

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 4, 2014 – 5:30 PM
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING – FY15 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chairman
Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Amy Cannon, Interim County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Quentin McPhatter, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Phyllis Jones, Assistant County Attorney
Melissa Cardinali, Finance Director
Vicki Evans, Accounting Manager
Kelly Autry, Accountant
Bob Tucker, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
Deborah Shaw, Finance Department
Randy Beeman, Emergency Services Director
Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director
Cindy Tucker, Executive Assistant to the County Manager
Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

ABSENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe

Chairman Council called the meeting to order and called on Amy Cannon, Interim County Manager, to provide further details on the recommended budget. Ms. Cannon stated she would like to discuss several individual schedules to explain items that were requested by county departments but not included in the recommended budget and to answer any questions.

Commissioner Evans stated he would like to discuss school board funding and would like to see bus drivers and cafeteria workers receive a one time stipend. Ms. Cannon stated her interpretation of the general statute is that the Board of Commissioners can budget by purpose, function or project but not personnel. Commissioner Edge stated he feels the elected school board members are in a better position to determine the priorities in the school system than the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Melvin stated he feels the school board members have been voted on by the citizens of this county to determine priorities among the school system. Ms. Cannon stated she would ask Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, to research the matter and bring back to the Board of Commissioners.

Capital Outlay

Ms. Cannon referenced the Capital Outlay schedule and explained all departments are asked to prioritize supplemental requests and most items are funded based on priorities identified by department heads.

Ms. Cannon stated the following requests were not recommended for FY 2015:

- Public Building's \$360,000 request for an Animal Control Expansion Project to add additional housing for pets was not recommended due to funds
- Law Enforcement Center's request of a 40 mm launcher, security system upgrades and an air purification system was not recommended and was low on the priority schedule
- Jail's request of an industrial dryer was not recommended and was low on the priority schedule

- School Law Enforcement's request for a pistol and taser was attached to a new position that was not recommended
- Health Department's request for a computer server
- Social Services' request for a wireless system

Maintenance and Renovations

Ms. Cannon stated the Maintenance and Renovations schedule is a new schedule that was added this year. Ms. Cannon stated Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director, has been instrumental in helping gather the departmental needs such as building issues, repairs and carpet replacement issues.

Ms. Cannon stated Veteran Services' request for a handicap door is a priority and Mr. Brown has created an avenue to redirect current funds to fund the handicap door. Ms. Cannon stated the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center staff may work together to see if there is any current year funding that can be redirected for a handicap door at the Detention Center.

Ms. Cannon stated the following requests were not recommended in the current budget but will remain on the list for consideration in FY 2016:

- Pre-Trial Release's \$25,000 request to install workstations
- Planning and Inspections \$13,500 request to repair/replace thirty (30) windows in the Historic Courthouse
- Tax Administration's \$2,500 request for plexiglass outside the collections area
- Emergency Management's \$65,000 request for renovations to the Sheriff's Annex to have a backup center

Ms. Cannon stated there is now a requirement for local governments to have a backup center in order to continue receiving 911 funds. Ms. Cannon stated Mr. Brown will be working with Randy Beeman, Emergency Services Director, to make sure the Sheriff's Annex is the appropriate location to place a backup center.

- Carpet replacement totaling \$500,000

Ms. Cannon explained carpet requests came from the Sheriff, Central Maintenance Facility, Tax Administration, Social Services, Planning and Inspections, Detention Center Day Area and the Sheriff's Annex. Ms. Cannon further stated the Finance Department has withdrawn their carpet request and plans to have carpets cleaned this week.

- Court System's request for renovations and upgrades to one courtroom

Mr. Brown explained the request for renovations to the courtroom included: expanding the jury box to accommodate fourteen (14) jurors, moving a jury seat location and upgrading technology.

- Veteran Services' \$175,500 request to replace the heating and duct system.

New Vehicles

Ms. Cannon referenced the New Vehicles schedule and stated:

- Tax Administration requested three (3) vehicles but one (1) hybrid vehicle was recommended because the Central Maintenance Director has taken vehicles from other county departments off the road and transitioned those vehicles to Tax Administration so one (1) vehicle is sufficient at this time.
- Sheriff's Office requested thirty-four (34) replacement vehicles but the recommendation is to replace twelve (12) of those vehicles at a cost of \$432,000.
- Sheriff's Office requested six (6) additional vehicles to go with new law enforcement officer positions that were not recommended.
- Jail requested a fifteen passenger van that was not recommended.
- School Law Enforcement requested a vehicle that went along with a new position that was not recommended.
- Animal Control requested five (5) replacement trucks but two (2) replacement trucks are being recommended.

- Solid Waste requested several pickup trucks and service trucks that will be funded by fees and have been recommended.

Proposed Fee Schedule Changes

Ms. Cannon referenced the Proposed Fee Schedule Changes and stated the illegal dumping fee has been softened to a graduated fee. Ms. Cannon stated Cumberland County has lost Municipal Solid Waste to other counties which has significantly affected the revenue stream in Solid Waste so the recommendation will give the Solid Waste Director the flexibility to negotiate fees based upon tonnage. Ms. Cannon referenced two (2) new Solid Waste services that citizens have requested which are the selling of crushed rock for \$14 per ton and the selling of bagged compost for \$4 per bag.

Community Funding

Ms. Cannon reviewed funding to Community Organizations as requested and recommended for FY 2015. Ms. Cannon then reviewed three new funding requests from Linden Cultural Enhancement, Unchain Cumberland County and North Carolina's Southeast. Ms. Cannon stated funding was not recommended for Linden Cultural Enhancement and Unchain Cumberland County. Ms. Cannon stated funding in the amount of \$20,000 was recommended for North Carolina's Southeast by reducing funding to the Fort Bragg Regional Alliance, a current Quasigovernmental Organization. Commissioner Evans asked Ms. Cannon to take another look at the Linden Cultural Enhancement's request in light of the fact that the Town of Linden is having a difficult time locating property to establish a park.

Ms. Cannon reviewed funding to Economic Development as requested and recommended for FY 2015. Ms. Cannon stated the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce and the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce requests were not recommended. Commissioner Melvin asked Ms. Cannon to take another look at the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce's request.

Commissioner Evans stated he feels funding to The Alliance for Economic Development needs to be revisited because he feels funds should be given after projects are produced rather than before. Chairman Council stated there are currently five (5) economic development projects in the works this year and she is seeing results from The Alliance for Economic Development. Chairman Council further stated she feels when the State Chamber of Commerce visits Cumberland County or identifies a project for this area; there should be only one point of reference.

Chairman Council thanked Ms. Cannon for her presentation.

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commissioner Melvin
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Beam
Deputy Clerk to the Board