

LEE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 The Enrichment Center Game Room 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Woody Beale, Commissioner Ricky Frazier, Karen Oldham, Jim Payne, Donese Pulley, Jim Turner, Mary Upchurch

Board Members Absent: Alice Beardslee, Esther Siler

Staff Present: Debbie Davidson, Melanie Rodgers, Debbie Williams, Tami Carter, Laurie Draughn, Jimmy Solomon

Guests Present: Senator Ronald Rabin, District 12, Bud Greene, Janice Scoins, Jeff Ward, Bob Garrett

8:40 a.m. Karen Oldham indicated she needs to leave at 9:15 a.m. Senator Ronald Rabin arrives.

8:45 a.m. Mary Upchurch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She asked The Board if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Donese Pulley made a motion to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Jim Turner, all were in favor. Mary asked if there were any changes to the January 15, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ricky Frazier made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jim Turner, all were in favor.

Mary Upchurch introduced Senator Ronald Rabin of District 12. Senator Rabin took the floor and advised he serves District 12 which encompasses Harnett, Lee and Johnston Counties. Senator Rabin asked the group for their questions. **The minutes from this point include from whom the question came and Senator Rabin's response in an abbreviated version.**

Bob Garrett, The Enrichment Center, Inc. Board Member asked, "How do we get America back?" Senator Rabin's reply, "Less propoganda; more emphasis and positive input on how our youth are raised; the community is now what family used to do."

Debbie Davidson, Director, Lee County Senior Services asked, "What do you foresee in the next budget session; keeping in mind the age brackets of the three counties in District 12?" Debbie Davidson will forward Senator Rabin the age brackets and alignments – how the aging population aligns with other age groups. Senator Rabin's reply, "Less regulations; reducing taxes; reducing spending; keeping balanced budget; maintain revenue streams. All of these are intended to keep businesses going. Education and infrastructure will play a key role."

Jim Turner, Lee County Senior Services Advisory Board member asked, "When making your decisions for District 12, how do you factor in the special interest groups and lobbyists and still pay attention to your communities and constituents?" Senator Rabin's reply, "Educating myself through committees in which I serve; reading documentation about the issues and opportunities; asking questions of each to get the answers I need; holding town meetings to hear from communities."

9:15 a.m. Karen Oldham left the meeting.

Jeff Ward, The Enrichment Center, Inc. Board member asked, "Where do you stand on school vouchers and where will the money come from? Will taxes be raised?" Senator Rabin's reply, "NC DPI, Dept. of Public Instruction, receives 53% of NC's state budget. Schools receive state dollars by student head count. Dollars follow students; therefore, vouchers should not raise taxes. I am pro-vouchers as long as there is a level playing field; as long as there is competition as in business. In other words, for dollars to follow students to a public or private school, the standards should be the same."

Woody Beale, Lee County Senior Services Advisory Board member asked, "Why is it called the Education Lottery and where does it go?" Senator Rabin's reply, "I will have the Education Lottery information forwarded to you that explains where the money goes."

Jim Payne, Lee County Senior Services Advisory Board member asked, "We are so focused on 2 and 4 year term concerns. How do we start thinking more long term?" Senator Rabin's reply, "Four year terms with three term limits would help this. I advocate legislation for this so that it's not a lifetime job; it's how our founding fathers intended."

Commissioner Ricky Frazier, Lee County Board of County Commissioners asked, "Wouldn't the voucher system hurt the public school system?" Senator Rabin's reply, "No, the dollars follow the student. I haven't seen enough solid data that vouchers would harm public schools. For vouchers to be used, the playing field with all schools need to be level, this creates a competitive market and will not harm public schools."

Jim Payne asked, "Will the tax base sustain the next generation? Especially considering entitlements and the millennium generation?"

9:40 a.m. Commissioner Ricky Frazier left the meeting.

Senator Rabin's reply to Jim Payne, "Yes, growth in agriculture and business will bring more jobs, which means less people on entitlements."

Jim Turner asked, "When speaking about fracking and the need for clean water, what are the risks of fracking? What is the process?" Senator Rabin's reply, "The data seen doesn't support the disturbance of water. Testing is performed and is tightly regulated. 96% of the water is reused. Nothing is fail-safe; however, taking risks is what built America and made us strong. Renewable energy is less cost-effective. Nuclear and natural gas are most cost-efficient." Senator Rabin will forward us the special interest group fracking publication.

Jim Payne asked, "Regarding transportation, so much of the roads' budget is on interstates. Local and county roads are in poor condition and need repair. How can we get the money we need locally?" Senator Rabin's reply, "I will do some research and get you an answer."

10:10 a.m. Senator Rabin's question/answer session ends.

Debbie Davidson and Jimmy Solomon presented information about The Enrichment Center, Inc. Helping Fund Golf Tournament for 2014. The Enrichment Center, Inc. and Senior Services Advisory Board will assist in securing sponsorships, door prizes, golfers and assist the day of the tournament. A Saturday in June 2014 is the desired time for the tournament. After discussion and verification of the availability of the Quail Ridge Golf Course, the tournament will be held Saturday, October 11, 2014. There will be a HF Golf Tournament committee meeting Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at The Enrichment Center.

Old/New Business – The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at The Enrichment Center.

Respectfully Submitted by Melanie Rodgers

On behalf of Debbie Davidson, Secretary

Mary Upchurch, Chair


