

COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 1999, 11:00AM

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Melvin
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
OTHERS: Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Grainger Barrett, Senior Staff Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Tonya Harris Council

INVOCATION: Chairman Ed Melvin

1. Approval of Minutes: March 18, 1999

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Consideration of Mileage Reimbursement for members of the Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Committees

Andrea Wright, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, told the Committee that Sampson County pays mileage and Harnett County has agreed to pay mileage reimbursement if Cumberland agrees to the reimbursement. Harnett County will pay 29 cents per mile. It was noted Cumberland County pays 31 cents per mile.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the full Board of Commissioners approval of mileage reimbursement for the members of these two committees at the rate of 31 cents per mile.
SECOND: Commissioner Baggett
DISCUSSION: Commissioner Blackwell asked that Ms. Wright closely monitor the mileage reimbursements for this committee.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Review of the Draft Landscape Ordinance

Appearing: Hope Barnhart, Planning Department

Ms. Barnhart told the Committee this Ordinance is very similar to the Fayetteville Ordinance, noting the following differences:

Section 14.3 Designated Entrance Corridors (The intent of this section is to ensure that streetscape trees are provided along designated entrance corridors in the County. The Corridors include, but are not limited to the following streets:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY: All American Expressway
Bragg Boulevard (NC 24/87)
Cedar Creek Road (NC 53 & 210)
Cliffdale Road
Clinton Road (Old NC 24)
Eastern Boulevard (US 301)
Elizabethtown Road (Old NC 87)
Murchison Road
New NC 87 South
New NC 24 East
Owen Drive Extension (Coliseum Entrance)
Raeford Road (US 401 South)
Raleigh Road (US 401 North)

Section 14.6: Buffers. This section will allow for buffers to provide a transition between developments in order to protect each development from possible negative effects likely to be caused by or associated with each other.

Ms. Barnhart said the City and County Ordinance are similar in order to provide some continuity and ease of implementation. She noted that this proposed Ordinance applies to new developments only, unless such properties make improvements and repairs to interior and exterior features in excess of 25% of the floor area or at least one-third of the replacement value, or changes in type of occupancy.

Commissioner Baggett said it is important that the County does not penalize people for making improvements to their business.

Grainger Barrett, Senior Staff Attorney, said there may need to be some language changes in the Ordinance in order to reflect the true intent of it.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to recommend approval of this Ordinance, subject to legal review by the County Attorney's Office, to the Board of Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

4. Discussion of Privilege Business Licenses

Grainger Barrett, Senior Staff Attorney, reviewed a report from the Tax Administrator's Office which outlined the total collected privilege license taxes for FY98-99. The report shows the County collected \$43,180 during FY99. Mr. Barrett noted there have been some concerns

expressed about the Privilege Business Licenses since last weekend as a result of a gun show at the Coliseum. He offered the following options to address some of the concerns:

1. Repeal all Business Privilege Licenses

He noted we only collected \$43,180 in the current fiscal year. The administrative cost is more than we actually collect.

2. Repeal the Buie knife and pistol license fees.
3. Retain the knife and pistol fees, but make the fee the same for both.
4. Keep everything as is.

Mr. Barrett noted that Harnett, Sampson and Robeson have eliminated their business privilege license fees.

Commissioner Baggett noted that if we are going to continue to collect these fees, it should be imposed as uniformly as possible, noting that enforcement is a problem. Commissioner Baggett stated the Tax Administrator is doing what he is supposed to do by collecting these fees.

Commissioner Baggett questioned whether these fees are worth the administrative cost to collect them. Mr. Greg Martin, Tax Administrator's Office, said he did not think the fees collected were worth the effort, and he also noted that enforcement is very difficult, because of the lack of manpower.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved that the Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the business privilege license fees be repealed, effective 7/1/99.

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett

DISCUSSION: Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager, noted that where we really lose money is in the sales tax not collected. Mr. Jim Faircloth, owner of Jim's Pawn Shop noted if we only took in \$43,180, he had paid 5% of that fee. He noted concern that people come in from out of town, sell their wares and pay none of the fees he and other businesses have to pay. He said it is not fair if the local vendors have to pay the fee and the transient vendors do not.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Mr. Barrett noted that \$1,450 will be refunded to some of the vendors at the Gun and Knife Show held at the Agri-Expo Center last weekend.

5. Other Matters of Concern

A. Stipends for Boards/Committees

The following Boards/Committees receive stipends as follows:

Board of Elections: Chairman: Salary of \$8,300 annually
Members: \$35.00 per meeting
All Members: \$150 on the day of elections

NCGS 163-32 provides for reimbursement for all members at a minimum of \$25.00 per meeting. Commissioners, at their discretion, may reimburse the chairman and the members more than the minimum, if they so choose.

ABC Board: Chairman: \$250 per month
Members: \$200 per month

NCGS 18B-700(g) provides that members may be compensated as determined by the appointing authority. The compensation noted above was approved by the Board of Commissioners on September 26, 1995.

Jury Commission: Members receive \$250 for their term of service (2 years)

NCGS 9-1 states that compensation for Jury Commission members shall be fixed by the Board of Commissioners and paid from the general fund of the county.

Board of Equalization and Review: Members receive \$50 per meeting

This per diem was set forth in the Resolution Establishing the Special Board of Equalization and Review for Cumberland County.

Commissioner Blackwell said he thought most citizens serving on our Boards/Committees are willing to serve without compensation. He said he did not think any of our Boards/Committees should receive compensation unless directed by the General Statutes, noting that the Jury Commission, the Board of Elections and the E&R Board come under the statutes as far as stipends are concerned. He did note however, the County is not required to pay more than \$25.00 per meeting for Board of Election members.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Board of Election members be paid as follows: Chairman - \$50.00 per meeting; Other members - \$35.00 per meeting; and that they are all paid \$150 on election day.

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the ABC Board members receive no compensation.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved that the Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners the following compensation for the ABC Board members:
Chairman - \$100 per month; Other members - \$50 per month.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Melvin expressed concern that if we take away their current compensation they may not be as amenable to giving over a million dollars to the county in ABC profits. Commissioner Blackwell said he did not think there was anyone on that board who would retaliate against the County because of their compensation.

VOTE: FAVOR: Commissioners Baggett, Blackwell

OPPOSED: Commissioner Melvin

B. Insurance for Board of Education members

Mr. Baggett said he would like to know if the County has a policy about providing health insurance to Board of Education members. It was noted this issue came before the Board a couple of years ago. Staff will research and bring information back to the Policy Committee at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:00 Noon.