

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2003, 8:30 AM**

Present: Kenneth Edge, Chairman
Jeannette Council, Commissioner
John Henley, Commissioner
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
James "Chico" Silman, Risk Manager
Kathy Wanamaker, Benefits Manager
Mark Browder, Mark III Brokerage, Inc.
Eugene Hines, Interim Public Health Director
Ruby McNair, Jail Health Supervisor
Major Dan Ford, Jail
Cynthia Tucker, Administration

Chairman Edge called the meeting to order.

1. Invocation

Chairman Edge offered the Invocation.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 5, 2002.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley offered a motion to approve the September 5, 2002 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Jeannette Council

VOTE: Unanimous

3. Appointment of Chairman

MOTION: Commissioner Henley offered a motion to appoint Kenneth Edge as Finance Committee Meeting Chairman.

SECOND: Jeannette Council

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Set Regular Meeting Date

MOTION: Commissioner Edge offered a motion to set the regular meeting date as the 1st Thursday @ 8:30 AM. (Policy Committee will need to change their meeting time for the 1st Thursday @ 9:30 AM).

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: Unanimous

County Manager James Martin requested that Item No. 4 and 5 of the Finance Committee agenda be switched in order to hear a presentation on the Medical Insurance Proposals from Mr. Mark Browder of Mark III.

5. Presentation / Discussion : Medical Insurance Proposals

BACKGROUND: Mr. Mark Browder, Mark III made a presentation on the Medical Insurance proposals that were received during the bidding process. A total of 25 vendors were requested to participate and 8 responses were received. A total of four vendor presentations were made from Blue Cross – NCACC, Cigna, United and JSL/Doctor's Direct.

Mr. Browder's recommendation is to stay with NCACC/Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Financial, Customer Service and Underwriting portion of the NCACC/Blue Cross Blue Shield presentation was strong enough to recommend staying with the County's current Insurance provider.

Commissioner Henley requested to discuss the numbers and wanted a clarification of the answers that NCACC/Blue Cross Blue Shield attempted to answer. There was considerable discussion regarding the increase, split coverage possibilities and retiree population.

Commissioner Edge wanted to know how many retirees were in our system currently. James Silman, Risk Manager confirmed that there were 536 retirees currently in our health insurance system.

Commissioner Council wanted to know the overall cost to the County. The current projection for FY03 is \$8.2 Million. Our projections for next year are \$9.7 Million. Commissioner Council wanted to know if the cost increase would be passed on to the employees. James Silman confirmed that the County currently has enough to absorb the cost for FY04, which starts July 1, 2003.

Commissioner Henley stated that it is obvious that the County has to go with the best plan and the most cost-effective for the County. He also requested that in the future the County look at other alternatives and to be very aware where Blue Cross is going. He further commented he has conferred with our County Attorney, Grainger Barrett based on his partnership in Sandhills, and that it is appropriate for him to vote on this issue based on his *de minimus* status. He further concluded to go forward with the recommendation to continue coverage with NCACC/Blue Cross Blue Shield, but to be very aware where Blue Cross is going and that the County needs to be looking at other alternatives.

MOTION: Commissioner Council offered a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to remain with NCACC/Blue Cross Blue Shield for County medical insurance.

SECOND: Commissioner Edge

VOTE: Unanimous

6. Consideration: New Health Position for the Detention Center

BACKGROUND: Mr. Eugene Hines, Interim Health Director and Ruby McNair made a presentation with a request to hire 2.5 Registered Nurses, 3.5 Licensed Practical Nurses and 4 Medical Technicians. There was considerable discussion on the current staffing levels and the National Accreditation of the Detention Center and what the needs were to retain our Certificate of National Accreditation. Commissioner Henley had expressed concern about the number of nurses being requested. Commissioner Henley expressed that he felt that the number was too high.

County Manager, James Martin, proposed that the Health Department consider the option to hire 6.5 people instead of the 10 requested as a start versus the original number requested. He further stated that should the need arise to consider additional nursing staff in the Detention Center that the Finance Committee reconsider this option in the future.

MOTION: Commissioner Council offered a motion to follow management's recommendation to approve 6.5 new positions to staff the Jail health program at the new Detention Center.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: Unanimous

7. Other Matters of Concern

No other Committee concerns were made.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.