

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 4, 2002, 9:30AM

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette Council  
Commissioner John Henley  
Commissioner Talmage Baggett  
James Martin, County Manager  
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager  
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager  
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney  
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

Chairman Council called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2002

**MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to approve the Minutes.**  
**SECOND: Commissioner Council**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**  
**(Note) Commissioner Baggett not present for the vote.**

2. Consideration of the adoption of the new North Carolina Fire Prevention Code, permits, associated fees and Civil Citation schedule.

The new NC Fire Prevention Code was implemented on January 1, 2002. The Fire Marshal is requesting the Committee to recommend approval of the fees associated with enforcement of the Code and permit fees to the Board of Commissioners. (See attachment)

**MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that the Policy Committee recommend adoption of the fees to the Board of Commissioners.**  
**SECOND: Commissioner Council**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**  
**(Note) Commissioner Baggett was not present for the vote.**

3. Consideration of microchip/fee schedule for the Animal Control Department

**BACKGROUND:** The Animal Control Board, at its meeting on March 19, 2002, adopted a motion to recommend the following new annual license fees:

Each sterilized dog/cat	\$7.00
Each unsterilized dog/cat	\$25.00

County residents 65 years of age and older may obtain a permanent license for up to 3 dogs/cats at no cost;

County residents may obtain a permanent license at no cost for a bona fide seeing-eye or aid dog (County Code);

Discount of the annual license fee for breeders/hunters who own multiple animals as follows:

Unsterilized dogs/cats:	5-15	\$100 license fee annually
	16 +	\$150 license fee annually

The Animal Control Board also recommends that the Board of Commissioners incorporate the microchip system by increasing the adoption cost of animals from the County Animal Shelter by \$6.00 (the actual cost of the chip). The remaining \$5.00 (registration fee) would be absorbed by the County. Note: The startup cost of the microchip program is estimated to be \$8,213 (750 chips @ \$10.95 each).

Commissioner Council expressed concern about the freezing of positions in the Animal Control Department with the start-up of the new programs. James Martin, County Manager, indicated he had lifted the freeze on one of the positions, and that the two new positions requested would be included in the new fiscal year budget (2003). Mr. Rascoe, Animal Control Director, said it is their hope that the new fee schedule will support the salaries of the two new people, perhaps not the first or second year, but maybe after that.

Commissioner Henley suggested that perhaps an ordinance should be drawn up to address issues such as fines if veterinarians do not comply with the agreement to forward information to the county relative to the vaccination of animals and what happens if owners of pets do not register and/or pay the license fees.

In response to a question concerning the County's technology system to deal with all of the information, it was noted we do not yet have a system in place. However, Mr. Rascoe indicated he and our Data Processing Department will visit Wake County to look at their system to see if we can do something similar here.

Questions arose about how to certify that a pet has been sterilized. Some possible options would be to generate a form the veterinarians could stamp or sign certifying sterilization. Concerns arose about whether or not the veterinarians would be willing to take the time to do this.

Commissioner Baggett posed some questions concerning the County's Animal Control Department relationship with Fort Bragg, noting there are a lot of service men/women who live on and off base who have domestic animals. Mr. Rascoe said that Ft. Bragg is trying to address the issue of what to do with pets when

servicemen/women are deployed. They require the soldiers to fill out a form which will denote any pets owned by them. If and when they are deployed, those pets are given to caretakers to care for. It was also noted, the military is subject to the pet fees if they live off base.

Commissioner Henley suggested that perhaps a public hearing might be helpful in educating and notifying the public of the new fees and regulations.

**MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the fees recommended by the Animal Control Board be approved, effective January 1, 2003.**

**SECOND: Commissioner Baggett**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that the Policy Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners to adopt the microchip system by increasing the adoption cost of the animals adopted from the County Animal Shelter by \$6.00. The County will pay the remaining \$5.00.**

**SECOND: Commissioner Council**

**DISCUSSION: Commissioner Baggett suggested that perhaps the County pay ½ of the cost as opposed to \$5.00. He said he would make this a friendly amendment to the motion. However, following some discussion Commissioner Baggett said he would go with the original motion.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

The Committee also asked the County Attorney to draw up an ordinance addressing fraudulent statements made when reporting your animals are sterilized or unsterilized and to address consequences if veterinarians do not send in information on vaccinations to the county at the appropriate times. This proposed ordinance will come back to the Policy Committee for review.

4. Consideration of adopting a policy for the use of Room 119 in the Courthouse

The Committee discussed the following issues:

Categorizing groups that may use the room, i.e., civic organizations, non-profit groups, education groups, government agency groups, etc.;

Whether to charge for use of the room;

Should the policy that is adopted be for all county buildings, or if departments have already adopted a policy for its building, should it remain in place;

**MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to direct Staff to draw up a proposed policy for the Committee to review.**

**SECOND: Commissioner Baggett**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

5. Other matters of concern

The Board of Commissioners, at their meeting on April 2, 2002, referred to the committee discussion of the process of the appointments to Boards and Committees.

The Committee expressed concern about the difficulty in filling and keeping filled some of the positions on some of our committees.

The Clerk explained that we solicit applicants for boards/committees in December of each year. The request for the Board to fill expired terms goes to the Board 30 days in advance of the expiration dates.

Some boards/committees require more time than others, and in some instances appointees find they can not fulfill their duties on a particular board. When there are resignations and requests from Boards to replace people because of non-attendance, those requests are brought before the Board of Commissioners when they are received.

No action was taken.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**