

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 9, 2008, 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET

PRESENT: Breeden Blackwell, Chairman
Jeannette Council, Vice Chair
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney
Phyllis Jones, Assistant County Attorney
Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Finance Department Staff
Human Resources Department Staff

Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order.

James Martin, County Manager, told the Board that based on its discussions at previous budget meetings about finding money for our water contaminations problems in the county, he and his budget staff looked at the budget again and have taken another look at some previously allocated funds that could be allocated for the Safe Water Fund. He noted there was approximately \$2 million in the County Water and Sewer Fund that had been designated for Phase 2 of the Cedar Creek Industrial Park. He said that since we haven't sold any lots in Phase 1 it will be a while before any money is needed for infrastructure for Phase 2. He said that money could be allocated for our Safe Water Fund. It is currently in the Water and Sewer Fund so no transfer will have to be made, just a designation that it will be used for our water issues as identified by our Safe Water Task Force.

Commissioner Edge noted that the budget the NC House just approved would hold counties harmless for the Foster Care portion of the budget. If it passes in the Senate, that would free up about \$500,000 that the county could also appropriate to the Safe Water Fund. The Manager said it is his intent to use this money and appropriate it to the Safe Water Fund, if in fact, the House and Senate approve the foster care "hold harmless" provision for counties.

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to designate the \$2 million in the County's Water and Sewer Fund to be used for our water contamination issues (Safe Water Fund).

SECOND: Commissioner Melvin

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager, and member of the Safe Water Committee, said that at this point the top three priorities in addressing the contamination issues are:

- (1) Chicken Foot Road
- (2) Overhills
- (3) Brooklyn Circle

The Task Force will make a more detailed report to the Board at its June 16 meeting.

Mr. Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney, noted that Cabarrus County has submitted a local bill to the General Assembly that would allow it to do an infrastructure assessment for a 30-year period based on a petition from property owners who own 66% of the value in a particular district in an unincorporated area. It would allow the Board of Commissioners to issue debt to be repaid by assessment. He suggested that the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners ask to be included in this bill. He said this is just another tool by which the county may address some of its water issues.

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved that the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney pursue this option to see if the County can add its name to this Bill.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Commissioner Henley again asked the Board to help out the hospital by giving it a one-time donation. He noted the hospital is in need of some relief because of debt financing cost issues. He said that perhaps the Board could use the one-time money from the Foster Care funding from the state if the hold harmless portion of the bill remains intact.

Commissioner King also would be supportive of finding some money for the hospital.

Commissioner Council said any money the county realizes from the Foster Care fund should go into the Safe Water Fund.

No consensus was reached regarding money for the hospital.

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to go into Closed Session for an Attorney-Client Matter pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to go back into Open Session.
SECOND: Commissioner Edge
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Commissioner Henley inquired about Employment Source, an outside agency and the County Manager's recommendation for funding in the amount of \$40,000.

Mr. Howard Abner, County Finance Office, noted that while the budget for Employment Source is \$9 million, it is showing a net profit of \$178,000. The County's money goes into the Sheltered Workshop portion of the budget, which portion, however, would show a small deficit without the County's funding, even though the overall budget would remain positive.

The Manager stated he did not want to change his recommendation regarding this outside agency.

The Board discussed the budget meeting scheduled for June 16 at 5:00PM. It decided it did not need to meet at 5:00PM, but rather at 6:00PM for a short meeting to adopt the budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to recess this meeting to 6:00PM on June 16 for adoption of the budget.
SECOND: Commissioner Melvin
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:40PM.

Clerk to the Board