

MINUTES

June 5, 2008

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Governmental Center, 913 North Greensboro Street, Lexington, North Carolina for a regularly scheduled informational meeting.

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, Deputy Clerk to the Board Debbie Harris, Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Human Resources Director Jim Tysinger, DSS Staff Attorney Charles E. Frye III, IT Director Joel Hartley, Health Director Layton Long, Day Reporting Director Angela Scott, Tax Director Joe Silver, EMS Director, Doug Lowe, DSS Director Keith Johnson, Health Department Director Layton Long, Public Works Director Rex Buck, Transportation Director Zeb Hanner, Cooperative Extension Director Robert Lopp, Veteran's Services Director Boyd Morgan, Library Director Ruth Ann Copley, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Recreation Director Charles Parnell, 911 Director Terry Bailey, Board of Elections Director Ruth Huneycutt, Register of Deeds David Rickard, Senior Services Director Thessia Everhart-Roberts, Sheriff David Grice, Inspections Director Ron Triplette, Integrated Solid Waste Director Charlie Brushwood, Soil and Water Director Andy Miller, Economic Development Director Steve Googe, Social Services Supervisor Lynn Meeks, Planning and Zoning Officer Scott Leonard, 911 Supervisor Dwayne Condrey, GIS Supervisor Linda Hairston, Steve DeWitt, Pat Ivey, Jo Ellen Edwards, Willie Edwards, Dr. Becky Bloxam, Lee Davis, Russ Eagle, Terry Brady, Barney Hill, and Dispatch Reporter Seth Stratton.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Potts called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Commissioner McClure.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS

Chairman Potts noted the register for public address.

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Allen and a second by Commissioner McClure the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the agenda. (Exhibit 1)

F. PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were three (3) individuals signed up to speak at Public Address.

Lee Davis, Chairman of the Lexington City School Board, addressed the Board in support of maintaining the School Supplement Tax at its current rate of 12 cents.

Dr. Becky Bloxam, Superintendent of the Lexington City Schools, addressed the Board in support of maintaining the current School Supplement Tax of 12 cents.

Barney Hill addressed the Board on their authority to levy taxes based on a 1947 Referendum.

G. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION

Deliberation

1. NC Turnpike Authority Update on the I-85 Yadkin River Bridge Toll Project

Steve DeWitt of the NC Turnpike Authority addressed the Board to provide an update on the I-85 Yadkin River Bridge Toll Project. The length of the proposed project is 6.8 miles with a bridge span of less than 1 mile. It would be an open road tolling project, which would be cashless and utilize an electronic process to collect the toll. There were several procedures discussed. One negative impact issue of the project would be the diversion of traffic through the Town of Spencer, due to vehicles avoiding the toll. Mr. DeWitt reported that there were several approval steps in this process, should the County elect to proceed, and that the decision at the local level was only the first step in the process. After a discussion by members of the Board regarding pros and cons of the process, Mr. DeWitt stated that taking into consideration all of the research that he been completed, he felt that this project would be a viable option should all other avenues fail to have this section of Interstate 85 repaired.

2. Request for Sewer Allocation

Scott Leonard of the Planning Department addressed the Board regarding a request to extend sewer service within the Welcome Community. There was a discussion by the Board regarding the current capacity on the pump station located in that area and the impact that this extension would have in the future

on capacity. It was the general consensus of the Board that as slow as the capacity is being expended, that it would be feasible to give approval to extend the sewer line. (Exhibit 2)

3. Upcoming NCACC County Assembly Day

Commissioner Watford, Davidson County's delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), addressed the Board regarding the upcoming NCACC County Assembly Day on June 10, 2008, to inquire into items the Board wished to be addressed at this meeting. The Board discussed several issues that were of interest to Davidson County that needed to be addressed at County Assembly Day by Commissioner Watford.

H. WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

The Board discussed the possibility of appropriating funds at the appropriate time to the Denton Skatepark and it was determined that if the funds were appropriated for this project in the future, that they would come from contingency funds and not be budgeted.

Commissioner McClure proposed the idea of purchasing video equipment to enable the Board to record and air their meetings, to be utilized for training purposes for County Employees, as well as possibly to promote tourism. Commissioner Walser suggested a pilot program of three months versus purchasing the equipment outright, to enable the Board to proceed with caution in this undertaking. It was agreed that a pilot program of three months be initiated, utilizing an outside source to tape the monthly meetings of the Board.

After a discussion on the issue of increased fire taxes for some of the Fire Districts, it was determined that a new system of checks and balances needed to be looked into in regard to the budget process for the volunteer fire departments (VFDs). Further, that a discussion would need to take place on what should be required to enable the Board to make more informed decisions in this process in the future. One possibility mentioned was that additional information be requested at the time of the budget proposals which could be addressed in the Contracts entered into by the VFDs.

County Manager Robert Hyatt addressed the possibility of the State Budget not being passed by June 30th and inquired into the Board's intent to fund the Day Reporting Program in the interim until funding is approved. He reported that all indications lead him to believe the Program to be funded at the State level for the next fiscal year. It was the consensus of the Board to continue funding in the interim for this Program.

Mr. Hyatt brought to the Board's attention that a Sewer Rate Adjustment was not included in the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget, but that he was hopeful that the Board would consider an increase. He acknowledged that the debt service was coming out of the General Fund, but that he would like to have a better correlation between what the consumers are paying and the actual operating costs. Mr. Hyatt also acknowledged that utility rates are not required to be adopted as part of the budget process; however, in this situation sewer revenue projected in the proposed budget reflected the proposed sewer rate adjustments becoming effective with the adoption of the budget. (Exhibit 3)

I. CLOSED SESSION- Personnel

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Closed Session for issues of personnel.

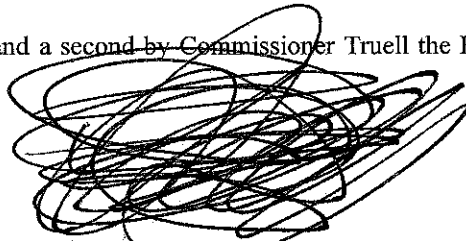
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

County Attorney Robert Hedrick reported discussion on a personnel issue and requested that the Assistant County Manager implement the decision of the Board.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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



Larry W. Potts, Chairman
Davidson County Board of Commissioners



Deborah J. Harris, Deputy Clerk
Davidson County Board of Commissioners