

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1994

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Henderson County Office Building.

Those present were: Chairman Vollie G. Good, Vice-Chair Renee Kumor, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Hugh D. Randall, Commissioner William McKay, County Manager David F. Thompson, Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Absent was County Attorney Don H. Elkins.

Also present was: County Planning Director Matt Matteson.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Good called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Chairman Good stated that the purpose of the meeting was a work session on City/County Issues. There was no public input since it was a work session but Mr. Good stated that he hoped if the Commissioners asked questions of those in the audience, they would feel free to answer those questions.

Chairman Good recognized Mayor Fred Niehoff, City of Hendersonville, and thanked him for being at the meeting. Also present was Chris Carter, Hendersonville City Manager.

COUNTY MANAGER PRESENTATION

David Thompson presented each of our Commissioners with a mug showing that they are a NACo Achievement Award winner. Henderson County won eight NACo Achievement Awards this year.

David Thompson reviewed the agenda and told the Board that staff would be requesting guidance from the Board of Commissioners. He recognized his Management Staff and thanked them for their help in preparing for this meeting. They had prepared a basic presentation on the functions of Cities and the functions of Counties. David Thompson made the presentation along with visual overheads. He spoke briefly of the formation and mission of counties and cities.

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The State Legislature has recognized the possibility that some local governments, both cities and counties, may want to interact cooperatively in the provision of services. In addition, the North Carolina Constitution allows for the total consolidation of counties with cities lying within their borders. Short of total consolidation, only those powers and functions which are authorized for both cities and counties by the legislature can be cooperatively provided. There are basically six methods of cooperation:

1. Contributions from one government to another.
2. Mutual aid contracts.
3. Transfer of functions.
4. Service contracts.
5. Joint agreements.
6. New Units of Government (Authorities).

David Thompson informed the Board that if they wish to pursue cooperative efforts in any of the functional areas identified, staff will investigate each of these areas in more detail so that the benefits and pitfalls of each can be discussed with the Board.

The following services and functions are authorized by the General Assembly for **both** counties and cities. Short of total consolidation of a county and city Government, these are the only services and functions which could be shared or merged:

Air pollution control
Airports
Ambulance services
Animal shelters
Armories
Art galleries and museums
Auditoriums, coliseums
Beach erosion control
Bus lines, public transportation
Civil defense
Community appearance
Community action
Community development
Fire protection
Historic preservation
Hospitals
Human relations

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Industrial promotion
 Inspection
 Jails
 Law enforcement
 Libraries
 Manpower
 Mental Health
 National guard
 Off-street parking
 Parks/Recreation
 Planning
 Ports and harbors
 Public health
 Public housing
 Rescue squads
 Senior citizens programs
 Solid waste collection & disposal
 Urban redevelopment
 Water/Sewer

The following functions and services are only authorized for counties or cities, not both:

COUNTIES

Forest protection
 Agricultural extension
 Community colleges
 County home
 County surveyor
 Juvenile detention homes
 Medical examiner/coroner
 Public schools
 Railroad revitalization
 Register of Deeds
 Social services
 Soil and water conservation

CITIES

Cable television
 Electric systems
 Gas systems
 Sidewalks
 Storm drainage
 Street lighting
 Streets
 Traffic engineering

David Thompson reminded the Board that counties were created by act of the General Assembly. Because a county is a creation of the General Assembly, a county has only those powers expressly granted by law, or those implied which are necessary to carry out the express powers. The primary functions of a county are Public Health, Safety, and Welfare.

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Chairman Good stated that we do not want to discuss consolidation of any services **unless** we can offer a better service at a lower cost. It should be a WIN/WIN situation for city and county.

Vice-Kumor reminded the Board that the municipalities and the county receive a franchise fee for Cable. She suggested that rather than putting that money into the general fund, we could use it in an Enterprise Fund that would be titled Public Communication and Information. She suggested the use of the franchise fee to begin to organize a county information channel on Cable, possibly located at Blue Ridge Community College. There was much discussion.

The Board of Commissioners has not taken a position on consolidation of City/County Governments.

Following very much discussion on consolidation of services and functions, staff was asked to pursue, in more detail, the following:

- Public Information, Data Processing, Cable Franchising
- Building Maintenance
- Finance, Purchasing
- Fleet Maintenance
- Parks & Recreation
- Planning & Zoning
- Tax Collection
- Solid Waste
- Water & Sewer

This was the priority list of the Board of Commissioners. It will be presented to the municipal managers and their priorities solicited, then merged with the above list.

The Managers will report back to their Boards with a study timeline. They will also provide individual Department Budgets for the priority functions being studied.

Department heads and managers will begin work on the priority list and a report brought back to the Commissioners and Council Members at a quarterly meeting.

Chairman Good adjourned the meeting.

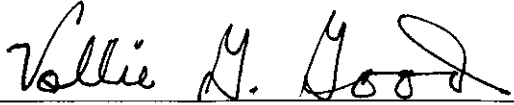
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ATTEST:



Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk



Vollie G. Good, Chairman

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