

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 7, 2002, 9:30AM

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner John Henley
OTHERS: Breeden Blackwell, Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager/Finance Officer
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
ABSENT: Commissioner Talmage Baggett

The following agenda items have been pulled from the agenda:

7. Consideration of the Wrecker Ordinance – will be heard at the next meeting
8. Discussion of bartering
9. Determination of the county policy on county employees who are called into active military duty from the Reserves – will be heard at the next meeting

Item #10 – Discussion of creating a policy concerning the naming of county buildings is referred to the County Attorney for study

1. Election of Chairman: Jeannette Council was unanimously elected Chairman.
2. Set regular meeting date and time: First Thursday of each month at 9:30AM
3. Minutes: November 8, 2001 – Minutes approved as submitted
4. Consideration of approval of changes in purchasing

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners of the changes in the County's Purchasing Policy to increase the formally bidding threshold for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials and equipment from \$50,000 to \$90,000, which models the State policy.

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Presentation of Draft Report – County Rural Water Study

Ms. Chris Nesbitt, CDM, reviewed the report. This same report will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its March 11, 2002 meeting. The report was also provided to each member of the Board of Commissioners. The County will be divided into seven districts, i.e., Bethany, Vander, Stedman, Rockfish, Grays Creek, Beaver Dam and Linden. She said it is the recommendation of CDM that the Bethany and Vander Districts be established first, as they both meet grant eligibility, population density and have proximity to existing PWC water mains. The Board of Commissioners would serve as the governing board of each district. Once the report is made to the full Board of Commissioners and a determination made about which districts to do first, we will apply for grants and/or loans from USDA. In addition there may be some State Revolving Fund low interest loans available and some funds from the Community Development Block Grants. While Ms. Nesbitt pointed out that PWC will have to expand the Hoffer Water

Treatment Facility in 2010, she said that the addition of these rural water districts is not the primary reason for expansion. James Martin, County Manager, inquired if the rates would be lower if the district is seen as a Rural Wholesale system. Mr. Tom McNeill, PWC, said the rates would actually be lower doing it based on outside city rates. Mr. Martin said he thought the rates were a bit high and that this is something that could be negotiated with PWC as we go through the process. The estimated cost to do the Bethany and Vander Districts is about \$5.8 million each. A detailed report has been provided to the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that the Policy Committee endorse the report and that it be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the March 11, 2002 meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Bob Stanger, County Engineer, said he would like to send out a request for qualifications to engineers immediately so there is no holdup in the projects. He also noted that a concern of his that there may not be local engineers who have worked with USDA on these rural water projects. He said he thought it was very important that engineers who are familiar with USDA regulations be brought on board for the projects. It was suggested that perhaps some local firms could partner with them so they can learn the procedures.

6. Animal Control Issues

Monroe Rascoe, Animal Control Director, asked the Committee to consider his request for an increase in license fees and a fee for microchipping. He is asking for an increase in the license fee from \$7.00 to \$10.00 and that the cost of microchipping be passed on to the user. He is requesting that a \$25 fee be charged for microchipping.

Mr. Rascoe noted that the County Animal Control Board did not approve staff's request for an increase in license fees or a fee for microchipping. Their concerns were that if people have to pay more to adopt, there will be less adoption.

County Staff noted that the pet license fee would only have to be raised by one dollar in order to generate enough money to do the microchipping program.

Commissioner Henley noted it is difficult for the commissioners to approve something that the Animal Control Board has rejected.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that action be deferred on this issue and that staff develop a plan that would encourage people to register their pets, and that any increase in the fee schedule should include a reduction for people whose animals have been spayed and neutered, and that the Animal Control Board approve all of the above before submitting it to the Policy Committee for consideration.

SECOND: Commissioner Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

12. Discussion of rescheduling commissioners' meetings which may fall on national holidays

The Committee asked Staff to bring back to the next meeting a list of national holiday dates.

MEETING ADJOURNED