

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 29, 2007

5:00 P.M.

**NORTH CAROLINA
MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in a Special Session Budget Workshop in Conference Room CH-14 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners
Karen Bentley, J. Daniel Bishop, Dumont Clarke
H. Parks Helms, Bill James, Norman A. Mitchell, Sr.
Dan Ramirez and Valerie C. Woodard
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.
County Attorney Marvin A. Bethune
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: None

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

FY 2007 - 2008 BUDGET DELIBERATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roberts.

Chairman Roberts said the purpose of the meeting was to begin the Board's deliberation on the County Manager's FY07-08 Recommended Budget.

Chairman Roberts turned the meeting over to Budget and Management Director Hyong Yi.

Director Yi addressed the process for moving forward and handouts that were distributed to the Board.

Commissioners Clarke and Woodard entered the meeting during this time.

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

Commission Questions requiring follow-up

Commissioner James asked what was the percentage of CMS employees that are paid by the County, certified and non-certified. *Staff said it would report back on this.*

Commissioner Clarke asked if staff knew what the state plans to do with respect to school salaries. *Staff said it was not known at this time.*

Finance Director Dena Diorio addressed Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) options.

STRAW VOTES

Note: During the straw vote process it is not necessary for a motion to have a second in order to be voted upon. Also, under the straw vote process, motions can be made by the Chairman. Commissioners can also abstain.

CMS Operational Funding

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley and **failed 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting no and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James and Ramirez voting yes, **to reduce CMS Operational funding to \$328,964,790.**

CMS-Debt

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes, **to reduce CMS Debt by \$9 million and take from lottery proceeds.**

Pay as You Go Capital Funding

Motion was made by Commissioner James and carried **5-4** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James, Ramirez, and Roberts voting yes and Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, and Woodard voting no **to reduce Pay as You Go Capital Funding by \$5.9 million.**

Indigent Care

Indigent Care was discussed but no action was taken.

Commissioner Woodard said the amount of funds going to indigent care needs to be increased, at least the amount going to CW Williams-Metrolina Comprehensive Health Care and I. D. Consultants. Commissioner Woodard said it was her understanding that Carolinas Healthcare System was referring a lot of HIV/AIDS patients to CW Williams.

Dr. Wynn Mabry, Health Director commented on indigent care and recommended that the Board support both Carolinas Healthcare System (Carolina Medical) and CW Williams. He complimented both entities.

County Manager Jones informed the Board that he would be conducting a study in the near future with respect to indigent care and the funding formula. He will report back to the Board on this matter.

Medicaid

Commissioner Ramirez noted the increase in Medicaid payments. County Manager Jones reminded the Board that Medicaid was a mandate.

County Manager Jones gave the Board an update on the status of Medicaid Relief on the state level.

CPCC Operational Funding

Motion was made by Commissioner Helms and **unanimously carried** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes, **to increase CPCC Operational Funding by \$1.1 million** and to take the funds from the Reserves option that was presented.

Metrolina AIDS Project (MAP)

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James

and Ramirez voting no, **to increase funding for Metrolina AIDS Project (MAP) by \$60,000** for a total of \$160,000.

Women, Children & Family Shelter-Salvation Army

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and **carried 7-2** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners James and Ramirez voting no, **to increase funding for Women, Children & Family Shelter-Salvation Army by \$25,000** for a total of \$125,000.

Other Post Employee Benefits

Motion was made by Commissioner James and **carried 7-2** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, James, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Helms and Mitchell voting no, **to reduce Other Post Employee Benefits by \$5 million** as recommended in the County Manager's Option #2.

Charlotte Volunteers in Medicine

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and **failed 7-2** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Ramirez, and Roberts voting no and Commissioners Woodard and Mitchell voting yes, **to increase funding for Charlotte Volunteers in Medicine by \$60,000.**

Sickle Cell Regional Network- Outside Agency

Motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell and **carried 6-3** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, and Ramirez voting no, **to fund the Sickle Cell Regional Network in the amount of \$35,000.**

Reserves

Motion was made by Commissioner James and carried 8-1 with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioner Bishop voting no, to reduce the County Manager's Reserves recommendation to \$1.75 million.

Note: Staff will determine how much is to be taken out of each of the Reserves, in order to get it to \$1.75 million.

Partners In Out-Of-School Time (P.O.S.T)

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and carried 7-2 with Commissioners Bentley, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bishop and Clarke voting no, to place \$200,000 in restricted contingency for Partners In Out-of-School Time (P.O.S.T.) pending clarification and completion of agreements and/or contractual arrangements for the program.

Note: Prior to the above vote and in response as to whether or not P.O.S.T. had an agreement with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Claire Tate, representing P.O.S.T. stated that a Memorandum of Agreement had not been signed to date with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). Ms. Tate said the agreements would be between CMS and the entities that are operating the programs at those schools.

School Board member Velma Leake, in response to a question by Commissioner James, stated

that the Board of Education had not discussed this matter.

WTVI – Equipment Maintenance

Motion was made by Commissioner Helms and **carried 6-3** with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bishop, James, and Ramirez voting no, **to place \$150,000 in restricted contingency for WTVI, contingent upon WTVI raising \$75,000.**

ECO

Motion was made by Commissioner Clarke and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James, and Ramirez voting no, **to increase funding to ECO by \$12,500 for a total allocation of \$50,000.**

Aerobo Cop Kids Fitness Program

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and **failed 7-2** with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Ramirez, and Roberts voting no and Commissioners Mitchell and Woodard voting yes, **to fund Aerobo Cop Kids Fitness Program at \$100,000.**

HIV/AIDS Funding – Restricted Contingency

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodard and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James, and Ramirez voting no, **to place \$350,000 in restricted contingency to supplement Ryan White Funds if there are agencies, such as C.W. Williams and others that may not qualify for Ryan White funds to assist in the County's response to HIV/AIDS.**

Unrestricted Contingency

Motion was made by Commissioner Helms and **carried 5-4** with Commissioners Clarke, Helms, Mitchell, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes and Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, James, and Ramirez voting no, **to increase unrestricted contingency by \$150,000.**

It was noted that per the actions taken, the Board has reduced the County Manager's Recommended Budget by \$20,267,500.

Note: The above is not inclusive of every comment and/or question asked but reflects key points and actions taken by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Woodard and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Bishop, Clarke, Helms, James, Mitchell, Ramirez, Roberts, and Woodard voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be recessed until Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting recessed at 8:37 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman