

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 14, 2008
MINUTES

Beginning at 5 p.m. as noticed the Board hosted a reception in the Grand Jury Room for county employees receiving annual service awards and new County Manager Jack Horton. Chairman Leatherman convened the regular meeting at 6 p.m. in the usual meeting place. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman Leatherman welcomed everyone present and Rev. Brandon Breedlove, Associate Pastor at Holly Springs Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Leatherman introduced new County Manager Jack Horton. Mr. Horton expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to return to Macon County.

The following annual service awards were presented by the Board: ten years of service - David Enloe, Stacey Jenkins, Kathy Kuhlman, Delena Raby, Paul Ramey, Robert Randall, Robert Brunner, Todd Seagle and Michelle Tallent; fifteen years of service - Warren Cabe, Cynthia Keener, David Key, Brian Leopard, Marie McClure, Wesley Peek, Sandy Preston, Revena Shuler and Cathy Makinson; twenty years service - Mike Breedlove, Shelia Jenkins, Beth Nicholson, Mike Trammell and Kenneth Webb; twenty-five years service - Joe Doster, Teresa Holbrooks, Jane Kimsey, Steve Ledford and Margaret Perry; and thirty years service - Barbara Jacobs and Kathy Rogers.

Tax Administrator Richard Lightner was presented the 2007 North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers Jurisdictional Award for achieving outstanding public service and advancement in the tax assessment field. It was noted this is the first year the award has been given to small or medium size counties. Finance Director Evelyn Southard and staff were presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) noting the award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

TRANSIT: Upon motion by Commissioner Beale and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to move item #6 (Transit) to item #3. Chairman Leatherman convened the public hearing on the proposed Macon County Community Transportation application as noticed. Transit Director Kim Angel explained the request is for continuation of existing transportation programs that provide transportation options and services. No one wished to speak and the hearing was adjourned. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution seeking permission to apply for the funding, entering into agreement with NCDOT and providing necessary assurances. (Attachment #1)

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the December 10th and 17th meetings as submitted with the following corrections: on page 4 of the December 10th minutes under "South Macon Bids" change to read ".....a continuation meeting on December 17th.....rather than January 17th and to have the Deputy Clerk's signature added to both minutes in lieu of the County Manager/Clerk to the Board's signature due to the transition of County Managers.

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS: Chairman Leatherman informed the group that Macon County had received a communication from Todd McGee, Communications Director for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, encouraging all counties to do a "State of the County" address to coincide with the President's "State of the Union" address so that the accomplishments and challenges facing our county could be highlighted. He explained a "State of the County" address would be another way to help educate our citizens about the services provided by their county property tax dollars and with the change of county managers that has just recently taken place in the retirement of Sam

Greenwood and hiring of Jack Horton, Macon County will have changes in management procedures, organization and style. Chairman Leatherman further explained that with this manger change, it is an opportune time for the County Commissioners to change, put in place, or modify policy and practice that will improve effectiveness of our local government and the delivery of services to our citizens. Chairman Leatherman's comments are attached. (Attachment #2)

PUBLIC SESSION: Mary Ann Widenhouse stated she had read a recent article in the Franklin Press concerning mental health services and wanted to express her appreciation to Sheriff Holland, Commissioner Beale and anyone who was responsible for putting the meeting together. She also expressed support for the proposed mental health study committee proposed by Commissioner Beale. Ms. Widenhouse stated she is an advocate of a crisis intervention program and alternative programs because she feels the community is relying too heavily on medical facilities. She volunteered to be on the proposed task force. Don Mullen, Highlands Mayor, stated he originally wanted to address the transfer station and communication but after discussions before the meeting he was just going to address communication. He read a resolution of cooperation between Macon County, the Town of Highlands and the Town of Franklin signed in 1989 and stressed the importance of board's communicating. Bob Lavery had registered to speak but withdrew.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: Ryan Sherby, Region A RPO Planner, presented an amended Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Comprehensive and Continuing Transportation Planning and the Establishment of a Rural Planning Organization for Region A. Upon motion by Commissioner Beale and seconded by Commissioner McClellan the Board unanimously voted to approve the amended MOU per attachment #3.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Billings/collections - Warren Cabe, Emergency Management Director, stated RFP's for ambulance billing and/or collections had been received and reviewed and he recommended renewal of the contract with Medical Business Resources at 7% for billing and 28% for collections for three years. Mr. Cabe explained they are currently handling our ambulance billing for 10% and collections through a subsidiary at 30% with around an 86% collection rate. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation as presented with authorization for the County Manager to execute the contract based on the terms discussed. Ambulance remounts - Mr. Cabe presented a request for consideration of sole-source exemption for ambulance remounts from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles explaining two remounts will cost \$132,000 and will allow for standardization of equipment. Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the attached resolution regarding sole source purchase of the units. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. (See attachment #4)

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$1,760.38 as submitted. (Note: A printout of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the County Manager's Office.) Refunds - A refund request from R.L. Jordan Oil for release of \$1,825.20 on parcel #14-35345 for years 2003-2006, of \$1,782.20 on parcel #05-16324 for years 2003-2006 and of \$282.10 on parcel #05-04137 for years 2002-2006 was presented. The Tax Administrator stated he did not recommend the refunds because they do not meet NCGS 105-287 requirements. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner McClellan the Board unanimously voted to deny the refund request.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Health Director Jim Bruckner requested approval of a fee schedule for the Health Department's Adult Dental Health Clinic per attachment #5 noting that the schedule was unanimously approved by the Health Board at their December 11th meeting. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation for approval as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

SOLID WASTE: Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl explained the Highlands C&D Landfill will close on June 30, 2008, and the County needs to decide how to handle waste from Highlands. Mr. Stahl explained all permits are in place to construct a transfer station in Highlands and bids were received December 28th for the construction of the Highlands Transfer Station. He added six bids were received, three of which were within the proposed budgeted amount with Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction being the low bidder at \$778,287.76. He explained McGill and Associates had certified the bids and find that the low bidder meets all of the requirements set forth in the bid documents. After discussion Commissioner Davis made a motion to award the bid for the Highlands Transfer Station to the low bidder, Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction, contingent upon LGC financing and an interlocal agreement with the Town of Highlands for their terms of support and financial commitment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and all favored.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC): JCPC Chairman Teresa McDowell and Juvenile Court Counselor Lindsey Gallira presented information on the local JCPC programs and requested adoption of a resolution in support of continued state funding for the programs. Upon motion by Commissioner Beale and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution of support per attachment #6.

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Dr. Cecil Groves, Dr. Connie Haire and George Stanley were present to provide information on the SCC Macon Campus expansion. Mr. Stanley stated rough estimates are \$600,000 and doesn't include furniture. After discussion Commissioner McClellan made a motion to table the item until the work session on January 27th and to consider at the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and all favored. Concerns were expressed that the building would not blend with the current facility and Mr. Stanley stated he would do some simulations as to what the new building would look like.

HIGHLANDS RECREATION AGREEMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner McClellan the Board unanimously approved the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Highlands for recreation facilities for FY 07/08 per attachment #7.

REVIEW OF BONDS: The County Attorney advised the Board as defined in NCGS §58-72-20, the Board of Commissioners shall examine the bonds of public officers which are listed in NCGS §58-72-10 each December. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution setting the bond amounts. (Attachment #8)

SOCIAL SERVICES EXPANSION: It was explained proposed projects may be exempted from the requirements of Article 3D of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes where the estimated design fee for a project is less than \$30,000 or certain projects may be exempted in the sole discretion of the County in a manner which states the reasons and the circumstances for the exemption. Commissioner Beale explained the architectural design for the proposed Senior Services expansion and renovations is projected to be less than \$30,000 and made a motion to adopt a resolution exempting the project from the provisions of NCGS 143-64.31 per attachment #9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored.

HOUSING/ASSIGNMENT OF DEED OF TRUST AND AGREEMENT MODIFICATION: Housing Director Rick Norton reported a grant requirement of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency for the SFR '07 Rehabilitation Program is that when a rehabilitation job is completed the county assigns the Deed of Trust and Promissory Note to the NCHFA who is then responsible for the maintenance of the documents for the term of the deed of trust. He further explained the modification agreement is necessary when the original costs exceed the original deed of trust and presented a deed of trust and modification agreement on behalf of Judy C. Carpenter for approval. Upon motion by

Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the deed of trust and modification agreement as recommended and authorized execution of the documents.

APPOINTMENTS: Watershed Review Board - Appointment to fill a vacancy on the Watershed Review Board was scheduled for the February meeting. Economic Development Commission - Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Mark West, Roger Plemens and Thomas Craig to the EDC. Terms will expire January 31, 2011. Franklin ETJ - It was reported all terms on the Franklin ETJ would expire January 31, 2008. Members currently serving are Janet Greene, Johnny Waldroop, Bobby Peek, Dave Jones and Lloyd Swift. A letter from the Town of Franklin explaining changes in the state's planning statutes and the Town's new Unified Development Ordinance resulted in a revision of the ETJ membership to more accurately reflect the population of the town limits and the ETJ which would give the County two representatives. The letter suggested that the Board reappoint Janet Green and Lloyd Swift, one for a two year term and one for a three year term. Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint Mr. Swift for two years and Ms. Greene for three years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Mental Health - Commissioner Beale, mental health liaison, stated the mental health system is broken but no one knows where and presented a motion to form a Macon County Mental Health Task Force to find out where the system is broken, what can be done as a community to fix it and how funds can best be used. He stated his motion would include appointment of Health Director Jim Bruckner, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator Kathy McGaha, Angel Medical Center CEO Donald Sandoval, Sheriff Robbie Holland, Chief Deputy Andy Shields, provide Mike Neidig, DSS Director Jane Kimsey and two consumers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored.

OWENS/SANDERS PROPERTY LEASE: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously confirmed the poll taken on December 27th to approve extension on occupancy of the house on the Owens/Sanders property and an extension of Gary Owens' lease term from six months to nine months and authorize the County Manager to negotiate the lease amount with the Owens.

FINANCE: Audit Contract - Upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to approve extension of the county's audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, PA for three years per attachment #10.

Budget revisions - The following budget revisions were unanimously approved:

revision #70, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, appropriating \$866 Project Lifesaver funds;

revision #71, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Beale, allocating \$1,600,000 transfer from general fund to capital project funds;

revision #72, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, appropriating \$1,000 in Foster Care revenues;

revision #73, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$33,979 additional Crisis Intervention funds;

revision #74, upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$2,124 in federal forfeitures in the Sheriff's Department;

revision #75, upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, revising the DSS SHIPP budget; and

revision #76, upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Beale, appropriating \$6,020 BCCCP health funds.

(Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

WORK SESSION: A work session was scheduled for Sunday, January 27th at 2 p.m. in the Board Room. (Note: location of the session was changed and proper notification made.)

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson the meeting was adjourned.

C. Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Charles D. Leatherman
Board Chairman

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