

MINUTES

June 5, 2003

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M., on Thursday, June 5, 2003, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Governmental Center, 913 Greensboro Street, Lexington, North Carolina for an informational meeting and budget worksession..

PRESENT

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

County Manager Robert Hyatt, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Stephen Holton, Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Interim Public Buildings Director Scott Rickard and Jerry Kennedy, Interim Emergency Services Director Doug Lowe, Inspections Director Ron Triplette, Finance Director Jane Kiker, MIS/GIS Director Joel Hartley, Fire Marshal Perry Tyler, Mental Health Director Billy West , Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Clerk of Court Brian Shipwash, Human Resources Director Keli Greer, Social Services Director Catherine Lambeth , Health Director Diane Crouse, JTEC Director Pat Everhart, Parks and Recreation Director Charles Parnell, Tourism Development Coordinator JoEllen Edwards, Senior Services Representative Donna Campbell, Skip Stoner, Jim Bell Graham, former commissioners Fred McClure and Rick Lanier

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Fred Sink called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

B. INVOCATION

Commissioner Sam Watford

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. RECOGNITION

E. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS

Chairman Sink noted the register for public address.

F. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Kepley and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously

7-0 to adopt the agenda with the addition of Attorney/Client in Closed Session. (Exhibit 1)

G. PUBLIC ADDRESS

Barney Hill advocated stopping funds for cable regulations, establishing an enterprise fund or privatizing GIS, and privatizing box sites.

Fred McClure advocated property tax reduction of one cent, privatization of box sites, no additional funding for animal control officers, and a hiring freeze.

H. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DECISION

1. User Friendly Justice Program by Brian Shipwash, Clerk of Court

Brian Shipwash presented a program focused on court services that places emphasis on providing all users of the courts with services that are understandable, convenient, and easy to use. He noted that there is some cost involved to do the projects and that he has access to some funding in the \$20,000 shared discretionary funds, and that there is some accessible funding for acoustics. The Board accepted the information. (Exhibit 2)

2. Trading Ford Historical District by Ann Brownlee

The Board received information from Ann Brownlee, a historic preservationist from Salisbury, on the historic significance of the Trading Ford area across the Yadkin River at the I-85 bridges. Ms. Brownlee requested the Board consider adopting a resolution to be sent to NCDOT to exhaust all efforts to preserve the area. The Board agreed to place the resolution on the June 10, 2003 consent agenda.

(Exhibit 3)

3. GIS Data Changes by Joel Hartley, MIS Director

Joel Hartley introduced four proposals for review and consideration: 1) the addition of GIS data layers on the County website, 2) a cap of \$1,000 on the GIS fee schedule, 3) a new fee for customized GIS information starting with \$65 for the first hour of work and \$40 per hour thereafter, and 4) a reduction of price on the Maps on CD product from \$500 to \$250. The Board agreed to place the proposals on the June 10, 2003 consent agenda. (Exhibit 4)

4. Mental Health Management Agreement by Billy West, Mental Health Director

Billy West presented the proposed Mental Health Management Agreement between

Davidson County and Piedmont Behavioral Health. The Board agreed to place the agreement on the June 10, 2003 agenda. (Exhibit 5)

5. Proposed Property Lease by Stephen C. Holton, County Attorney

Mr. Holton presented the proposed annual lease for Michael Swicegood to enable him to continue farming approximately 30 of 40 acres acquired by the County from the Glosson Estate at a cost of \$20 per acre for approximately two years or until such time as the school construction begins. The Board agreed to place the lease on the June 10, 2003 consent agenda.

6. SMAT III Equipment by Doug Lowe, Interim EMS Director

Doug Lowe presented a request for approval to apply for the SMAT Type III Equipment Grant to provide EMS responders with protective, detection, decontamination equipment and training. Mr. Lowe noted that the total cost of the equipment is \$75,000 with 100% funding from the State. The Board agreed to place the request for grant application on the June 10, 2003 consent agenda. (Exhibit 6)

7. Homeland Security Grant by Doug Lowe, Interim EMS Director

The Board received a request for permission to apply for the Homeland Security Grant to provide first responders with protective, assessment, detection, decontamination equipment and training. Mr. Lowe noted that the total for the grant is \$149,129. Mr. Lowe noted that the funding is from the Department of Justice and that purchasing of equipment would be local procurement initially with reimbursement to follow. He further noted that there is no time limit. The Board agreed to place the grant application on the June 10, 2003 consent agenda. (Exhibit 7)

H. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel and Attorney/Client

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Closed Session for personnel matters and attorney/client.

Return to Open Session

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to return to Open Session.

County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Stephen Holton reported discussion of personnel matters and attorney/client with no action taken.

I. BUDGET WORKSESSION

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Commissioner Walser inquired about the growth figure of 3.30% noted in the budget message and the amount of fund balance.

County Manager Robert Hyatt responded that the growth was mostly from new housing. Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner noted that the fund balance is \$17,000,000 and that on the average Davidson County is in line with other North Carolina counties. Mr. Hanner responded \$26,500 to Commissioner Walser's inquiry as to how much of last year's fund balance was transferred to the 2003-2004 budget.

Vice Chair Hege stated that she had a problem with a tax increase and would like to look at some privatization, questioning Recreation services and the landfill *pay-as-you-go*.

Commissioner Kepley explained the value of maintaining fund balance and the need to hold the line on salary increases. He noted his support of the Landfill position but did not support the Animal Control additional position. He further noted that he does not support a tax increase and questioned *Commissioners' Expense Budget & Travel*.

Commissioner Watford advocated "cutting every department by a small percentage."

Commissioner Akins recommended eliminating the van, nine vehicles, \$200,000 for salary increases, and take \$900,000 out of the General Fund.

Chairman Sink stated that it is a difficult year for a 1.5% tax increase and he noted that there would probably be no salary increases. He commended Robert Hyatt and Zeb M. Hanner for their work on the proposed budget and advocated referring the budget back to them for some revisions.

Commissioner Walser stated that economic development and education are the saviour for this county. He further stated that he does not favor a tax increase and that a 3% increase to schools will only allow them to "hold the line." He stated that he would like to know what reducing the fund balance from \$17,000,000 to \$15,000,000 would do to the County's borrowing power and he would like to have an explanation of the Sheriff Office budget.

Vice Chair Hege commended Robert Hyatt and Zeb M. Hanner for their work on the budget.

Commissioner Watford noted that he would favor cutting the Commissioners' Expense. He questioned the County share of 8% with the increase in the Mental Health Budget from \$11,195,000 last year to \$14,500,000 this year.

Zeb M. Hanner noted that the County's share of 8% is based on last year's figures.

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The Board then agreed by consensus to hold a budget workshop on Tuesday, June 10, 2003, at 5:30 P.M. prior to the public hearing and scheduled meeting at 7:00 P.M.

K. RECESS

On a motion by Commissioner Watford and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to recess the meeting to Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 5:30 P.M.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman
Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Stephen C. Holton, Clerk to the Board
Davidson County Board of Commissioners