

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE  
February 10, 1993, 4:00PM  
Regular Meeting

Present: Johnnie Evans, Chairman  
Juanita Gonzalez  
Lee Warren  
Cliff Strassenburg, Co. Mgr.  
G.B. Johnson, Co. Atty.  
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion: County Smoking Policy

In response to direction from the Committee, Cliff Strassenburg reported his findings concerning the feasibility of providing a smoking area in each of the county buildings. He selected five buildings for evaluation:

1. Courthouse
2. Law Enforcement Center
3. Cliffdale Library
4. Social Services
5. Agri-Expo Center

The following problems were identified:

1. Unassigned space to utilize as a smoking room impossible to find. Relocating staff would be required to make space available for a smoking room. In addition, an area common to both employees and the general public would need to be identified. Therefore employee breakrooms are not suitable areas to convert to smoking rooms;
2. The manner in which heating and cooling is provided in county buildings creates a problem in trying to isolate a room for smoking purposes. The return air to the mechanical systems in a building is through the plenum space above drop ceilings. This results in shared return air for all the mechanical systems making it difficult without a lot of expense to designate one room as a smoking area. A new HVAC unit and the installation of supply and return air ductwork would be required if a room in most of our buildings was designated as a smoking area.
3. In addition to finding a suitable area for the smoking room, adjacent space would have to be found for a new mechanical room to accommodate the needed additional equipment;
4. Ventilation of a smoking room, unless located on an exterior wall so that outside air would be readily available to the mechanical system serving the room, would be difficult and costly.

5. Past experience at the Social Services Building reveals that dedicated smoking rooms are not a workable solution to the problems associated with smoking in public buildings. Air cleaning systems do not perform adequately and are a continual maintenance problem.

Assuming suitable space could be found for smoking rooms in all of our county buildings, the cost to retrofit a room could run from \$3,000 to \$6,000 depending on the size of the HVAC system, air filtration system and room renovations required.

Lee Warren noted that this problem is not unique to Cumberland County and sentiment is we will have to address the problem.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion that the Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that we have a smoke-free environment in all of our county buildings and county vehicles.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Warren

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Evans stated he would not vote for a totally smoke free environment. He said for instance, the lobby at the Agri-Expo Center could be used as a smoking area. Commissioner Gonzalez noted that non-smokers would also be using the lobby. Mr. Warren noted it would be very difficult not to have a blanket policy for all buildings.

**VOTE:** FAVOR: Commissioners Gonzalez and Warren  
OPPOSED: Commissioner Evans

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion to recommend the appropriation of \$4,500 from the General Fund to provide ash urns and signage for our buildings.

**DISCUSSION:** It was noted the proposal for ash urns was to use 30 gallon drums. The Committee decided drums would not be appropriate and we should use something that would not detract from the appearance of the building.

**MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion to recommend the appropriation of \$5,000 from the General Fund to provide ash urns and signage for our buildings.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Warren

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

The Committee then discussed enforcement of this Ordinance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion that the Board establish a civil penalty in the amount of \$20.00 for the first violation and that \$10.00 be added to that for each subsequent violation.  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Warren  
**VOTE:** **FAVOR:** Commissioners Warren and Gonzalez  
**OPPOSED:** Commissioner Evans

The Committee also recommends that a Misdemeanor not be included as a part of the enforcement of this Ordinance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez offered a motion that this Ordinance become effective April 15, 1993.  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Warren  
**VOTE:** **FAVOR:** Commissioners Gonzalez and Warren  
**OPPOSED:** Commissioner Evans

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:55PM