

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
WORK SESSION**

Greensboro, North Carolina
November 15, 2018

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Work Session at 3:00 P.M. in the Blue Room, Old County Courthouse, 301 W. Market Street, Greensboro, NC.

PRESENT: Chairman Alan Branson, Commissioners Jeff Phillips, Hank Henning, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Alan Perdue, Melvin “Skip” Alston, Katie “Kay” Cashion

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Justin Conrad and Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing, County Attorney Mark Payne, Clerk to the Board Robin Keller, Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier, Deputy County Clerk Scott Baillargeon, members of staff, the community, and the media.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Branson called the work session to order at 3: 15 P.M.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018-405 RECEIVE UPDATE ON WATER QUALITY

Public Health Director, Merle Green, spoke to a Power Point Presentation (PPP) and introduced speakers Mark Borchert and Steve Drew from the City of Greensboro and Ricky Langley and James Pritchett. Green discussed the emergency contaminant in the City of Greensboro’s water supply. She noted that the source of the contamination had been narrowed down and identified. She discussed the areas impacted by the contaminant. She stated that the issue is one of public health and requires review.

City of Greensboro Water Resources Director, Steve Drew, shared that his expertise was drinking water. He discussed the agenda and the acronyms utilized to simplify the language. He reviewed the Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), detecting PFAS, development and use. He shared the UCMR 3 Study and the requirements associated with the sampling. He reviewed the city council contract to field an investigation into the higher level contaminant in the water. He outlined the Watershed Investigation Team and contractors, HDR Engineers. He presented the sites where samples were collected for investigation.

He reviewed three significant lakes that provide the City's water supply and stated that the largest concentration of PFAS was found near the airport. He discussed the several measures implemented for water treatment plants to stay ahead of the contaminate and noted the proactive measures to adhere to an operational response protocol and increased drinking water sampling from neighboring cities. He stated the difficulties to study the data as PFAS and PFOA are not as quickly detectable. He shared the second measure to use powder-activated carbon for treatment purposes to remove PFOS and PFOA. He shared other additional measures to combat the contaminate. He shared the predictive model development. Drew provided details the next steps the City is taking to uphold consumer confidence and trust.

Ricky Langley spoke to the health effects of PFAS and how people are exposed to the chemical and where the chemical is often found and ingested. Langley stated that the known health effects are developmental and productive in women: decreased fertility, pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia, decreased birthweight, affect adverse cognition behavior in infants. He noted the EPA lifetime health advisory is 70 ng/L or parts per trillion.

Merle Green shared the five step action plan and outlined the measures to inform the citizens of ongoing treatments and testing of homes for the contaminate. She shared that the results would be submitted to the Board by mid-January 2019.

Commissioner Coleman asked where the testing had been in the Townsend Lake area, and had the City tested around the southeast area as well.

Commissioner Cashion asked if any households had been tested in the area.

Green shared the information she had currently had concerning the areas of significant impact and noted that the contaminant had not been detected in the South East area of Greensboro.

Commissioner Phillips asked about the construction happening at the Mitchell Water Treatment Plant and what impacts could be expected there.

A representative from the City of Greensboro provided information concerning the construction and the distribution of water throughout the City.

City of Greensboro Representative, Peter Schneider, spoke to the testing in the areas and the history of chaos that has taken place in the area that could have contributed to the higher levels of chemicals in the water. He stated that the City is investigating several areas of concern.

Discussion ensued among the Board and the staff from the City of Greensboro concerning the study collaborations with other scientists to identify the impacted areas expeditiously. NC Water Representative spoke to statewide findings that have shown that the chemical is prevalent across the state.

Commissioner Perdue shared the typical procedure to extinguish fires with foam and the higher levels of chemical contaminate from the foam.

B. 2018-313 RECEIVE UPDATE FROM SAY YES

Deputy County Manager, Clarence Grier, spoke to the Say Yes local chapter and the update to the Board. He introduced the present Say yes board members.

Alan Duncan, Guilford County School Board Chair, discussed the Say Yes organization and the shift to a local control organization. He spoke to the organization and the efforts to increase scholarships throughout the County. He specified that the most impacted populations receive education scholarships. He shared the two-year business plan to collect data and group points in terms of students receiving scholarships as well as several other points of note concerning the work that has been done collaboratively to increase partnerships. Duncan discussed the schools throughout the County involved in partnerships to work through the milieu of scholarships. He shared that the purpose of the program is to target kids from falling behind academically.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Duncan for his work in the schools.

C. 2018-398 REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATES TO 2019 BENEFITS PLAN

Human Resources Director, Karen Fishel, presented the benefits plan and emphasized the need for more consumerism to the County's health care. She shared that the benefits plan is high reason retention. She reviewed the Board's previous directive to collect feedback from the employees on their knowledge of health care. She provided several updates concerning the different vendors that the County could partner with. Fishel emphasized the diagnostic tests that the County pays for per capita employees. She discussed the deductible to employees at \$200 to employee. She outlined other categories that the County is evaluating for cost deductions.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the list of places employees can go, and she questioned a number mentioned in Fishel's presentation that was not in the literature.

Discussion ensued concerning medical practices among competing doctors' offices; deductibles; co-insurance and families; specialists and the County's copay for in-network doctors.

Commissioner Coleman elaborated on the high-cost of specialist care, and asked Fishel to clarify how the copay would change in 2019.

Commissioner Perdue discussed the major diagnostic tests and asked staff to explore other avenues to implement the \$200 deductible. He emphasized that the average employee needs to be educated on the nuances of health care.

Fishel stated that Human Resources had explored the possibilities and shared several alternate scenarios that could be considered.

Commissioner Henning inquired about the \$46K saved out of the budget on the diagnostic plan.

Fishel elaborated that the question of doing nothing would generate larger problems going forward, and she stated that the significance of the plan is to educate and place more ownership on the recipient.

Human Resources Benefits Manager, Carol Campbell, clarified the deductible and the recipient's cost-savings. She emphasized that the increase in claims has made an impact on the County budget.

Commissioner Henning emphasized making a change now and avoid postponing the decision. He shared that the employees expect to retire with great benefits and that does not happen.

Commissioner Cashion emphasized the need to be realistic and educate the County employee on the benefits of the plan.

Motion made by Commissioner Perdue, seconded by Cashion to approve Item C. Approve Staff Recommendation to Authorize and Approve Health Insurance Premium Strategy with Change of 5% to Diagnostics.

VOTE: Motion carried 7- 0

AYES: Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning

NOES: None

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Justin Conrad, Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the nuances of the options presented.

Commissioner Alston restated the question and noted that any increased cost should not be extended to the Employees.

Discussion ensued among the Board and staff provided additional literature to provide information on the increase; the County share the cost with the employee, or would current salaries be augmented to adjust for the higher costs of health care.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the increase in the benefits the salary compensation.

County Manager Marty Lawing stated that salaries would be based on the employee merit pool and individual performance.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the benefits plan increase and salary compensation balancing.

Motion made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, seconded Carolyn Q. Coleman Approve Dental Strategy Option 3, which is based on actual plan choice and coverage level; and authorize staff to take any and all necessary steps to execute changes.

VOTE: Motion carried 7- 0

AYES: Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning

NOES: None

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Justin Conrad, Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster

D. 2018-347 LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER RENOVATION (LEC)

Facilities Director Dan Durham presented the PPP and shared the bid results and bid alternates and discussed those alternates currently being considered. He discussed the Edgeworth Building; Alternate #5 to enlarge windows openings; Value engineering effort; The recommendation of Option #1, with bid alternates except #5; MWBE increased from 4.2% to 9.5%; and the previous requested alternatives; LEC Renovation alternates.

Commissioner Phillips asked how staff had come to those numbers. He clarified that 70K Sq. Ft., parole detention was not included.

Durham clarified that the study had been conducted with the Sheriff's Office. He stated that it was

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the difference of 10K Sq. Ft.; the DNA lab sq. footage is, and how much would the Sheriff's Office need to complete the renovation; and the additional cost associate to renovate the entire facility; discussed bid and the renovation of the Otto Zenke Building; and the square footage of each floor of the

building, and the additional funds that would be required to bring the future designs of each floor to fruition.

Durham provided additional content concerning the future designs of the building.

Walter Robbs Callahan and Pierce Architects Representative provided a list of needs that would be required to bring the entire project to fruition.

Commissioner Alston clarified the total amount of square footage.

Commissioner Cashion asked about the vacant space issues, and what the total space available.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the demolition of all eight floors.

Lawing clarified that the option and study confirmed that it had been considered and the difficulty of renovation.

Commissioner Henning asked what the cost of demolition would be.

Discussion ensued concerning the cost to effort ratios of all options.

Commissioner Alston raised questions concerning the up-fit of the building.

County Attorney Mark Payne clarified the parameters included in the up-fit.

Commissioner Henning expressed concern for taking on all three projects and not having the numbers from Budget to make a good decision.

Lawing shared the short timeline to bid on the LEC, and the difficulty to change the deadline date.

Commissioner Alston clarified that the money is there, and the LEC is on the agenda for consideration.

Chairman Branson explained how the major capital projects were voted on, and noted that the costs have gone up exponentially.

Commissioner Phillips expressed caution before voting on the item with the set price tag at present. He emphasized caution to avoid a tax increase to pay for the projects. He shared that it was likely that two separate bids were on the horizon to consider.

Commissioner Coleman asked if they had begun with offices spaces on the first and second spaces and since then the project has expanded.

Lawing provided the details of the expansion.

Discussion ensued concerning the expansion of the project and bloating of the budget; and suggested the project go back to its original plan; and the recommendation to have the LEC placed on the agenda; Otto Zenke versus renovation items and ambiguity among the Board as to what the project had consisted of initially.

Chairman Branson provided details of the project and the discussed the up-fits required to the building. He stated that the

Commissioner Phillips asked the Chairman to delay the item on account of time.

Commissioner Coleman asked that the entire project be parsed out and considered separately

Motion made by Carolyn Q. Coleman, seconded by Melvin "Skip" Alston to break up the item into several parts and consider the item in pieces rather than one whole project.

VOTE: Motion

AYES: Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning

NOES: None

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Justin Conrad, Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster

Commissioner Phillips stressed that the item needs continuous discussion and noted that the new Sheriff should be included in the discussions. He stated that the costs need to be decreased to be considered seriously. He suggested the item be pulled from consideration and get back to work soon. He asked Coleman to withdraw the motion. He suggested having a small meeting to hash out the details.

The Board asked that a work session be set on Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

Discussion ensued concerning a work session to get back to the original plan discussed; the demolition of the floors with cells; isolate the demolition of the cells.

Walter Robbs Callahan and Pierce Architects Representative Pierce stated that it would be impossible to do what the Board is asking to do.

Motion to form substitute motion to form a sub-committee with new sheriff and ask the contractor to extend the contract, seconded by Alston (Skip, Carolyn, Hank and Phillips)

VOTE: Motion carried 7- 0

AYES: Alan Perdue, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Justin Conrad, Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster

III. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:09 P.M.

Chairman

Clerk