

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BUDGET DEPARTMENT HEADS APPEALS MEETING
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
JUNE 2, 2011, 5:30 PM
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Chairman
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Kelly Autry, Accountant
Bob Tucker, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
Howard Lloyd, Sheriff's Office/Budget
Sally Shutt, Communication and Strategic Initiatives Manager
Greg Taylor, Executive Director – Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance
John Bellamy, Executive Assistant - Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance
Don Bell, Regional Planner – Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance
Tim Moore, Workforce Developer – Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance
Marie Colgan, Clerk to the Board
Press

Chairman Edge called the meeting to order and Commissioner King provided the invocation. Commissioner Edge stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive appeals from the Department Heads to the recommended budget.

County Manager James Martin announced that the first scheduled speaker was School Superintendent Dr. Frank Till but that he was not present:

Greg Taylor, Executive Director of Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance, provided members a handout highlighting investments for past and ongoing planning, projects under construction for 2012, education, economic development, workforce, and priorities for the upcoming year. Mr. Taylor apologized for missing the County Manager's deadline for budget requests and stated that was the reason he was making the request directly to the Board. He informed the Board the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance has brought in about \$14M in grant resources and stated he believes that most

of the economic development and relocations will be in Cumberland County and these have already started taking place. After highlighting other efforts, Mr. Taylor confirmed for Commissioner Keefe that the Alliance's effort is going to be a long-term program and therefore is requesting the funding in the amount of \$20,500. Mr. Taylor introduced Tim McNeill, Don Bell and John Bellamy with the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance. Chairman Edge thanked Mr. Taylor for his attendance and advised the County will be in touch.

Lee Warren, Register of Deeds, advised the Board that his department is a revenue generator and generated about \$440,000 in revenue this year which will go into the General Fund, with about \$194,000 being rolled over from last year making a total of \$633,000. In addition, his office had provided two county departments with just over \$23,000 worth of copies of records at no cost to the departments. Mr. Warren advised there is a need of \$5,000 to help defray the cost of printing supplies due to the increased cost of toner cartridges and the enormous amount of documents they are required to copy. Mr. Warren stated he is also requesting \$2,500 to be added to his travel budget as he will be installed as the President-Elect of the Register of Deeds Association which requires a lot of travel to participate in required meetings. The total request from Mr. Warren is \$7,500.00.

Jodi Risascher, Library Director, introduced attending Board members – Ole Sorensen, Willie Wright, Gail Riddle and Sara VanderClute. Ms Risascher thanked the Board members for their support of the library system and presented a handout providing information on the library. Mrs. Risascher explained the various programs the library has to offer the citizens of Cumberland County. Mrs. Risascher informed the Board that two of the county libraries have a radio frequency identification tagging system for all material in the library which allows quick, efficient self checkout. With two million checkouts last fiscal year and more than that expected this year, this method would result in a great cost savings which would help make up for the 33-hours reduction in operating hours at some branches in the past years. Mrs. Risascher stated that some grants have been applied for which will hopefully be approved, but \$200,000 more would be needed to install the radio frequency tagging system in the six remaining branches within a year. Chairman Edge thanked Mrs. Risascher and the Board members for their attendance and the great job they do.

Carrie King, Dogwood Festival Director, apologized for missing the County Manager's deadline but stated she would like to continue to deliver a premiere event as the last Dogwood Festival was the most successful event ever as 275,000 people attended. Ms. King requested \$3,100 to help ensure the success of the next Dogwood Festival and spoke of other events her organization provides to the community (Historic Hauntings, Miss Fayetteville, Dogwood Festival, New Year's Eve Party in the Park and will be partnering with Fayetteville After 5). In response to a question posed by Commissioner Keefe, Ms. King stated she is awaiting results which will provide the economic impact of the Dogwood Festival. Commissioner Evans questioned why there is not more diversity in entertainment and vendors and Ms. King advised that surveys show that country and rock is the biggest money making entertainment, but she will continue to look at what the surveys call for regarding entertainment. Chairman Edge questioned whether they receive funding from the Arts Council or the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Ms. King responded they have received funding in the past from the Arts Council, but not this last year. The TDA did fund them this past year. Ms. King ended her presentation stating that 87% of the

\$406,000 Dogwood Festival expenses were spent in Cumberland County. Chairman Edge praised Ms. King for the work she does to bring the Dogwood Festival event to the community stating it does a lot for the quality of life of the county citizens.

County Manager Martin stated there were no other speakers.

Chairman Edge called for a short recess at 6:25 pm

Chairman Edge called the meeting back to order at 6:35 pm

Mr. Martin asked to provide an update on the Workforce Development transfer to FTCC stating they had continued to explore the issue regarding transferring unused sick leave which is credited towards the employee's retirement, but has just learned that it cannot be done. Mr. Martin explained they are exploring utilizing workforce development funds to compensate employees with pay for sick leave instead of credit towards retirement. Mr. Martin stated another issue is one employee who is so close to full retirement, they are considering a contract which would keep this employee on the county payroll until she could retire, but she would be fully assigned to FTCC. In response to a question from Commissioner Keefe, this would get the county out of the workforce development program except for the Senior Aids program, with one full time staff person and two part time staff members, which would continue as a county-run program. Chairman Edge questioned if the final outcome could be brought to the June 20th Board meeting and Mr. Martin felt it could be brought forward at that time. Mrs. Cannon advised she had spoken with employees to let them know that the County is working on the sick leave issues.

Commissioner King stated he was positive about the requests presented, but Commissioner Faircloth stated he wanted to wait to see what else may be coming down from the State which might change things. Discussion ensued regarding what funds could be used to meet the requests.

Commissioner King voiced his desire for employees to given some type of pay raise since the jail project will take up all extra monies in the coming years. Chairman Edge agreed the Commissioners need to start working toward doing something for the employees, but cautioned the Board about future things that can affect the county's budget; such as the state's consideration of shifting responsibility for the purchase price of school buses to the counties. Commissioner Council was in agreement with doing something for the employees stating they basically received a cut because of the change in the health program. Mr. Martin stated management had not included anything in the proposed budget for raises and they still have concern over what may come down from Raleigh, but they will continue to look at revenue income and will look for adjustments. Once confirmations have been received of the impacts of what the Legislature passes down, they can always come back and make adjustments even after the budget is approved.

Chairman Edge clarified that no amounts were increased in the county budget for his travel while serving as President of the NCACC as indicated by Mr. Warren during his presentation. Chairman Edge further stated that he hoped the NCACC would waive the registration fees for this year's conference as it did last year.

Commissioner Keefe questioned whether the E911 funds have to be spent by the end of the year and Ms. Cannon stated she is working with Kenny Currie regarding expending those funds.

Chairman Edge stated that Commissioner Council has requested the June 16th work session be cancelled and adjust the June 14th meeting or have a work session prior to the June 20th meeting. Members agreed to cancel the June 16th meeting and to stay after the Public Hearing on June 14th. If more time is needed, then the Board will meet prior to the June 20th regular meeting.

Chairman Edge thanked Mr. Martin, Ms. Cannon and the entire Finance staff who have worked so hard on putting the proposed budget together.

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commission Faircloth
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Colgan
Clerk to the Board