

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
MAY 29, 1998, 10:30AM
SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Rollin Shaw
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Commissioner Johnnie Evans
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Doug Candlers, Staff Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Bob Stanger, County Engineer
Deborah Simpson, Inspections Department

1. Approval of Minutes: April 16, 1998

MOTION: Commissioner Warren offered a motion to approve.
SECOND: Chairman Shaw
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Discussion/Consideration of the Proposed County Noise Ordinance

The committee reviewed the Proposed Ordinance and the changes made since the last meeting. Staff Attorney Doug Candlers stated we would have to validate the noise exposure levels to make sure they are adequate for Cumberland County. Equipment (decibel meters) will be purchased by the Sheriff's department in order to enforce the Ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Warren offered a motion to approve the Ordinance and recommend adoption to the Board of County Commissioners.
SECOND: Chairman Shaw
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Commissioner Warren asked the Staff Attorney for some information concerning the state law on the discharge of firearms in the county.

3. Discussion regarding the formulation of a County Policy reference Inspection Department Employees who are Contractors

The County Manager indicated the County Attorney was working on something for this; however he is out of town and nothing has been provided at this point.

The Manager indicated he believed they could address the immediate problem. He noted a couple of positions had opened up in the Tax Administrator's office to which a minimum housing employee, who is also qualified to work in the Tax Office, could be transferred. This would open up a minimum housing slot in the Inspections Department to which the employee in question (Plumbing Inspector) could be transferred (Note: She worked as a Minimum Housing Inspector in the past). The only problem at this point is the difference in salary between the employee that would transfer into a Minimum Housing position and an employee who has been in a Minimum Housing position for the last 12 years. The Plumbing Inspector's salary is higher by \$3,800.

It was determined that this is an administrative issue that the Manager can address. The consensus of the Committee was that the Plumbing Inspector would take a cut in salary in order to move into the Minimum Housing Inspector position. The options appear to be the employee could resign her position with the county in order to pursue her

contractor job, quit her contracting work or accept the Minimum Housing Inspector position at level of pay indicated for that pay range.

Commissioner Evans said that the County Attorney told him that our current policy addresses the issues of concern about Inspection Department employees working as contractors. The Department Heads will have to enforce the policy within their departments.

Commissioner Warren noted he felt this is truly an ethical problem and he wants to make sure we eliminate any future problems that could occur in any County Department.

No action taken by the committee at this time, as it is an administrative issue at this point.

4. Other Matters of concern:

A. Sewer Problem in the Gates Four Subdivision

The County has received a complaint from a resident in the Gates Four Subdivision (Thames Drive) about his septic tank. Commissioner Evans noted there are three failed systems in this subdivision. Mr. Bob Stanger, County Engineer, noted that in February, 1997 the petition received from this area did not have a high priority. However, because of the health issue it would probably move up on the County's priority list. In addition some of the projects on the priority list need to come off because some of the projects were in areas in which the people were not willing to accept a special assessment to correct the problem. In addition, some projects were too costly for residents to afford.

Mr. Stanger said the next step would be for him to ask the County Health Department to conduct an environmental study of the area to see if the septic problems are a health risk to the citizens. If that is indeed the case, this particular project would move up the County's priority list and could be addressed by the Board. Mr. Stanger noted it would take approximately \$280,000 to correct the problem which comes to \$10,000 - \$15,000 per lot (there are 22 property owners that would be affected). Mr. Stanger does have a petition signed by 55% of the property owners in the area in question asking the County to do what is needed to correct the problem.

Once Mr. Stanger receives a report from the Health Department, he will prioritize the project and develop a Preliminary Assessment Resolution to bring to the Board of Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Evans directed Mr. Stanger to pursue this matter.
SECOND: Commissioner Warren
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED