

At a special called meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held in the Administration Building of said county on November 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Garland H. Hamlett, Jr. Chairman
Robert L. Shook, Jr. Vice Chairman
Gary D. Walker
Kay M. Pierantoni
Crystal S. Shepherd
Donna Fore
Royal S. Freeman

Absent:

Chairman Hamlett called the meeting to order.

Chairman Hamlett gave the invocation.

Chairman Hamlett stated the purpose of the Communications Committee is provide information and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board upon receiving their recommendation would make all decisions associated with the proposed new communications system.

Daniel Witt, County Administrator addressed the Board. Mr. Witt stated the County is under a legally binding contract with RCV. In Mr. Witt's experience in working with RCV he has found them to be professional and they have worked diligently to answer questions and provide solutions to Fire, Rescue and the Sheriff's Department's concerns.

MCA is currently under contract with Mecklenburg and Halifax Counties. MCA submitted an unsolicited bid to Charlotte County. The bid was considered at the time it was submitted, however with direction from the County Attorney in order to consider or pursue negotiations with MCA, RCV had to be eliminated from contention or the Board would need to be put on the procurement process that was initiated in 2018.

GCS submitted a bid but voluntarily withdrew their proposal.

Chairman Hamlett addressed the Board members concerning attorney fees. Mr. Hamlett stated each time the County Attorney is contacted either by phone or email, there are fees associated. Each time Mr. Slayton attends a meeting the County is billed for his time. Chairman Hamlett wanted the Board members to be aware of the charges incurred for the County Attorney's time.

County Administrator Witt asked for direction from the Board on hiring a consultant and clarification on contacting MCA.

Supervisor Walker suggested any Board member with questions for the County Attorney should consult with the County Administrator and the Board Chair and proceed from there. Supervisor Walker also suggested providing a policy with guidelines on contacting the County Attorney.

Supervisor Fore agreed with Supervisor Walker on consulting with the County Administrator and Board Chair before contacting the County Attorney. Supervisor Fore stated the budgeted amount for the County Attorney should be adjusted at budget time. Supervisor Fore believes the Board should consider a consultant for the proposed communications project and on bring MCA to the table if RCV cannot provide solutions for the issues presented.

Supervisor Pierantoni stated she recognizes the fact that the County is under a legalally binding contract with RCV but does not agree because we are under contract that the decision is final. Supervisor Pierantoni is concerned about miscommunication between the end users, the Communications Committee, and the

Board. She also feels as if a Board member has legitimate legal concerns, they should be free to contact the County Attorney.

Supervisor Shepherd feels the Communications Committee should decide on hiring a consultant and should bring back recommendations to the Board as they see fit.

Supervisor Shook stated the Communications Committee was tasked to work out the problems brought forth by the end users and should bring back recommendations to the Board for approval.

Supervisor Walker stated the Communications Committee should decide on a consultant in conjunction with the County Administrator. Supervisor Walker believes RCV needs to prove they will be able to fix the issues addressed by the end users. If RCV can not work these issues out, the Committee should be able to seek other options.

Chairman Hamlett stated he was under the impression the Board would make the decision on hiring a consultant. Chairman Hamlett believes RCV has identified the issues in question and will be able to correct these problems so the County can move forward.

Motion was made by Gary D. Walker, seconded by Crystal S. Shepherd and carried with all other members present and voting yes to have the Communications Committee negotiate with RCV with the contract as presented or amended as necessary to satisfy the end users. If this cannot be accomplished, and the Committee feels a consultant is needed, the Communications Committee has authorization to work with the County Administrator to obtain a consultant, and bring back a recommendation to the Board that meets the end users needs, and is within the budget of the County.

Being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.