

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 1, 2009, 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette Council
Vice Chairman Billy R. King
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Finance Department Staff
Sally Shutt, Communications Manager Designate
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney
Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk
Candice White, Deputy Clerk Designate
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Breeden Blackwell

The purpose of this special meeting is to review and consider the FY2009-10 proposed county budget, which the County Manager had presented as his recommended budget at the Board's regular meeting earlier in the day.

The County Manager asked for questions from the Board concerning the budget.

Commissioner Keefe inquired about recourse if the Board needed to change the tax rate once it has been adopted by the Board. Staff indicated the Board may change the tax rate until December 31, should there be significant changes in revenues and or expenditures. The County Manager pointed out that if there is a significant chance the Board might change the tax rate, he would recommend that tax bills not be sent out until the last possible moment.

The issue of delayed refunds of sales tax for non-profits was discussed. The County Manager noted the State has been holding this money for awhile (about three months or so) and refunds could amount to \$45 million in June, as compared to \$10 million in a typical month. Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager for Finance, told the Board she would get the Cumberland County figures next week.

Commissioner Edge commented that the County's debt service will be decreasing in the next few years and inquired if the County would be able to afford to issue bonds/COPS for some of the needs that will be facing us as a result of BRAC, detention center beds,

etc. Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager, said the school system will have some construction needs and will be able to use \$32 million interest free Qualified Zone Academy Bonds to assist in building a new middle school in the western part of the county (\$16 million) and additional classrooms to address the BRAC issue. They will be able to pay the principal amount over a 13 year period out of lottery proceeds. Ms. Cannon also noted that, overall, debt service will start dropping after 2012 and the county will have some flexibility to finance additional debt.

Commissioner Edge inquired if all of the fire departments have submitted their budgets. Ms. Cannon, Asst. County Manager, said they had been submitted. A handout was provided to the commissioners noting each fire department's budget request for the new fiscal year as well as the actual for 2008.

The Board will continue its budget deliberations on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 5:30PM in room 564. Department Heads have been invited to attend to address any concerns they may have about their respective budgets.

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commissioner Faircloth
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:30PM.