

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 4, 2004
MINUTES

Chairman West convened the meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 7, 2004 meeting as submitted.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: Two resolutions were added to Agenda Item #10, Finance, capital project ordinances and budget revisions were deleted. Also added to the agenda was an update on the Highway 28 North DOT public hearing and change of location for the November meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION: Bob Laverly stated he wanted to address the ongoing dispute between the Register of Deeds and IT Department. He added he did not have the ability to judge the equipment but wanted to address the ongoing process. He gave a recount of events to date and requested the Board to take into consideration all the facts before making a decision. Narelle Kirkland stated she realized some of her proposed projects were not foremost at this time with the recent disaster resulting from Hurricane Ivan. Ms. Kirkland suggested, based on her past history as an attorney handling disasters, that the county establish a new office as part of the inspections office staffed with qualified people in backgrounds in geology, engineering, architecture, etc. so when development booms again sites can be evaluated for stability, etc.

HURRICANE IVAN: Commissioner Simpson stated he would like to commend county employees, fire departments, emergency personnel for their dedicated service and long hours during Hurricane Ivan. Commissioner Leatherman added all volunteers to the commendation.

FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Chamber of Commerce representatives Tony Angel and Linda Harbuck presented the annual lodging tax report for the period of July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. There were no questions from the Board and no action was necessary. (A copy of the report is on file in the County Manager's Office.)

SOCIAL SERVICES: Work First Plan - DSS Director Jane Kimsey reported there had been no recommended changes to the proposed Work First Plan and requested approval as submitted. Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to approve the plan as submitted. (Note: The plan is on file in the DSS and County Manager's Offices.) Child Protective Services (CPS) - Ms. Kimsey reported the State has reviewed child welfare staffing allocations and recommended the County needs an additional one and one-half positions to meet the one to ten ratio required by the state and has allocated an additional \$105,514 to fund two positions. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the funding and establish the two new positions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored.

REGISTER OF DEEDS: Commissioner Bryson reported, as instructed by the Board at the September meeting, he and Commissioner Leatherman had met with the Register of Deeds, the Staff Attorney and proposed vendor to discuss the lease agreement for computer software for the Deeds Office. Commissioner Bryson stated the Register of Deeds, as does the Board, has a responsibility to the citizens and recommended continuing with the current vendor (Lason), installing the new equipment and allowing Commissioner Leatherman and him to continue working with the Register of Deeds and IT staffs to coordinate. After a lengthy discussion which included the Register of Deeds, Attorney Sharon Barrett representing the Register of Deeds and McDowell County Register of Deeds Pat Reel who is also President of the State Register of Deeds Association, Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to table moving

forward on anything, including installation of any new hardware, in order to further investigate the matter for one month with a presentation and/or recommendation at the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

ZICKGRAF PROJECT: Chairman West presented information on an expansion project of Zickgraf Enterprises that will add approximately \$1.4 million to the county tax base and over one-hundred jobs by the end of 2006. Chairman West explained \$25,000 is available from a Duke Power Carolina Investment Fund grant for this project plus funding from Advantage West but would require a commitment from local government units of \$10,000 from the Town of Franklin and \$15,500 from the County. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to allocate the \$15,500 match as required.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Refunds – Tax refunds per attachment #1 were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson. Releases – Commissioner Bryson made a motion to approve tax releases in the amount of \$1,423.17 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. (Note: A print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.)

FINANCE: FEMA Resolution – Commissioner Simpson made a motion adopt a resolution designating the Finance Director as the primary agent for FEMA reimbursements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (Attachment #2) Financing Resolution – Upon motion of Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution authorizing negotiation of debt for the SCC and Library project per attachment #3. Public hearing – Commissioner Bryson made a motion to schedule the public hearing on the above referenced debt issue for November 1, 2004 at the Highlands Conference Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (Attachment #4) Rural Center Grant – Commissioner Bryson made a motion to accept a Rural Economic Development Center Grant in the amount of \$40,000 that requires a \$4,500 local match for Highlands Plateau Water System Consolidation Study per attachment #5.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to change the location of the November meeting to the Highlands Conference Center.

DOT PUBLIC HEARING: The County Manager advised that DOT has scheduled a public hearing on Highway 28 North improvements for November 4, 2004 and notices will be posted by DOT.

FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE: The Board expressed concerns that, based on recent events, the county's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance may need further review and/or expansion. Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to request the Watershed Council to review the ordinance and present comments and recommendations to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Commissioner Bryson.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Mark B. West
Board Chairman