

COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 21, 1999

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Melvin
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

INVOCATION: Commissioner Talmage Baggett

1. Approval of Minutes: September 28, 1999

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to approve.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Discussion & consideration of stipends for Board/Committees

The Board reviewed the information concerning stipends for county boards/committees.

It was noted that four Boards are paid stipends as a result of a requirement of the NC General Statutes. Those Boards are: ABC Board, E&R Board, Jury Commission and Board of Elections.

BOARD

STIPEND

ABC Board

Chairman: \$250/month
Members: \$200/month

Board of Elections

Chairman: \$8477/yr. Plus \$35/meeting and \$150/election
Day
Members: \$35/meeting plus \$150/election day

Jury Commission

\$250 per year

E&R Board & Special
E&R Board

\$50 per meeting

Commissioner Blackwell said he did not think we should be paying any of our Boards; however, because the Statutes direct us to pay the above four, he suggests a change in the amount for two of the Boards:

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to change the stipends as follows for two Boards (effective July 1, 2000):

ABC Board:	\$100 per meeting (Chairman)
	\$50 per meeting (members)
Bd. of Elections:	\$100 per meeting (Chairman) plus
	\$150 on Election Day
	\$50 per meeting (Members) plus
	\$150 on Election Day

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND

No change in stipends for Boards/Committees was approved.

3. Discussion of Driveway Manual

It was noted the Planning Board wishes to review the manual before the Board of Commissioners take action. The presentation today will give the Committee some background which may be helpful at such time as they discuss approval of the manual.

Staff showed a video and reviewed the manual noting the current DOT requirements and the proposed local requirements. (See Attachment).

Commissioner Baggett noted Cumberland County is almost two counties, one section of the county is urban and the other section is rural. He noted his concerns about applying the same standards for both the urban and rural area. Ms. Maurizia, Planning Staff, noted the manual applies to the area just outside the urban services area and not to the whole county. She pointed out that Legion Road is a good example of how the new proposed requirements would work.

Chairman Melvin stated the Committee would not take any action until the Planning Board has an opportunity to review. Commissioner Baggett said he hoped the Planning Board would take a close look at the proposed driveway requirements

4. Report on Animal Control Study

Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager, stated he had talked with officials at NACA (National Animal Control Association) about doing a study on our Animal Control Department. They sent in a proposal outlining what they would do and their fee. The study would take about a week in which they would collect data relating to the agency and every facet of the agency's management, historical data, personnel and operations.

FEES:

Labor:	\$2,600
Report Reproduction	50
Long Distance Telephone/Fax	50
Indirect Labor/Materials	100

EXPENSES:

Airfare	\$ 500
Car Rental	300
Lodging (5 nights)	310
Food (\$35x6 days)	210

TOTAL COST: \$ 4,170

In addition, Mr. Strassenburg said he had spoken to the Humane Society of the United States. They have requested we send this some information before they determine the scope and cost of a study they would perform.

Mr. Strassenburg said he felt comfortable with NACA performing the study for us as they are animal control professionals. Mr. Grainger Barrett said the Animal Control Board supports having the study done by NACA.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved that we recommend the hiring of NACA to perform the study based on the cost estimate above.

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Discussion of health insurance for county retirees

Commissioner Baggett told the Committee he had been contacted concerning an issue relating to providing health insurance to county retirees. The County adopted an amended policy in 1995 which says in order to be able to participate in the county's health insurance plan following retirement, the employee must have retired from county government with at least ten consecutive years of county employment immediately preceding retirement. In meeting this requirement, years of part-time employment may be counted on a two for one basis when the retired employee has at least five years of consecutive full-time service. In this particular instance, the employee has worked for the county for eleven years, but she was not considered a full-time employee for about 8 years. However, she did have county health insurance the last three and one-half years of her employment with the county. In addition, the State Retirement System has considered her time and she is drawing county disability because of an injury sustained while employed with the county. This employee would like to be able to continue her health insurance with the County, but because of our Policy, as noted above, she does not qualify.

Members of the Committee suggested we look at a policy that requires the employee to have worked for the county for 10 consecutive years, with health insurance for the last three years of employment, prior to retirement.. Because this employee worked for the county from February 8, 1988 to September 4, 1995 (part-time) and then worked full time from September 4, 1995 to June 1, 1999, and did in fact consider this full time employment (though the total number of hours worked did not qualify her for full-time) they felt our policy may be unfair.

Kathy Wannamaker, County Benefits Coordinator, said this is the only case in the county she is aware of with this particular set of circumstances.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to direct the County Attorney to draw up a resolution along the lines of the terms the Committee has been discussing for consideration at the next Policy Committee meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:20PM