

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 4, 2013 – 5:30 PM
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING – DEPARTMENT HEAD APPEALS/BUDGET WORKSESSION
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Chairman
Commissioner Jeannette Council, Vice Chair
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
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
Krista Barnhill, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
Howard Lloyd, Sheriff's Office/Budget
Jody Risacher, Public Library and Information Center Director
Randy Beeman, Emergency Services Director
Buck Wilson, Health Department Director
Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Chairman Keefe called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear from department heads any appeals of the recommended FY2014 budget.

Chairman Keefe recognized Jody Risacher, Public Library and Information Center Director, who expressed her gratitude to the board of commissioners for their support of the library system and the classification study and pay increases for staff, and praised the county's sound financial management. Ms. Risacher provided an update on the library's increasing role in economic and workforce development and stated more than 350 people attended the March job fair. Ms. Risacher stated the next job fair is scheduled for August, 2013. Ms. Risacher responded to questions regarding long range library plans.

Chairman Keefe recognized Randy Beeman, Emergency Services Director, who distributed a handout containing information about the strategic planning goal for the establishment of a consolidated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) between the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, the facility and consolidation study, and the E-911 Continuity and Consolidation Program and the E-911 Enhancement Program. Mr. Beeman stated applicants interested in obtaining grant funding for the consolidation project must sign a Statement of Intent in support of the consolidation and a feasibility study must be completed using local funds. Mr. Beeman requested \$60,000 to fund the feasibility study to consolidate the city and county 911 centers. Mr. Beeman stated since 2010 there has been over \$26 million awarded by the 911 Board for consolidation projects and a 2014 grant request for consolidation had been submitted by Hertford County for \$5.5 million. Mr. Beeman responded to questions and discussion followed regarding the best location for the consolidated PSAP. Commissioner Edge stated he felt the county could find \$30,000 if Mr. Beeman would seek \$30,000 or one-half the cost of the feasibility study from the City of Fayetteville.

Chairman Keefe recognized Buck Wilson, Health Department Director, who stated he would address school health and jail health. Mr. Wilson stated the Board of Health made the recommendation for funding two additional teams of school nurses last year and this year. Mr. Wilson provided the following information regarding school nurses in Cumberland County and a handout titled "Who Needs a School Nurse":

School Nurses in Cumberland County:

- Cumberland County ranks 95th out of the 100 counties in the state of North Carolina in the ratio of students to school nurses.
- In 2004, Cumberland County ranked 91st out of 100 counties.
- There are approximately 53,000 students in the Cumberland County School System
- There are 22 Public Health School RN's
- There are 3 School Health Team Leaders and 1 School Health Supervisor (who is 0.5 FTE with school health)
- A school health team is comprised of 1 team leader, 1 full time nurse (40 hours) and 6 part-time nurses (35 hours)
- The ratio of students to school nurse is approximately 2,426 students per nurse and nurses have 4-5 schools to cover.
- The recommended ratio is 750 students to 1 school nurse. This does not include special needs children. That ratio is 225 students to 1 school nurse (for those children who have simple needs). For children with complex special needs the ratio is 125 students to 1 school nurse.
- To bring the ratio up to the national average of 1:750 would require adding 7 more teams of school health nurses; Health Department requests two teams.
- Students who have one or more major/chronic health needs (such as diabetes, seizures, asthma, ADD/ADHD and life threatening allergies) have increased significantly in the past ten years.
 - 1999-2000 these students numbered at 5,591
 - 2011-2012 these students numbered at 16,517
 - Numbers of students who have EpiPen devices at school have increased significantly
 - Numbers of students who have a diagnosis of asthma have doubled
- The school nurse may be the only health care professional that many children see for their health care needs.

Commissioner Edge asked whether the Cumberland County School system still funds some health professionals. Mr. Wilson stated the school system still provides some funding and school nurses are funded by the county, the state and the school system. Mr. Wilson responded to additional questions and stated the budget request is for two teams with eight nurses on each team at \$900,000 or \$450,000 per team. Mr. Wilson stated those two teams would bring the ratio down to one nurse per 1,524 students or the state average. Mr. Wilson also provided information on the Teen Pregnancy Taskforce or "Real Talk" event at Douglas Byrd High School.

Mr. Wilson thanked county management for working with him on expansion and other needs at the jail. Mr. Wilson stated although there have been concerns regarding jail health accreditation, the jail as well as Public Health were recently accredited. Mr. Wilson stated the Health Department submitted a budget request for six staff nurses but received only three, and received only eight out of nineteen positions requested. Mr. Wilson explained how jail health could be jeopardized without full staff and stated 50% of inmates suffer from chronic illness. Mr. Wilson stated the 322-bed expansion of the county jail, scheduled to open in November, also needs a full-time staff psychiatrist. Mr. Wilson stated the American Psychiatric Association recommends one full-time psychiatrist for every 75 to 100 inmates on psychotropic drugs. Mr. Wilson stated the budget request for school health was \$960,000 and jail health was \$1.5 million; the county manager recommended \$531,000. Mr. Wilson stated during his meetings with county management, expansion was looked at more heavily than the 24/7 coverage. Mr. Wilson stated he wanted the board of commissioners to be aware of what could happen without the 24/7 coverage.

Commissioner Council asked whether the school system requested the school nurses. Mr. Wilson stated the school system did not make the request. Mr. Wilson stated a presentation was made to the Board of Health and although members were impressed with the numbers as far as care provided, they were alarmed at the ratios. Mr. Wilson stated Commissioner King asked the Health Department to look at the matter further and put together a presentation. Questions and discussion followed.

James Martin, County Manager, stated there were no further appeals. Mr. Martin stated the positions requested by the Health Department were a major part of the \$3.9 million not recommended for supplemental positions. Mr. Martin responded to questions and explained Mr. Wilson listed school nurses as one of his last priorities in his requested budget. Mr. Martin also explained the Sheriff is the custodian of all inmates and responsible for the jail health. Mr. Martin stated as a cost saving measure, a decision was made to provide jail health services through the Health Department because contracting for jail health posed cost issues.

At the request of Commissioner King, Mr. Martin further explained the funding for mental health activities and offsetting revenues. Mr. Martin stated the \$3.688 million for the MCO personnel will go away if Cumberland County merges because the MCO will pay the personnel and operating costs. With regard to the recommended budget amount for Cape Fear Valley Health System (CFVHS), Mr. Martin stated he will need to come back to the board with a manager's adjustment for the Crisis Intervention Team Drop-Off Center to increase the \$2.275 million to \$2.4 million. Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, and Mr. Martin provided details for the mental health other activities totaling \$3,112,128. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Faircloth, Mr. Martin explained the county is spending more for mental health but appropriating less from the assigned fund balance. Ms. Cannon stated the county is back at its contribution of \$4,043,000 with a little over \$1 million of fund balance. Ms. Cannon also stated mental health administrative costs have been reduced but the county has retained/budgeted the same amount of dollars for services for clients. Additional questions followed regarding the recommended community funding for Communicare, the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance, Southeastern Economic Development Commission, the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce and the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Martin also provided information on a library study conducted several years ago and stated a new study should likely be conducted due to development in the northern part of the county.

Chairman Keefe asked Mr. Martin whether he was aware of any funding issues that would derail his recommended budget. Mr. Martin stated not at this time but the county was greatly at risk in terms of continued legislative action, although probably not much different than any other year.

Commissioner Evans provided comments about a feasibility study for rural transit, the Economic Development Alliance of Fayetteville and Cumberland County and improvements to recreation.

Chairman Keefe requested an update on the mental health merger. Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, stated there is a draft agreement that satisfies the county and Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, and it will be added to the Mental Health Authority's agenda for their meeting on June 5, 2013. Mr. Moorefield stated the contract with CFVHS is almost wrapped up as well. With regard to questions about Senate Bill 208, Mr. Moorefield stated it is on the Senate's June 5, 2013 calendar. Mr. Moorefield also stated under Senate Bill 208, the agreement still has to be approved by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board