

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERHSIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION 2 OF 3

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

5:30 PM

Present at the meeting: Mr. Jason Steen, Mr. Willie Gladden, Dr. Carolyn Prince, Ms. Corrie Plato, Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., Mr. Verd Odom, Mr. Steve Blackmon, and Mr. Anthony Woods; Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator; Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director, Ms. Lynn McQueen of Herald-Advocate, and Ms. Patricia Bundy, Clerk to Council.

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, opened the second strategic planning session and stated that the first strategic planning went well and Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, County Administrator, presented numbers to council which really put things into perspective. He stated that the decrease in population research was very informative.

Chairman Steen stated that these strategic planning sessions were being done in order to have a three to five year plan. He stated that a plan will help staff and council focus on what changes can be made and work toward those changes.

Chairman Steen also stated that there were a couple of items that would be taken up after the presentation by Mr. Munnerlyn towards the end of the meeting.

Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Munnerlyn.

Mr. Munnerlyn presented a presented a Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached hereto.

HEALTH

Mr. Munnerlyn asked members of Council what their highest concerns were as far as issues that were identified under health and they responded that no hospital in the County was a major problem that dealt with issues for health, public safety (EMS), and economic development. Mr. Munnerlyn then asked what could be done to make the problems better for the community and members of council responded that additional rescue squads could be hired to have vehicles available 24/7. Dr. Carolyn Prince mentioned that the condition of state and county roads were also a major concern.

Ms. Plato mentioned that the existing Urgent Care facility could stay open longer to help with the health and public safety issues. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that McLeod had some interest in opening an Urgent Care but asked how we might help that become a reality. He stated that the county could provide McLeod with the EMS and 911 data information which

is now being logged. He also stated that Council could reach out to the Legislative Delegation to discuss supporting laws to allow our ambulances to transport folks to Urgent Care facilities for treatment rather than a hospital. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that EMS has taken a big hit and they are adjusting but that stated that staff needed to be involved to make sure that the EMS is running the service efficiently. He stated that some counties run their own EMS service but we have Marlboro Rescue that currently runs ours and stated that they have done a good job.

Mr. Charles Midgley, Jr. mentioned that he felt that a team or committee needed to get together and visit the Charities Trust folks to see if they could assist with these issues in any way.

Dr. Prince stated that Council could also ask the Legislative Delegation to sign a bill to allow Scotland to have an Emergency Room in our county.

Chairman Steen also stated that the county needed doctors here as well and stated that incentives to get doctors to come to our area would possibly help.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that the county had already began working on some of the issues mentioned in Environment which related to litter problems. He stated that the county has purchased a large dumpster and it will be wrapped in the yellow and green with the logo "KEEP MARLBORO COUNTY CLEAN AND GREEN". He stated that folks that wanted to clean up their neighborhood could request the dumpster for their area and that once the folks are finished the county would have it picked up, emptied and ready for the next area or job.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that solutions to derelict homes, mobile homes and structures were also being discussed.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned abandoned industrial building sites in the county and city and used the old Delta site as an example. He stated that there really was no way to deal with these type structures.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned issues with the solid waste collection system and stated that the current service needed much improvement or a back-up plan.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the problems with no sewer outside of cities/towns and stated that this was an important issue but that he was not sure that it was as urgent as compared to the other problems. He did mention the possibility of having lift stations.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that the county's grant person could possibly check with rural development about getting some help with abandoned industrial sites.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that the biggest issue which was discussed in this group was the decline in industry – jobs. He stated that this is an issue with County Economic Development.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the loss of population and stated that the county recreation needed to focus more on retired folks and tourism.

Dr. Carolyn Prince suggested that the Welcome Center could remain open on Saturday and Sundays since that was when most folks are traveling through.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that BDDA (Bennettsville Downtown Development Association), the Chamber and Economic Development should be working together. He stated that no one in the county has money to waste.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn mentioned that the lack of Highway Patrol officers was a state issue since these folks were employed by the State. One solution to consider was salaries. He stated that folks need to be paid more in this line of work. He stated that no one is applying for jobs with the Highway Patrol because these jobs do not pay enough.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that limited Police in Clio was a Clio issue but that they understand that it is an issue and the town had scheduled a community forum for November 2nd for citizens to discuss issues with the Clio Police Department.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that limited deputies in the county were an issue. He stated that Council had rejected the Sheriff's request for two new deputy positions due to many vacant slots that needed to be filled.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned cooperation between agencies and that this was always a challenge. He stated that it goes up and down.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned fire service (volunteer and aging firefighters) and stated that this was a big item for which we have a need and felt that this was a very important issue. He suggested that he work with staff and bring back options to Council for review and consideration.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the City 5 mile contract and stated that each year the current contract is updated and passed on to another year. He stated that this year staff would be looking into this more closely as the contract is very old and out of date. He stated that the county may not be charging enough for city inmates housed in the Detention Center.

EDUCATION

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn mentioned Vocational K-12 Education, Issues K-12, and Lack of School Support (staff and agencies) and stated that these issues were under the control of the School District.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned Vocational Training and Work Skills and stated that the county continues to support Northeastern Technical College with programs such as welding and health services.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned prioritization of resources and stated that the School District continues to build large schools in the county although the population is down for youth. He stated that the larger schools were also located in the wrong places and could be located in a more accessible locations so that children from all areas of the county could benefit from the school.

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn mentioned Field Sports by Recreation agencies and stated that he felt that the county needed to keep up what we currently have and develop things for adults (grown adults). He stated that he did not feel that we needed more soccer fields but that we needed to focus on making what we have better. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that the tech building which will now be the county's building and this building along with the Murchison building could be used for crafts or aerobics or these type programs.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that more recreation opportunities needed to be made available for the young girls ages 5-15. He advised that they really have nothing other than cheerleading and basketball. He also mentioned that there needed to be other things offered other than "team concept" sports. He suggested archery, boxing, golf and tennis. He also stated that the county should not limit recreation to Monday through Thursday. He stated that recreational activities needed to be offered for Saturdays and Sundays as well so that working parents and grandparents could attend the events with the children and grandchildren.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that the county has the Wade H. Prince Recreation Center and that the buildings could be made available with wifi.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned survey monkey where folks are sent solicitations for feedback and paper surveys as to how the county can make what we currently have better.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that staff review these questions and bring options back to Council for review.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned fast food only; limited "higher-end" restaurant and stated that this was a community thing and that the city charges a penny sales tax for prepared food.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned Blue Laws and stated that this was something that is being looked into currently.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the issues with the Condition of Lake Wallace. He stated that this was a State issue and he wasn't sure how much the county could do with this issue. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that the Lake Authority had received funds from the State since Representative Jackie Hayes was on the Ways and Means Committee but that these funds

could not be depended on each year. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned having a community forum to help get things done with this issue.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned cultural and historical attractions not utilized and stated that the county could help with creating tourism on weekends. He mentioned the confederate monument and stated that there were folks out of town that would find the monument very interesting.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the issue with conditions of roads. He stated that SCDOT and Marlboro County Transportation Committee were over the paved roads. Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned that the dirt roads were under the county's control. He stated that the Public Works Director was working on taking out of circulation some of the dirt roads that were not being used so that we could focus more on the roads that are being used and the possibility of having rock put down on the dirt roads that we do maintain. He stated that he felt that that the CTC would help us if we had our plan and were taking action to make it a reality.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the Paving approval process and stated that the county really had no control over repaving.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned the lack of public transportation and stated that this could be an economic development issue. He stated that a need for buses to take employees to and from Mohawk and Harbor Freight are needed and this could service could possibly be used as a tax incentive.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned no interstate and stated that this was definitely an economic development issue. He stated that he felt that Highway 38 North should be made into a four lane highway all the way to Highway I-73. He stated that it was approximately 15 miles and he estimated that the cost to do this would be approximately \$2.4 billion.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned sewer-rural and stated that was not an issue that the county could control.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned limited public water in northwest area of County and stated that staff could possibly talk to Wallace Water and let them know that we would support efforts to run new lines to this area.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned internet that was slow or unavailable in areas. He stated that this issue could be taken to Mr. O'Neal Hamilton who works with the SC Public Service Commission and Council could consider adopting a Resolution about this issue.

Mr. Munnerlyn mentioned County railroad future and stated that the county has no options but that that railroad folks do want to make things better. He says that the railroad company has lost a lot of railroad service from Domtar due to no cars being available to handle the steel. He suggested that staff be allowed to bring some options by to Council for review.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he would take the information discussed in this presentation and present options at the next meeting for Council to review. He stated that there are things that the county is doing that could be done better and new things to focus on. He thanked Council for their input and suggested that the next and final strategic planning session be held after the regular meeting.

NON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Steen stated that there were a couple of items which members of Council had requested they be allowed to mention. He recognized Dr. Carolyn Prince.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she and Ms. Corrie Plato have been talking with the folks of USA Waste about the annual turkey give away which was scheduled for Saturday, November 18th. She says that Mr. Willie Gladden had also talked with USA Waste and they advised him that they will have about 700 turkeys to give away on the 18th. Dr. Prince suggested that the County Council provide monies to make the total turkeys to be given away to be 1,000. She stated that she has priced the turkeys and the prices are anywhere from \$1.19/lb to \$1.25/lb. She stated that Walmart has a program available where gift cards may be purchased and the gift cards would be restricted for use to purchase a ham, turkey or fresh produce. She stated that she felt this may be the way to go. She suggested that 300 \$10 cards be purchased with monies from Community Relations and that each member of Council agree to contribute \$375 of their community relations' funds to this cause. She asked that members of Council consider this request and let her know who wishes to participate.

Chairman Steen recognized Mr. Verd Odom.

Mr. Verd Odom stated that he wished to make an appointment to the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership board.

Motion made by Mr. Verd Odom, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to appoint Ms. Gail Bullard to the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership Board. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

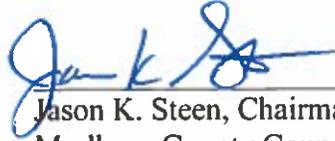
Chairman Steen stated that there was a letter which was prepared for Council's signature in response to the request for the removal of the confederate monument from the courthouse grounds. He asked that council members please review the letter and sign if acceptable.

Chairman Steen asked there were any further comments or questions. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Anthony Woods, seconded by Mr. Charles P. Midgley, Jr., to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

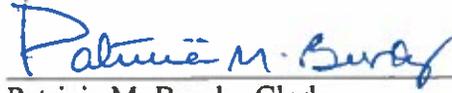
The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

(SEAL)



Jason K. Steen, Chairman
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Adopted: December 12, 2017

2017 Strategic Planning

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

Session 2 – November 1, 2017



Strategic Planning Process

- Meeting 2
 - Identify resources in the community
 - What Issues are “Required” and by who?
 - What issues does Council wish to pursue?
- Meeting 3
 - Set goals and specify resources for next 3-5 years
- Outcome
 - Guiding document for County for next 3-5 years
 - Road show?



QUESTION 1:
What resources exist in in our community to address these issues?



QUESTION 2:
Which issues “require” responsibility or action & by whom?

QUESTION 3:
Which issues should County Council focus our resources?



Health

- No hospital or facility to receive emergency EMS calls
- Poor preventative medicine and nutrition options
- Need for Elder Care/Rehab Services
- Misinformation (fear loss of benefits, understanding visual)
- Affordable day care
- High rates of disease for all age groups
- Mental health care
- Drug Abuse

Environment

- Litter problem COUNTY & CITY
- Derelict homes, mobile homes and structures COUNTY & CITY
- Abandoned industrial building sites COUNTY & CITY
- Drainage problems
- Solid waste collection system issues COUNTY
- No sewer outside of cities/towns

Personal Financial Well-being

- 30% of citizens under poverty level
- Decline in industry – jobs **COUNTY ED**
- Loss of population (Seniors/grandparents and young people)
- Welfare money vs. Work money
- Homelessness
- Difficult Family Dynamics
- Drugs

Public Safety

- Lack of Highway Patrol officers **STATE**
- Limited Police in Clio **CLIO**
- Limited Deputies in County **COUNTY**
- Cooperation Between Agencies
- Fire Service (volunteer and aging firefighters) **COUNTY**
- City 5 mile contract
- EMS issues related to no local hospital **COUNTY**

Education

- Vocational K-12 Education **SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- Issues K-12 **SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- Lack of School Support (staff and agencies) **SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- Vocational training
- Work skills
- Prioritization of resources **SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Recreation and Amenities

- Field Sport Focus by Recreation agencies **COUNTY**
- Fast Food only. Limited “higher-end” Restaurant
- Blue Laws **COUNTY**
- No programs for Adults or Seniors **COUNTY**
- Condition of Lake Wallace
- Cultural and historical attractions not utilized **COUNTY**

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Condition of roads **SC DOT, MCPC**
- Paving approval process **SC DOT, MCPC**
- Lack of public transportation
- No Interstate (economic development)
- Sewer – rural
- Limited public water in Northwest area of County
- Internet – slow or unavailable
- Cell phone coverage
- County railroad future **COUNTY**

Next Steps