

MINUTES

Reconvened from Recessed Meeting of March 14, 2003

RETREAT

March 15, 2003

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 15, 2003, Room 226, Mendenhall Building, Davidson County Community College, Lexington, to continue the Planning Retreat.

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Fred Sink, Vice Chair Priscilla Hege, Cindy Akins, Billy Joe Kepley, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser, Sam Watford

County Manager Robert Hyatt, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Stephen Holton, Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Human Resources Director Keli Greer, Economic Development Director Steve Googe

RECONVENE

Chairman Sink called the meeting to order to reconvene the Planning Retreat.

Economic Development

Steve Googe discussed the allies of Davidson County Economic Development including Piedmont Triad Partnership, NC Department of Commerce, Workforce Development Board, Davidson Vision and GIS. He noted that Piedmont Triad has provided \$10,000 to Davidson County sewer grants and \$6,000 to Economic Development for equipment. Mr. Googe further noted that Davidson County is one of two counties that are not fully funding Piedmont Triad Partnership. He noted the importance of GIS for the work of Economic Development.

Mr. Googe then passed out information on the population of Davidson County by township which included per capita income, commuting patterns, labor force, people with four-year degrees, new residents, and people without high school diplomas.

Mr. Googe apprised the Board of industrial sites in the County and noted that certified sites receive the first look, identifying certified sites as those with water, sewer, and natural gas. He informed the Board that he is working on the Lexington and Sapona Business Parks and noted that there are five lots

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left in the Lexington Industrial Park. He noted that sometimes counties front the money for certifications with the understanding that the money will be paid back. He stated that Fed-Ex will help market the Lexington Business Park, a million-dollar-a-year customer, and that the Fed-Ex Hub is coming to the area too.

Vice Chair Hege advocated pursuing commercial businesses for location in the County.

Mr. Googe responded that restaurants are being recruited to locate in the area of the Childress winery business. He then informed the Board that Winston-Salem has a revolving fund for small businesses that need funding in order to get started. He noted that the county needs to embrace the existing businesses and if he had one more full-time employee, that person could spend one-half day on existing businesses and one-half day on research.

Chairman Sink stated that the County needs to give Economic Development what is needed to do their work so that other counties will not continue to get the businesses that Davidson County badly needs.

Steve Googe advocated the following:

- a. using a consulting firm to get good firm leads
- b. offering incentives
- c. leave the economic development *set aside* in place
- d. create a one cent incentive *set aside* for seven years
- e. establish a committee to figure how best to use the one cent incentive *set aside*

Mr. Googe further remarked that there is now \$335,584 uncommitted in the *set aside*. He noted that the funding for the Lexington Business park will be repaid when the Park is completely full.

Commissioner Kepley stated that the Yadkin Pee Dee Lakes Project has hired William Medlin to address rural development. Mr. Googe then apprised the Board of several prospects.

Commissioner Watford discussed the use of \$150,000 for priorities for Economic Development including certified sites, personnel, professional prospects, sewer, tourism, GIS, incentives.

Mr. Googe advocated using \$150,000 to promote Economic Development and introduced the idea of a \$50,000,000 bond referendum.

Human Resources

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Keli Greer was present for discussion of a *Pay Grade Classification Study*. The Board was informed that the last study was done and adjustments made in 1999. Commissioner Truell suggested a three-year plan, doing one-third of the employees per year. Robert Hyatt suggested doing a comprehensive study at a cost of \$35,000-\$36,000. The Board then agreed to approve the Pay Grade Classification Study at the March 25, 2003 meeting.

Robert Hyatt apprised the Board that the former *Emergency Services Director* had been responsible for EMS, Emergency Management, and the Fire Marshall Office. Commissioner Akins suggested hiring an *Emergency Management Director* and keep the Fire Marshal and Emergency Medical Services managers in place. Chairman Sink agreed.

Mr. Hyatt then suggested changing the *Public Buildings/Maintenance Director* position to *Public Works Director* with the requirements of an engineering background, knowledge of water and sewer, and knowledge of infrastructure.

Mr. Hyatt then apprised the Board of the need for a *Risk Management/Benefits* position with an insurance background. Chairman Sink requested that a job description be brought before the Board.

The County Manager advocated not changing the health insurance this fiscal year.

Commissioner Akins suggested charging Lexington and Denton for part of the RPO membership dues.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman

Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Stephen C. Holton, Clerk to the Board

Davidson County Board of Commissioners