

JUNE 12, 2017

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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 located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Ella B. Scarborough and Commissioners
Dumont Clarke, Patricia “Pat” Cotham,
George Dunlap, Trevor M. Fuller, Bill James,
Vilma D. Leake, Jim Puckett, and Matthew Ridenhour
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Marvin A. Bethune
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: None

FY2017 - 2018 BUDGET DELIBERATION

The meeting was called to order by Chair Scarborough.

Commissioners Dunlap and Puckett were absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

Note: The purpose of the meeting was for the Board to begin its deliberation on the County Manager’s FY17-18 Recommended Budget and to take straw votes.

Chair Scarborough turned the meeting over to County Manager Diorio, who turned it over to Budget Director Michael Bryant.

Commissioner Dunlap entered the meeting.

Budget Director Bryant outlined the format for proceeding and the agenda topics to be discussed.

A copy of the meeting outline is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

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Commissioner Puckett entered the meeting.

Board Response to County Manager's Response to Board Follow Up Questions

A copy of the County Manager's Response to the Board is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Fuller asked would there be additional costs if the Board decided to go with 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave instead of 6 weeks. *County Manager Diorio said there would not be any additional costs unless the department needed to bring in a temporary employee during that period of absence.*

Commissioner Leake requested information on the following matters: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Test Scores, READ Charlotte's budget, and the Health Department's Village Heartbeat program budget. She also commented on the need for adequate funding of HIV efforts.

Response: READ Charlotte Salaries – Executive Director \$156,000, Project Manager \$65,000, Communications Manager \$60,000, Data Manager \$70,000, Community Impact Manager \$80,000, and Administrative Assistant \$40,000.

Village Heartbeat Budget \$573,000 (There are three positions included.)

Commissioner James said he concurred with the County Manager's statement in her response to the Board that "the decision-making phase of the budget process should not be utilized to address a new policy question that has not been fully vetted." Secondly, that if the Board adds funding, those funds should be placed in restricted contingency until the matter had been fully vetted.

Commissioner Puckett asked about the Major-League Soccer proposal. *County Manager Diorio said no additional changes had occurred to the terms since January.*

Commissioner Cotham asked was there a need for additional staff in the Internal Audit Department, in light of recent incidences at the Health Department. *County Manager Diorio said additional staff had been added since she became County Manager.*

Commissioner Dunlap said he accepted the County Manager's response to the question regarding funding options for short term housing and that at the appropriate time he would make a motion to add additional funding for this purpose.

Commissioner Clarke asked what amount was allocated for consultants to come in and review the Health Department, which was addressed.

Commissioner Fuller said he was okay with placing funds in restricted contingency.

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Commissioner Dunlap asked what was it the Health Department did not do, to pay for obtaining consultants out of its current budget. *County Manager Diorio said the funding came from lapse salaries.*

Note: The above was not inclusive of every comment but was a summary.

STRAW VOTES

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Puckett and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, **to adopt the rules of engagement for Straw Voting** as outlined by Director Bryant.

Note: Straw Vote motions do not require a second and can be made by any Commissioner, including the Chairman.

A copy of the FY2018 BOCC Straw-Vote Spreadsheet is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

EDUCATION

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2017-2018 Recommended Budget with respect to Education funding.

DEBT SERVICE

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2017-2018 Recommended Budget with respect to Debt Service funding.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2017-2018 Recommended Budget with respect to Community Service Grants.

COUNTY SERVICES:

Community Support Services

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to **add an additional allocation of \$322,000** to the Community Support Services Department's budget and place it in Restricted Contingency **for Supportive Housing**, to fund services tied to rapid rehousing, which primarily houses families; with the funds coming from a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue of \$322,000 to offset the additional expense. Further, that consideration for the release of the funding would occur after the matter has been discussed in more detail at a future Budget/Public Policy Workshop.

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Health Department

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to **add an additional allocation of \$248,000** to the Health Department's budget and place it in Restricted Contingency **for HIV Prevention as outlined in the County Manager's response to Board Follow-up Questions**; with the funds coming from a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue of \$248,000 to offset the additional expense. Further, that consideration for the release of the funding would occur after the matter has been discussed in more detail at a future Budget/Public Policy Workshop.

The Board recessed at 10:55 a.m. for a break and returned at 11:09 a.m.

Health Department

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, and Scarborough voting yes and Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Puckett, and Ridenhour voting no, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to **add an additional allocation of \$258,000** to the Health Department's budget and place it in Restricted Contingency **for Smoking Cessation as outlined in the County Manager's response to Board Follow-up Questions**; with the funds coming from a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue of \$258,000 to offset the additional expense. Further, that consideration for the release of the funding would occur after the matter has been discussed in more detail at a future Budget/Public Policy Workshop.

Manager's Office

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller and **failed 7-2** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, James, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting no and Commissioners Fuller and Leake voting yes, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to **add an additional allocation of \$195,000** to the County Manager's Office Administrative Support line item for the addition of another Board support staff person; with the funds coming from a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue of \$195,000 to offset the additional expense.

Sherriff's Office

Commissioner Cotham asked that staff report back on the feasibility of providing the Sherriff's Office with a part-time mental health professional to provide services to youth in solitary confinement. *County Manager Diorio said staff would report back at the Board's June 20, 2017 meeting.*

BUDGET ORDINANCE DIRECTIVE

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake,

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Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, to direct staff to prepare a FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance based on the County Manager's FY 2017-2018 Recommended Budget as amended by actions taken by the Board at today's meeting on June 13, 2017, with the County tax rate remaining at 81.57 cents.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Budget Director Bryant reviewed the rules of engagement for deliberation of the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt the rules of engagement for Straw Voting as outlined by Director Bryant for the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan.

Assistant County Manager/Interim Finance Officer Mark Foster presented the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan.

STRAW VOTES

LIBRARY PROJECT

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan with respect to the New Main Library project.

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan with respect to Government Facilities projects.

CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

There were no changes to the County Manager's FY 2019-2023 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan with respect to Central Piedmont Community College projects.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

Commissioner James expressed concern for the process used by the Board of Education in its priority setting of capital projects. He said the process was flawed.

Commissioner James said he would vote for the Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the County Manager, but he would not support a bond referendum in the fall for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS).

Commissioner Ridenhour expressed concern over the way the Board of Education added Bruns

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Academy and West Charlotte High School to its capital improvement plan list of projects. Commissioner Ridenhour acknowledged that the needs were real, but said the way the projects were added was not fair.

Commissioner Puckett said he was not supportive of the Board of Education's capital improvement request and expressed concern for the Board of Education's decision regarding magnet schools. He said he was concerned about the students who wouldn't be able to go to a magnet school and the quality of education they would receive as a result of others leaving their home school to go to a magnet. Commissioner Puckett said the Board of Education's process was flawed.

Commissioner Cotham said Bruns Academy and West Charlotte should be on the list, however, she was not pleased that the Board of Education did not follow its own process in placing them on the list. She expressed concern that other projects were deferred to place Bruns and West Charlotte on the list of projects.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ridenhour and **failed 7-2** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, Puckett, and Scarborough voting no and Commissioners James and Ridenhour voting yes, **to approve the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the County Manager with the exception of two projects: Bruns Academy Replacement and West Charlotte High School Replacement.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and **carried 6-3** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Scarborough voting yes and Commissioners James, Puckett, and Ridenhour voting no, **to approve the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the County Manager.**

PARK AND RECREATION

Memorial Stadium

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the County Manager for Park and Recreation except for the Memorial Stadium project, the Board's vote upon which shall be deferred until the August 2017 meeting to allow the Charlotte City Council time to consider and vote either to approve or disapprove the proposed term sheet for the Memorial Stadium project in the form previously adopted by a majority of this Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Puckett spoke in opposition of the motion by Commissioner Clarke. He said even though he was not supportive of the project, it was not fair to the Smith family for the Board to defer, having previously voted to move forward without the City of Charlotte's participation.

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Commissioner Dunlap spoke in support of the motion by Commissioner Clarke. He said the project was good for the community and the County.

Commissioner James said he would support the motion by Commissioner Clarke because it removed the Memorial Stadium project from the list and would give the Board another opportunity to look at the matter from a fresher perspective. He said prior discussion of the matter was rushed.

Commissioner Ridenhour asked about the \$18 million difference in the Park and Recreation CIP provided today versus what was provided previously, which was addressed.

Commissioner Ridenhour said he would prefer funds be used for greenway build out.

Commissioner Dunlap asked if the total Capital Improvement Plan still totaled \$1.6 billion. *The response was yes.*

Commissioner Fuller spoke in support of Commissioner Clarke's motion. He said this was not about the Smith's but about renovating Memorial Stadium. He said it was a great deal all around.

Commissioner Cotham spoke in support of Commissioner Clarke's motion. She said she looked forward to the Board discussing this matter again and encouraged more and better communication amongst Board members.

Commissioner Puckett said his comment would be applicable to anyone the County entered into an agreement with.

After further discussion, the vote was taken on Commissioner Clarke's motion as noted below.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, **to approve the FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan as recommended by the County Manager for Park and Recreation except for the Memorial Stadium project, the Board's vote upon which shall be deferred until the August 2017 meeting to allow the Charlotte City Council time to consider and vote either to approve or disapprove the proposed term sheet for the Memorial Stadium project in the form previously adopted by a majority of this Board of County Commissioners.**

Land Acquisition

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett but was withdrawn to specify that Land Acquisition in the Capital Improvement Plan only be used for parks and not other services.

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FUND BALANCE FOR ONE-TIME EXPENSES

Renaissance West Community Initiative

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and **failed 6-3** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, James, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting no and Commissioners Dunlap, Fuller, and Leake voting yes, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget **to add an allocation of \$500,000 for the Renaissance West Community Initiative for a Child Development Center**; with the funds coming from Fund Balance One-Time Expenses and a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue of \$500,000 to offset the additional expense.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to add Paid Family Leave rather than Parental Leave.

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Ridenhour and **failed 6-3** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Scarborough voting no and Commissioners James, Puckett, and Ridenhour voting yes, **to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget to add Paid Parental Leave of eight weeks rather than Paid Family Leave.**

The vote was then taken on the original motion as noted below.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap and **carried 6-3** with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, and Scarborough voting yes and Commissioners James, Puckett, and Ridenhour voting no, to amend the County Manager's FY17-18 Recommended Budget **to add Paid Family Leave (six weeks) rather than Paid Parental Leave.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke, seconded by Commissioner James and unanimously carried Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Ella B. Scarborough, Chair