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**Minutes**  
**Cumberland County Board of Commissioners**  
**June 8, 1999, 6:00 PM**  
**Special Meeting: Public Hearing On The**  
**Proposed Budget For Fiscal Year 1999-2000**

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PRESENT: Chairman Thomas B. Bacote  
Vice Chairman Ed Melvin  
Commissioner Talmage

Baggett

Commissioner Breedon

Blackwell

Commissioner Billy R. King  
Commissioner H. Mac

Tyson II

Commissioner J. Lee

Warren, Jr.

Neil Yarborough, County

Attorney

Amy Cannon, Finance

Director

Howard Abner, Budget

Division

Staff, Budget Division  
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

Chairman Bacote opened the Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comment from the public concerning the proposed FY2000 budget.

**SPEAKERS:**

1. Dr. Bill Harrison: Dr. Harrison thanked the Board for their support and the additional \$5,000,000 over last fiscal year. He asked the Board to consider an additional \$1,000,000. He noted the Board of Education had cut their request from \$18 million to \$12 million to \$8 million.

2. Susie Gnann, Director, Fayetteville Area Sentencing Center: Ms.

Gnann thanked the Board for their support of her program which is now 18 years old. She noted that their funding from the State of North Carolina requires a match which is the \$18,000 she requested from the County this year. She said she was most appreciative of the \$16,200 recommended by the County Manager. She noted she would be asking the Fayetteville City Council for \$1,800 to pick up the difference she needed for the match. However, she stated she did not think they would approve her request.

3. Bob White - SCAT: Mr. White reviewed their mission and asked the Board to reinstate the 10% cut in their budget.

4. Johnnie Dawkins - SCAT: Mr. Watkins noted that most of the county funding is used for their transportation program. He noted they are going to ask the State Legislature for \$200,000. He said their primary goal is to build a Senior Citizens center. He noted they are working on a senior citizens coalition and getting senior services on the Web. He noted that the senior citizens inject more money into this community than any other group.

5. Marc Joseph - Chairman, Animal Control Board: Mr. Joseph asked the Board to reinstate \$25,000 in the Animal Control Department budget. He noted that Animal Control is severely understaffed when compared to other counties who handle less animal traffic through their facilities. Without this additional \$25,000 animal control officers will have to receive compensatory time off instead of overtime pay. When this happens the County is left without an officer to patrol his/her given area. In addition, Mr. Joseph asked the Board to consider raising the daily boarding fee from \$4.00 to \$7.00. He noted his fee has not changed in at least 10 years. The \$7.00 fee is more in keeping with the fees of comparable counties. He suggested that the increase in future fees generated in excess of the FY99 revenues be dedicated to a capital reserve fund for the renovation and/or replacement of the County Animal Shelter.

6. Debra Mintz, Vice President, Arts Council: Ms. Mintz thanked the Board for their support. She noted that the Arts agencies in Fayetteville have formed a coalition and the money provided is divided among those different agencies. She said the Arts Council has received a national award, "Arts in Education Award", of which they are very proud.

7. Clay Johnson, Dogwood Festival: Mr. Johnson thanked the Board for

its support and presented a framed poster to the Chairman of the Board. He stated there are big plans for the Dogwood Festival for the year 2000.

8. Frank Brownell: Requested the Board to eliminate Mr. Yarborough's position in the upcoming budget.

9. Larry A. Barner: Said this Board was the best Board the County has had for a while. He thanked the Tax Administrator for collecting the additional taxes which will allow our tax rate to remain at 84 cents. Suggested we could save money with a metro police force.

10. Ernest Johnson, representing MetroVisions: He thanked the Board for their support and asked the Board to consider reinstating the 10% cut to their budget. He noted the report card produced by MetroVisions measures the quality of life in our community and assesses our progress from year to year.

Commissioner Warren thanked all of those who spoke and said the Commissioners would consider their requests during the budget process. Chairman Bacote thanked everyone for coming.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:40PM

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