

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 4, 2005 – 8:30 AM
REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Billy King
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Grainer Barrett, County Attorney
Laretha Clark, Paralegal
Bob Stanger, County Engineer
Tom Cooney, Public Utilities Director
Sara VanderClute, Public Information Officer
Nancy Roy, Planning/Inspections Director
Ken Sykes, Code Enforcement Coordinator
Ed Hamblin, Animal Control Board Chairman
Ann Hymes, Deputy Clerk

1. Approval Of Minutes: September 2, 2004

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

2. Election of Chairman

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to appoint
Commissioner Baggett as Chairman.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. Set Date for Regular Meeting

The Committee set the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM as its regular meeting date.

4. Consideration of Waiving \$7 Privilege License (Tax) on Retired Law Enforcement Service Animals

Grainger Barrett stated that this is a request from the Animal Control Board. Basically when a law enforcement canine is retired, it is given to its handler and becomes his/her private property. The Animal Control Board requests that the privilege license be waived on retired service animals.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that retired law enforcement canines be exempt from the \$7 animal privilege license (tax).
SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Policy on Renovations to County Facilities

Commissioner Blackwell said he requested the County Engineering Department to develop a policy to address renovation projects for County facilities and submit it to the Policy Committee. County Engineer, Bob Stanger, said the concern is that there is no review process to evaluate the merits of a departmental request for alterations or renovations to a County facility that changes the use or architectural treatment of the space within a facility. A policy is needed to ensure any proposed renovation project is a justifiable expenditure of public funds and not hinder the department's ability to improve the functionality of its workplace. The policy would apply to all projects where the use of architectural treatment of the space is altered and the estimated cost of the work is \$5,000 or greater. A written request will be submitted by the Department Head to the County Manager for the renovation project containing the following information: (1.) A description of the scope of work, indicating whether or not the project will be done in multiple phases. (2.) Estimated cost of the work, including all phases. Indicate funding source. (3.) Justification for the project. (4.) What, if any, alternatives there may be. (5.) If the department has a governing board, indicate whether or not the proposed project has been reviewed and endorsed by the board. The County Manager will review the request and take the following action: (1.) Approve the request as submitted; (2.) In consultation with the department head, approve a revised scope of the work; (3.) Disapprove the request. The department head may appeal the County Manager's decision to the County Facilities Committee.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to approve the Policy on Renovations to County Facilities.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The recommendation will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the August 15, 2005 County Commissioners' Meeting.

6. Consideration of Authorizing a Charge for Road Closures

Laretha Clark, Paralegal in the County Attorney's Office, stated that last year the County Attorney's office processed three road closings initiated by private citizens. It has been the policy of the County not to charge for this courtesy; however, it is becoming increasingly more costly. Last year the County Attorney's office closed three roads as a courtesy to citizens. The cost to the County, which benefits and adds value to the property of adjacent owners, was in the thousands. The average advertising cost has been \$708.89. The City of Fayetteville now charges the requesting party \$500 per road closing to offset the cost of the procedure and to discourage people from starting and not continuing with the closure.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to charge \$500 for road closings, effective on the date approved by the Board of Commissioners.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

There will be no charge to those citizens who have road closing requests pending. This will be presented to the Board of Commissioners' at the August 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

7. Consideration of Local Legislation Regarding Hunting Deer with Dogs

Grainger Barrett stated that other counties have obtained local legislation restricting hunting deer with dogs. The General Assembly has pre-empted this area. The Board of Commissioners would have to conduct a public hearing to receive public comments, and then request the General Assembly to modify deer hunting regulations in Cumberland County. Mr. M. L. Core with the Bethany Hunting Club stated the Club hunts with dogs on Saturdays, with the exception of some vacations and holidays. He said they do not kill deer, they harvest wild life. Because this is a State regulated issue, Commissioner Blackwell recommended that the Policy Committee take no action. Commissioners Baggett and King agreed.

8. Consideration of an Interlocal Agreement with Robeson County to Provide Public Water to a proposed Subdivision on Roslin Farm Road in Cumberland County Near the Robeson County Line

Tom Cooney, Public Utilities Director, stated that he received a request from David Mathews of Moorman, Kizer and Reitzel on behalf of Robeson County for Robeson County to provide public water service to a proposed subdivision on Roslin Farm Road in southern Cumberland County. Presently Cumberland County does not have any immediate plans or the capability to provide water to this area. Cumberland County has an Interlocal Agreement in place with Harnett County to provide water service in northern portions of the County that cannot be served by PWC. He recommends an Interlocal Agreement similar to the one issued to Harnett County be issued to Robeson County to provide public water service to residents of Cumberland County.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that an Interlocal Agreement be issued with Robeson County to provide public water to a proposed subdivision on Roslin Farm Road in Cumberland County near the Robeson County line.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

9. Amendments to Abandoned, Nuisance, and Junked Motor Vehicles (Article III of the Cumberland County Code)

Nancy Roy, Planning/Inspections Director, reviewed the proposed ordinance changes. Two significant changes would be: (1.) to insert an in-house

hearing procedure giving the vehicle owner the opportunity to challenge the determination that his/her vehicle violates the ordinance; and (2.) remove the two exceptions allowing a vehicle to stay in a state of disrepair, in the open yard space anywhere from 90-180 days. She noted that the City of Fayetteville has 2 seven day appeal periods. Commissioner Baggett expressed concern that seven days might not allow enough time for appeal. The Committee members agreed that the appeal period should be extended to 15 days.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of the proposed amendments to Abandoned, Nuisance, and Junked Motor Vehicles with the exception of changing the seven day appeal period to a 15 day appeal period.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

10. Consideration of Policy Regarding Public Comment at Commissioners' Meetings

Commissioner Baggett stated that the General Assembly adopted a bill requiring all Board of Commissioners, Boards of Education and Municipal Boards to have a Public Comment Period at one meeting per month. Commissioner King suggested the Public Comment Period for the County Commissioners' Meetings be held at the second meeting of the month to accommodate citizens who work during the day. The Public Comment Period would be the first item on the agenda at 6:45 PM. Commissioner Baggett emphasized that profanity and indecent language would not be tolerated. Commissioner King said the Public Comment Period would follow the same principles as a regular Commissioners' Meeting. The guidelines would be read by the County Manager or the Board Chairman prior to the Public Comment Period. The County Attorney suggested that public comments be germane to the business of the County, and that this would not be a time for a debate. If follow-up on an item is necessary, it will be referred to the appropriate staff. He added that speakers maintain decorum and not make personal attacks.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to present the Public Comment Policy, as amended, to the Board of Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

11. Other Matters of Concern

There were no other matters for discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:30 AM