to county staff, as appropriate.

District	Current 2019-20 Tax Rate (in cents)	Requested Tax Rate for 2020-21	Requested 2020-21 Tax Rate Change from Current Rate	1 Cent Equals	1/10 Cent Equals	Requested Fund Balance for 2020-21	Fund Balance at June 30, 2019	Reasons for Districts' Requesting a Tax Rate Increase
Cedar Grove	8.10	8.10	0.00	\$ 32,803	\$ 3,280	\$ -	\$ 27,755	
Chapel Hill	14.91	14.91	0.00	\$ 18,443	\$ 1,844	\$ -	\$ 49,056	
Damascus	10.80	10.80	0.00	\$ 9,896	\$ 990	\$ -	\$ 30,641	
Efland	6.78	6.78	0.00	\$ 79,057	\$ 7,906	\$ -	\$ 79,189	
Eno	9.68	9.68	0.00	\$ 85,865	\$ 8,587	\$ -	\$ 333,298	
Little River	5.92	5.92	0.00	\$ 48,666	\$ 4,867	\$ -	\$ 91,768	
New Hope	9.94	10.67	0.73	\$ 71,051	\$ 7,105	\$ -	\$ 177,832	Tax increase is needed to restructure their staff, add three (3) paid positions, and maintain their current level of service.
Orange Grove	6.81	6.81	0.00	\$ 86,155	\$ 8,616	\$ -	\$ 172,327	
Orange Rural	9.15	9.48	0.33	\$ 149,400	\$ 14,940	\$ 89,000	\$ 166,192	Tax increase is needed to add a full-time Fire Chief position and to cover ongoing increases in worker's compensation insurance.
South Orange	9.68	9.68	0.00	\$ 59,930	\$ 5,993	\$ -	\$ 175,675	
Southern Triangle	10.80	10.80	0.00	\$ 23,424	\$ 2,342	\$ -	\$ 162,677	
White Cross	12.37	12.37	0.00	\$ 45,156	\$ 4,516	\$ 30,000	\$ 84,595	
							<b>\$ 1,551,005</b>	

**Historical Fire District Tax Rates (from FY 2004-05 to FY 2020-21)**  
(in cents per \$100 valuation)

	Cedar Grove	Chapel Hill	Damascus	Efland	Eno	Little River	New Hope	Orange Grove	Orange Rural	South Orange	Southern Triangle	White Cross
2004-05	7.30	2.00	3.00	<b>4.65</b>	6.40	<b>5.20</b>	6.50	3.90	5.10	9.20	3.00	4.80
2005-06*	<b>7.30</b>	1.90	2.60	3.475	5.70	4.60	6.25	3.40	<b>5.60</b>	<b>9.20</b>	2.60	4.20
2006-07	7.30	1.90	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.225</b>	5.70	4.60	<b>6.75</b>	<b>3.90</b>	5.60	9.20	<b>4.00</b>	4.20
2007-08	7.30	1.90	<b>5.00</b>	4.225	5.70	4.60	6.75	3.90	5.60	<b>9.50</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
2008-09	7.30	<b>4.90</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>5.225</b>	5.70	4.60	6.75	<b>4.20</b>	<b>6.30</b>	9.50	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>
2009-10*	6.36	2.16	5.00	4.66	<b>5.99</b>	4.06	5.70	3.58	5.36	7.85	5.00	<b>6.00</b>
2010-11	<b>7.36</b>	<b>7.50</b>	5.00	4.66	5.99	4.06	<b>6.95</b>	3.58	<b>6.36</b>	7.85	5.00	6.00
2011-12	7.36	7.50	5.00	4.66	5.99	4.06	<b>8.95</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>5.61</b>	7.85	5.00	<b>7.00</b>
2012-13	7.36	7.50	5.00	4.66	5.99	4.06	8.95	<b>5.00</b>	5.61	7.85	5.00	7.00
2013-14	7.36	<b>15.00</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.99</b>	4.06	<b>9.45</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>7.36</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>8.80</b>
2014-15	7.36	15.00	8.80	7.00	7.99	4.06	<b>9.95</b>	6.00	7.36	10.00	8.80	<b>11.00</b>
2015-16	7.36	15.00	<b>10.30</b>	7.00	7.99	4.06	9.95	6.00	<b>8.36</b>	10.00	<b>10.30</b>	11.00
2016-17	7.36	15.00	10.30	7.00	7.99	4.06	<b>10.45</b>	<b>7.00</b>	8.36	10.00	10.30	11.00
2017-18*	<b>8.10</b>	14.91	10.30	6.78	<b>8.68</b>	<b>4.92</b>	9.94	6.81	<b>9.15</b>	9.68	10.30	<b>11.37</b>
2018-19	8.10	14.91	10.30	6.78	<b>9.68</b>	<b>5.92</b>	9.94	6.81	9.15	9.68	10.30	11.37
2019-20	8.10	14.91	<b>10.80</b>	6.78	9.68	5.92	9.94	6.81	9.15	9.68	<b>10.80</b>	<b>12.37</b>
2020-21 Recommended	8.10	14.91	10.80	6.78	9.68	5.92	<b>10.67</b>	6.81	<b>9.48</b>	9.68	10.80	12.37

\*Revaluation Year

**BOLD** and highlighted denotes tax rate increase

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** May 21, 2020

**Action Agenda  
Item No.   2**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of County Departments' FY2020-21 Recommended Budgets within the Public Safety, General Government, and Support Services Functional Leadership Teams

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**DEPARTMENT:** County Manager and Finance and Administrative Services

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bonnie Hammersley, (919) 245-2300  
Travis Myren, (919) 245-2308  
Gary Donaldson, (919) 245-2453  
Paul Laughton, (919) 245-2152

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**PURPOSE:** To review and discuss FY 2020-21 recommended departmental budgets within the Public Safety, General Government, and Support Services Functional Leadership Teams.

**BACKGROUND:** The County Manager presented the FY 2020-21 Recommended Operating Budget on May 5, 2020. Since then, the Board has conducted one public hearing to receive residents' comments regarding the proposed funding plan. On May 14, 2020, the Board discussed recommended FY 2020-21 budgets for Durham Technical Community College – Orange County campus, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education and Orange County Schools Board of Education, as well as reviewed and discussed recommended FY 2020-21 funding for Outside Agencies.

Tonight's work session offers the Board an opportunity to review and discuss the recommended budgets directly with County departments within the structure of Functional Leadership Teams, including operations, capital, and department fee schedule change recommendations.

**Functional Leadership Teams:**

The following Functional Leadership Teams are scheduled to attend tonight's work session:

**Public Safety:**

- Courts
- Criminal Justice Resources
- Emergency Services
- Sheriff

**General Government:**

- Board of County Commissioners
- Board of Elections
- County Attorney
- County Manager
- Register of Deeds
- Tax Administration

**Support Services:**

- Asset Management Services
- Community Relations
- Finance and Administrative Services
- Human Resources, including Employee Pay and Benefits
  - Employee Pay and Benefits - staff has provided information relating to FY 2020-21 employee pay and benefits in Appendix A of the Manager's Recommended Budget. The information provided includes background information on employee pay and benefits over recent years and information on specific pay and benefits plan elements. Key components of the recommended employee pay and benefits plan include:
    - No wage increase or Merit Pay for FY 2020-21.
    - Continue the \$27.50 per pay period County contribution to non-law enforcement employees' supplemental retirement accounts and the County matching employees' contributions up to \$63.00 semi-monthly (for a maximum annual County contribution of \$1,512) for all general (non-sworn law enforcement officer) employees; continue the mandated Law Enforcement Officer contribution of 5.0% of salary, and continue the County's required contribution to the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) for all permanent employees. For FY 2020-21, the Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) rate increases from 9.70 to 10.90 percent of reported compensation, and all other employees rate increases from 8.95 to 10.15 percent of reported compensation.
    - Continue to participate in the North Carolina Health Insurance Pool (NCHIP), and continue medical and prescription third party administrators with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) and Prime Therapeutics, a division of BCBSNC, respectively. No increase to health appropriations, and an increase of \$92,236 for dental appropriations. No increase to employee premium equivalent for health, dental, or vision insurance. No increase for health coverage premium equivalent for pre-65 retirees enrolled in the County's group plan, and an increase of \$106,003 for the post-65 (Medicare eligible) retirees.
    - Maintain the current Living wage of \$15.00 per hour for all permanent employees and \$14.95 per hour for temporary employees.
    - Continue the additional eight hours of annual leave to be awarded at an employee's anniversary date, prorated for part time employees.
    - Continue the six-week paid parental leave policy.
- Information Technologies

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with the discussion of the Manager's Recommended FY 2020-21 Operating Budget. Decisions that the Board makes as part of its discussion on the Manager's Recommended FY 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget will have financial impacts.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT:** There are no Social Justice Goal impacts associated with this item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** There are no Orange County Environmental Responsibility Goal impacts associated with this agenda item.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Manager recommends that the Board review and discuss the Manager's Recommended FY 2020-21 budget and provide direction to staff, as appropriate.