

COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 1998

Members

Present: Rollin Shaw, Chairman
Johnnie Evans
J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Others: James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Doug Canders, Staff Attorney
Bob Stanger, County Engineer
Greg Caison, Storm Water Department
Garrett Alexander, Tax Administrator
Staff

1. Approval of Minutes: September 14, 1998

The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Discussion: Amendments to the Cumberland County Code, Article III, Storm Water Planning Requirements

Mr. Greg Caison, Director, Storm Water Department, told the Committee he has met with local developers and engineers to discuss the proposed Storm Water Planning Requirements. He said there are many concerns which would take awhile to work out.

At this point, Mr. Caison asked the Committee to approve an amendment to the Ordinance that would allow his department to address quantity issues as opposed to just quality related issues. He told the Committee there is approximately \$2.5 million available this year that could be used to address some of the quantity storm water problems in the County and City of Fayetteville. This \$2.5 million is in addition to the funds that will be needed to address the on-going quality issues. Maintenance and minor drainage improvements would probably be those issues that could best be addressed, based on the amount of money available. Note: This \$2.5 million has been accumulated over a three year period.

Commissioner Warren stated he did not want to see the rate increase as a result of the county addressing some of the quantity storm water issues. He noted there are far more quantity issues than money available. Mr. Caison and members of the Storm Water Board said the quantity problems would be addressed using the money available without an increase in the fees. A priority list would have to be established.

Bob Stanger, County Engineer, suggested the Storm Water Department could present a report to the commissioners and city council on an annual basis reflecting money available to address quantity issues once the quality issues have been funded. The Board of County Commissioners and the City Council could select those projects for funding that were most pressing. The process could even be similar to the way the County funds water/sewer projects.

Commissioner Evans urged the Storm Water Department to check on state and federal funds that are available to address these problems.

MOTION: Commissioner Evans moved to recommend to the full Board of County Commissioners approval of an amendment to the Storm Water Ordinance to allow quantity issues to be addressed, based on the amount of money available in the Storm Water Fund, once the quality issues have been funded and without an increase in the Storm Water Fees.

SECOND: Chairman Rollin Shaw

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Discussion: Perk Exemption Policy (Unsuitable soils Policy)

Garrett Alexander, Tax Administrator, reviewed the policy with the committee. The purpose of the Policy is to provide an avenue to reduce tax value on lots that are unbuildable as a result of poor soils. The Policy will allow builders and owners to hire a soil scientist to certify unusable lots based on soil compensation. The Tax Department will accept the certification and make appropriate changes on the value of these lots. The Policy sets out the procedure for the certification. (Policy attached to these Minutes)

MOTION: Commissioner Warren moved to recommend approval of this Policy to the Board of County Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner Evans

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

4. Discussion of the County's Leave Without Pay Policy

As a result of a letter from the husband of a county employee the Policy Committee reviewed the County's Leave Without Pay Policy. The essence of the letter asks the County to amend its Leave Without Pay Policy to allow employees who are taking leave without pay to accumulate sick and annual leave. The current policy states that if you take leave without pay you will not accumulate annual or sick leave during that pay period.

Doug Canders, Staff Attorney, told the Committee that Leave Without Pay is not a right. It gives a department head some options in dealing with employees who may have used all of their annual leave or sick leave and who in very special instances may need some time off. It should not be allowed until annual and/or sick leave has been used. Leave Without Pay is not to be taken at the discretion of the employee, and it must be requested in writing ahead of time to their department head.

The Committee decided there is no need to change the county's policy relative to allowing employees to accumulate annual or sick leave when leave without pay is used.

5. Other matters of concern

Commissioner Warren expressed some concern about the county's mapping project that was actually started back in 1994. The project is still not complete and he asked for a status report. Garrett Alexander reviewed the history of the project noting that when the initial project was bid the scope was not sufficient for what the county really needed. In addition, one of the companies backed out of the project causing some delay in the overall project. Also, the county did not have the hardware equipment available to actually review the maps as they came in. The equipment is now in place. At this time there are a little over 12,178 parcels that have not been mapped. All of the deliverables on the GIS will be received and the County can begin to use the GIS system by June of 1999.

MEETING ADJOURNED