

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 7, 2001, 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP
ROOM 564, CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Vice Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager/Finance Director
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
Budget Staff

INVOCATION: Chairman Lee Warren

Chairman Warren asked for any comments from Board members regarding the Public Hearing held on Monday night.

Commissioner Blackwell noted the suggestion made about using volunteers as crossing guards.

Commissioner Council noted that lots of agencies and citizens did not have “drum majors” to speak for their cause. She said a lot of our agencies made the cuts as directed in good faith and did not make cuts that were emotional in nature. She also noted the Hospital System made cuts several months ago, but there was not outcry from them at the public hearing.

Commissioner Council inquired about the agreement the County has with the Mental Health Department as it relates to funding.

The County Attorney noted a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed in 1997 by the County Manager, the Mental Health Director and the State which states we will allow Mental Health to retain its Fund Balance. In addition there was a provision in the Memorandum that stated that the County would fund the Mental Health Center at the 1997 level. The County Attorney said he believed the Memorandum of Understanding was not enforceable, as it gave away the Board’s core legislative authority to tax and appropriate county funds. In addition, Mr. Barrett said the Memorandum of Understanding was never approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Baggett said the Area Mental Health Board would like to sit down with the Board of Commissioners to discuss some issues that are necessarily money related. He noted that Mental Health is treated as a county department and they would like to be more independent. The consensus of the Board was to have a joint meeting with the Mental Health Board sometime after the budget is adopted.

Commissioner Edge said he thought it would be a good idea for the Board of Commissioners to meet with all of our Boards so we don’t have any surprises.

Commissioner Edge noted the Board cannot continue to take \$22 million from the fund balance to balance our budget. He said an increase in the tax rate will affect our ability to attract industry to our county.

Commissioner Council asked if the Manager could brief the Board on projections for FY03. He shared these projections for the FY03 budget:

Cost of Living (2%)	\$1.3 million
Performance Pay	\$650,000
Jail (new positions)	\$1.3 million
New Jail Operating	\$900,000
County Schools (3% increase)	\$1.7 million
FTCC (3% increase)	

Animal Control	\$222,000
Cingular	\$258,000 (offset by revenues)
Phase II Cedar Creek Industrial Center	\$444,000
Animal Control facility	\$2.2 million

In order to be able to do all of the above things we will have to take 3% out of the fund balance. However he said it would still be sustainable.

The Board discussed whether or not they wanted to use the \$1.7 million available from the Fund Balance to add back some items in the Manager's budget.

Commissioner Council urged the Board to stay strong on their commitment not to raise taxes. She noted the Board's retreat in February and their agreement to do the right thing, even though they would get a lot of pressure. She also recommended that the Board save the \$1.7 million as opposed to spending it. She said she intended to hold firm on her commitment.

James Martin, County Manager, reiterated the importance of having a sustainable fund balance.

Following some discussion about whether to spend the \$1.7 a majority of the Board determined it would spend the \$1.7, but no more.

Proposed Expenditure of \$1.7 million

Veterans Council (parade)	\$ 410
Health Department (9 nurses , mosquito control program, deputy)	437,672
Inspections Department (Min, Housing Inspector, Bldg. Inspector)	74,870
Legal (Paralegal I)	0
Soil and Water Conservation (add back 10% salary reduction plus AmericaCorp cost sharing position)	6,379
Forestry Service (matching funds)	17,277
Register of Deeds (microfilming, overtime)	24,000
Mid Carolina (contingency)	25,000
Crossing Guards (56 sites, 6 subs, 1 supervisor)	303,614
Digitizing (General Government)	75,000
Animal Control (Veterinarian)	53,865
DSS (add back employees whose hours were reduced)	109,040
Library	150,000
Mental Health	100,000
Custodians (Library, Sheriff, Ext. Service)	119,478
Deputies	250,000
TOTAL:	\$1,746,604

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to go into Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege.

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to go back into Regular Session.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to cancel the budget workshop meeting scheduled for June 11 at 5:30 and to recess this budget workshop to June 11, 2001, 7:00PM to be held in Room 118, Cumberland County Courthouse.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30PM