

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 11, 2012 – 5:30 PM
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING –BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Chairman
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Jeannette Council (arrived 5:35 p.m.)
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Billy King (departed 6:35 p.m.)
Commissioner Ed Melvin (departed 6:50 p.m.)
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager/Finance Officer
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
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Chairman Faircloth called the meeting to order. Chairman Faircloth called on Rick Moorefield, County Attorney.

Mr. Moorefield stated James Martin, County Manager, received from the hospital a resolution for the Board's consideration of approval. Mr. Moorefield stated the Board needs to approve prior to the regular meeting on June 18, 2012. Mr. Moorefield stated the resolution is in support of Cape Fear Valley Health System's certificate of need application to develop 28 acute care beds at the hospital location on Owen Drive. A copy of the resolution was distributed and is included herein as Attachment A.

MOTION: Commissioner Evans moved to approve the resolution in support of Cape Fear Valley Health System's certificate of need application to develop 28 acute care beds on the Owen Drive location.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

Chairman Faircloth stated the purpose of the meeting was to further review the budget after hearing from county department heads and the public. Chairman Faircloth called on Mr. Martin who presented the following amended recommendations:

With regard to Sobriety Court, Mr. Martin stated his amended recommendation was to include the second half of FY 2013 at a cost of \$40,157. Mr. Martin stated this could be funded through dedicated ABC funds that come to the county. With regard to the Roxie Avenue Center, Mr. Martin stated his amended recommendation was to include funding for the second half of FY 2013 at a cost of \$175,000. Mr. Martin stated this may have to be funded from the General Fund but another source may be able to be identified.

With regard to the Juvenile Court Liaison position, Mr. Martin stated his initial recommendation included funding for the first half of FY 2013 at a cost of \$33,048. With regard to the CIT/Jail Diversion Program position, Mr. Martin stated his initial recommendation included funding for the first half of FY 2013 at a cost of \$32,621. Mr. Martin stated he believed there was some potential that both of the positions could be funded by the Managed Care Organization (MCO); however, this may not be determined in time for the budget to be adopted. Mr. Martin stated his first preference would be that the Board of Commissioners considers asking the mental health

director and members of the Area Board to include both of the positions in the MCO contract because conflicting information has been received regarding the appropriate placement of the positions. Mr. Martin stated should that fail, he would return to the Board to be sure there were provisions to cover the functions of the Juvenile Court Liaison position and the CIT/Jail Diversion Program position. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Council suggested that CIT training be included in the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET); the Board concurred that there should be discussion to that effect.

Mr. Martin stated his further recommendation for mental health funding was to remove the 46.5 positions as listed and presumed to be paid by the MCO from this budget consideration until such time as there is a contract between the Cumberland County Mental Health Authority and the MCO. Mr. Martin stated once the contract was in place, there would be a better understanding of exactly what positions the MCO would fund and whether the county would need to fill any gaps. Mr. Martin stated this recommendation would remove the expense of the 46.5 positions and the MCO revenue. In response to a question from Commissioner Evans, Mr. Martin explained neither the Roxie Avenue Center nor the Sobriety Court were proposed as part of the MCO contract and they needed to be funded for the second half of FY 2013. Mr. Martin stated this recommendation would not cause any gap in services because those positions would not be officially effective until January 2013. Mr. Martin stated there will clearly be a need for further budget revisions and amendments. In response to a question from Commissioner King, Mr. Martin stated he shared his recommendation with the Mental Health LME director, some of the LME staff and the mental health attorney, and the suggestion did not evoke much reaction.

Chairman Faircloth asked whether there had been further discussions regarding the legalities of the 1997 contract. Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, stated because the contract was not pre-audited, his opinion is that it is not a binding contract. Mr. Moorefield stated the mental health attorney feels it is a binding contract. Chairman asked whether employees of the MCO would be county employees. Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, stated employees of the MCO would be county employees funded by the MCO. Mr. Martin stated the Mental Health LME has proposed that the contract will be between the Mental Health LME and the MCO; however, the ideal situation would be for the 46.5 positions to be employees of the MCO.

Commissioner Edge asked whether the Mental Health LME could change to another MCO. Mr. Martin stated he has encouraged the mental health director and the mental health attorney to pursue discussions with the Eastpointe MCO because the mental health attorney's opinion is that the Eastpointe MCO's philosophy was more collaborative with the counties it serves. Mr. Martin stated the mental health attorney is also the attorney for the Eastpointe MCO. Mr. Martin stated he is not certain that it is still an option.

Mr. Moorefield referenced a bill that passed the house and the first reading in the Senate entitled An Act to Make Changes in Governance of Local Management Entities. Mr. Moorefield stated this bill would provide more autonomy to the Cumberland County Mental Health LME as a single county Authority by removing the existing requirement that it function as a county department for Chapter 159 purposes. Mr. Moorefield stated there are several drastic changes from the current structure and it also appears that as of July 1, 2013, the Authority will no longer function as an LME for any state purposes.

Mr. Martin responded to questions. Ms. Cannon stated the net change to the FY 2013 budget will be \$246,069 not including the Sobriety Court which will be funded by ABC funds.

Mr. Martin discussed his recommendation to approve the Classification and Pay Plan and implementation for the first year, and the recommendation in the FY 2013 budget to include a step plan for law enforcement and detention officers. Mr. Martin stated due to long term costs based on preliminary numbers for the step plan, he would like to defer implementation of the step plan and continue the current career development plan so the step plan can be further studied. Mr. Martin responded to questions and discussion followed. Mr. Martin stated should the step plan be approved at some point, it would only be available to a segment of sworn deputies, including the corporals and sergeants.

Chairman Faircloth asked Mr. Martin to bring a composite of the revised recommendations as discussed to the June 12, 2012 budget work session.

Chairman Faircloth recognized Commissioner Evans who stated he would like to see whether the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce could do with less than the recommended \$410,000 because the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce has not been producing. Chairman Faircloth stated the matter has been discussed, but no one has come up with a better idea or solution. Chairman Faircloth stated the economic development solution may eventually come from the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce itself. Commissioner Keefe stated one of the questions becomes whether representation for economic development matters should come from an outside or internal agency; the fear with an internal agency is that it can become very political. Mr. Martin stated twenty-five years or so ago the Fayetteville Area Economic Development Corporation (FAEDC) was the economic development agent for the county and they were paid roughly the same amount as the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Keefe asked whether a hybrid funding approach that would include a fixed amount coupled with pay-for-performance could be considered. Commissioner Edge stated the hope is that the study undertaken by the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce will provide a new direction and a new structure so their economic development arm can function as a separate entity. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Keefe stated if the county is going to look at economic development comprehensively, the Southeastern Economic Development Commission should also be considered because there is not much coming out of that agency either.

Commissioner King stated he would like for \$35,000 to be included in the FY2013 budget for each of the Hope Mills and Spring Lake Chambers of Commerce. Commissioner Keefe stated the funds should be earmarked for economic development of those areas and not chamber activities.

Commissioner Keefe asked whether funding of non-profits was based on need or whether it was a consistent annual contribution. Commissioner Keefe asked that a survey be conducted of each agency to see whether they need the county funding.

Chairman Faircloth recommended \$480,000 for economic development to include the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce and the Hope Mills and Spring Lake Chambers of Commerce.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Martin explained funding was mandatory for the N. C. Forest Service, the N. C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Mid-Carolina Council of Governments In-Home Aides. Mr. Martin stated the county has a single-year contract with any agency receiving funds.

Commissioner Evans stated he would like for the Boys and Girls Club to receive some funding.

Ms. Cannon explained the line item for funding to the Salvation Army and the Salvation Army Christmas Outreach.

Commissioner Keefe questioned the \$35,000 funding for the BRAC Regional Alliance. Mr. Martin stated the seven tier-one counties are all asked to contribute \$35,000 and these funds are used to match other federal grants.

Commissioner Keefe asked whether there was a requirement or need for funding to the Arts Council. Mr. Martin explained the agreement for funding to the Arts Council and stated he had recently become aware of the Arts Council's substantial undesignated fund balance from its share of the hotel/motel occupancy tax. Mr. Martin stated he suspected the Arts Council could do without the \$80,000. Commissioner Edge suggested that this issue be discussed with the Arts Council to determine whether it could do without the \$80,000 county funding. Commissioner Edge stated should the Arts Council not be able to live without the \$80,000, he suggested that the county put them on notice that their funding will be reduced by one-fourth each year until the funding is cut out. Mr. Martin was asked to have the discussion with the Arts Council in order to report back to the Board at its June 12, 2012 budget work session.

Commissioner Keefe stated he would like for the Veterans Council to receive \$5,000.

Commissioner Edge stated the county can not fund every organization and it needs to begin looking at what it can cut. Chairman Faircloth suggested agencies and organizations for which funding is mandated should be set aside and the Board should appropriate a set amount of funds for the county manager to designate for things the county would otherwise have to do.

Chairman Faircloth asked the county manager to tweak his recommendations as discussed and stated funding for the Boys and Girls Club would be further discussed at the June 12, 2012 budget work session. Chairman Faircloth advised there was not a consensus on any of the budget items discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Keefe moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (5-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board