

FEBRUARY 10, 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, February 10, 2009.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Vice-Chairman Harold Cogdell, Jr. and
Commissioners Dumont Clarke, Neil Cooksey
George Dunlap and Daniel Murrey
General Manager Michelle Lancaster
General Manager John McGillicuddy
County Attorney Marvin Bethune
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners Karen Bentley
Bill James and Vilma Leake

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Cogdell.

Vice-Chairman Cogdell noted the topics scheduled for discussion, 1) Affirming the Board's Priorities and 2) Additional Public Policy Workshop Dates. He then called on Budget/Management Director Hyong Yi.

(1) AFFIRMING THE BOARD'S PRIORITIES

Director Yi said one of the purposes of today's meeting was to ask the Board to affirm and/or change the priorities presented as determined at the Board's Strategic Planning Conference. He suggested, however, since several Commissioners were absent that the Board may want to defer this until the next Budget/Public Policy meeting.

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

Comments

Commissioner Murrey said when the matter does come back before the Board, he would be interested in a comparison of last year's ranking of priorities versus this year's. He's interested in knowing if there are differences; why and what impact will this have on the parties involved; and how it will be interpreted by those responsible groups and public stakeholders that are related to those programs.

Commissioner Clarke said he would like to see the Business Imperatives "carved out" and clearly explained, so that the public will understand the Board changed its methodology.

Commissioner Cooksey said he thinks the Board should move forward because what if attendance is the same at the next Budget/Public Policy meeting. He suggested the list of priorities be sent to all Board members and that it be addressed at the next regular meeting, when the full Board would be present.

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Vice-Chairman Cogdell asked Board members if the list presented appeared to be what the Board decided upon at the Strategic Planning Conference. *The consensus was yes.*

Commissioner Dunlap said although he's not in total agreement with the priorities, he feels the Board should move forward because each time the matter is presented, it's subject to changes. He said at some point the Board needs to finalize the list of priorities and move to the next step.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooksey, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, but later withdrawn, to adopt the list of priorities presented as the Board's priorities for FY2010.

Commissioner Murrey said there needs to be more discussion and asked would there be another opportunity for the Board to adjust the list. *It was noted that once the Board adopts the list, this is what will be used by staff for moving forward in formulating next year's budget.*

Vice-Chairman Cogdell said this matter should be delayed until all Board members can be present. This would give everyone an opportunity to weigh in on this matter.

It was at this point that Commissioners Cooksey and Dunlap withdrew their motion.

Commissioner Cooksey asked staff to send the priorities list presented today to all Commissioners prior to the next Budget/Public Policy Workshop and make it clear that the Board will be voting on this matter at the next Budget/Public Policy Workshop; and that if you desire to have further input, please be present.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Murrey and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, and Murrey voting yes, to defer consideration of the Board's priorities until the next Budget/Public Policy meeting.

(2) WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Additional Budget/Public Policy Workshop dates were presented for approval.

A list of the dates is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Murrey, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, and Murrey voting yes, to approve the additional Budget/Public Policy Workshop dates as presented by staff.

Prior to the above vote:

Vice-Chairman Cogdell said if there are topics listed on the Workshop Schedule that Board members feel they've received sufficient information on and therefore a presentation on that subject is not needed and/or if there's a topic a member would like discussed that's not on the list to inform staff of that.

Commissioner Cooksey asked for clarification on the subject of Fee Changes and Storm Water fees, which was addressed.

Commissioner Murrey asked could some of these subject matters be discussed in committee and then brought to the full Board.

General Manager McGillicuddy addressed the Board's committee process and how matters get before a committee.

Commissioner Clarke commented on how the committee process has worked in the past.

Commissioner Murrey said the Board needs to discuss at a future Budget/Public Policy

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meeting how much it wants to utilize its committee structure. Commissioner Murrey said utilizing the committee structure more could be more effective.

Commissioner Dunlap said the advantage of the Budget/Public Policy meetings is that it allows all Board members the opportunity to become knowledgeable about a particular subject matter at the same time, whereas, in a committee, often only those on the committee have a greater understanding of a matter because more in depth discussion has taken place. Thus, those not on the committee rely on the recommendation of the committee but really don't have the full knowledge.

Commissioner Murrey said the question isn't whether or not Budget/Public Policy meetings need to be held, because he feels they are needed, but rather, what's the appropriate place for a matter to go, committee or public policy.

Commissioner Murrey said he brings it up as a suggestion to staff in placing items on various agendas. He said if an item goes to committee, then all board members should be informed of that and provided the same information that committee members receive, with the understanding that they're welcome to attend that committee meeting.

Commissioner Cooksey with respect to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' (CMS) Funding Evaluation Guidelines, suggested once the Board confirms those guidelines that there be a joint meeting with the School Board with respect to that.

Vice-Chairman Cogdell said often times things can get done more effectively utilizing a committee that then comes back with a recommendation to the full body to act upon as it chooses.

Commissioner Clarke said the topics on the workshop schedule are for the Board to discuss as a whole. He said these matters are tied to the budget, but if a committee wants to take up a topic prior to that, he's not opposed to that.

It was clarified that the Board was really only being asked to approve the dates and that the topics are subject to change.

(Meeting with Board of Education)

Commissioner Cooksey said in light of the tough budget year everyone is facing that it would be a good idea to meet with the Board of Education. He said in order to come to a conclusion that's satisfactory to the community the two entities have to talk.

Vice-Chairman Cogdell noted that in the past all three entities, the County Commission, Charlotte City Council and Board of Education, met on a quarterly basis but the meetings were not well attended. He supports having such meetings, nonetheless.

Vice-Chairman Cogdell asked staff to report back to the Board with ideas for holding these types of joint meetings.

Commissioner Murrey said if joint meetings are going to be held and in order to get good attendance, there will need to be a "defined" agenda, so everyone would know what we're trying to accomplish. Commissioner Murrey said this is true even if the meeting is just between the County Commission and the Board of Education. He said it's important to know and to say specifically what it is we're trying to come to alignment on as far as our goals and our understanding of what the priorities are.

Commissioner Clarke suggested a joint meeting with the Board of Education take place after the Board has discussed the CMS Evaluation Guidelines and then sometime between when the Superintendent makes his recommendation to the Board of Education and before the Board of Education makes its decision.

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Vice-Chairman Cogdell said he agrees that the joint meeting with the Board of Education should not occur until after the Board has discussed the CMS Evaluation Guidelines and has clear direction.

Commissioner Cooksey said he agreed and that the CMS Evaluation Guidelines discussion needs to be moved up on the workshop schedule.

It was the consensus of the Board that the discussion of CMS Evaluation Guidelines be moved up on the workshop schedule, possibly for the February 24, 2009 workshop.

This concluded the discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Murrey, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cogdell, Cooksey, Dunlap, and Murrey voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting be adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Harold Cogdell, Jr., Vice-Chairman