

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 27, 2010 – 5:30 PM
COURTHOUSE - 117 DICK STREET - ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING FOR BUDGET – DEPARTMENT HEAD APPEALS

PRESENT:

- Commissioner Jeannette Council
- Commissioner Kenneth Edge
- Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
- Commissioner Ed Melvin
- Commissioner Phillip Gilfus
- Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
- James Martin, County Manager
- Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
- Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager
- Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
- Sally Shutt, Communications Manager
- James Lawson, Human Resources Manager
- Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
- Bob Tucker, Finance Department
- Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
- Kelly Autry, Finance Department
- Scottie Harris, Animal Services Director
- Jodi Risacher, Library Director
- Mary Thomas, Library Board of Trustees
- Ole Sorensen, Library Board of Trustees
- Gail Riddle, Library Board of Trustees
- Marie Colgan, Clerk to the Board
- Candice White, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Chairman Billy R. King

Commissioner Edge advised Chairman King is at a conference and called the Special Meeting to order stating the meeting is to hear appeals or comments from Department Heads.

County Manager advised two Department Heads are in attendance: Jodi Risacher from the Library and Scottie Harris from Animal Services.

Jodi Risacher, Library director, introduced members of the Board of Trustees and distributed a handout which shows library services and explains the part the Library plays in the community. Commissioners were thanked for the new western branch with September planned as the dedication of the facility. Ms. Risacher stated a supplemental request of \$277,000 for recurring funds for restoring hours for the Bordeaux, East Regional and Spring Lake branches has been made. Ms. Risacher completed her presentation reminding the members how important the library is with regard to aiding

the economic recovery by helping citizens in many areas; such as, one-on-one assistance with citizens looking for jobs and assisting small business owners with various resources. A jobs and career fair is scheduled for August at the headquarters library. Ms. Risacher was thanked for her job and the dedication of the library board members. Commissioner Edge stated that her request would be taken under advisement.

Scottie Harris, Animal Service Director, thanked the Commissioners, the County Manager and his staff for their leadership and support of the employees. Mr. Harris stated he feels fortunate to be in a county which has prepared for tough times and appreciates management keeping Department Heads informed throughout the year. Commissioner Keefe asked what would be the number of positions in Animal Services with the addition of the requested staff shown in the proposed budget and whether the issues at Animal Services may have been due to the lack of personnel. Mr. Harris responded that the new positions would include four more enforcement officers, bringing the total number of officers to 13 which including the the supervisor and four more shelter attendants which would bring the staff numbers close to what was recommended during a 2000 study. The shelter has always been below staffing as these positions are hard to staff and hard to recruit for, but recruiting efforts have improved. In response to a question regarding starting salary, Mr. Harris advised that even if an individual comes in with a national certification, there is still a great deal of training needed. Commissioner Edge thanked Mr. Harris for the job he has done this past year.

Mr. Martin introduced the entire budget staff and thanked them for the good job they have done.

Commissioner Edge opened up the floor to questions or discussion regarding the budget. Mr. Martin advised that interest has been shown by Chairman King and other Commissioners about some kind of COLA compensation for the employees being added to the proposed budget. Mr. Martin stated he and his staff are looking into it and should be able to report out on it at the June 7th budget work session.

In response to questions posed by Commissioner Keefe regarding the special fire district tax, Mr. Martin advised the increase in monies to the Fire Chief's Association will be used for radio upgrades, software, training, and other fire equipment for all departments. Commissioner Melvin pointed out the increase of this tax will only be \$7.50 for a property value of \$100,000.

Commissioner Keefe questioned the amount going to the Veterans Council stating that he felt it should be increased. Discussion ensued regarding funding of community organizations, quasi-governmental organizations and economic development funding.

During discussion of the proposed water and sewer funding of \$250,000, Mr. Martin advised there is a balance of \$3.5M in the water and sewer fund with \$2M of that amount having been advanced for the Lake Upchurch project which is being repaid.

Mr. Martin clarified to the Board there are no monies budgeted in the proposed budget for renovation to the old health department building, but there is a management

designation of fund balance of \$5.6M. Mr. Martin pointed out it will be the Board's decision as to how to use these monies.

Discussion ensued regarding pay-as-you-go verses borrowing money for the addition to the jail.

As requested by Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Martin explained the school funding formula with regard to the recalculated tax rate.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilfus moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Faircloth

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Colgan
Clerk to the Board