February 22, 2019 (Board Retreat)

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for a Board Retreat in the Multipurpose Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019.

Present - Chairman: Stephen M. Morris
Vice Chairman: Diane R. Honeycutt
Commissioners:
  F. Blake Kiger
  Elizabeth F. Poole
  Lynn W. Shue

Also present were Mike Dubois, Senior Deputy County Manager; Jonathan Marshall, Deputy County Manager; Kyle Bilafer, Area Manager of Operations; Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board; Michael Miller, Infrastructure and Asset Management Director; Debbie Brannan, IT Chief Information Officer; Robbie Furr, County Extension Director; David Baxter, Cable Television General Manager; Byron Haigler, Active Living and Parks Assistant Director; Londa Strong, Active Living and Parks Director; Karen Calhoun, Department of Human Services Director; Kate Sharpe, Fair and Events Director; Emery Ortiz, Library Director; David Thrift, Tax Administrator; Van Shaw, Cabarrus County Sheriff; Jimmy Lents, Emergency Medical Services Director; Bobby Smith, Emergency Management Director; Kristin Jones, Budget and Performance Manager; Lauren Tayara, Budget Analyst; and Kelly Sifford, Planning and Development Director.

Also present: Jeff Michael, Director, University of North Carolina Charlotte Urban Institute and Craig Lamb, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Vice President, Division of Corporate and Continuing Education.

Commissioner Poole arrived at 4:35 p.m. and left the meeting as the board broke for dinner at 5:56 p.m.

Chairman Morris called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

County Manager Mike Downs welcomed staff and guests. He then recognized Jeff Michael who was the guest speaker and provided an overview for the meeting.

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Regional Economist Forecast

Jonathan Marshall, Deputy County Manager provided a brief bio as an introduction of Jeff Michael, Director, University of North Carolina Charlotte Urban Institute.

Mr. Michael presented an economic forecast of Cabarrus County via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Cabarrus County Overview." Topics included: regional focus, regional population growth, relative income over time, population growth and projections, commuting patterns, population change 2000-2017, median household income, median home value, and jobs and emerging trends. As part of the presentation, a video was introduced titled "Carolinias Urban-Rural Connection Project". The video highlighted the research and work being done to connect the urban and rural areas within the region for economic benefit. There was discussion throughout the presentation.

Dinner Break

The Board took a dinner break at 5:56 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:45 p.m.

Leadership/Team Building Activity

Jeff Michael, Director, University of North Carolina Charlotte Urban Institute, led a team building exercise and discussion that reviewed Cabarrus County 30 years ago, where the County is now, what will the County look like in 30 years, and how do we get there.

Wrapping Up and Reflections on the Day

Mike Downs, County Manager, thanked everyone for participating in today's retreat and gave a preview of activities planned for the next day.

Recess
Chairman Morris recessed the meeting at 7:41 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. Saturday, February 23, 2019 in the Multipurpose Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center.

Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board