

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 5, 2009, 6:00PM  
SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette Council  
Vice Chairman Billy R. King  
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell  
Commissioner Kenneth Edge  
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth  
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe  
Commissioner Ed Melvin  
James Martin, County Manager  
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney  
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney  
Kenny Currie, Emergency Management  
Sara Vanderclute, PIO  
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

This special meeting was called to review a proposed draft of revised fire protection services contract with rural fire departments, boards of directors and the Fire Chief's Association.

Chairman Council called the meeting to order.

Invocation  
Pledge

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney, reviewed the proposed changes to the fire protection services contract. He noted this draft is in the early stages and the purpose of this meeting is to review the proposals and give the fire departments, boards of directors and Fire Chief's Association an opportunity to review, reach a consensus and to start a discussion between the county and the departments. Following this meeting, he asked that the proposals go back to the fire departments to be reviewed by them and their Boards of Directors. Any comments or concerns should be resolved at the Fire Chief's Association. More conversations will be held with everyone involved before any action is taken by the Board. The fire protection services contract has not been amended in about 18 years.

SPEAKERS:

**Neil Yarborough** (attorney for the Fire Chiefs' Association and many of the volunteer fire departments in the County):

Mr. Yarborough said he was glad this was an initial presentation and that the fire departments would have an opportunity to review the proposals and respond. He said he is available to work with the county to facilitate and implement changes on behalf of his clientele.

**Steve Blanchard** – Treasurer for West Area Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Blanchard inquired if the Fire Marshal would be setting out standards for all fire departments so that everyone is doing the same thing. In addition, he noted that many of the fire departments still run with only volunteers and that a turn around time of 30 days to prepare a capital improvements budget may be difficult.

James Martin, County Manager, noted that the County will provide a capital improvements format to the fire departments, similar to or perhaps the same as county departments submit, which may make the process a little easier.

**Larry Reeves** - Pearces Mill Fire Department Board of Directors

Concerned that the Boards of Directors of the Fire Departments did not have input into the proposals. He noted the Fire Chief's Association does not always speak for all of the fire departments.

James Martin, County Manager, noted the purpose of this meeting is to review these proposals and that the fire departments, boards of directors and chiefs' association have an opportunity to comment and/or offer suggestions.

**Louis Morgan, Westarea Fire Department Chairman of the Board of Directors** – Concerned that fire departments have to jump through these hoops when he stated they are entitled to the funding under state law.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:45PM.

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Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board