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News Release

County Seeks Assistance in Developing Budget

May 8, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday authorized the county manager to seek professional services to assist with reviewing the Union County Public Schools’ budget in order to establish a process the County and school system can use to develop the County’s Fiscal Year 2012/2013 budget and future budgets.

“We all acknowledge that education is essential within our community and nation,” said County Manager Cindy Coto. “But the trend over the last 10 years indicates that school funding does not appear to correlate to any specific factors or systematic approach. We continue to do the same thing over and over again expecting different results.”

Since 2003, student enrollment has increased 58 percent in Union County, but the County’s funding of operations has increased 260 percent. Total funding, including debt service, has increased 292 percent, but County revenues have only increase 276 percent. Similar trends exist when funding is compared to student enrollment. Increases to annual funding levels have ranged from 0 percent to 25 percent, but these increases do not correlate to student enrollment increases which ranged from 1.3 percent to 10.7 percent.

“There is a disconnect with our approach to funding our schools when compared to funding our internal operations and outside agencies such as our volunteer fire departments,” Coto said. “The firm we choose to assist us will guide us as we work with the school board to determine what is contained within their budget and how we appropriately identify those items and fund their budget.”

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