
Minutes
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
June 13, 2000
Special Meeting: Budget Workshop

PRESENT: Chairman Edward G. Melvin, Jr.
Vice Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner H. Mac Tyson II
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Amy Cannon, Finance Director
Budget Staff
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Commissioner Tom Bacote (due to illness)

Chairman Melvin called the meeting to order.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to increase the ad valorem tax rate .06 cents to be used as follows:

3 cents	Public School Funding which would give the schools 6 million dollars;
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½ cent	Fund the Performance Pay Plan for employees;
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½ cent	Create a contingency operating fund for county departments to operate on for the budget year;
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1 cent	Purchase 45 cars for the Sheriff's Office without financing them (would save the County \$127,000.00 or the equivalent of 5 vehicles);
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County

1 cent

**Return money to the County's Fund Balance
which will be well below 8%**

SECOND: Commissioner King

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Blackwell noted that a no tax increase budget for FY01 would mean we need \$33 million new dollars FY02. He said the County can only count of measurable and available revenues, not promises or hope. He noted the public schools have been good stewards of the money and we should increase their funding. He stated that with only a \$3 million increase in operating funds, the schools will have to chose between matching funds for locally paid teachers and opening new schools. Their choice is not to open the three new schools. In addition, Commissioner Blackwell stated the Commissioners made a commitment to County employees to fund the Performance Pay Plan. County departments could very well be out of operating funds by February, 2001, requiring some contingency funding. If the money is not there, what happens to the services we offer our citizens? Sheriff's vehicles are badly needed; however, it makes no sense to purchase them through lease-purchase. Straight out purchase will save the county \$127,000.00. Mr. Blackwell noted the importance of restoring money to our Fund Balance. He pointed out that we will be selling \$14 million in school bonds and our Fund Balance needs to be adequate.

Commissioner Blackwell said that while no one likes a tax increase, it is up to the Board to operate county government and provide citizen services in a responsible manner. He urged the Board to support the 6 cents tax increase as noted above.

Commissioner Baggett noted that Commissioner Tom Bacote is in the hospital and is not able to participate in our budget deliberations. He said that he felt it important that the Board not take action until Mr. Bacote is able to be here. It was suggested by Commissioner King that Mr. Bacote may in fact be able to be out our meeting on Monday, June 19.

SUBSTITUTE

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved that we table Commissioner Blackwell's motion until Mr. Bacote can participate, hopefully on Monday, June 19, 2000 at 5:00PM.

SECOND: Commissioner Tyson

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Warren noted the importance of the decisions being made and the importance of Commissioner Bacote being able to participate.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner Tyson

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:50PM

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