

FEBRUARY 1, 2013

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in recessed Special Session at the Foundation For The Carolinas, located at 220 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C. at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 1, 2013.

ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Chairman Patricia Cotham and Commissioners Karen Bentley, George Dunlap, Trevor Fuller, Bill James, Vilma Leake, Kim Ratliff and Matthew Ridenhour  
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.  
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

**Absent:** Commissioner Dumont Clarke

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The purpose of the meeting was to continue the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners' Strategic Planning Conference for 2013.

***The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cotham.***

Chairman Cotham called upon Budget/Management Director Hyong Yi to outline the agenda for the meeting.

Director Yi outlined the agenda and then called on Finance Director Dena Diorio.

Finance Director Diorio addressed Multi-Year Capital Planning. The following was covered in the presentation:

- Historical Perspective
- Current State
- Strategy: FY2014
- Strategy: FY2015-FY2017
- Impact of Financial & Debt Management Strategies
- Next Steps

***A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

Comments

Commissioner Dunlap asked would using pay-as-go reduce the authorization amount. *Finance Director Diorio said it did not, that you have to let it lapse.*

Commissioner James asked had CMS redone its capital plan. *Finance Director Diorio said CMS was working on it.*

Commissioner James said the new superintendent needed to be aware that there's a set amount per year.

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Finance Director Diorio said the Board would need to decide if it was going to fund CMS' proposed Security Plan.

Commissioner Dunlap said staff needed to communicate to the new superintendent what the County's priorities were and that there were already some things in place.

Commissioner Fuller said the Board needed to meet with the Board of Education sooner, rather than later on these types of issues.

Commissioner Dunlap asked County Manager Jones if he was meeting with the new Superintendent. *County Manager Jones said yes, on a monthly basis.*

Commissioner Bentley asked about variable rate exposure, which was addressed.

Commissioner Ridenhour asked about the impact of issuing more debt and how the rating agencies would view that, which was addressed.

This concluded the discussion on this topic. The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary.

***The Board recessed at 10: 13 a.m. and reconvened at 10: 35 a.m.***

#### **BUDGET PROCESS**

Budget/Management Director Yi addressed briefly how the budget process worked starting at the department level.

#### **SETTING BOARD PRIORITIES**

The Board reviewed the FY2012-FY2013 Adopted Budget Priorities, which were ranked by Priority Levels, 1 - 7 with one 1 being the highest.

***A list of the priorities is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner James, to keep the same FY2012-2013 Adopted Budget Priorities for FY2013-2014.

It was the consensus of the Board to take a break and give Commissioners an opportunity to review the priorities, which were posted, prior to voting on the motion.

***The Board recessed at 11: 06 a.m. and reconvened at 11:24 a.m.***

Commissioner James asked about growth in revenue. *County Manager Jones said it was too early to tell.*

Commissioner Ratliff asked that Non-Communicable Illness and Disease Prevention/Treatment be moved from Priority Level 3 to Priority Level 1.

Commissioners Dunlap and James withdrew their motion to keep the same priorities for FY2013-2014.

It was the consensus of the Board to move Non-Communicable Illness and Disease Prevention/Treatment from Priority Level 3 to Priority Level 1 as requested by Commissioner Ratliff.

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Commissioner Leake asked that Adult Abuse, Neglect Prevention and Protection be moved from Priority Level 4 to Priority Level 2 and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services from Priority Level 3 to Priority Level 2 and move Tourism from Priority Level 2 to Priority Level 3.

It was the consensus of the Board to move Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services from Priority Level 3 to Priority Level 2 and move Tourism from Priority Level 2 to Priority Level 3 as requested by Commissioner Leake.

No action was taken with respect to moving Adult Abuse, Neglect Prevention and Protection from Priority Level 4 to Priority Level 2 because there was nothing proposed to be removed from Priority Level 2 to allow for the addition of Adult Abuse, Neglect Prevention and Protection.

Commissioner Ridenhour asked that Historic Preservation be moved from Priority Level 7 to Priority Level 6.

It was the consensus of the Board to move Historic Preservation from Priority Level 7 to Priority Level 6 as requested by Commissioner Ridenhour.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, to approve the FY2013-2014 Priorities as presented and previously approved by the Board for FY2012-FY2013 with the following changes: 1) move Non-Communicable Illness and Disease Prevention/Treatment Priority to Priority Level 1, 2) move Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to Priority Level 2 and move Tourism to Priority Level 3, and 3) move Historic Preservation to Priority Level 6.

#### **FUTURE WORKSHOP TOPICS**

The Board was asked to provide staff with topics for future Budget/Public Policy Workshops. The following topics were noted:

- Joint Meeting with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education per Commissioners Leake, Dunlap & Fuller
- Introduction of Department Directors per Commissioner Leake
- Community Services Grant Process per Commissioner Leake
- Consolidated Human Services Agency per Commissioner Dunlap
- HR policy regarding termination and whether the Board or the County Manager should be the last in the chain, per Commissioner Dunlap
- Transportation per Commissioner Ratliff
- Economic Development per Commissioner Ratliff
- Overview of Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) and the county's role with respect to transportation overall, per Commissioner Bentley
- DSS update on director recruitment process, per Commissioner Leake. (It was noted that staff was currently working with a recruiter.)
- DSS current operational structure per Commissioner Leake
- Update on Health Department transition per Commissioner Leake

Chairman Cotham asked was there an annual review of DSS by the state. *General Manager Michelle Lancaster said she was not familiar with what Chairman Cotham was inquiring about, but that there was a federal review that took place in 2007.*

Commissioner James said the Board should be involved in personnel decisions with respect to high level positions. He doesn't think the Board should be involved in every personnel matter. Commissioner James said the Board shouldn't select the candidate, but could give input on the selection.

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Commissioner James said it was a question of how much oversight the Board should have in certain hiring matters.

Commissioner James said if a problem arises the Board should have access to that personnel file.

Commissioner James said the Board needed to consider whether there should be a process that involved the Board more.

Commissioner James said if the Board was not going to have that authority, then the Board should move on.

Continuation of Topics

- Update on HIV with respect to setting up an advisory board per Commissioner Leake
- Job creation; where the job growth was going to be in the future; how to develop a strategy for job readiness when it came to the areas of technology, science and math per Commissioner Fuller
- Think Tank regarding entrepreneurship per Commissioner Ridenhour
- Getting businesses to assist with educating children about the job market per Chairman Cotham;
- UNC-Charlotte, Chamber of Commerce, Central Piedmont Community College, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools involvement in job readiness

Commissioner Bentley said a lot of the topics noted could be addressed through the committee structure.

Commissioner Bentley said she would like to see at least two or three of the Board committees reactivated.

Budget/Management Director Yi said staff would send the Board the additional workshop dates as an FYI.

Budget/Management Director Yi asked the Board to let the County Manager know if there was a desire to change the start time of Budget/Public Policy Workshops from 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. because to change the time would require a vote by the Board to do so, otherwise it would have to be done as a special meeting.

This concluded the discussion. The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary.

Chairman Cotham and other newly elected Commissioners thanked staff and experienced Board members for their input and guidance.

County Manager Jones thanked the Board for their level of engagement. He encouraged the Board to let staff know if they had any questions.

County Manager Jones read a note from MeckLink employees thanking the Board for its support, which was signed by all employees.

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned at 12:24 p.m.