

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING FOR FY 2013 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
117 DICK STREET, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM 118
JUNE 7, 2012, 7:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Chairman
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Billy King (arrived at 8:25 p.m.)
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Kelly Autry, Accountant
Bob Tucker, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Accountant
Sally Shutt, Communication and Strategic Initiatives Manager
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Chairman Marshall Faircloth called the meeting to order.

Chairman Faircloth called on Commissioner Charles Evans who provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Chairman Faircloth stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the public regarding the proposed FY 2013 budget. Candice White, Clerk to the Board, advised there were twenty-seven (27) speakers signed up for the public hearing.

James Martin, County Manager, read aloud the rules for the public hearing. Mr. Martin advised that the recommended budget had been posted on the county's website at www.co.cumberland.nc.us/finance and would likely continue to be posted until such time as the approved budget was posted.

Chairman Faircloth called on Mr. Martin to provide information regarding mental health funding as included in the recommended budget. Mr. Martin presented the following information to the Board of Commissioners:

Recommended Budget Includes:

- \$725,571 to supplement LME personnel and operating for July-Dec.

- \$1 million set aside specifically for mental health services
- Licensed Clinical Counselor transferred to Jail Health – \$73,933
- Psychiatric services will be transferred to Health Department July 1st (26 positions; \$3,385,296 off-set by revenue and county is at risk for any shortfall)
- Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) to Community Development
- Guardianship to DSS
- Sobriety Court - ½ year (\$40,157)
- Roxie Avenue Center - ½ year (\$175,000)
- Juvenile Court Liaison – ½ year (\$33,048)
- Mini-grants – ½ year (\$40,000)
- Community Collaborative (\$12,500)

Mr. Martin stated he would likely recommend some proposed changes at the Board of Commissioner's work session on June 11, 2012 with regard to some of the programs above, including the Roxie Avenue Center and the Sobriety Court.

This is the duly advertised public hearing set for this date and time. Chairman Faircloth opened the public hearing.

Bishop Larry Wright stated he is in support of TJ Robinson Life Center. Bishop Wright stated this center will have a great impact on our community.

Robert Stafford did not appear when his name was called.

Tyree Giles stated he is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mr. Giles stated Mr. and Mrs. Robinson turned his life around and helped him become an honor roll student and Big Brother volunteer. Mr. Giles stated he feels the TJ Robinson Life Center will be able to benefit the youth of our community.

Lashonda Wofford stated she is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Ms. Wofford stated Mrs. Robinson changed her life. Ms. Wofford stated she feels the TJ Robinson Life Center is needed in our community to change many other lives.

Andrew Early stated he is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mr. Early stated he feels the most important thing about the center is the impact it will have on the lives of young men and young women. Mr. Early stated Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have devoted their entire lives to taking care of youth. Mr. Early asked the Board of Commissionres to give strong consideration to funding the TJ Robinson Life Center.

Tawanda Giles read a letter of support for the TJ Robinson Life Center on behalf of her father, Representative Marvin Lucas. Ms. Giles stated she feels the center will change many lives in our community.

Judy Klinck, Executive Director of Better Health, urged the Board to approve the Mental Health budget as requested. Ms. Klinck stated many mental health patients require

medication to live a normal life and the need for assisting the uninsured with prescriptions has not decreased. Ms. Klinck stated Better Health receives a mini-grant from Cumberland County Mental Health to provide short term emergency assistance for psychiatric medications. Ms. Klinck stated the lack of this safety net will affect patients, families, and our community. Ms. Klinck asked the Board to consider what will be asked of them in future budgets if mental health funds are denied now.

Doug Webster, Service Line Director at Cape Fear Valley, stated he is in support of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. Mr. Webster stated CIT training trains police officers to handle the needs of the mental health population. Mr. Webster stated CIT training is a major cost savings for the hospital and prevents injuries to police officers and mental health patients. Mr. Webster stated he would like the Board of Commissioners to continue funding the CIT training as a continued benefit to our community.

Curtis Morrow, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, stated he works with veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Morrow stated he is in support of saving CIT training because it saves lives. Mr. Morrow asked the Board of Commissioners to continue funding for the CIT training program.

Al Williams stated he is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mr. Williams stated he feels the TJ Robinson Life Center will change many lives in the community. Mr. Williams asked the Board of Commissioners to consider funding the TJ Robinson Life Center.

Charlotte Robinson stated she and her husband have invested \$1 million dollars in the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mrs. Robinson stated she feels the TJ Robinson Life Center could decrease the number of individuals housed in the Cumberland County Detention Center. Ms. Robinson asked the Board of Commissioners to consider funding the TJ Robinson Life Center.

Jeffrey Hunt, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce, asked the Board of Commissioners to consider funding the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce's request for \$35,000 for economic development. Mr. Hunt stated the economic development program in the Town of Spring Lake is moving forward and he would appreciate the support of the Board of Commissioners.

Rahmiah Williams stated he is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mr. Williams stated he feels the center will help many young people turn their lives around.

Jose Cardona stated he would like to try to save the county money. Mr. Cardona stated the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) is 100% federally funded and receives \$200,000 from Cumberland County. Mr. Cardona stated the county should look at some of the organizations that are receiving funding such as the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance and the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cardona stated he feels the Crown Coliseum does not need expensive basketball goals and a security system.

Mary Elliott, National Association of Black Veterans, stated she is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Ms. Elliott stated the objective of the center is to keep young people positive and happy. Ms. Elliott stated she feels the center will help young people become positive role models in our community.

Lodies Gloston, Cumberland County Mental Health Board, stated many mental health patients can not speak for themselves and will be directly impacted by mental health reform. Ms. Gloston stated many citizens are concerned about how the mental health reform will affect the services in Cumberland County. Ms. Gloston stated consumers deserve to have local support in Cumberland County and asked the Board to fund the Mental Health budget as requested.

Deborah McMillan, Director of Volunteer Services at Cumberland County Mental Health, explained some of the services the program offers to the community. Ms. McMillan asked the Board of Commissioners to fund the Mental Health budget as requested so these services can continue.

Dorothy Johnson asked the Board of Commissioners to fund the Mental Health budget as requested. Ms. Johnson stated the CIT training is really helping citizens in this county.

Kaye Lewis, Cumberland County Mental Health Volunteer Auxiliary Board, stated she would like the Board of Commissioners to fund the Mental Health budget as requested so they can continue to help families in need.

Dr. Michael McGuire stated he is in support of Cumberland County Mental Health. Dr. McGuire asked the Board of Commissioners to continue Mental Health funding. Dr. McGuire stated Mental Health has been able to offer an array of services and programs with the same amount of funds every year.

Lotta Fisher, Co-Chair of the Consumers and Families Advisory Council (CFAC), stated she supports Cumberland County Mental Health. Ms. Fisher stated cutting Mental Health funds will cut jobs and programs, and mental health patients need these services and programs.

Della Mastromarino asked the Board of Commissioners to continue funding Cumberland County Mental Health. Ms. Mastromarino stated she is a consumer and does not know what she would do without mental health services. Ms. Mastromarino asked the Board of Commissioners to do everything in their power to continue Mental Health funding.

Lavern Oxendine, Chair of the Consumers and Families Advisory Council (CFAC), thanked the Board of Commissioners for maintaining mental health services last year when the state cut funding, and asked that mental health funding be continued this year. Ms. Oxendine stated if mental health funds had to be reduced; the Board of Commissioners should assist employees in finding new jobs in the community.

Elizabeth Ramos, Clinical Social Worker, stated she retired from Cumberland County Mental Health and asked the Board of Commissioners to maintain mental health funding. Ms. Ramos stated she would especially like to see continued funding for the Roxie Avenue Center. Ms. Ramos stated substance abuse is a major problem and services provided at the Roxie Avenue Center are life saving.

Richard Bonds stated he is in support of the TJ Robinson Life Center. Mr. Bonds stated the programs that will be offered by the TJ Robinson Life Center are not offered at local recreation centers, and these programs can change lives. Mr. Bonds asked the Board of Commissioners to fund the TJ Robinson Life Center.

Denise Giles, Director of Cumberland Interfaith Hospitality and CIT Trainer, stated CIT training is very important for the community. Ms. Giles stated budget cuts to Cumberland County Mental Health will be detrimental to the community. Ms. Giles asked the Board of Commissioners to continue funding for Cumberland County Mental Health and CIT training.

There being no further speakers, Chairman Faircloth closed the public hearing.

Chairman Faircloth thanked those in attendance and stated the Board of Commissioners would take all comments into consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Beam
Deputy Clerk to the Board