

COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 21, 1997, 11:00AM

PRESENT: Chairman Rollin Shaw
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Johnnie Evans
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes: February 19, and February 26, 1997

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin offered a motion to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Evans
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Consideration of the Proposed County-Wide Transit Plan

Mr. Matthew Smith and Jerome Brown reviewed the plan with the Committee, to include the proposed rural routes, the major destinations in Cumberland County and the cost, \$8,617,258. Mr. Smith and Mr. Brown's recommendation on funding the system is a one-half cent sales tax.

Because of the new NCDOT Community Transportation Program and the regulations about providing transportation for human services needs, all counties will be facing some issues about providing county-wide transportation for its citizens. It was noted that of the 425,000 trips necessary to serve Cumberland County citizens, only 11% of those citizens were receiving service. A consolidated County-wide plan will help address this problem.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Brown asked the Committee to endorse the one-half cent sales tax and pledge to work with the delegation in submitting a bill in the next session of the General Assembly.

Commissioner Melvin said while he supports the Transportation Program he could not at this time support the one-half cent sales tax. He noted that his priority now is to get the one-cent local option sales tax through the General Assembly for school construction and other infrastructure needs for the county. He said until this becomes a reality he could not support the sales tax for transportation.

Commissioner Evans reiterated Mr. Melvin's comments. In addition, Commissioner Evans noted some concerns about the current transportation system within the City limits of Fayetteville, i.e., the buses are never full, in fact there may be only a few riders, and is there a need for the larger buses. Commissioner Evans said he would like some information about why there are so few people using the system, the current routes, etc.

Mr. Brown noted that the buses are utilized more during the early morning hours and the hours in the afternoon from 3:00 - 5:00PM.

In addition, in response to a question concerning how a county-wide transportation system would be governed, Mr. Smith indicated an authority would be appointed to govern the system. Members would be appointed by county commissioners, City of Fayetteville and others.

Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager, noted that the one thing important to our rural citizens is that they be served immediately and not have to wait for years to receive their service. He said he would like to see how this issue could be addressed. Mr. Smith noted that one way to address providing services to the really rural communities would be an on-demand shuttle service. Mr. Strassenburg said he did not think \$8 million would be enough money to provide a truly county-wide transportation system. He suggested that perhaps those entities who will benefit from a county-wide system pay into the system, such as Fort Bragg and some of the larger industries in our county who would be receiving a direct benefit.

Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager, indicated that there may be some other means of providing transportation in addition to buses, perhaps churches could provide vans, etc.

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin offered a motion to defer action on this matter until the committee receives more information as requested by Commissioner Evans. The Committee will agenda this item for the meeting in September.

SECOND: Commissioner Evans

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Discussion/Consideration of term designation (referred to the Committee by the Board of Commissioners at the July 7 meeting as a result of the appointment of John Tyson to the Planning Board).

Mr. Tyson was originally appointed to the Planning Board in May, 1993. He served three years and six months of a four year term. He resigned from this first term effective January 1, 1997 because he was moving from this area. He returned to Fayetteville and was appointed to the Planning Board again in May, 1997. The Board does not have guidelines in its rules and procedures regarding this matter; therefore it was referred to Policy for clarification.

Commissioner Melvin noted that the current policy of two consecutive terms could apply in this matter. He noted that Mr. Tyson served more than one-half of his first four year term and was only off the Board for a few months. He said it is his belief that Mr. Tyson is now serving a second term on the Planning Board. Commissioners Shaw and Evans concurred. This will be reported back to the Board of Commissioners.

In discussing how long someone should be off a Board after two consecutive terms before he/she would be eligible to go back on it was noted it has been the policy (unwritten) that you would be off for one year. Since this is not a written policy the Committee suggested a written policy be developed and submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin offered a motion that the one year policy be drafted and recommended to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

SECOND; Commissioner Evans

VOTE: UNANIMOUS