

MINUTES

February 7, 2008

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 8:00 A.M. in the Board Room at the Davidson County Economic Development Building, on the Davidson County Community College Campus, for a planning retreat.

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Larry Potts, Vice Chairman Billy Joe Kepley, Larry Allen, Fred McClure, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser, Sam Watford

County Manager Robert Hyatt, Assistant County Manager Zeb M. Hanner, County Attorney Robert Hedrick, Clerk to the Board Anne Burkhart, Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Tax Administrator Joe Silver, Clerk of Court Brian Shipwash, Sheriff David Grice, Judge Mark Klass, Public Works and Services Director Rex Buck, Economic Development Director Steve Googe

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Potts referred to the planning retreat agenda and asked for items to be added to the agenda.

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Commissioner McClure the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to add a Closed Session for Economic Development to the agenda.

Brainstorming

The Board requested the following items be discussed:

Reservoir, Staffing at Lake Thom-A-Lex, Video Taping, Private-Public Partnership Schools, Salaries for Law Enforcement and First Responders, Alternate Fuel Vehicles, Pay Anywhere, Methane Gas/Solar Vehicles, Prescription Drug Card Update, Transportation Seminar (Rowan County).

Status Report on 2007-2008 Budget by Zeb M. Hanner

Zeb M. Hanner presented a power-point report on the status of the current budget. Mr. Hanner reported on collection of sales tax, Inspection fees, Register of Deeds fees, and ambulance fees. He noted that Social Services makes up 20% of the revenue budget and \$8.2 million goes to Medicaid.

Tax/Revenue Update for 2008-2009 by Joe Silver

Joe Silver then shared information in the methods of tax collection and reported that the habitual delinquent taxpayers are being pursued. He noted, however, that 80% pay on time.

Proposed 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Plan

Zeb Hanner reviewed the capital projects that have been completed, those in process, and those projects coming up. He presented the status of each and noted that these are the things that drive our budget.

Commissioner McClure noted that Davidson Vision is looking at what having one school system could mean for our county.

Mr. Hanner then presented a recap of funds for sewer, schools, landfill enterprise fund, and general government projects. He noted that \$141,966,925 in funds will be required for the next 5 years and \$178,498,659 for the next 6 years. Mr. Hanner noted the sources of funds and noted \$96,000,000 will need to be borrowed to finish projects. He noted that the outstanding debt, the projected interest, and principal payments by debt method. Mr. Hanner then compared the impact of the current tax rate at \$.54 per \$100 valuation versus a \$.02 increase to the tax rate.

Review of Space Needs Study

Dwayne Childress presented a power point on the space needs study. It was noted that the District Attorney can be moved to the old 911 Center located on Salem Street.

Sheriff David Grice noted an increase of 54% in the jail population from 2001 to 2007, which reflects a 7.7% increase yearly. He further noted that the capacity of the jail is 298 and only 80% is supposed to be used.

Discussion continued with Judge Mark Klass and Brian Shipwash contributing information on their space needs and the status of the continuing needs for court.

Information was passed out from Jack Hemphill, Architect who designed the existing jail addition. The Board reviewed the options on the expansion of the existing jail.

Sheriff Grice shared figures on a new jail offsite and utilizing the best of the existing jail.

On a motion by Commissioner McClure and a second by Commissioner Truell, the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to authorize the County Manager to contact the consultant and to move ahead with the study and planning process for a new jail and appoint a Jail Steering Committee consisting of Sheriff

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Grice, Alamance County's Sheriff, Dwayne Childress, Brian Shipwash, Commissioner Fred McClure, and Commissioner Larry Allen.

Rex Buck estimated \$55,000 to convert the old 911 Center for District Attorney Offices.

On a motion by Commissioner McClure and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to move ahead with the renovation of the previous 911 Center on Salem Street for the District Attorney Offices.

Judge Mark Klass noted that the probation/parole and court affiliates need to be closer to the courthouse.

The Board approved by consensus the request by Brian Shipwash to form a group to study and create a plan for the courts in the courthouse after the jail is moved. The study group will include representatives from Public Works and Services, Administrative Office of the Courts, Sheriff Grice, Brian Shipwash, Judge Wayne Michael, and Judge Mark Klass.

Options for the space needs of the Governmental Center were discussed. It was noted that the Social Services Department has the greatest need. The Board agreed that Health and Social Services should be together and Planning and Zoning near to Inspections.

Commissioners Walser and Allen were in favor of renovating the Don Mays Building. Commissioners Watford, Truell and McClure were in favor of new construction. Commissioner Kopley suggested using the Don Mays building for a warehouse and build beside the 911 building; Chairman Potts agreed with Commissioner Kopley's suggestion.

The Board also discussed the needs at Cecil School, particularly for the Parks and Recreation Department, and needs for the main Library and EMS. Robert Hyatt agreed to check on getting a quarter of a cent (would raise \$2.7 million) on the ballot for sales tax in November and bring the verbiage back to the Board.

Economic Development

Steve Googe apprised the Board that North Carolina is to be marketed in Italy (home base of Arneg) by Department of Commerce in April.

Closed Session

On a motion by Commissioner Allen and a second by Commissioner McClure the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Closed Session for an Economic Development matter.

Return to Open Session

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

County Attorney Robert Hedrick reported discussion of an Economic Development matter with no action taken.

Board Deliberation on Issues Identified

Reservoir Study 2002 results were presented by Commissioner Kepley. Commissioner Kepley noted that with the water level down 13 feet in 2008, a survey should be taken and plans formulated to submit a grant application for building a reservoir and park area. The Board acknowledged that the Reservoir concerns would be placed on the March 6, 2008 meeting agenda.

Lake Thom-A-Lex was discussed and the Board was receptive to hiring an employee to look after the premises. The Board acknowledged the employee would not have to have law enforcement certification.

Video Taping was discussed and the Board was receptive to look into the option for taping meetings.

Private Public Partnership for putting schools in place was discussed. Commissioner Walser agreed to get more information for the Board.

Salaries of Law Enforcement and EMS brought about discussion from the Board. Robert Hyatt reported that the process has already been started for law enforcement and EMS will be next.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles were discussed for County use. Robert Hyatt noted that some are in use already.

Methane Gas (Solar) was also discussed. Robert Hyatt informed the Board that a proposal was being put together.

Prescription Drug Card usage was questioned. Zeb Hanner noted that he will put a report in the Commissioners' mailboxes.

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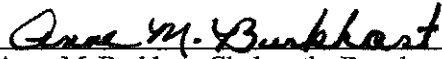
Transportation Meeting in Rowan County was discussed. Robert Hyatt noted that mobility study is being put together and including the status of the Wilcox Bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Allen and a second by Commissioner Watford, the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn.



Larry W. Potts, Chairman
Davidson County Board of Commissioners



Anne M. Burkhart, Clerk to the Board
Davidson County Board of Commissioners