

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 26, 2010 – 2 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, Interim County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale announced volunteers and individuals who worked on the Highlands soccer field will be honored on Tuesday, April 27th at 4:30 p.m. at the Highlands Gym; a ribbon cutting at the new 5/6 school will be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 29th; that he had received a call from Senator John Snow and the rumors that he is very ill are not true; that he had polled the Board and the regular meeting scheduled for May 10th has been cancelled and a meeting will be called for May 11th at 6 p.m. and the legislative goals conference is May 19th.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Kuppers gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Chairman Beale recessed the regular meeting to convene the public hearing on closeout of the County's 2007 CDBG #07-C-1662 as noticed. Housing Director Rick Norton noted all projects in the grant had been completed. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed. No formal action was required. **911 Road Names –** Chairman Beale convened the public hearing on public and private road names and requests for changes of certain road names as noticed. Angie Kinsland stated she had not received any opposition to any of the names and the list was shorter than usual. No one from the public wished to comment and the hearing was adjourned.

ROAD NAMES: Back in regular session Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the road names as submitted per **attachment #1**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuppers and all favored.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the following additions: discussion of animal control within the Towns of Highlands and Franklin and discussion of budget work sessions. County Manager Horton gave a brief update on school construction/renovation projects stating the K-4 school may be ready to bid soon and bid are ready to go out on the Nantahala School renovations. He added work with USDA was continuing and reminded the Board both projects still need approval of the Local Government Commission. Motion for approval of the agenda was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner McClellan and unanimously approved.

REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS: 2010 Census – Derek Roland and Rhonda Blanton gave an update on the 2010 census stating Macon County’s response rate is 73% which is an increase of 23% from the 2000 census response and credited increase awareness and motivation for the response. The national response average is 72%. Ms. Blanton explained two mailings had gone out to North Carolina residents because of the 2000 low response rate. She added that census workers will be sent to each home that a response has not been received for at least three times and at least three calls will be made in an attempt to get a response. She explained response can be made by phone and provided the number. As a result of the county’s initiative boxes of toiletry items were sent to Macon County for distribution to homeless shelters. Since the County has no homeless shelters they were donated to the local Vietnam Veterans Chapter to be used by the Veterans Hospital. Frank Hunter, Ronnie Arms and Rick Norton were present to accept the donation on behalf of the Veterans. Mr. Roland, Ms. Blanton and the veterans were complimented for their hard work and dedication. Chairman Beale noted Ms. Blanton wore several hats and worked with several committees. **Southwestern Community College (SCC)/CPR Auto Pulse Machine** – SCC EMS Facilitator Todd Doster and Ryan Hursey demonstrated a CPR Auto Pulse Machine showing how more effective the machine is than EMS providers performing manual CPR. Mr. Doster noted how difficult it is to perform CPR in the back of a moving ambulance and how quickly a medic tires out performing CPR. He added the auto pulse machine also frees up the medics hand to use for other purposes. Julie Vorhess who works for SCC and Candy Pressley who has coordinated various community fund events stated they were working on a project to raise funding for each fire department in the County and SCC to have one of these machines at a total cost of \$175,000. Ms. Vorhess stated she has found at least three grants she plans to write and Ms. Pressley stated there is going to be a golf tournament at Mill Creek and two gun shows with the proceeds going toward the purchase. Scott Drew, the sales rep from Zoll who sells the machine, presented information on a lease/purchase arrangement for the machines. Curtis Dowdle, Director of Extension/Public Safety, from SCC was also present. Chairman Beale stated he felt this was an extremely worthwhile project and requested the Board be kept updated.

FOLK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION: Chairman Beale read a letter from Folk Heritage Association Chairman Margaret Ramsey expressing appreciation for the Board’s support of the recent quilt show.

ANIMAL CONTROL: A resolution from the Town of Highlands stating they had adopted the County’s Animal Control Ordinance and requesting the County to enforce the ordinance within the incorporated area of Highlands was presented. It was noted, based on discussions with the Town of Franklin, a similar request would be forthcoming from them. The County Attorney was asked to review the ordinance and the request and give a legal opinion on the request.

BUDGET CALENDAR: Budget work sessions were discussed and sessions will be scheduled after the presentation of the budget on May 11th.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items on the consent agenda: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes of the April 12th meeting. **Budget revisions** – Approved the following budget amendments: revision #153, appropriating \$4,570 in forfeiture funds and donations in the Sheriff’s Department; revision #154, appropriating \$716 insurance settlement in Emergency Services; revision #155, appropriating \$2,001 BCCCP funds in the Health Department and revision #156, appropriating \$38,592 Diabetes Grant funds in the Health Department. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$1,733.22. (Note: a print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the County Manager’s Office) **NOTE** – The Finance Officer arrived at this time. **Economic Development Guidelines** – Approved corrected Economic Development Grant Guidelines previously approved per **attachment #2**.

APPOINTMENTS: Appointments to the Planning Board and the Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee were delayed.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss a contractual matter and for attorney/client privilege. During closed session the county manager, Sheriff and County Attorney briefed the Board on litigation, potential litigation and a contractual matter. The Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer were excused for a portion of the session. No action was taken and the meeting returned to regular session.

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

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman