

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2, 2007, 8:30AM
REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chair
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Cuyler Windham, Sheriff's Office
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

Chairman Council called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes: April 5, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to approve.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Consideration of a request from the Sheriff's Office for two new detective positions to handle crimes against persons

Sheriff Butler has requested two new positions (Deputy III, Detective positions) in response to a court order from District Court Judge Beth Keever that the Sheriff's Office take over the investigation of felony crimes against persons in Spring Lake. Her order was issued based on the District Attorney's assessment that the workload, expertise and capabilities of the Spring Lake Police Department. The order is effective October 1, 2007, although the Sheriff's Office has been handling juvenile cases out of Spring Lake and Hope Mills since this spring, and is in the process of assuming investigation of homicides from Spring Lake.

The Board of Commissioners reinstated 5 deputy positions in the FY08 budget that had been frozen in the FY07 budget.. The Sheriff has designated three of these positions as Deputy III, Detective positions. He is requesting two new Deputy III positions to assist in the investigations in Spring Lake.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to go into Closed Session to discuss reports on criminal investigations in the Spring Lake area.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to come back into Open Session.
SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The County Attorney reported that the Town of Spring Lake has hired a consultant to review its procedures in the handling of criminal cases. Once the report has been received by Spring Lake it intends to take steps to resolve issues that need to be addressed. The District Attorney, however, has not indicated that this transfer of duties will be temporary, so it must be assumed it will continue for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, the Sheriff's Office indicates it will need some additional detectives to take over the additional investigations in Spring Lake, effective October 1, 2007.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that the Sheriff designate one more position of the five that he received in the current fiscal year as a Deputy III Detective position and that the County approve one new Deputy III position. (Note: This will give the Sheriff a total of five Deputy III (Detectives) positions (four from the five positions reinstated this fiscal year plus one additional).

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Other matters of concern

The Manager reviewed some financial information regarding the State approved Medicaid Swap. The Medicaid swap approved in the budget does a couple of things. The State will assume the Medicaid costs over a three year period, but also will take some of the counties' sales tax funds and other revenues. In order to allow counties to recoup some of their losses the State will allow counties to hold a referendum on a land transfer tax and ¼ cent sales tax. If the referendum passes on either, the Board of Commissioners may enact the land transfer tax or the sales tax, but not both. Note: NCACC estimates that the land transfer tax will produce \$5.9 million and the sales tax, \$8.1 million. The County Manager estimates that Medicaid relief for this fiscal year could result in a savings to the county of approximately \$673,000, based on current assumptions.

The Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners hold a Special Meeting to discuss issues related to Medicaid and options the County may pursue. Note: If a referendum is to be held in November of this year, the County will have to notify the Board of Elections by the end of August.

The Committee has suggested the Board hold a special meeting on August 20, 2007 at 5:00PM to consider its options. The Manager's Office will provide information regarding Medicaid savings/losses over the next three years and capital need projects that the County will be addressing during that timeframe.

Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager for Finance, indicated she would be bringing some issues to the Finance Committee in September relating to changes in the Governmental Accounting Standards that will affect all counties:

- (1) Audit
- (2) Post Employment Benefits
- (3) Financial Advisor

Ms. Cannon indicated would like to send out requests for proposals for a financial advisor to assist the county when it goes to the bond market for some of our capital projects.

MEETING ADJOURNED