

**JANUARY 13, 2009**

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**NORTH CAROLINA  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners Karen Bentley, Harold Cogdell, Jr., Neil Cooksey, George Dunlap, Vilma Leake and Daniel Murrey  
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.  
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

**Absent:** Commissioners Dumont Clarke and Bill James

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

County Manager Jones addressed the Board's upcoming Strategic Planning Conference.

County Manager Jones took a moment to inform the Board that the agenda review meetings have not been well attended, but that staff would try one more time. It was suggested that the review meeting start at 2:00 p.m. rather than 1:00 p.m. Also, Commissioners were asked to inform staff ahead of time of those items they have questions about, so that only needed staff would be present rather than everyone.

**(1) COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SCORECARD BRIEFING**

County Manager Jones then called on Planning and Evaluation Director Leslie Johnson.

Director Johnson addressed the Community and Corporate Scorecard.

The following was covered in the presentation:

- What is Managing for Results
- The Managing for Results Framework
- The Board's Community Vision 2015
- Elements of the Vision
- The four Focus Areas as it relates to the Vision
- The Balanced Scorecard
- Priority Setting Criteria
- Priority Level Funding FY09
- Program Review Summary
- Performance Results
- Resources

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

Comments

Commissioner Cooksey asked about the adoption of the Board's Community Vision. *It was noted that the Vision was adopted in May 2001.*

Commissioner Cooksey asked at what point should the Board revisit the Vision. *It was noted that this is usually done at the Board's annual Strategic Planning Conference. It's at that time the Board is asked to reaffirm and/or make changes to the Vision.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked about the Choice Matrix, which was addressed.

Commissioner Cooksey asked how does staff come up with the ratings as it relates to the Choice Matrix. *It was noted that it's based on the Board's ranking of services.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked if the County has any control over the operational efficiency of outside agencies that receive County funds. *The response was no, but that the County does conduct program reviews of outside agencies. It was noted that program reviews are not conducted for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) at this time, mainly because these would be massive undertakings. Staff is continuing to give thought as to what would be the best way to do it.*

Commissioner Dunlap said although the County doesn't have control over these agencies, including CMS and CPCC, the County could offer suggestions as to how they can achieve a certain level of efficiencies and further suggest that their funding will be based on how efficiently they operate.

Chairman Roberts said CPCC gives the County statistical information that the Board can use to gage its effectiveness and achievement, however, with respect to CMS, this is always an on-going discussion.

Commissioner Cogdell asked about pass through funds, which was addressed.

Commissioner Cogdell said he's concerned that the public may not understand the Board has no authority over service programs whereby the County is just the pass through entity for receipt of funds allocated to that agency.

Commissioner Cogdell asked if there was a mechanism for identifying those revenue sources (pass through funds) to say that the County is not charged with the responsibility of evaluating that agency's effectiveness, efficiency, etc. *The response was that there are a few instances where certain agencies may go through the County's program review process but not in all cases, when it comes to pass through funds. It depends on how that service is being rendered or delivered.*

Commissioner Leake addressed Cities in Schools. She asked how the County evaluates Cities in Schools compared to how it evaluates Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, in light of the fact both entities do the same thing. *The response was that theoretically the County would do reviews on these entities. Further that when staff conduct reviews, it's done by program category and with education because staff is still in the process of trying to refine its process on how to evaluate CMS and CPCC, based on how they're funded, and the information they provide, staff has not done Cities in Schools as of yet, but in theory, Cities in Schools could be evaluated. The education entities have not been done yet, because they're huge and all of the nuances haven't been figured out yet in order to ensure a solid process that can be manageable and dealt with in the time constraints that staff has.*

Commissioner Leake said she feels Cities in Schools is a duplication of services and that perhaps they should come under the umbrella of CMS.

Commissioner Leake asked how does the County determine who receives what funding with respect to outside agencies and how are they evaluated.

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County Manager Jones addressed the outside agency funding process.

Commissioner Dunlap said he would hope that when an outside agency makes a request for funding that a need analysis is done to determine that there's a need for that service to be provided before funding is even considered.

Commissioner Dunlap asked about performance results, particularly when you go from yellow to red, to green, then red. He asked is an analysis done to see why or what caused the change. *The response was yes.*

This concluded the discussion of this topic.

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

## **(2) STRATEGIC PLANNING CONFERENCE PROCESS UPDATE AND ACTIVITY**

Budget/Management Director Hyong Yi addressed the Board's upcoming Strategic Planning Conference. It was noted that Anne Udall with the Lee Institute would be present to facilitate and assist the Board with identifying its priorities. The Strategic Planning Conference is scheduled for January 29 & 30, 2009 at The Lodge at Ballantyne located at 10000 Ballantyne Commons Parkway.

The following was covered in the presentation:

The Planning Process and Timeline  
Ranking Issues, Setting Priorities (40 issues)  
Commissioner Ranking Activity Instructions  
Questions and Demonstration

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

Comments

Commissioner Cogdell asked for clarification with respect to the ranking process. *The response was that Commissioners are to rank based on what they see as the community needs.*

Commissioners were also asked to keep in mind when ranking that the focus be on the need and not the delivery of services.

County Manager Jones noted that staff uses the Board's priorities as a means for developing his recommended budget.

Commissioner Dunlap asked at what point in the process would Board members advocate for things that they see as a high priority. *The response was at the strategic planning conference and also after the County Manager presents his recommended budget. The Board will conduct a series of workshops, at which time, individual Commissioners can advocate for their interests.*

This concluded the discussion of this topic.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooksey, seconded by Commissioner Bentley and

unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, Leake, Murrey, and Roberts voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board the

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meeting be adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Janice S. Paige, Clerk

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Jennifer Roberts, Chairman