

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1996, 10:30 AM
ROOM 119, COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Marshall Faircloth, Commissioner
Billy King, Commissioner
Lee Warren, Commissioner

OTHERS: James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Carlisle McCutcheon, Finance Director
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Rhonda R. Davis, Deputy Clerk
Press

The meeting was duly called to order.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approval of the May 16, 1996 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner King offered a motion to approve the May 16, 1996 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Warren

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Discussion of Bond Anticipation Notes for the Library Project.

Deputy County Manager James Martin reviewed the copy of the letter from the County Manager to the Local Government Commission concerning Bond Anticipation Notes for the library project. He reviewed the projected costs for the BANs. This item will appear on the August 19th Commissioners meeting agenda for approval by the full board. He noted management anticipates the BANs to be sold on September 10th.

MOTION: Commissioner Warren offered a motion to recommend approval of the sale of the Bond Anticipation Notes to fund the branch library project to the full board of Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Courthouse Fourth Floor Renovation Project Financing.

James Martin advised the County is bank qualified for financing for the Fourth Floor Renovation Project. Bank financing will have a better interest rate. The Architect working on the renovation project has prepared a pre-final draft of the drawings. Management would like to bid this work out by the end of this month. Once the bids are in, contact can be made with local banks for financing. Management would like to coordinate the financing for the fourth floor project with the purchase of the new Sheriff's Office cars and the costs to upgrade the county's mainframe computer system. The exact cost of the fourth floor project will be the only cost that will be hard to determine.

Commissioner Faircloth stated he is concerned that the costs to do the fourth floor renovation project will be unusually high because the court system has indicated they will want the work to be done at nights and on weekends so that it will not disturb court during the day.

Mr. Martin noted all of the contracts will be brought before the full Board for approval.

Neil Yarborough stated he has had dialogue with the Chief Resident Court Judge about this matter. He feels some type of contingency can be worked out.

It was the consensus of the committee to advise management to take any other matters concerning this project to the full Board for consideration and approval, in order to expedite the process.

4. Cash Investments Report.

Carlisle McCutcheon reviewed the Investment Portfolio for the fourth quarter. He noted the County did well on it's investments due to higher interest rates. He keeps as much as possible invested at all times.

5. Employee Discounts on Health Insurance Premiums.

Mr. McCutcheon reviewed the memorandum dated August 17th concerning employee discounts on health insurance premiums. He noted the purpose of the discount is to give employees an incentive to be in the Wellness Program or to stop smoking. He reviewed the potential additional costs if retirees are included in the Wellness program. He will pursue this matter further with committee approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Warren offered a motion to recommend approval of offering County employees discounts on health insurance premiums and directed the Finance Director to prepare the necessary information for presentation to the full board.

SECOND: Commissioner Faircloth

DISCUSSION: Commissioner King noted this is a good idea. He wonders if there will be additional discussion concerning the non-smoking piece.

Commissioner Warren noted private insurance companies offer discounts for non-smokers.

Mr. McCutcheon advised some employees have informed him a discount on their insurance premiums would be the incentive they needed to stop smoking.

Commissioner King asked why some employees are not participating in the Wellness Program.

Mr. McCutcheon advised employees in his office that do not participate have indicated they do not want to take the time, even though they do not have to use their leave in order to participate.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

6. Other Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin advised Commissioner Bacote asked that the Finance Committee consider addressing the memorandum from the Finance Director concerning his and all other department head salaries.

Mr. McCutcheon advised this topic has been discussed for approximately seven months now.

Mr. Yarborough noted the committee would need to go into closed session to discuss this personnel matter.

The committee went into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION: Commissioner King offered a motion to come out of closed session.
SECOND: Commissioner Warren
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner King offered a motion to refer the Finance Director's request to the full board for consideration during the August 27, 1996 Commissioners meeting.
SECOND: Commissioner Warren
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Mr. McCutcheon presented information on a group life insurance program for County employees. He reviewed the handout for the committee. He noted he is working on an agreement with the company to place a three year hold on the premiums. The county could purchase this coverage out of the insurance fund with no additional costs. He noted the school system as well as the State offers this insurance to their employees.

Commissioner Warren asked if employees would be able to keep the insurance after they left the County.

Mr. McCutcheon advised the company won't agree to that condition at this time, and will not include it in their contract.

It was the consensus of the committee to allow the Finance Director to pursue this benefit for county employees with the appropriate insurance company.

Mr. McCutcheon also noted he will pursue a cap on the premiums as well.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.