

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 19, 2007, 8:30AM
SPECIAL MEETING – COMMISSIONERS’ PLANNING SESSION
CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM
BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: Chairman Kenneth S. Edge
 Vice Chairman Breeden Blackwell
 Commissioner Jeannette Council
 Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
 Commissioner Edward G. Melvin
 Commissioner Billy R. King
 Commissioner Diane Wheatley
 James Martin, County Manager
 Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
 Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager – Finance
 Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
 Howard Abner, Finance Department
 Kelly Autry, Finance Department
 Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk
 Marsha Fogle, Clerk
 Sara VanderClute, PIO

1. Approval of Agenda: The Board approved the agenda.
2. Planning Issues:
 - a. Update on the 2030 Plan – Will Denning, Planning/Inspections Department, gave a brief overview pointing out some of the differences between the 2010 and the 2030 Plan. A draft of the Plan has been distributed to the Stakeholders. County-wide citizen meetings will be held in February to receive input which will be incorporated into a final draft document and growth strategy map.
 - b. Joint City-County Water Sewer Policy – Tom Lloyd, Director, Planning/Inspections Department. Mr. Lloyd gave a brief overview of the status of the sewer extension policy and the meetings among County, City and PWC staff. He reviewed briefly the differences and similarities in philosophy between the City and the County regarding sewer extensions. SEE ATTACHED CHART
3. Update on Financial Operations (FY2007 Estimates and FY2008 Projections)

The County Manager reviewed FY07 year-end projections and FY2008 revenue and expenditure projects. Based on a modified 2007 FY budget, FY2008 budget revenues would be \$257,246,515. Taking into consideration potential recurring expenditures plus some one-time expenditures, to include School current expenses, FTCC current expense, COLA (up to 4%), increase in Health Insurance, FY2007 departmental requests, state mandated reclassifications, and one-time expenditures (vehicles, roof repair/replacement, CCBC Capital Fund and post employment benefits, the projected deficit for the FY2008 budget is \$339,456. **Capital expenditure costs for capital projects such as parks and recreation projects and others are not reflected in the above figures.** Some community-initiated projects for which the

county may receive requests for county funding include operating funds for the ASOM, funding for the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, a downtown parking deck, Hope VI, Museum of Art building fund, parks and recreation senior & aquatic center and regional transportation costs.

In discussions regarding post-employment benefits (health insurance), some options to consider are:

- (a) Set aside money in an Irrevocable Trust Fund that can only be used for post-employment benefits;
- (b) Make adjustments to the plan (would only affect future employees).

In discussing the current health insurance program administered by CIGNA, Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager, noted some changes are being made, i.e., separate cards are being issued for vision insurance, wellness care will require no co-pay, and new insurance cards will be issued to everyone. In addition, county employees will be required to attend an information meeting regarding county health insurance.

- 4. Review of potential capital projects with projected capital and operating costs and discussion of priority

Future Projects:

New Health Department – The Finance Committee recommended that the Board make this its first priority. Estimated total cost: \$23,534,000. The County would have to finance about \$20,367,850.

New Detention Facility Pod – Estimated cost of one pod: \$10,600,000. This project is not on the immediate horizon. The Board suggested staff meet with the DA's office, the Court System and the Sheriff's Department regarding jail and court system issues. Commissioner Henley also suggested that comparative studies be done regarding length of stay prior to trial comparing other urban counties to Cumberland. In addition, staff should look into the possibility of using the 4th floor of the Law Enforcement Center. The Manager noted that the County received three more Assistant DA positions, effective January 1 of this year.

Public Safety Communication Towers – Estimated cost for 2 towers: \$5,360,000. The Manager noted options are being explored to use existing towers rather than build new towers. The county is looking into using the State VIPR system.

Replacement of Public Safety Analog Radios – Estimated Cost: \$8,000,000. Not anticipated until FY2013.

New Libraries(3) – The western (Strickland Bridge) branch library is the top priority recommended by the Library Board. Estimated construction cost: \$4,828,810. Commissioners discussed an opportunity to partner with the county school system to place libraries on the same grounds as schools. Commissioner Blackwell noted there are some security issues related to the notion of co-locating a library and a school system. Other library branch projects are the Pamalee Branch and the Grays Creek Branch. The consensus

of the Board was that the County should work to restore full hours to our branches at this time.

PRIORITIES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD

- (1) Health Department – Finance with COP's.
 - (2) Radio System – Important that emergency services be able to communicate.
 - (3) Library – Western Branch – Also Staff to talk to Library Board to discuss restoring hours to full time.
- 5A. Demographics – Chairman Edge noted that population changes, some as a result of BRAC, will affect how the county will address services. Higher senior population, increased population in the western part of the county, school needs, mental health needs, and services in general will need to be addressed. Transportation issues and culturally and entertainment oriented new citizens will affect our services. Chairman Edge suggested that the county look into more private/public partnerships when addressing some of the needs.
- 5B. Lobbying Efforts (State Level) – Attempts will be made to meet every two months with the County Legislative Delegation. Suggested time: Friday for lunch. Meetings will begin in February.

Federal Level – Priorities

- (1) Military Business Park - \$600,000 included in FY06 Appropriations
- (2) Defense & Security Technology Accelerator, \$1.08 million – FY-07
- (3) Regional Public Safety Communications - \$300,000 – FY06
- (4) Abandoned Manufactured Home Removal – Nothing approved yet
- (5) Water/Sewer Improvements – Nothing approved yet
- (6) Multimodal Center – Repeat request
- (7) Cape Fear river Trail – Repeat request
- (8) Groundwater Contamination – Repeat request
- (9) Railroad Switching Yard - \$8.8 million appropriated in SAFETYTEA-LU (no money spent yet) Will repeat request in FY09

The above priorities are established jointly by the County of Cumberland, the City of Fayetteville and the Cumberland County Business Council in coordination with The Ferguson Group.

The Board requested that the water/sewer priority (currently #5) be moved up if possible.

- 5C. Establish "Cumberland County Cares (CCC) Recognition Program to recognize volunteers by event and award them for their services.

Chairman Edge asked the Board to support this initiative. The county would receive nominations on who should be recognized. A committee, Judy Dawkins, Dr. John Griffin and Robin Jenkins, would review the nominations each month and select the winning nomination. That person/organization would be recognized at the third Monday meeting of the Board of Commissioners. This program would be advertised

on the county's website and in the local newspapers. In addition, the Chairman will do an Op Ed piece for the paper.

The Board supported this initiative.

5. Storm Water Update (Phase II) – Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the County should withdraw from Phase I of the Program because it appears that State will no longer require county participation , and if it did withdraw, should the county continue to charge a fee. If the County withdraws from Phase I but continues to charge a fee, would there be enough money to do any substantial amount of projects. Another question is if the County allows DENR to administer Phase II, can it at a later date request that the County assume administration of Phase II. The County Attorney will check into this issue. The Board also discussed whether or not a county-wide fee (in the unincorporated areas of the county) could or should be levied to address some of the quantity storm water issues.

It was noted that DENR will administer the Phase II regulations much in a manner similar to which it presently administers the Sediment & Erosion Control Program.

MOTION: Commissioner King moved that the County withdraw from Phase 1 of the Storm Water Program, if allowed by the State, allow the State to administer Phase II of the Storm Water Program and direct staff to develop policy and funding options for addressing future and existing storm water needs.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

6. Update on NCACC 2007 Conference – The Public Information Officer and the Clerk gave a brief report on the status of the planning for the conference. At this point, a decision has been made regarding the Board of Directors Dinner location (Gates Four Country Club) and the golf outing (Gates Four). Letters have been sent to vendors asking their assistance in providing funding for the conference as sponsors of some of the events. At this time a total of \$11,500 local money has been raise. The NCACC has secured funding from the Local Government Credit Union in the amount of \$10,000. The County has applied to the Tourism Development Authority for funding in the amount of \$15,000 and will make a presentation to the Authority on January 31. The County also has a sponsor (Commissioner Blackwell) for shirts for our volunteers. No cost figures available at this time. The Clerk urged the Commissioners to make contact with anyone who might be willing to assist us in this hosting this conference.
7. Update on the Consolidation Study from the University of Georgia – Commissioner Blackwell noted that Harry Hayes from the Institute of Government (University of Georgia) will be in town on February 5 and 6 to give a report (draft report) on the status of Phase I to county staff and the Cumberland County Business Council. The final report is not yet complete for Phase I. Following completion of Phase 1 the Board will need to decide whether or not it wants to continue the process of consolidation, leading to Phase II.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:00PM.

