

At a special meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors held at 6:30 p.m. on the 8th day of March 2012 at the County Administration Conference Room, Cumberland, Virginia:

Present: William F. Osl, Jr., District 1
Lloyd Banks, Jr., District 2, Vice-Chairman
Kevin Ingle, District 3
David Meinhard, District 4, Chairman
Parker Wheeler, District 5
Judy Ownby, County Administrator

Chairman Meinhard called the meeting to order and the County Administrator called the roll.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session and to enter into closed session to discuss and consider County Attorney applicants.

On a motion by Supervisor Osl and carried, the Board adopted the agenda as presented.

The County Administrator submitted a draft advertisement for the position of Finance Director and the Board approved it for publication.

There was discussion on whether to discuss the County Attorney applicants in open or closed session. On a motion by Supervisor Wheeler and carried unanimously, the Board voted to remain in open session.

Chairman Meinhard announced that a counter-proposal was received from Vivian Giles, who had been offered a contract for the position of County Administrator. Her proposal was that the Board hire her for the position of County Administrator and County Attorney at an annual salary of \$135,000.

Supervisor Banks made a motion to accept Mrs. Giles' counter offer.

Supervisor Osl made a substitute motion to offer a contract to Sandra Robinson as County Attorney for an annual salary of \$90,000, and get her response.

There was much discussion prior to a vote being taken. Supervisor Osl stated that it appears it can be done at a lower cost than \$135,000. Mr. Ingle stated that in reading the counter-proposal, \$135,000 would be for both positions.

Mr. Osl asked to go on record that the Board could have an equally or better qualified candidate, a minority applicant, and the majority is not willing to make an offer.

Mr. Banks urged the Board to take a vote. There were questions about whether the offer was for both positions or County Attorney only. It was stated that the offer is for County Attorney, not combined with County Administrator, and allow Ms. Robinson to come back with a counter offer, same as Mrs. Giles. Mr. Osl stated that the Board did not make a combined offer to Mrs. Giles, and Mr. Ingle stated that he was prepared to vote. Mr. Wheeler asked if the Board would like to save another \$30,000 on the position and Mr. Ingle stated that if the offer were extended we might not meet the March 31 deadline. Mr. Osl reiterated that he would like to see what a counter-proposal might be, and the Board would not know if they didn't ask.

The action resulted in a tie vote on the substitute motion and, therefore, failed.

Vote:	Mr. Osl – aye	Mr. Banks – abstained
	Mr. Ingle – nay	Mr. Meinhard – nay
	Mr. Wheeler – aye	

The Board resumed discussion prior to taking a vote on the original motion. Mr. Osl stated that it was inappropriate to accept a counter offer from one applicant without the other candidate having equal opportunity to participate.

Mr. Ingle said he believes that it is doable and it would save the cost of an additional person. If it does not work out, then the Board could hire a County Attorney. Mr. Wheeler said that doubts were being expressed about the person's ability to do both jobs. Mr. Meinhard asked Mr. Banks to add to his motion that acceptance of Mrs. Giles' counter-proposal was contingent upon her showing the Board proof of paid County taxes by Tuesday, March

13. Mr. Banks agreed to add this to the motion. Mr. Meinhard did not believe the County could get a better bargain, and Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Osl said that was unknown if a chance to respond was not given to the other applicant.

Mr. Osl once again stated that he wanted to go on record that the majority is not willing to make an offer to someone better qualified and a minority; Mr. Ingle stated that we are not looking at whether or not the candidate is a minority, and Mr. Osl stated that it is a matter of public record.

The following vote was taken on Mr. Banks' motion to accept Mrs. Giles' counter-offer to fill the position of County Administrator and County Attorney at an annual salary of \$135,000 (transition period effective March 15 as County Administrator Designee, and County Administrator effective April 1); and to require proof of paid Cumberland County taxes no later than Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

Vote:

Mr. Osl -	nay	Mr. Banks -	aye
Mr. Ingle -	aye	Mr. Meinhard -	aye
Mr. Wheeler -	nay		

Mr. Banks made a motion to adjourn, however, there was no vote on the motion and Mr. Banks left the meeting at this point.

The Board had further discussion on the candidates and Mr. Osl praised Mrs. Matthews for her 15 years of service with Cumberland County. He stated that she had performed exemplary service. It is hard to lose an asset such as Mrs. Matthews, and taking care of County staff is an important issue. He wishes her the best. The Board directed the County Administrator to prepare a resolution of appreciation for Mrs. Matthews to be presented at the regular monthly meeting.

Other Budget items

Supervisor Ingle asked if having school and County employees cut grass at the school on Saturdays at overtime rates, could possibly be a cost-saving measure. This will be checked out to determine whether it is feasible.

The County Administrator reviewed the recent changes made to the proposed budget and the Board had no other comments or input. They agreed to advertise the budget for a public hearing on April 3, 2012 at 7pm. The advertisement will be prepared and published as required by State law.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting until the regular meeting on March 13, 2012.

Chairman

County Administrator