

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
NEW COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
JANUARY 3, 2013 - 8:30 A.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Billy King, Chair
Commissioner Ed Melvin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Charles Evans

OTHER COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Chief Public Information Officer
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director
Dr. John Lauby, Animal Control Director
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Christopher Frank, LSV Architects
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Commissioner Billy King called the meeting to order.

1. ELECTION OF FACILITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to elect Commissioner King as the Facilities
Committee Chairman.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 1, 2012 MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to approve the minutes.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

3. UPDATE REGARDING FORMER BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUILDING

James Lawson, Assistant County Attorney, stated on June 18, 2012, the Board of Commissioners passed a motion to place the former Board of Elections building on the market for six (6) months at \$675,000 and if there are no offers during that time period, then the board would consider further options for using or disposing of the building. Mr. Lawson stated he informed the Facilities Committee on November 1, 2012, that he had received three phone calls from real estate brokers in regards to the building, but no one had expressed any real interest.

Mr. Lawson stated since the November 1, 2012, Facilities Committee meeting he had been contacted by two parties who expressed interest in the building. Mr. Lawson further stated the Cumberland County Dispute Resolution Center, Inc., toured the former Board of Elections building on November 20, 2012, and submitted a letter of intent on December 3, 2012, for a purchase price of \$400,000.

Mr. Lawson stated on November 29, 2012, a local physician toured the property and expressed his interested in purchasing the building for \$300,000 and leasing it back to the county. Mr. Lawson further stated the local physician had not submitted a formal offer, but has asked to be informed if the building becomes available at his price point.

Commissioner Edge asked whether there was still a need for the space by county departments. Mr. Martin stated the county still has a need for additional space. Commissioner King stated he was leaning towards the county keeping the space if it would not generate income to sell the property. Commissioner Melvin stated he was open to the option of selling the property but if the county needs the building for space then the county should use it for internal needs.

Commissioner Keefe stated the Veterans Services department is still requesting the need for additional space. Commissioner Keefe stated Cumberland County has the second largest veteran population in the state and currently the Department of Social Services only has 19 handicap parking spaces and many veterans are disabled.

The consensus of the Facilities Committee was for management to determine the best use of the former Board of Elections building and bring back to the next Facilities Committee meeting.

4. UPDATE ON STATUS OF DETENTION CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT

Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director, stated the status of the Detention Center Expansion Project changes daily. Mr. Brown stated currently the project is within budget and on time. Mr. Brown stated the contractor hopes to finish the project sooner than the expected 14 month time line if the weather cooperates.

5. DISCUSSION ON ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY NEEDS

James Lawson, Assistant County Manager, stated there is currently a need for additional space at the Animal Control facility. Mr. Lawson stated the high volume of animals processed through the Animal Control facility continues to create a number of challenges in managing the population within the current available space. Mr. Lawson further stated some of the concerns include: public safety, disease control, high euthanasia rates, and limited opportunities to increase adoptions; all of which affect the focus of Animal Control's operations.

Mr. Lawson stated Dr. Lauby, Animal Control Director, has indicated that an expansion of the facility would provide an opportunity to increase adoptions, decrease euthanasia and to be more involved in programs that focus on managing the pet population and educating the public on responsible pet ownership. Mr. Lawson stated Dr. Lauby also mentioned an expanded facility would provide the ability to create a holding area for rabies quarantine dogs, dangerous dogs and cruelty case subjects, so they are separated from areas accessed by the public.

Dr. Lauby stated the Animal Control facility currently has seven large kennels to house animals in isolation yet they end up with between 25-30 animals per day that need to be housed in isolation for one reason or another. Dr. Lauby stated the proposed addition has about fifty kennels that could be used for isolation.

Commissioner Keefe asked if the increase in Animal Control revenue this year could cover the cost of an addition. Ms. Cannon stated Dr. Lauby has made an aggressive effort to increase revenue but she does not know if there will be enough money this fiscal year to cover the entire expansion amount. Dr. Lauby stated the new pet license program has been very successful in the first six months.

Commissioner King stated it sounds like things are working well for Animal Control. Commissioner King asked County Management to research this matter and bring a recommendation to the Facilities Committee. Mr. Martin stated he feels it would be more realistic to try to figure out a way to do this in the next budget process and management would bring a recommendation back closer to budget time.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO SELECT PROPOSED CONTAINER SITE FOR SOLID WASTE

Mr. Brown stated the Solid Waste Department currently operates the McCauley Container Site located off of Research Drive. Mr. Brown stated Cumberland County has a lease on the property where the container site is located; however, the lease is set to expire on June 30, 2013. Mr. Brown stated the Solid Waste Department is responsible for returning the site into the condition it was in prior to the container site being established by the time the lease expires.

Mr. Brown stated the Solid Waste Department has identified two potential sites within the Industrial Park where the container site could be located. Mr. Brown explained the first site is located off of Distribution Drive and the second site is located at the end of Production Drive.

Mr. Brown stated he and the Solid Waste Director in conjunction with County Management recommend the first site, which is located off of Distribution Drive to be selected to replace the McCauley Container Site.

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to recommend to the full board approval of staffs' recommendation to select site number one off of Distribution Drive to replace the McCauley Container Site.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

7. OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

There were no other items of business.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:27 AM.