

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001, 8:30 AM**

Present: Breeden Blackwell, Commissioner
Kenneth Edge, Commissioner
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Garrett Alexander, Tax Administrator
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Tonya Harris-Council, Public Information Director
Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Absent: Jeannette Council (due to illness)

Others: Press

Commissioner Blackwell called the meeting to order.

1. Selection of Chairman

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell offered a motion to elect Commissioner Edge Chairman of the Finance Committee by acclamation.

SECOND: Commissioner Edge

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Selection of Regular Meeting Date and Time.

The committee members present selected the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 AM as their regular meeting date and time. The committee will continue to meet in room 564 on the fifth floor of the Courthouse.

3. Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2000.

MOTION: Chairman Edge offered a motion to approve the November 2, 2000 Finance Committee meeting minutes.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

4. Consideration of Recommendation of Contractor for Orthophotography Project.

BACKGROUND: The County, the City of Fayetteville and PWC has been working in a cooperative effort to support and maintain geographic information systems (GIS). One of the primary objectives of the Joint GIS is to share the cost of providing these services.

The first major project for the joint enterprise was to acquire new countywide digital orthophotography. The expected cost of the project is between \$544,000 and \$735,000. Each agency has agreed to pay one-third of the cost. Funds for the County's portion

were appropriated in the FY01 budget. As with other joint efforts, the County has taken the role as lead agency for contracting the project. By mutual agreement, Mr. Donald Holloway, the former Director of the North Carolina Land Records Management Program was retained as a consultant to assist with the project. Mr. Holloway is a civil engineer and a certified photogrammetrist.

The first phase of the project was to determine the most qualified firm to provide digital orthophotography. To accomplish this, Requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) for firms were issued in December. Mr. Holloway developed the project scope and specifications as well as the RFQ. Responses to the RFQ's were received on December 15, 2000. Eight of the national firms with expertise in photogrammetric engineering and surveying responded to the RFQ. After an extensive evaluation of each firm's qualifications, Mr. Holloway determined the three top firms in order of their rank are 3Di, L. Robert Kimball & Associates and Analytical Surveys Incorporated, respectively. He has recommended the selection of the firm 3Di as the first choice to negotiate a contract. His recommendation is based on the firm's technical and financial competency, and their method of developing the digital elevation model. The Tax Administrator has reviewed the qualifications of each firm and concurs with Mr. Holloway's ranking and selection.

The next phase of the process requires that a price be negotiated with the selected vendor for the scope of the project. The Tax Administrator has conferred with the County Manager in this matter and has received support for the selection of 3Di as the first choice for contract negotiation. Based on this selection, negotiations for favorable terms for the project will be negotiated. If for any reason acceptable terms cannot be agreed upon with 3Di, the next vendor in order of their qualifications ranking will then be negotiated with. The Board of Commissioners must approve any contract prior to signing. The Tax Administrator expects to bring a contract to the Board of Commissioners for approval at its next regular meeting.

Mr. Martin advised it is critical that this new flight photo be done during the winter months when the leaves are off of the trees so that a better picture can be obtained.

Mr. Alexander stated it would also be beneficial to the County if they were to coordinate this process with the State as it is in the process of doing flood plane mapping of the State impacted by the flood in 1999. Coordination of this process with the state will save a considerable amount of money on this project.

Commissioner Blackwell asked if the School System would be part of this project.

Mr. Alexander advised the School System as well as the other municipalities would be included in this project once some preliminary work is done. He noted that the management plan directed that a management and technical committee be formed. Those committees have been formed. The committees have agreed that the primary project is new orthophotography. This will help the County track development and will assist with the 2003 revaluation process. Funds have been appropriated by each agency to fund this project.

Mr. Alexander advised FEMA has approved flood plane mapping for the state that will cover the coast of North Carolina to Greensboro. Flood plane mapping for forty counties will be done during this project. The County contacted the State and asked that they be allowed to participate in the process. If the County can work with the State in this project, it could save 30-40% of the costs for this orthophotography project. Based on the qualifications 3Di will be one of the State's choices for a sub-contractor on their project. The State was planning to select two pilot counties for this flood plane project. Cumberland County asked that it be considered as one of the pilot counties. Cumberland County has been chosen for consideration.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Alexander if 3Di was the recommended vendor for the County's project because of its relationship with the State's project.

Mr. Alexander advised 3Di was the recommended vendor because they were Mr. Holloway's first choice.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Alexander to provide the Clerk with copies of the evaluation sheets for the top three companies to be included with the minutes so that the County can be on record as to why 3Di was chosen for the project. Additional information on the evaluations is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

Mr. Alexander advised he would provide the Clerk with the evaluation sheets. He noted the County's project would have a much greater scope than the State's. The County would then "sign-off" on items rather than the State. He noted another consultant would be needed to help with the pilot project.

Commissioner Blackwell asked what the chances were of concluding this deal with 3Di.

Mr. Alexander advised the chances were 85-90% favorable.

Chairman Edge asked if the other municipalities such as Hope Mills were being considered to share in the costs of this project as it would be of benefit to them also.

Mr. Martin stated he is not sure of the financial position of the municipalities other than the City of Fayetteville or if they would be willing to participate in the project. The County would need to have this work done with or without financial participation from other agencies. The County has been fortunate in that the City of Fayetteville and PWC sees the benefits of this project because it can help with their needs as well. He would say that Hope Mills and Spring Lake and the other municipalities within the County probably have less of a need for this information than do the City of Fayetteville and PWC.

Mr. Barrett stated the revenue raising potential that the whole GIS system would have is being considered. There are other revenue raising options because the information generated through this project is of great interest to commercial entities.

Mr. Alexander noted there are a number of engineering, development and architectural firms that are interested in this data. He was directed during the last Finance Committee meeting to consider a new fee schedule for this type of information. They want this enterprise to be self-sustaining. The County Planning Department uses this information and it can spread to most every county department. The involvement of other entities in this project is a matter of timing. The PWC is developing a fiber optic network that will allow access to this information. This information can be distributed via the web and other areas.

Chairman Edge asked what additional costs would be incurred with this project above what has already been budgeted.

Mr. Alexander advised the costs for this year have been funded within GIS.

Mr. Martin advised that there would ultimately be additional costs with this project. Additional staff to coordinate this information has been suggested. He is not convinced there is a need for additional staff. It will be a number of years before they are ready to ask for additional people to coordinate this information between the three agencies.

Chairman Edge asked if the contract could be negotiated so that the aerial photography can be done before this spring?

Mr. Alexander advised the work could be done before spring. The State has already done its flight. The County's would need to be done in February.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell offered a motion to authorize the Tax Administrator to negotiate a final contract and proposal with 3Di. If acceptable terms cannot be agreed upon with 3Di he is to proceed to the next vendor in order of their qualifications ranking. A contract or the key elements of the contract will then be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

SECOND: Chairman Edge

DISCUSSION: Mr. Martin stated it was his understanding that the contract or the key elements of the contract would be presented at the January 16, 2001 Commissioners' meeting.

Mr. Alexander stated he would try to get all the details negotiated so that it could be presented to the Commissioners for consideration at the January 16th meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Other Committee Concerns

No other committee concerns were raised.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.