

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
NEW COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
MARCH 1, 2012– 8:30 A.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Chair
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Billy King (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)

OTHER COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT: Commissioner Charles Evans (arrived at 8:45 a.m.)
Commissioner Ed Melvin

OTHERS PRESENT: James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Sally Shutt, Communications and Strategic Initiatives
Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Robert N. Stanger, County Engineer
Al Brunson, Facilities Maintenance Manager
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kristoff Bauer, City of Fayetteville Assistant City Manager
Michael Gibson, Parks and Recreation Director
J.D. Pone, Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Carey Berg, Joint Senior Citizens Advisory Commission
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Commissioner Jimmy Keefe called the meeting to order.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2012 MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

2. PRESENTATION REGARDING PARKS AND RECREATION BOND
REFERENDUM

James Martin, County Manager, introduced Assistant City Manager Kristoff Bauer and Parks and Recreation Director Michael Gibson, Mr. Bauer stated his presentation of the Parks and Recreation bond referendum would focus more on the financial side of the referendum. Mr. Bauer further stated he has been working with Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, and Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director, to try and figure out what financial options were possible to fund the Parks and Recreation bond referendum. Mr. Bauer explained there have been some changes made to the overall plan that will bring the total cost down to something he felt would be more reasonable. Mr. Bauer further explained the changes included: removing the East Regional Recreation Center, removing the Performing Arts Center, and reducing funding for acquisition of greenways and additional parkland.

Mr. Bauer stated the total estimated project cost at this time is \$65.7 million dollars. Mr. Bauer stated the estimated amount of a tax increase that would need to be imposed in order to fund the project would be approximately 2.25 cents. Mr. Gibson stated the city would primarily use current workers to staff the new facilities rather than hire new employees. Mr. Bauer stated Hope Mills and Spring Lake are not included in the current financial analysis. Questions and discussion followed.

Commissioner Edge asked who would be responsible for the operational costs. Mr. Bauer stated the next step in this process will be putting together an inter-local agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and all responsibilities would be spelled out in the agreement. Mr. Bauer further stated before the significant work of an inter-local agreement is put together he wants to make sure they have something worth pursuing.

Commissioner Keefe asked what would be the length of the debt service. Mr. Bauer stated the length of the debt service would be approximately seventeen (17) years.

Mr. Bauer stated the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and the Fayetteville City Council advised there should be a public vote on this issue. Mr. Bauer further stated the ballot has to identify the amount of debt but it is not required to state how the county will pay for the debt. Mr. Bauer explained it will not be a vote to authorize tax, rather a vote to authorize debt. Mr. Bauer stated the entire county must vote even if only a portion participates in the district. Mr. Bauer stated the City of Fayetteville proposes to schedule a special election for February 2013. Mr. Bauer further stated this will give the county time to educate the voters on all the details of the bond referendum. Mr. Bauer stated the next step in the process is to start work on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which defines the responsibilities of all parties and addresses any detailed questions. Questions and discussion followed.

Commissioner Edge asked Ms. Cannon if Cumberland County currently has enough bonding capacity to support the bond referendum and if so, how will it affect the county's bond rating. Ms. Cannon stated she is currently working with the county's financial advisor to address these questions so she does not have concrete answers at this time. Ms. Cannon stated the key to answering those questions will be the operational cost piece because the bond rating agencies are going to look for operational impact and will

question whether the 2.25 cents is adequate to fund the debt service cost and operational costs. Ms. Cannon explained she will continue to work with the county's financial advisor to address Commissioner Edge's questions in addition to what the county's future capital needs will be.

Commissioner Edge asked how many months ahead would this have to go to the Local Government Commission. Ms. Cannon stated at least six to eight months in advance. Commissioner Edge stated he hopes these questions will be answered and would like to see a MOU developed to clarify responsibilities. Questions and discussion followed.

Mr. Martin stated once the Facilities Committee is comfortable with the information they have been given, the next critical step is developing the MOU. Mr. Martin further stated he feels the MOU is a very critical piece for everyone to understand, and feels it should be done before anyone starts to educate the community on the bond referendum. Commissioner Keefe stated it would be premature to make any commitment until the Facilities Committee receives the information from Ms. Cannon and the financial advisor. Mr. Martin stated after the information from Ms. Cannon is received it may be appropriate for the Board of Commissioner's to ask the Parks and Recreation staff and advisory board to bring back a proposed MOU. No action was taken.

3. OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

There were no other matters of business.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 AM.