

Charles Morris,  
Chair  
Town of Linden

Diane Wheatley,  
Vice-Chair  
Cumberland County

Jami McLaughlin,  
Town of Spring Lake  
Harvey Cain, Jr.,  
Town of Stedman

Vacant  
Wade, Falcon & Godwin



Joel Strickland,  
Acting Director

Cecil P. Combs,  
Deputy Director

Vikki Andrews,  
Carl Manning,  
Lori Epler,  
Cumberland County

Stan Crumpler,  
Town of Eastover

Patricia Hall,  
Town of Hope Mills

*Planning & Inspections Department*

**MINUTES**

November 6, 2018

**Members Present**

Mr. Charles Morris, Chairman  
Mrs. Diane Wheatley, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Stan Crumpler  
Mr. Carl Manning  
Dr. Vikki Andrews  
Mrs. Lori Epler

**Members Absent**

Mrs. Jamie McLaughlin  
Mr. Harvey Cain, Jr.  
Ms. Patricia Hall

**Others Present**

Amy Cannon,  
County Manager  
Tracy Jackson  
Asst. County Manager  
Mr. Rick Moorefield,  
County Attorney  
Mrs. Laverne Howard

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Morris delivered the invocation and Mr. Manning led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2018

**Mr. Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Dr. Andrews to approve the minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval.**

III. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR

Mr. Morris went over the events of the previous meeting. Mr. Morris advised that he met the County Manager and the Assistant County Manager to discuss the Interlocal Agreement, the responsibilities of the Planning Board and a general conversation about potential candidates. Mr. Morris stated that he had conversation with Cecil Combs, Patricia Speicher and one with Joel Strickland. Cecil and Patti were not interested in the position and sent an email in memorandum declining the position of Acting Director. Mr. Morris also advised the Board of the paragraph in the Interlocal Agreement that gives the Board the authority to choose an Acting Director.

Mrs. Wheatley asked about the process of choosing a new Director.

Mr. Morris explained how the process worked in the past.

Amy Cannon, County Manager stated that her office is responsible for the oversight of the day to day operations from finance matters, personnel matters, budget matters, etc. of the Planning Department. Ms. Cannon stated that the Interlocal Agreement is something that was drafted in the 1970's, the process that is laid out is much different and unique in recruitment and selection than any other department head in County government. Ms. Cannon said that she hoped that she could work with the Planning Board and work through this process and knows that it is challenging with the way it's been laid out. Ms. Cannon also said that the Board of Commissioners' have expressed concern about involvement in the process.

Mr. Morris said that this will be unique, but in that search committee there will be someone from County Administration involved as a voice and partner and to provide input, because of the unique situation of supervising the position.

Mrs. Epler stated that they have always had input, in the last process there was a representative from County Management who was involved in the entire process. Mrs. Epler also said that the way it has been done is not the way it's laid out in the Interlocal Agreement and wonders if the agreement needs to be updated.

Ms. Canon stated that she wanted to make sure that she can adequately represent the Board of Commissioners' in providing leadership to all County departments, this one included. Some of the Commissioners' have requested looking at the Interlocal Agreement and clarifying the process.

**After further discussion about the process for hiring a new director Mr. Manning made a motion to go into closed session for personnel note, seconded by Dr. Andrews.**

#### IV. CLOSED SESSION

##### PERSONAL MATTERS PUSUANT TO NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6)

Chairman Morris reported that Deputy Director Cecil Combs and Patti Speicher had told him that they were not interested in serving as interim planning director. He presented emailed notices from each of them confirming that. The Board then discussed the appointment of FAMPO Director Joel Strickland as the Acting Director of Planning and inspections until the permanent director was hired. No Board members stated anything negative about Mr. Strickland. By consensus, the Board agreed to appoint Mr. Strickland upon reconvening in open session.

The Board reconvened in open session.

**Dr. Andrews made a motion to appoint Joel Strickland as Acting Planning Director and begin the search immediately begin the search for a new Planning Director, seconded by Mrs. Epler. Unanimous approval.**

#### V. DISCUSSION

There was none.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.