

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
March 11, 2008 – 8:30 AM
REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Commissioner Diane Wheatley
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner John Henley
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Ed Melvin
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Assistant County Manager
Sara VanderClute, Public Information Officer
Bob Stanger, County Engineer
Al Brunson, Director of Electrical & Mechanical
Wayne Raynor, Public Health Director
Tom Cooney, Public Utilities Director
Robert Barefoot, Parks & Recreation Director
J.D. Pone, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Chair
Bob White, Joint Senior Citizens Advisory Council
Chip Modlin, Joint Senior Citizens Advisory Council
Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner King called the meeting to order and asked Commission Henley to give an invocation.

1. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Wheatley
VOTE: Unanimous

2. Report from the City/County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Regarding Proposed Capital Projects – Robert Barefoot

Mr. Barefoot advised that he had been asked by the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Joint Senior Citizens Advisory Council to look at locations for a proposed Senior/Aquatic Center. Since that request, he has been working with FTCC on a location on Hull Road, but there have been some concerns from FTCC's Board of Trustees about that location. A Site Selection Committee met and considered several locations that are owned by the County or City. Another location, Mazarick Park (area adjacent to Filter Plant Road), was also considered and approved, but they will continue to discuss other locations with FTCC as well. Commissioner Wheatley questioned whether this facility would only be for seniors and she was assured that this would be open to the public for all ages. No funding sources have been identified, but the City does have a \$500,000 fund which can be used evaluating an appropriate site, such as hiring an architect or engineer. County Manager Martin requested information on a possible future gerontology curriculum at FTCC which might tie in with the use of a building on their property. Mr. Barefoot stated that this could work in concert with the establishment of the Senior/Aquatic Center by being jointly housed. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of using the old YMCA building, but Mr. Barefoot stated that he believes that it would be more costly to renovate

that building than it would be to build a new building. Commissioner Henley stated that this project was clearly the number one priority for Parks & Recreation and questioned how major capital projects will be funded with it being joint with the City. County Attorney Barrett stated that the agreement with the City provides that the staff and the Board would create a Capital Improvement Plan for endorsement by the Governing Boards. There is a five-year plan with priority listings which was presented to both Boards in 2005 showing three categories of projects (joint projects, county projects and city projects). Commissioner Edge added that one of the things that was to be brought back to the Boards was funding recommendations for the various plans. The Committee agreed that Mr. Barefoot should continue to look at Mazarick Park as a possible site location and asked that this be placed on the agenda for the upcoming Joint City/County meeting. Discussion turned to funding and Mr. Barefoot advised that the Advisory Council has recommended a General Obligation Bond to be placed on the November ballot. A decision will need to be made regarding whether this will be handled as a separate request from other parks and recreation projects being presented. A figure for funding will be presented at the April joint meeting with the City. Mr. Martin advised members that there is a question about how much longer the five cent county recreation tax will be sufficient to cover the operations of the County recreation system which is being managed by the City. Commissioner Wheatley voiced concern about funding this project by a GO bond which would require a tax increase immediately after the Commissioners propose to reduce property taxes by two cents. She requested that other options for financing be looked at. Mr. King concluded this subject advising Mr. Barefoot to talk with the Manager and his staff regarding funding sources. Mr. Barefoot stated that he will bring a recommended list with costs to the joint April meeting.

3. Briefing on Location of Water & Sewer Lines in Cumberland County – Tom Cooney

Mr. Cooney distributed two handouts – a water line map and a sewer line map. Mr. Cooney pointed out areas where adjoining county water systems have water lines in Cumberland County. At this point, about 30-40% of the County has water lines and it would take several hundred million dollars to cover the rest of the County. The 2002 Rural Water Study is being updated to determine current costs and problem areas. A Safe Water Task Force is now looking at existing conditions that affect well water and at completing a database and a visual map that will show where problems are located in the County. Discussion ensued regarding the current process for reporting water contamination and how they are handled. The local Health Department only has testing and reporting responsibilities. State responsibility to act on problem areas is split among several sections and agencies. The Safe Water Task Force will address creating a coordinated communication protocol among all affected agencies and work to get one centralized database with all relevant information. Funding is needed for this. Commissioner Henley questioned how other counties were able to place water lines in Cumberland. Mr. Cooney explained that developers bore the cost. He also noted that grants had been and were available to those counties based on lower income levels which are not available to Cumberland as it is classified as an “urban” county. Mr. Martin added that those lines are strictly rural lines and are not the same type lines that PWC installs. Commissioner Wheatley questioned whether the County has a workable plan to extend water lines to the rest of the County. Mr. Cooney stated no, but plans are being worked on. During discussion on current areas of concerns, Mrs. Pilgrim advised that at a Safe Water Task Force meeting yesterday, six people from DENR were present. They are equally frustrated because they lack the sufficient funding to address all the problem areas due to staffing. However, the DENR representatives are willing to help work on the process needed to get the County the necessary information for addressing problem areas. The Task Force also thoroughly reviewed the process that takes place when an individual complains about their water and how to improve the process so that the appropriate County officials are aware of problem areas on the front end. An update will be presented at the next Board of Commissioners’ meeting. Commissioner Edge noted that the County has indirectly done many things regarding water and sewer lines; for

instance, the school system in the last 15-20 years has paid for water and sewer lines to many areas and that it might be good to bring Tim Kinlaw into these conversations. Commissioner Wheatley stated that other counties should be contacted to see about extending their lines into the County instead of solely relying on the use of PWC. Commissioner Henley advised that the interlocal agreement with the City would address extension of water and sewer lines and that hopefully it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at their April 7th meeting. Mr. Cooney advised that an eight inch water line would cost between \$18 and \$30 per linear foot. Mr. Martin advised that he has also had conversations with Harnett and Robeson County about coming into the County with water lines.

4. Update on Activities of the County's Safe Water Task Force – Juanita Pilgrim

Mrs. Pilgrim advised that this item was discussed in the prior item and as stated, a presentation will be made at the next Commissioners' meeting; however, she did want to reiterate that the representatives from DENR were very helpful at yesterday's meeting and that they have been very responsive to the County's calls. Commissioner Henley stated that a recommendation needs to be made to the Legislature at the earliest possible time for help with funding on this issue.

Mr. Cooney advised that the plume from the water problem discovered at the last Board of Commissioners' meeting regarding Chicken Foot Road is moving in a North East direction. The development of the Southpointe housing area has caused the contaminated plume to move from its original area to that area. Mr. Cooney is talking with Bladen County about extending their water lines into that area. County Attorney Barrett asked Mr. Cooney if development of the rezoning area with wells would affect the plume and Mr. Cooney advised that it would have the potential to pull it towards that property. Mr. Martin advised that it would be wise to delay rezoning in that area for now. Commissioner Henley questioned what alternatives are available to people who don't want water provided by the County. Mr. Cooney advised that there are mandatory connection ordinances, but they don't necessarily enforce it – if their wells fail, then they would enforce it. Mrs. Pilgrim advised that the Task Force has three areas to look at regarding failing septic tanks – areas where there is water available and they haven't connect on, areas where there is no other option, and areas where there is an option to connect to another county's line. Mr. Martin ended this item stating that assessment is the quickest way to get water to individuals, although often expensive for the individuals benefited, but that is not the long term answer to the problems as there are a host of contaminants in the ground that is prevalent across the state.

5. Update on DENR – Tom Cooney

Covered in above discussions.

6. Other Matters of Concern

Mr. Stanger provided a handout stating that this is an update to the Construction Manager At-Risk selection process for the new Public Health Center. The firm of Rentenbach Constructors, Inc., was unanimously selected by the Committee and an aggressive schedule has been adopted to develop a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). Bids for contractors will be received on April 3, 2008 and the Construction Manager will submit the GMP to the County by April 10, 2008.

Attorney Raynor reported that the City has notified us that it is going to pave Canal Street which is the property we purchased for parking and levy assessments on property owners for the cost. Our share will be about \$7600. The City has indicated that it will want to purchase about 10 feet

of the County's property to widen the street. In a secondary project, at the corner of Cool Springs and Person Street, the City wants to purchase some of the County's property to help develop a roundabout. Mr. Raynor is discussing offsetting the County's participation in that project for the County's share of the City's paving assessment.

MEETING ADJOURNED: