

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BRIEFING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2003**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session on Tuesday, July 15, 2003, at 5:00 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present were:

Chairman Steve D. Johnson
Vice Chairman Godfrey Williams
Doug Madison
Marvin Norman
Sara Haire Tice

Staff present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, Planning Supervisor Ron Smith, Planning/Code Enforcement Director Lynn Niblock, Recycling Coordinator Carla Parks, Solid Waste Administrative Officer Susan Cornell, Tax Administrator Bill Doolittle, Emergency Services Director Tracy Jackson, Chief Deputy Rick Dowdle, Health Director Ray Rabe, Support Services Director Jim Vernon, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

Call to Order by Chairman Johnson.

Request for the Appointment of Linda L. Morrow and Ann Gray Starnes as Deputy Tax Collectors in Accordance with G.S. 105-349(f): Tax Administrator Bill Doolittle requested that two employees in the tax office be appointed as deputy tax collectors. He said G.S. 105-349(f) authorized permission for the board to make the appointments, and a term of office ranging from one to four years was recommended.

County Manager Mashburn questioned the need to have a term of office. He said that if any discipline problems occurred, a term of office would “add another layer or hurdle” that would have to be resolved when taking corrective action. Mashburn requested for the appointments to be delayed until the next meeting in order for the staff to re-evaluate the request.

Request for Approval of a Security Services Contract for the Social Services Department, Court Facilities, Library, and the Health Department: County Manager Mashburn said that initially the county started using part-time security guards at the library. He said that later they were hired for the social services department, the court facilities, and the health department. Mashburn said due to the increased demand for this type of service, that during the budget process it was decided to seek proposals. He said three proposals were received and they were from the following companies.

	<u>FY 2003-04</u>
Weiser Security Services, Charlotte, NC	\$ 327,802.42
Grant Protective Services, Statesville, NC	\$ 344,709.50
Wilson Security Services, Statesville, NC	\$ 368,759.00

Mashburn said Wilson Security was currently the provider; however, this company’s bid was \$40,956 higher than the lowest proposal from Weiser. He said a representative from Weiser had indicated the company had an “exhaustive” training program, and it currently provided security at Charlotte Presbyterian Hospital as well as court facilities in other states. He said, however, the county department heads using the service, along with Sheriff Redmond, desired to remain with Wilson Security.

Chief Deputy Rick Dowdle said the security officers at the Hall of Justice were familiar with the court schedule and with most of the individuals who frequented the facility on a daily basis. He mentioned that if the service were taken over by a new agency, re-training would have to occur and this might cut into any savings that might have been initially envisioned.

Commissioner Madison asked how much it would cost to train new guards.

Dowdle said he couldn't make an estimate.

Health Director Rabe said the current provider was a local company and the lowest bidder was located in Charlotte. He said his department did not need a transition in security services at the present time.

Commissioner Tice mentioned how valuable it was to have officers familiar with the people who regularly entered and exited the court facilities. She also mentioned it was her understanding that when bid proposals were requested that normally there was a clause stating the services should be equal and comparable.

Mashburn said that actually the statutes did not require bids for security services. He mentioned the board had the option of rejecting all of the bids.

(See regular minutes for additional information regarding this matter.)

Upcoming Certificates of Participation (COPs) Financing: Finance Director Blumenstein said work had started on the COPs. She mentioned that some people had questioned why the proceedings had commenced since some of the school bids had not been received. Blumenstein said timing was essential, and if the projects had to be separated into two issuances there would be more cost. She estimated that if two closings had to be held, approximately \$500,000 would be lost. Mrs. Blumenstein noted, however, that if something out of ordinary occurred, e.g., unacceptable bond rates, another means of financing might have to be found.

Contracts with Volunteer Fire Departments: Chairman Johnson shared information from a 2003 Report for the Volunteer Fire Department Fund given to him from House Representative Frank Mitchell. Johnson said two VFDs applied for funds but neither one received any funding. Mr. Johnson suggested that the contracts with the VFDs not included in the county-wide fire district be reviewed at the next meeting. He also suggested that an amendment be incorporated into the contracts stating the members of the fire department's board of directors would be members of the community, and that they would not be associated with the fire department.

Commissioner Williams said he felt all of the VFD contracts, both for the county-wide fire district and for the voted-in fire tax districts, needed to be reviewed.

(See regular minutes for additional information regarding this matter.)

Adjournment: Chairman Johnson adjourned the briefing at 6:38 p.m.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board