

MINUTES FROM A SPECIAL MEETING HELD BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE WARREN COUNTY ARMORY CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013 AT 3:30 PM.

The Special Meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Bertadean W. Baker. Other Commissioners present: Ruby Downey, Jennifer Jordan, Barry Richardson and Ulysses S. Ross. Moderator: County Manager Linda T. Worth.

A moment of silence was observed followed by introductions. Special guest present was Representative Nathan Baskerville. Senator Angela Bryant arrived at 4:00 pm. Representative Baskerville gave a brief overview of Legislative activity and his committee involvement.

Moderator Worth opened the floor for discussion of NCACC 2013 Legislative Goals:

Goal #1: Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities

Rep. Nathan Baskerville – is opposed, there is not enough support to pass. Warren County and Town of Warrenton both oppose a shift.

Senator Angela Bryant – supports counties and watching for legislation that affects counties negatively.

Goal #2: Reinstate ADM & Lottery funds for school construction

County Manager Worth – initially counties received 40% from the lottery funds, in the past few years during the state budget crunch counties have gotten 22%.

Baskerville – lottery was approved initially because it was advertised to support education.

Byrant – is concerned and wants to return to status quo. There are issues of concern because governor's budget is not a given. Will need to think about how technology can be funded if lottery funds are not used as Governor proposes.

Goal #3: Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties

County Manager Worth and Board of Commissioners encouraged legislators to oppose in any form.

Baskerville – bill was heard on the floor last week to require DSS to perform background checks at \$38 each on TANF applicants; report anyone with an outstanding warrant for arrest to local law enforcement. Where will the funds come from to implement this?

Michelle Winstead, Warren County DSS Director – where will funds come from Bryant – encouraged citizens and County officials to be vigilant, have to keep updated on legislative actions.

Goal # 4: Ensure adequate mental health funding:

Baskerville – Mental Health System needs to be funded sufficiently, lots of interaction with people that have mental health issues that are incarcerated, use those funds to treat rather than to incarcerate.

Bryant – the Mental Health system keeps changing which makes it hard to get a handle on how the system works and the efficiency of the system. Each time system changes that means dollars (\$) have gone to waste. The COBA system did not last one year, then they privatized services; now they have created a waiver under local management entities. The System is not user friendly for small, rural communities. Need feedback from the local level.

Goal #5: Preserve the existing local revenue base

Commissioner Barry Richardson – finance historical sites; Ex: Nathaniel Macon site. State stop diverting county funds and stop unfunded mandates.

Hot Topic #1: State Budget

Restore diverted funds back to counties and do not cut additional funding sources; Ex: Rural Center, Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, GoldenLeaf, NC Bio Tech Center, National Heritage Trust Fund, etc.

Commissioner Jennifer Jordan – raise age of court involved youth from 16 to 18 to be tried as an adult.

Bryant – regarding juvenile’s being tried as an adult, conversations need to be had with District Attorney’s who want to take the age down to potentially 13 years. She supports raising age for juvenile /adult and mandatory school attendance. It is shown that if you put funds into services incarcerations are reduced.

Baskerville – supports raising age and believes there is support from Republicans on this issue as well.

Sheriff Johnny Williams voiced concerns – where will youth be housed if there are no juvenile detention facilities if they are convicted as an adult and where do the extra funds come from to accommodate their special needs

Gabe Cumming, Warren County EDC – need to continue support of renewable energy because it creates jobs, investment in communities and taxable incomes.

Hot Topic #2: Motor Vehicle Property Tax

County Manager Worth asked legislators for the status of this bill because collection of motor vehicle taxes on the local level is not effective. Senator Bryant thinks there are amendments being considered for this bill. Will research and get back to us on this issue.

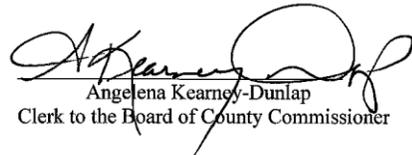
Hot Topic #3: Inmate Medical Costs

County Manager Worth and Sheriff Williams asked the legislators for support of S321 and H448 to contain counties inmate medical costs because local budgets are strained.

Hot Topic #5: Tax Reform

County Manager Worth and the Board of Commissioners requested the legislators to help preserve Counties existing revenue base as lawmakers look at broadening the state's tax base. Rural areas cannot afford to lose current taxing authority and our citizens do not have the jobs to support taxes on food and services.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.



Angelena Kearney-Dunlap
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioner