

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

"CALLED" MEETING

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013

5:30 PM

CHAIR	DR. CAROLYN PRINCE
VICE-CHAIR	RON MUNNERLYN
ADMINISTRATOR	JIM HAYNES
COUNTY ATTORNEY	HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,
RON MUNNERLYN,
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

WILLIE GLADDEN,
CORRIE H. PLATO,
KEN ALLEN,
ANTHONY WOODS

* Absent

INVOCATION – Mr. Anthony Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Ron Munneryn, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods, to approve the agenda items as presented. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 716 – AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCES DESIGNED TO AID IN THE SITING OF TELE-COMMUNICATION TOWERS AND ANTENNAE IN MARLBORO COUNTY AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NUMBERS 580 AND 580 A. – THIRD READING

Motion made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, seconded by Mr. Anthony Woods to approve the third reading of Ordinance # 716 – An Ordinance amending the Ordinances designed to aid in the siting of tele-communication towers and antennae in Marlboro County and to repeal Ordinance Numbers 580 and 580 A. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION REGARDING H. 3290 (SOLID WASTE FLOW CONTROL)

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, advised Council that no vote had been taken by the Senate with regard to this bill as of yet. She advised that she had visited both Senators Williams' and Malloy's offices and spoke with their assistants and advised that Marlboro County Council is against this bill and would appreciate the Senators support to continue opposing this bill. Dr. Prince stated that if this bill is passed that it could impact the ability of the County to keep MRR out of Marlboro County. She offered to write a letter to the Senators on behalf of Council. Mr. Jason Steen stated that he would like for a letter to be sent.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to have Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, write a letter to Senators requesting continued support in opposition of H. 3290 (Solid Waste Flow Control). Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Prince advised that she would write the letter and have it emailed to each Council member prior to sending out.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION # 05-13-02 – A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SHERIFFS OF MARLBORO AND CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, stated that Council had approved a Resolution a few months ago but that that Chesterfield County now has a new Sheriff and that a new agreement needed to be executed between the Marlboro County Sheriff and the new Sheriff for Chesterfield County.

Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to approve Resolution # 05-13-02 – A Resolution ratifying a mutual aid agreement between the Sheriffs of Marlboro and Chesterfield County. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BUDGET REQUESTS PRESENTED TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2013-2014

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, to brief Council on the data to be presented for the 2013-2014 Budget. She advised that Council should hold on to their hats because it was not a pretty sight. Dr. Prince stated that the Senate Finance

Committee had completed their version of the budget last week and proposed a \$10,000,000.00 cut to the Local Government Fund.

Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, advised Council that this cut would result in the County losing another \$100,000.00 which would need to be absorbed. He asked Council that if they knew the Senators on the Finance Committee, that they please contact them immediately.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that he thought Senator Williams was on the Senate Finance Committee and he would check on this to confirm.

Mr. Haynes began to go over the proposed budget numbers which were presented to Council and went over all revenues for each department. He advised that the FILOT funds (Fee in Lieu of Taxes) received by the County was actually \$887,000.00 rather than the amount of \$1,150,000.00 which was anticipated in the budget last year. He was unsure of the reason of the decrease but stated that all FILOT funds had been received and there were no additional funds expected to be received for the 2012-2013 budget year. Mr. Haynes advised that he was unsure as to why the funds were estimated to be higher than the amount actually received but he would attempt to look into this.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that Mr. Haynes should talk with the Auditor, the Treasurer, and Attorney Sam Moses if need be. Mr. Haynes agreed to follow up on this to attempt to resolve this.

Mr. Haynes continued that in order to balance the budget, the amount of \$932,866.00 is needed. He stated that funds could be used from an increase of taxes or funds from the Fund Balance. He stated that last year, the sum of \$602,790.00 was needed to make the budget balance and stated that the County needed an additional \$300,000.00 this year to meet the budget as presented. He reported that the goal would be to use none or use no more than the County used last year.

Dr. Prince stated that in reviewing the numbers, the County will need the sum of \$932,866.00 from the Fund Balance. She questioned if the County could consider a millage rate increase to cover some of the amount needed and if so, how many mills could be used.

Mr. Haynes stated the County could go back three years and if no millage increase had been made, that an adjustment could be made to match the CPI. He stated that based on the information he had obtained, the County could raise the millage by 5.7 mills. He reported that one mill will bring in an additional amount of \$62,837.00. The maximum that this millage increase would add to the revenue would be \$350,113.00. He reported that if this is done, we would still need the sum of \$582,753.00 from the Fund Balance or expenses would need to be cut from various departments.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt departments like the Delinquent Tax Office and other departments should be able to increase fees to cover the costs of the departments and should be self-supporting. He advised that this should be looked into.

Dr. Prince stated that the County should have been raising taxes a little each year but that by not doing so, it will more than likely result in a high tax increase now.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that before the County decides to raise the taxes that everyone needed to be sure that everything was reviewed and that all measures were taken to prevent the increase of taxes.

Mr. Steve Blackmon questioned whether the Winn-Dixie Building was a done deal or not. He stated that he felt that we should not continue spending money on the BORO site unless we knew money was coming in to cover it. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the funds for the BORO site were coming from Economic Development not the general fund. Mr. Blackmon stated that he wanted to make sure that the County was not spending money that it did not have. Dr. Prince stated that general funds could not be used for the BORO site and these funds were coming from Economic Development.

Mr. Haynes stated that he thought the County could use funds from the Rail Road fund to help balance the budget. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that if the County uses funds from the Rail Road fund, it would be using funds from its war chest.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Winn-Dixie building needed to re-marketed.

Mr. Haynes reported that there had been a substantial increase in the workers compensation. He stated that it increased by \$25,000.00.

Mr. Haynes stated that there had been an increase in Health Insurance and that in talking with Mr. Grover McQueen, Personnel Director, based on the new health care, the County may see other charges in health care, but that we think at this point it would only affect part-time employees and it would be minimal.

Mr. Haynes reported that with regards to the Public Buildings expenses that the County's Building Maintenance staff under Mr. D. T. Turner, was doing an excellent job and that Administration could not ask for anything that the workers in this department would not attempt to do. He reported that this department had become a valuable department to our County.

Mr. Haynes reported that with regards to the Sheriff Department expenses that the sum of \$100,000.00 had been designated as Other Charges/Special Projects and that these funds would be used for the purchase of four cars for the Sheriff's Department. Dr. Prince stated that we should hold off on this until we balance our budget.

Mr. Haynes reported that the Detention Center expenses reflected a pretty heavy staff expense. Dr. Prince questioned if the Detention Center was providing their own meals for the inmates or if this was being serviced out. She was advised by Mr. Haynes that the meals were provided by a service which used the facility to prepare and provide meals to inmates for which a contract exists.

Mr. Willie Gladden questioned the handling of vending machines and the proceeds from the vending machines located at the Detention Center and other County offices. Mr. Ken Allen reported that someone within the Detention Center handles the vending machines and provides the items for sale and each year a check is written on commission. Mr. Jason Steen advised that he understood that the proceeds from the vending machines were used this past year to provide a Super Bowl party for the inmates.

Mr. Gladden stated that he felt the County should look into providing vending machine service to all County offices which presently have vending machines available and that the County should be gaining the benefit of those funds. He reported that these County offices are using the utilities provided by the County and the County should reap a benefit from them.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County certainly should have staff look into this and that all funds received in any County department should be passed through the Treasurer's office.

Dr. Prince requested Attorney Harry Easterling, Jr. and Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, to look into the vending machine service used by all County offices in all County buildings and report back their findings.

Mr. Haynes reported that with the expenses projected for the Recreation Department, he did not feel that the numbers shown included pay to officials. He stated that the officials are paid and he would check to be sure that this pay was included in the department numbers reflected.

Mr. Haynes reported that with the expenses projected for the 911/Dispatch, that the department was very expensive with personnel costs. He reported that the County is over spending on overtime by about \$1,000.00.

Mr. Munnerlyn reported that he had asked someone to get ideas from other counties as to 911 expenses and how other counties funded this department. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County may want to look at fire millage to fund this department properly. He stated that the ISO study may reflect that this department should have five people rather than their current number.

Dr. Prince thanked Mr. Haynes for all of his hard work on bringing Council up to date on the Budget requests and stated that it had been a long evening. She stated that times were not what they used to be.

Mr. Haynes stated that one thing that had not been discussed was the Fire Fund, which is a set millage rate. He stated that the millage rate for fire is currently 10.35 and that brings in about \$540,000.00 and the expenses consist of a part time salary and professional services. Mr. Haynes stated that there is a request by the Fire Board to consider increasing millage from 1 mill to 3 mills. Mr. Haynes stated that he had not found a limit on what the millage increase could be and was not sure if a set limit should be set.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that if the millage is increased that the County needed to have a clear plan on an ISO plan.

Dr. Prince stated that the County needed to better compensate our volunteers. She stated that the costs of training and meals during training should not be an expense that the volunteers pay but that the County should pick up those costs.

Mr. Ken Allen stated that he would like to know the original amount of each cost per call.

Mr. Keith Hughes, Fire Coordinator for Marlboro County, appeared and stated that a one mill increase would bring in an additional \$48,000.00. He reported that the average pay per call was \$10.00 for volunteers and that an average of 12 people would respond to a call. Based on 420 calls, one mill would almost cover the total cost of \$50,400.00. Mr. Hughes stated that a second mill would allow the Fire Department to increase the operating budget for each department by \$4,000.00 for a total of \$20,000.00. The Capital Project increase total Budget for projects would help lower ISO for the entire county and would total \$28,000.00. These funds would be used according to need per department with Fire Coordinator approval.

Mr. Ken Allen inquired as to whether the Fire Department only needed a 2 mill increase. Mr. Hughes stated that this 2 mill increase would simply allow them to get their head above water. Mr. Hughes stated that volunteers were not paid.

Dr. Prince stated that she did not want the volunteers to pay any costs whatsoever.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that the County should look at the fire department costs in detail as to training and meals. He stated that this is really needed to lower ISO. He reported that the lower the ISO rating is, the lower the insurance premiums for each citizen would be. Mr. Steen stated that we need to make it clear to the citizens that we need the ISO rating to be lowered.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that he thought that \$10.00 per fire call is pretty low. He advised that you need to think about gas for the fire trucks and the volunteers.

Mr. Hughes reported that the average age of a fire fighter is 46 years old.

Mr. Allen stated that people need to be educated on the fact that the higher the fire millage goes up, the better the ISO plan is, and the lower the insurance rates will become. He recommended to Mr. Jason Steen that he place a couple of articles in the local paper so that people could better understand this. He felt that if this message could be relayed to the citizens, that they would better understand how this could be of benefit to them.

Mr. Steen thanked Mr. Hughes and Ms. Ainsley Atkinson for attending the meeting. He stated that he wished other county department heads would come and take interest in what is being discussed.

Dr. Prince reported that she had a discussion with Mr. Donny Brock of Trinity Behavioral Care and he has requested a list of members that have been appointed to the Trinity Board. Dr. Prince reported to Council that the following Council members, with herself included, had not yet appointed someone to this Board and encouraged that this be done as soon as possible:

District 1 – Jason Steen
District 3 – Ron Munneryn
District 4 – Corrie Plato
District 5 – Carolyn Prince
District 6 – Ken Allen
District 8 – Anthony Woods

Dr. Prince stated that during the last meeting, she had inquired about when a municipality arrest is made, who is responsible for the costs of housing the inmate once Court had taken place. She reported that Attorney Harry Easterling had discussion with Warden Earl Hood and he advised that when a municipality arrests a person on a charge that is handled in municipal court, then the prisoner is solely the city's responsibility. He further stated that if the person is charged with a General Sessions offense, then the prisoner is the County's responsibility with the exception of transportation which the City must provide.

Dr. Prince thanked Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, for the good job in presenting the proposed budget, as well as the Finance Director, Ms. Ainsley Atkinson.

Dr. Prince advised members of Council to review their weekly emails and if they found that they did not have time to print these emails and would like for Ms. Patricia Bundy, the Clerk to Council, to print and mail to them, that she would be happy to do that. She requested that Council take the time to read these weekly emails and stay updated on what is going on.

NON AGENDA ITEMS

No items were heard.

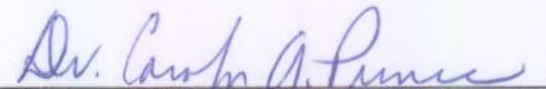
ADJOURN

No further discussion was heard. The meeting was adjourned.

Page Eight – May 6, 2013 Council Meeting

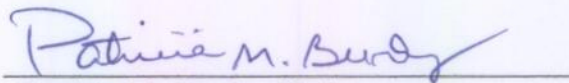
Motion made by Mr. Jason Steen, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Date Adopted: June 18, 2013.