

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
JANUARY 5, 2017 – 10:30 A.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Boose
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Larry Lancaster

OTHER COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Glenn Adams
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Cannon, County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Melissa Cardinali, Assistant County Manager for Finance/
Administrative Services
Sally Shutt, Governmental Affairs and Public Information
Officer
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Commissioner Evans called the meeting to order.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

MOTION: Commissioner Lancaster moved to elect Commissioner Evans the
Chairman of the Policy Committee.

SECOND: Commissioner Boose

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 1, 2016 POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Lancaster moved to approve the December 1, 2016 regular
meeting minutes of the Policy Committee.

SECOND: Commissioner Boose

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

3. CONSIDERATION OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S 2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is soliciting proposals from North Carolina counties concerning federal issues that impact counties. The NCACC Board of Directors will review proposals at its February 15, 2017 meeting and set the federal agenda for the 115th session of Congress for 2017-2018.

This list of top federal priorities will be presented to the North Carolina Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., when the NCACC hosts a Congressional delegation breakfast during the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference, which will be held February 25 – March 1, 2017.

PROPOSED FEDERAL PRIORITIES:

- *Support Increased Funding for Military and Veterans Programs, Including Impact Aid*
 - Protect, support and enhance military missions at Fort Bragg and other installations in North Carolina
 - Repeal sequestration. The strict discretionary spending caps set by the 2011 Budget Control Act are due to return in FY2018, which starts October 1, 2017, putting additional pressures on defense and other domestic programs.

- *Protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds*
 - Tax exempt bonds are a well-established financing tool and without the exemption, the expense of financing capital needs will increase sharply.

- *Support county authority to collect existing sales and use taxes from remote, internet sellers*
 - This issue has been a priority for states and counties for many years and has escalated as online sales have increased. North Carolina counties are losing uncollected sales taxes that could help fund infrastructure and services. Federal legislation would utilize a destination-based tax system, maintain the ability of state and local governments to set tax policy and establish parity at the point of sale, which would level the playing field for all retailers, whether online or on Main Street.

- *Preserve federal funding for Health and Human Services programs and prevent unfunded mandates to counties*

- For decades, the federal and local governments have worked in partnership to tackle difficult human services issues. Community based programs are essential to the county government’s ability to meet the needs of its citizens. The National Association of County Human Services Administrators and the National Association of Counties have agreed to develop a work group to discuss advocacy efforts as new leadership takes office and the Affordable Care Act faces possible repeal.
 - It is important to highlight the responsibility counties have in providing federally mandated services in state-supervised, locally-administered programs and seek a commitment to reinvest federal funds back in county-operated systems.
 - A key priority is to protect the Social Services Block Grant. Adult services programs, such as adult protective services and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, as well as SSBG funds for welfare services would be at risk. North Carolina is among 10 states that pass the SSBG funds directly to counties.
- *Improve Health Services for Individuals in County Jail*
- Support legislation that would allow individuals in custody to continue receiving Medicaid and other federal benefits until they are convicted, sentenced and incarcerated. Counties are required by federal law to provide adequate health care to individuals who pass through jails each year. NACo says “Approximately two-thirds of those detained in jails at any given time are pre-trial and presumed innocent, until proven guilty. Nevertheless, Section 1905(a) (A) of the Social Security Act prohibits federal Medicaid matching funds from being used to pay for their medical care, even if they are eligible and enrolled. This results in counties covering the full cost of health care services.”
 - Earlier in December, the 21st Century Cures Act was signed and includes provisions to address the number of people with mental illness in jails and other criminal justice issues like the opioid epidemic. However, NACo has concerns that the measures will be funded by cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which helps fund county public health departments.
- *Ensure that proposed changes in how deployed military personnel and their family members are counted locally in the upcoming 2020 decennial Census are approved and included in the Census Bureau’s “2020 Census Residence Rule and Residence Situations.”*

- The City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County have worked with the U.S. Census Bureau, the State of North Carolina and the Greater Fayetteville Chamber to ensure that deployed military personnel and their family members are counted locally in the upcoming 2020 decennial Census. Since a portion of Fort Bragg is within Cumberland County and the Fayetteville city limits, the local governments believe that any deployed military personnel and their family members from Fort Bragg should be included in local Census numbers to accurately reflect the city and county populations.
- For the past several decades, the Census Bureau has used a procedure for counting deployed military personnel that has resulted in an undercount of population at the state, county and city levels, which impacts federal funding levels.
- Proposed changes in the Census process were announced June 30 when the Census Bureau published the “2020 Census Residence Rule and Residence Situations” in the Federal Register. The changes address the deployed military issue by counting deployed military at a residence within a community rather than apportioning them to a total state population only, which had been a joint federal goal for the City and County, as well as other North Carolina military communities. The Census Bureau sought public comment in writing through September 1 and a final announcement for the 2020 rules is expected in 2017.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED ACTION:

Approve the list of federal legislative priorities for 2017-2018 and recommend approval by the full board of commissioners at the January 17, 2017 meeting. The list will then be submitted to NCACC by the Jan. 20 deadline.

MOTION: Commissioner Lancaster moved to recommend to the full board approval of the proposed list of federal legislative priorities for 2017-2018.
SECOND: Commissioner Boose
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

4. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:32 AM