

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met in recessed session for a board retreat at Camp T. N. Spencer, Helms Hall, 3155 Foxford Road in Concord on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Present:	Chairman:	H. Jay White, Sr.
	Vice Chairman:	Grace M. Mynatt
	Commissioners:	Robert W. Carruth
		Elizabeth F. Poole
		Coy C. Privette

Also present were: John Day, County Manager; Pam Dubois, Deputy County Manager; Mike Downs, Deputy County Manager; Aimee Hawkins, Communications and Outreach; and Kay Honeycutt, Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

After breakfast, the meeting resumed at 8:38 a.m.

Board of Commissioners' Goals: Review and Discussion of Existing Goals and Progress Made - Continued

With the assistance of the Deputy County Managers and staff, the County Manager continued a facilitated review and discussion of the Board's existing goals, including outcomes, progress and next steps. The "next steps" for some goals were revised during the process and the results are below:

Goal No. 3

Use resources wisely and responsibly by protecting assets, minimizing risk, creating partnerships, and using technology to maximize the value of county investments, expenditures, and services.

Goal No. 3 - Year 1 Outcomes

1. Participate in continuing education opportunities for members of the Board of Commissioners to achieve competencies as needed.

PROGRESS: Information on continuing education and conferences are provided to the Board as these opportunities become available. Reference materials that may be helpful to the Board are posted on the BOC Watercooler site. Educational materials were obtained for new Board member(s) that could not attend training for newly elected officials that was sponsored by the School of Government.

NEXT STEP: Staff will continue to inform BOC members of continuing education opportunities, including an assessment of their efficacy.

Goal No. 3 - Year 2 Outcomes

1. Identify the maximum water capacity available in the County and forge an agreement with all jurisdictions to reserve an agreed-upon percentage for emergencies or unplanned needs.

PROGRESS: At request of BOC, WSACC commissioned capacity study. Draft study presented in May, 2008. Some municipalities challenged findings and no progress has been made since.

NEXT STEPS: Build into comprehensive planning effort in Goal 1, Year 3-5 Outcomes, No. 1. Also focus on sustainability efforts.

2. Institutionalize a joint school facilities planning and construction committee.

PROGRESS: CCS and county staff are working to develop a comprehensive web-based tracking program for school construction projects. Individual responsibilities would be specified.

NEXT STEPS: Complete web-based program in 2nd quarter of 2009; jointly develop siting, construction criteria and propose joint retreat with BOC and BOEs (Board of Educations) in February or March 2009.

Change in Liaisons (Harrisburg & Kannapolis)

Note: As part of the "next steps" discussion, there was discussion on the importance of Board members attending as many liaison meetings as

possible. Commissioner Poole, the current liaison to the Town of Harrisburg and Kannapolis Board of Education, explained that she is unable to attend Harrisburg's meetings because they meet on the same night as the Kannapolis Board of Education. To remedy this situation, she asked Commissioner Carruth, the current liaison to the City of Kannapolis, to switch with her. She further explained that since both meetings are in close proximity to one another, she would be able to attend a portion of both meetings. Commissioner Carruth agreed to switch with Commissioner Poole.

Goal No. 3 - Year 2 Outcomes: Continued

3. Replace the three current 911 communications center with one countywide, consolidated 911 communications center.

PROGRESS: See Goal 2, Year 2, #1.

NEXT STEPS: See Goal 2, Year 2, #1.

Goal No. 3 - Years 3-5 Outcomes

1. Study any benefits of combining all waste and recyclables collection throughout the county under one consolidated contract.

PROGRESS: This was mentioned to the city managers of Concord and Kannapolis - there was some interest expressed.

NEXT STEPS: This could be discussed as part of the county solid waste plan update, required by the state this year.

Goal No. 4

A fully engaged community with a shared understanding of its issues and challenges and working together to achieve its goals.

Goal No. 4 - Year 1 Outcomes

1. Work in collaboration with all local elected officials and the general public to create an overall vision for ways to handle growth in the County by addressing areas identified in the first Growth Summit.

PROGRESS: Issue raised by chairman at fall 2008 Chairman/Mayors meeting. No commitments made by those in attendance. See also Goal 1, Year 3, No. 1.

NEXT STEPS: Incorporate into Goal 1, 3-5 Year Outcomes, No. 1.

Recess of Meeting

The Board took a short break and the meeting resumed at 10:21 p.m.

Goal No. 4 - Year 1 Outcomes: Continued

2. Hold an extensive work session for information gathering and strategy development in the area of communications and outreach.

PROGRESS: Work Session held July 22, 2008. Presented detailed communications plan highlighting efforts in these core areas: foster public awareness of and confidence in Cabarrus County government; communicate the role and accomplishments of Cabarrus County; recognize the positive accomplishments of county employees; enhance and maintain an effective media relationship; enhance communication between county staff, County Manager and Board of Commissioners.

NEXT STEPS: Create detailed emergency plan for communicating with residents in times of disaster including black site, robo-call phone system, social media, and enhanced features on Channel 22. Promote public participation in meetings, workshops, etc. through all current mediums. Develop communication plan for courthouse project. Develop communication plan for revaluation three years out. Other suggestions presented: Develop a comprehensive plan to utilize the Speakers Bureau to make presentations to schools, service clubs, civic organizations and other community groups on a consistent basis. Present "Good Neighbor" awards on behalf of county at regular service club meetings. Send an annual recognition letter to civic organizations - suitable for printing in their newsletters.

Note: Information related to this goal was presented by Aimee Hawkins.

Goal No. 4 - Year 3-5 Outcomes

1. See Goal No. 5, 3-5 Year Outcome, No. 1.

PROGRESS: No progress.

NEXT STEPS: BOC discussion.

Goal No. 5

Ensure that all citizens have equal opportunity and access to education, healthcare, and economic prosperity and encourage citizens to fulfill their potential and contribute to their community.

Goal No. 5 - Year 1 Outcomes

1. Collaborate with the school boards to develop cost-effective and comprehensive construction standards. Also consider alternative uses of school buildings after hours.

PROGRESS: Topic of cost-effective school construction has been raised by BOC in joint meeting with CCBOE (Cabarrus County Board of Education).

NEXT STEPS: Consolidate with Goal 3, Year 2, Outcomes, No. 2.

2. Hold an extensive work session for information gathering and strategy development in the area of economic development.

PROGRESS: Meetings held June 26 and August 15, 2008. BOC approved contract with EDC and adopted new, more flexible incentive program.

NEXT STEPS: Continue to collaborate with the EDC.

Goal No. 5 - Year 3-5 Outcomes

1. Use the new Community Needs Assessment to guide a collaborative community effort to consider the needs and issues raised by the Assessment.

PROGRESS: No progress.

NEXT STEPS: Discuss the appointment of a citizens' committee by 2nd quarter 2009 with Healthy Cabarrus and other appropriate agencies to lead a strategy-making effort.

Projections for FY 2009 Budget and Recommended Reductions

Due to a decline in market conditions, Pam Dubois, Deputy County Manager, reviewed the following revenue reductions for FY 2009 totaling \$6,081,200.00:

	FY 09 Budget Jan. 2009	Revenue Reductions for FY 2009 (1)	Amended FY 09 Revenues	Projected Revenues for FY 2010 (2)	Available Revenues FY 2010
Ad Valorem Taxes & Fees	132,040,058	(1,600,000)	130,440,058		130,440,058
Sales Taxes	33,720,274	(600,000)	33,120,274	(6,856,252)	26,264,022
Other Taxes & Penalties	914,900		914,900		914,900
Intergovernmental Revenues	20,063,198	32,800	20,095,998		20,095,998
R.O.D. Fees	2,907,000	(1,480,000)	1,427,000	(402,500)	1,024,500
Building Inspections	3,720,000	(2,360,000)	1,360,000	(500,000)	860,000
Other Permits & Fees	404,450	(204,000)	200,450		200,450
Sales & Services	9,753,069	130,000	9,883,069		9,883,069
Investment Earnings	2,000,000		2,000,000	(1,000,000)	1,000,000
One-time Revenues	3,789,310		3,789,310	(3,789,310)	
Total	209,312,259	(6,081,200)	203,231,059	(12,548,062)	190,682,997

(1) Revenue reductions for FY 09 results from declining market conditions.

(2) Projected revenues for FY 10: Decline in sales tax as a result of Medicaid reform (loss of Article 44 taxes and the cities hold harmless) and 1 percent decline due to market conditions; reductions of Building Inspections based on market conditions, reduction in interest o investments due to declining market rates, and the removal of all one-time revenues from budget FY 2009.

She also responded to a variety of questions from the Board. A general discussion ensued and revenue trends for Building Inspections and the Register of Deeds, among others, were reviewed.

Proposed Budget Cuts

Pam Dubois, Deputy County Manager, briefly reviewed a spreadsheet identifying the proposed budget cuts for county expenditures and outside agencies as follows:

	Reduction	Recommendation
5 Percent - County	\$5,479,887.45	\$4,295,109.35
2.9 Percent - Outside Agencies	\$3,079,654.85	\$1,786,199.81
Total	\$8,559,542.30	\$6,081,309.16

Note: The outside agencies were identified as follows: Cabarrus County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, the Public Health Authority, Mental Health, Arts Council and the Economic Development Corporation.

John Day, County Manager, reported the DSS Interim Director planned to request a number of additional positions at the next agenda work session to meet increased demand. However, Mr. Day stated his intent to send two employees from Register of Deeds and Building Inspections to DSS to provide clerical support since the demand in these two departments is low now. He further stated additional employees will be transferred to other departments to avoid layoffs and asked Mike Downs, Deputy County Manager, to elaborate.

Mike Downs, Deputy County Manager, reported the following employees will be transferred to other departments to avoid layoffs: four building inspectors will be transferred to Community Development to build handicap ramps in connection with a grant; four additional building inspectors will be transferred to General Services to work on various projects; two building inspections permit clerks will be transferred: one to the Sheriff's Department and one to DSS; one Soil & Erosion Inspector will be transferred to DSS; two planners will tie up loose ends on subdivision reviews and then be shared with the Information Technology Services department to work on various addressing projects beginning March 1 or assist Communications and Outreach with the Neighborhood Outreach program; and two Register of Deeds employees will be transferred to DSS.

Mr. Day reported that he discussed the proposed cuts (2.9 percent) with the Chairman, both school superintendents, the president of the community college and several of the other agencies. He said General Statutes require the educational systems be given an opportunity at a public meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed reduction and then the Board will have to approve the reduction. A general discussion ensued.

Budget Ordinance - Proposed Amendment

John Day, County Manager, suggested the Budget Ordinance be amended to give him authority to reduce the budget should revenues decline due to economic conditions.

DSS - Northwoods Software Phase II

Pam Dubois, Deputy County Manager, suggested unused funds in foster care program be used to pay for the second phase of the Northwoods software implementation to achieve greater automation, efficiencies and productivity at DSS. She anticipated the software and equipment to cost approximately \$275,000.00. A general discussion ensued.

Lunch Break

The Board took a lunch break at 12:07 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:04 p.m.

One-Half Cent Sales Tax for Transportation

There was a general discussion on a ½ cent sales tax for transportation. If passed by voters, the breakdown of the tax would be 60 percent for transit and 40 percent for roads; include the creation of an advisory board comprised of mayors (or their designee), Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and the Chamber of Commerce C.E.O. (or designee); and the tax would be levied and controlled by the Board of Commissioners. It was suggested that this topic be discussed at an upcoming Mayors/Chairman meeting.

Expansion of Board of Commissioners

There was a general discussion on expansion of the Board of Commissioners. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a referendum to expand the board by two seats be held in 2010 with the election of two at-large seats to occur in 2012. Further, the Board directed the Clerk to include an item on the agenda to amend the County's 2009 Legislative Agenda.

Other Business: Disposition of the Old Bethel School - Discussion

There was a general discussion on the disposition of the old Bethel School. John Day, County Manager, reviewed the County's prior offer to lease the property to Midland or sell the property.

Commissioner Carruth reported there is an organization in Charlotte that is very interested in the property according to Kathy Kitts and Mike Tallent from Midland. He further reported there is a meeting scheduled on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

Mr. Day recommended the property be sold by auction with a set minimum amount. There was a discussion on maintenance and insurance expense and liability concerns. The Board asked to have further details on these costs presented at its upcoming agenda work session.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Privette, seconded by Commissioner Poole and unanimously carried, the Board voted to place the disposition of the old Bethel School property by auction on the agenda as a New Business item.

Other Business: Adequate Public Facilities - Discussion

Vice Chairman Mynatt stated the need to review the Adequate Public Facilities' Voluntary Mitigation Payment (VMP). She also expressed her desire to have the VMP paid at permitting instead of final platting. A general discussion ensued.

Chairman White suggested the VMP be paid at building permitting for subdivisions with 100 lots or less and at final platting for subdivisions with 100 or more lots. Commissioner Poole suggested the Commerce Department provide a recommendation on the best practice(s) for their department. Mr. Day stated he would check with the County Attorney and Attorney Mark White and report back.

A general discussion ensued related to maintaining consistency when determining the VMP. The following topics were addressed: construction costs; increasing fees during difficult economic times; the Board's current VMP percentage policy; etc. The Board was reminded that this topic is on the February 2, 2009 Work Session Agenda.

Other Business: Monroe Natural Gas Pipeline - Discussion


Commissioner Carruth began a discussion regarding the Monroe Natural Gas Pipeline and its proximity to Frank Liske Park. Chairman White described where the pipeline will be placed in relation to Frank Liske Park, explaining the proposed pipeline will run close to a soccer field and will interfere with walking trails. The following issues were addressed: safety issues; the capacity of the pipeline; the impact the pipeline will have on existing walking trails; etc.

Other Business: Merge Two School Systems - Discussion

Commissioner Poole asked if there had ever been any discussion or desire to merge Cabarrus County Schools with Kannapolis City Schools. A general discussion ensued, with the following issues being addressed: various needs of the two school systems; budget issues; etc.

Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Carruth, seconded by Vice Chairman Mynatt and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.


Clerk to the Board