

JUNE 11, 2013

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NORTH CAROLINA
MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in a Special Budget Workshop Session in Conference Center Room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Dinner was held at 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Patricia Cotham and Commissioners Karen Bentley, Dumont Clarke, George Dunlap, Trevor Fuller, Bill James, Vilma Leake, Kim Ratliff and Matthew Ridenhour
Interim County Manager Bobbie Shields
County Attorney Marvin Bethune
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: None

FY2013 - 2014 BUDGET DELIBERATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cotham.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the Board's deliberation on the Interim County Manager's FY13-14 Recommended Budget.

Chairman Cotham turned the meeting over to Interim County Manager Shields.

SENATE BILL 208 AND MECKLINK BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Interim County Manager Shields and Assistant County Manager Michelle Lancaster addressed the effects of North Carolina Senate Bill 208.

Note: With the enactment of Senate Bill 208, North Carolina counties may only provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services through a separate area mental health authority (GS 122C-115(a)). Effective January 1, 2014, MeckLINK Behavioral Healthcare may no longer operate as a County division governed by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners.

They reviewed options available to the Board and recommended next steps.

It was noted that staff was still in the process of analyzing the total impact of Senate Bill 208 and would report back to the Board at a later date.

A copy of a handout provided to the Board on this matter is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, to place one half of the FY 14 County funding for mental health,

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developmental disabilities and substance abuse services, as included in the Interim County Manager's Recommended Budget, in restricted contingency, pending the development of a plan to transition MeckLINK to an area authority.

Interim County Manager Shields then called on Budget/Management Director Hyong Yi.

Director Yi addressed the rules of engagement for proceeding with the straw vote process.

It was the consensus of the Board to go through the Straw Vote process by Priority Level order.

STRAW VOTES

Note: Straw vote motions do not require a second in order to be considered and can be made by any commissioner, including the chairman.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, **to confirm and include in the FY13-14 Budget, the Interim County Manager's recommended tax rate for Fire Protection Service Districts as follows: Charlotte ETJ 6 cents, Cornelius ETJ 5 cents, Davidson ETJ 5 cents, Huntersville ETJ 5 cents, Mint Hill ETJ 7 cents.**

Note: Prior to the above vote, Commissioner Dunlap and Interim County Manager Shields noted that per a recent conversation with the Town of Mint Hill's Town Manager, Brian Welch, he would be willing to ask his Town Board to not seek repayment of approximately \$170,000 the County owes to Mint Hill for their help in response to funding challenges for library services a few years ago, and in exchange, residents in the Mint Hill ETJ would not have to repay the County monies it received in overpayments this fiscal year for Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Services. The Fire Protection Service District tax rate for Mint Hill would remain at 7 cents as recommended in the Interim County Manager's Recommended Budget. The Mint Hill Board of Commissioners will consider this matter on Thursday, June 13, 2013.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS (CMS)

Motion was made by Commissioner James, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to reduce Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding by \$7 million.**

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Clarke and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, James, and Ridenhour voting yes and Commissioners Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to reduce Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding by \$2,213,471 million** which was the amount placed in the Interim County Manager's Recommended budget for teacher raises.

Note: Commissioner Clarke said he made the above motion in light of the fact that the N. C. Senate and House budgets did not include funding for teacher raises, which the County would normally put in a match for teachers paid locally. He said since it appeared the State was not providing any funding, it would not be necessary for the County to do so.

Commissioner Clarke clarified that the \$2,213,471 million reduction would not impact the amount placed in the recommended budget for health insurance and retirement benefits for teachers paid locally. He was not recommending any change in these areas.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and **failed 6-3** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, James, Leake, and Ridenhour voting no and Commissioners Dunlap, Fuller, and Ratliff voting yes, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add \$2.2 million to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add a 1.5% increase to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding and place it in restricted contingency to be used as a salary supplement for Charlotte-Mecklenburg School employees hired prior to January 2013, whose annual salary is less than \$30,000.**

Commissioner James asked Commissioner Leake if she meant for the 1.5% to be taken from the already reduced amount, per Commissioner Clarke's motion or was she adding to the reduced amount.

Commissioner Leake said her intent was to add to it.

It was noted that if Commissioner Leake's intent was to add it, then the amount of funding being allocated to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools would be above the amount recommended in the Interim County Manager's Recommended budget.

Commissioner Leake after further discussion of her motion decided to table her motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner James and **failed 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting no and Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, James, and Ridenhour voting yes, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to reduce Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding by \$4,786,529.**

Note: Commissioner James said the amount stated in his motion represented the difference between the reduction made by Commissioner Clarke's earlier motion and his original motion for a \$7 million reduction.

CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to increase funding for Central Piedmont Community College by \$1.5 million.**

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner James and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, James, Leake and Ridenhour voting yes and Commissioners Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, and Ratliff voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to reduce funding for Central Piedmont Community College by \$1 million.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to increase funding for Central Piedmont Community College by \$2.5 million.**

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Bentley and carried 8-1 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes and Commissioner

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James voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to increase funding for Central Piedmont Community College by \$1.75 million.**

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Motion was made by Commissioner James and **failed 8-1** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting no and Commissioner James, voting yes, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to move funds allocated for Communities In Schools into restricted contingency for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to distribute to Communities In Schools.**

Note: Commissioner James said he was recommending the above motion in light of the fact that the funds allocated by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to Communities In Schools were County funds as well, so why not let Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools allocate all of the funding to Communities In Schools. Commissioner James said this would take the County out of it and Communities In Schools would only have to deal with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Commissioner James addressed the history of Communities In Schools funding and how the County got involved.

Commissioner Fuller addressed the importance of Communities In Schools being able to be in control of how it uses its funds and the need for a degree of independence from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, even though it supports Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He said perhaps the County should consider giving Communities In Schools all of its funding directly, rather than giving a portion of it to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, who would then provide it to Communities In Schools.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS - IMAGINON/CHILDREN'S THEATRE – SCHOOL HEALTH NURSES

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to 1) increase Communities and Schools funding by \$250,000, 2) increase ImaginON/Children's Theatre funding by \$155,000, and decrease School Health Nurses funding by \$405,000.**

Note: Commissioner Bentley addressed how the decrease in School Health Nurses funding would not dramatically impact the need for additional School Health Nurses. She addressed how there were plans on the part of the Health Department to do an assessment of the need and upon receipt of that assessment, the Board would address this again.

Director Yi informed the Board that because of the way the funding arrangement was structured with respect to ImaginOn/Children's Theatre, that the funds approved in the above motion would be placed in the County's Business Support Services Agency's budget and not the Library's budget. There was no objection by the Board to this.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WEST CLARA JONES SUMMER PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add funding for the First Baptist Church West Clara Jones Summer Program in the amount of \$75,000.**

Commissioner Dunlap offered a friendly amendment, that Commissioner Leake accepted, which was to further amend the Interim County Manager's Budget by increasing the sales tax growth rate by .5%

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The vote was then taken on the motion as follows:

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake and carried 7-2 with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioners James and Ridenhour voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to 1) increase the sales tax growth rate by .5% and 2) add funding for the First Baptist Church West Clara Jones Summer Program in the amount of \$75,000.**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - HEALTH PROMOTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake and carried 6-3 with Commissioners Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, James and Ridenhour voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add \$50,000 to the Health Department Budget for Health Promotion.**

Note: Commissioner Bentley requested outcome data for this program.

BETHESDA HEALTH CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and carried 6-3 with Commissioners Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, James and Ridenhour voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add \$165,000 for the Bethesda Health Center and place it in contingency to be released upon Bethesda's submission of a certified audit.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUMMIT

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add \$1,200 for the Domestic Violence Summit.**

After discussion of this matter, it was the consensus of the Board that this matter be placed on the Board's June 18, 2013 meeting agenda under consent for the Board's consideration of the requested funds being taken out of the current contingency fund.

The Board recessed for a break at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

Commissioner James was absent when the Board reconvened and for the remainder of the meeting.

CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Motion was made by Commissioner Ratliff and carried 7-1 with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioner Ridenhour voting no, **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add \$50,000 for the Charlotte Community Health Clinic.**

PHYSICIAN'S REACH OUT/CARE RING NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Motion was made by Commissioner Ratliff and **carried 8-0** with Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, **to amend the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget to add \$62,500 for the Physician's Reach Out/Care Ring Nurse Family Partnership Program.**

STAFF POSITION TO ASSIST BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller and **carried 6-2** with Commissioners Cotham, Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioners Bentley and Ridenhour voting no, to **amend the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget to add \$82,000 (including benefits) for an additional staff position that would provide assistant to the Board of County Commissioners.**

Note: Commissioner Fuller addressed the need for an additional staff person to assist the Board. Commissioner Fuller said having only one Board assistant was not adequate when there are nine commissioners. He said this person would be assigned by the County Manager.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and failed 4-4 with Commissioners Clarke, Dunlap, Fuller, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Cotham, Leake, and Ridenhour voting no, to accept the remaining portion of the Interim County Manager's budget as presented.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

The Board addressed Commissioner Leake's tabled motion which was:

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake **to amend** the Interim County Manager's Recommended FY13-14 Budget **to add a 1.5% increase to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operational Funding and place it in restricted contingency to be used as a salary supplement for Charlotte-Mecklenburg School employees hired prior to January 2013, whose annual salary is less than \$30,000.**

It was noted that if Commissioner Leake's intent was to add it, then the amount of funding being allocated to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools would be above the amount recommended in the Interim County Manager's Recommended budget.

Commissioner Leake after further discussion withdrew her motion. She said she regretted that funding was not available to make her desire possible.

A copy of the FY2014 Budget Strawman Spreadsheet is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

BUDGET ORDINANCE DIRECTIVE

Motion was made by Commissioner Ratliff, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried 7-1 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Ratliff voting yes and Commissioner Ridenhour voting no, to direct staff to prepare a budget ordinance for the Board's consideration on June 18, 2013 based on actions taken on June 11th which would result in a tax rate of 81.57 cents.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and carried 8-0 Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

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Patricia "Pat" Cotham, Chairman