

WEDNESDAY  
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## Still no county budget

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The county convention failed to pass a budget Tuesday during a continuation of a meeting which began

**Newport** June 30.

"There certainly won't be any vote taken," chair Peter Franklin, D-Newport, said at the beginning of the meeting. "We don't have a schedule and I rather doubt we will come to any vote tonight."

The county has been without a budget since July 1 when the delegates failed to pass a budget during the convention. A continuing resolution was passed June 30 to allow the county to function until either a budget is passed or Sept. 1 when the commissioner's budget will be adopted by default.

During the two-hour meeting

Tuesday, the delegation discussed the nursing home portion of the budget for about an hour and a half before deciding to accept the commissioner's recommendation regarding revenue.

"I'm perfectly satisfied with the projections," Jay Phinizy, D-Acworth, said. "If we keep revisiting things and revisiting things we're never going to move forward."

Franklin was concerned about the census projection, or the number of patients estimated to be at the nursing home during the fiscal year.

"If we budget low and come in high, there is less likelihood we will have a deficit," Franklin said.

Nursing home administrator Ted Purdy said the best possible solution to ensuring the

census numbers are met is to pass a budget.

"I think the best marketing initiative is to pass the budget," Purdy said.

Purdy said he estimates the census will be an average of 135 people per day, and that number was increased to 137 by the commissioners. The census projections have a direct correlation on the amount of revenue the county projects it will receive. The home has 156 beds.

"I'm sticking my neck out a bit," Purdy said. "But I think the number is attainable with contacts we have at area hospitals and through good marketing."

Purdy said that the time is now to pass a budget and the future of the nursing home should be discussed seriously in a separate forum.

"We need to have strategic planning sessions and what we're going to look at in the future," Purdy said.

Franklin said the discussion on the nursing home budget will continue at the next meeting scheduled for 4 p.m., July 14.

"I think if we keep moving forward and keep at it, it hopefully won't take a full two months to get to a budget," Franklin said.

Discussion on the budget was delayed for about 30 minutes because the copy of the inch-thick budget given to the delegation was missing pages, which angered one delegate.

"This is why we don't have a budget," Larry Converse, D-Clairemont, said. "It seems like every time we ask for new numbers, it's all messed up. You can't look at something that ain't there."