

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 6, 2013 – 5:30 PM
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING –BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES

PRESENT: 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
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Kelly Autry, Accountant
Bob Tucker, Accountant
Krista Barnhill, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
Howard Lloyd, Sheriff's Office/Budget
Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
Jeffery Brown, Engineering/Infrastructure Director
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Chairman

Commissioner Council called the meeting to order and called on James Martin, County Manager, for the revised FY 2014 budget recommendations based on input provided from the board.

Mr. Martin stated a question was posed at the June 4, 2013 budget work session regarding the terms of the lease between the county and the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance. Mr. Martin stated the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance is responsible for \$1,500 per month and utilities. Mr. Martin stated the Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance's lease began July 1, 2012, was for twelve (12) months and will convert to a month-to-month lease after June 30, 2013.

Commissioner Evans stated he has concerns with departments not coming before the board to explain why they are requesting funds and what the funds will be utilized for so the board knows the amount they utilize will be used in the best interest of the citizens of Cumberland County. Commissioner Evans stated he has a problem with continuously giving departments such as the Chamber of Commerce the same amount of money for economic development services without seeing results. Commissioner Evans stated he would like to see a strategic plan between the board and the Chamber of Commerce in order for the Chamber of Commerce to be more effective. Commissioner Evans recommended that the board re-examine the amount of funds the Chamber is allocated each year. Mr. Martin stated he believes the county should fund the Chamber at the same level this year because of the opportunities it has with the knowledge and expertise of the individuals it currently has on board. Commissioner Evans stated he would like to see the board work with the Chamber because there may be things the board can do to help bring jobs to this community. Commissioner Evans stated he feels the board needs to work on ways to entice and encourage individuals to bring jobs to the community.

Mr. Martin stated the following revisions need to be made before the budget is adopted:

- General personnel changes – increase of \$11,104
- Cape Fear Valley Hospital Contract Services – increase of \$124,391
- Cape Fear Valley Hospital Capital Contribution – decrease of \$124,391
- Managed Care Organization (MCO) Personnel and Operating - decrease of \$3,688,571
- Alliance Merger Contribution (Loan) – increase of \$1,700,000

Commissioner Faircloth stated he would like to cut two cents off the tax rate. Commissioner Faircloth also questioned where the ABC revenue is listed in the budget documents.

Commissioner Melvin stated he would like to see the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce each receive \$35,000 if requested. Mr. Martin stated the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce did not make a request for funds this year. Mr. Martin further stated the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce made a request after the deadline and he suggested that the chamber attend the budget public hearing to request funds. Commissioner Edge stated if the board decides to allocate funds to the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce and the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce, he would like to know what the funds were utilized for this year and what funds will be utilized for next year. Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, stated the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce submitted a very vague report and she would talk to Jeffrey Hunt, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, to obtain more detailed information.

Commissioner King asked why the Health Department's request for school nurses was not included in the proposed budget. Mr. Martin stated the lack of available funds was the main reason and the Health Department Director prioritized school nurses last in his budget request. Mr. Martin stated requests totaling \$5 million were made but were not recommended because funds were not available. Commissioner King stated if the funds are not available to fund two teams of school nurses perhaps some consideration should be given to funding one team.

Commissioner Council stated she would like to consider doing something for county employees. Commissioner Council stated the municipal employees received a raise and everyday living costs are constantly increasing. Commissioner Council stated she knows a recurring expense is not possible but would like to look into a one-time stipend for employees.

Mr. Martin stated out of the 1,393 employees included in Phase I of the reclassification and pay study, 553 employees received a reclassification resulting in a pay adjustment which was generally around a 5% increase, 607 employees were reclassified but did not see a change in pay and 233 employees received no reclassification and no pay increase.

Mr. Martin stated in 2011, a 2% cost of living adjustment was budgeted for county employees. Mr. Martin stated in 2012, no cost of living adjustment was budgeted but a 1% contribution to the 401K was reinstated. Mr. Martin stated in 2013, a 2% cost of living adjustment was budgeted and the 1% contribution to the 401K was continued.

Mr. Martin stated out of \$1.4 million dollars each full time employee could receive close to a \$700 stipend. Commissioner Council asked Mr. Martin to bring a recommendation on a one-time stipend for county employees to the next budget meeting. Commissioner Edge stated he felt the stipend should not apply to new employees. Mr. Martin recommended employees should be hired prior to July 1st and also be on the payroll August 10th to be eligible for a stipend. Mr. Martin also recommended part time employees should receive a prorated amount depending on the number of hours worked. Mr. Martin stated he would bring a recommendation to the board at the next budget meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Evans moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner Melvin

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Beam
Deputy Clerk to the Board