

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 25, 2021 – 6:00 PM
117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Charles Evans, Chairman
Commissioner Glenn Adams, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Michael Boose
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Toni Stewart
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Ron Hamm, Hamm Consulting Group President
Leslie Mozingo, Hamm Consulting Group
Debra Bryant, Hamm Consulting Group
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Larry Lancaster

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the Hamm Consulting Group.

DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL AGENDA DISCUSSION

1. Process Overview and Federal Agenda Outlook

Ron Hamm, Hamm Consulting Group President, stated in order to develop the federal agenda for Cumberland County, HGC needs to understand the priorities and goals of the organization. Ms. Mozingo provided an overview of the process and stated the work of the HCG is to help members of the Congressional Delegation understand the county's priorities and to match those priorities with what is achievable and going on in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hamm stated a draft document will be developed as part of the process and brought back to the Board for approval.

2. County Departmental Feedback

Mr. Hamm stated HGC listened to county department heads earlier in the day and will now listen directly to the Board of Commissioners on what is important to the governing body.

3. Board Discussion

Mr. Hamm engaged the Board in discussion about their principal priorities and the following were identified:

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; access to clean drinking water,
Mental/behavioral health,
Federal dollars for homelessness,
Educationally disadvantaged and students impacted by the pandemic,
Privacy in the age of technology/electronics/social media,
Flooded creeks and river tributaries; water mitigation,
Countywide transportation to encourage industry and carry people to jobs,
Quality of life activities to bring families to the community,
Greenways, trails, footpaths to enhance walkability; bike paths and alternative transportation,
Railway travel/infrastructure from Fayetteville to Raleigh and Wilmington,
Charging stations for electric vehicles,

Green incentives,
Landfill sustainability,
Preservation of Cape Fear River dams.

Mr. Hamm stated it is the right time for the priorities the Board identified as the Biden Administration appears to be focused on people and disparities. Ms. Mozingo highlighted priorities of the Administration and Congress and how they tie into the Board's priorities. Questions and discussion followed about the priorities and funding opportunities to include grants/appropriations and the American Rescue Plan.

Commissioner Keefe asked what the expectation of the Board would be over the next thirty, sixty and ninety days. Mr. Hamm stated the list of priorities was fairly general and the job of the HCG would be to boil the list down into specifics and work with staff to determine which priorities will match available funding opportunities. Mr. Hamm stated the Board will be kept informed throughout the process and will receive a draft before anything is presented for approval. Ms. Mozingo stated the HCG also is positioned to be aware of legislative items/regulations/rulings that could potentially cost the county money. Ms. Mozingo also stated HCG will also make sure Cumberland County's voice is heard by the Congressional Delegation.

Ms. Hamm stated there has already been discussions with staff about a timeline for a draft document. In response to a question from Commissioner Keefe, Mr. Hamm stated the HCG prefers reporting back through discussion/dialogue with the Board in order to receive feedback from the Board. Ms. Mozingo stated a year-end report will also be provided.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN UPDATE

1. Key dates

Mr. Hamm reviewed the following key dates:

- January 27, 2020: Declaration of the public health crisis
- March 3, 2021: Beginning of the Recovery Fund "covered period"
- July 16, 2021: Deadline to comment on U.S. Treasury's *Interim Final Rule* on Recovery Fund
- August 31, 2021: Deadline to submit first Interim Report to U.S. Treasury
- August 31, 2021: Deadline to submit first *Recovery Plan Performance Report* to U.S. Treasury

Applies to COUNTIES ABOVE 250,000 POPULATION ONLY

- October 31, 2021: Deadline to submit first *Quarterly Project and Expenditure Report* - Applies to ALL COUNTIES
- December 31, 2024: Recovery Funds must be obligated (NOT incurred)
- December 31, 2026: Recovery Funds must be spent & all work/performance must be completed.

Mr. Hamm stressed the importance of taking time to plan before spending recovery funds.

2. Getting organized

Ms. Mozingo stated getting and being organized as well as developing strategies will enhance the county's opportunities for success.

- Have Documents in Order.
- Assess Community Needs / Seek Public Input.
- Look for Regional Opportunities.
- Align Priorities with Available Resources.
- Spend Grants First.
- Avoid New / Unsustainable Programs.
- Support Social and Racial Equity.
- Keep Good Records for Compliance Reporting.
- Report Back to your Congressional Delegation with Your Story.

Ms. Mozingo stated the establishment of the Board of Commissioners' American Rescue Plan Workgroup has already put Cumberland County ahead.

WRAP UP

Chairman Evans provided closing remarks and stated the county looks forward to working with the HCG.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board