

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 5, 2007
MINUTES

Chairman Leatherman convened the regular meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Rev. Carl Carpenter gave the invocation and Chairman Leatherman welcomed everyone present.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale, the Board unanimously voted to add consideration of a resolution opposing sale of USFS property as item 4A. Upon motion by Chairman Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson discussion on a military memorial was added as item 4B.

COUNTY MANAGER/CHAIRMAN COMMENTS AND UPDATES: County Manager Greenwood updated the Board on the following issues involving the General Assembly and/or State that impacts counties:

- (1) Medicaid county match requirement; ended without county having to raise taxes to do so;
 - (2) authority for county to implement either sales tax or land transfer tax by referendum for education construction funding;
 - (3) proposed state education bond issue without redistribution formulas;
 - (4) distribution of state lottery funds on formula of origin of sale or per capita enrollment;
 - (5) continued opposition of unfunded mandates such as the fishing license on DSS and
 - (6) animal control issues. Chairman Leatherman read a notice that was recently placed in Nantahala residents' mail boxes concerning the recent property evaluations and a meeting to be held to discuss alternatives or options to protest the evaluation.
- Chairman Leatherman advised that Commissioner Beale has agreed to attend a community meeting the same night at the same location. No action on any of the items was necessary.

PUBLIC SESSION: Ann VanHarlingen, REACH Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the Board for the actions they have taken this year to promote security of clients. She explained she has spoken with Chairman Leatherman and County Manager Greenwood about enhancing security at the local shelter and they have agreed to include that in the FY 07/08 budget proposal. Larry Stenger encouraged the Board to continue with the proposed Recreation Master Plan and the South Macon Complex stating it is an investment in the quality of life of everyone.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING USFS LAND SALE: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution reiterating the Board's opposition to the sale of National Forest Lands in Macon County. (Attachment #1)

VETERAN'S/MILITARY MEMORIAL: Chairman Leatherman stated he had been involved in discussions on moving forward with some type of recognition for all military service people and made a motion which would allow him to appoint a committee to develop a recommendation for presentation to the Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. The Board discussed a memorial being planned at the Slagle Memorial Building and agreed that the information they had received about the proposal would not be in conflict with what the Board envisions for a memorial.

911 ROAD NAMES HEARING: Chairman Leatherman recessed the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. to convene the public hearing on 911 road names as noticed. Angie Kinsland, 911 representative, had previously submitted a list of names for review and consideration. The floor was opened for comment and Eric Pierson

protested the proposed extension of Old Cove Road in a subdivision he owns in the Highlands Township. After a lengthy discussion Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept Mr. Pierson's request that the road extension not be Old Cove Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and passed four to one with Chairman Leatherman opposing. There were no further comments and the hearing was adjourned. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept the names as presented except as noted on Old Cove Road per Mr. Pierson's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. (Attachment #2)

PUBLIC SESSION (Continued) Neil Hoppe from Franklin Aviation gave a brief history on his lease payments and questioned why the payment checks have not been cashed for sixteen months. Shirley Ches expressed concerns about the lack of zoning and stated about five years ago 11.92 acres across the street from her sold and now there is heavy equipment, abandoned cars, litter, etc. covering the land which has also been graded with no grass planted. Ms. Ches added this tract of property has ruined her property value, the view and the river which is behind her house. She urged the Board to please take the situation in hand to prevent this from happening all over the county. Rev. Ries from Church of the Nazarene requested assistance from the Board in allowing the Church's sign to remain in place noting it was in place before the sign ordinance was adopted. Linda Sterrett stated she and her husband had purchased Rose Creek Mine three years ago and recently a neighbor has been buying twenty year old mobile homes and the property is becoming a rental park which devalues everyone's property. She asked the Board to envision old family farms around the county as old mobile home parks and requested the Board work on an ordinance prohibiting moving in old, used single wide mobile homes.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Board of E&R - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to reappoint Rich Bankston, Steve Pierson, Dwight Vinson, Bill Mason and Emory Crawford to the Board of Equalization and Review and to appoint Bill Martin to fill a vacancy on the board.

Refunds - Tax Appraiser, Richard Lightner, explained refund requests from Mary Wallace and Oscar Adams that were continued from the February meeting. Mr. Lightner explained Ms. Wallace's request for \$33.52 was the result of correction of an outbuilding on the parcel. Mr. Adams' request of \$233.88 was due to old land deeds showing no land remained in tract and neither qualified for refund under NCGS 105-287 (c). Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation to refuse both refunds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and after a lengthy discussion both Commissioners Davis and Simpson agreed to withdrawal of the motion. Commissioner Davis then made a motion to approve the refund of \$33.52 to Ms. Wallace (Account #44987). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and all favored. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the refund of \$233.88 to Mr. Adams (Account #184). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and failed two to three with Chairman Leatherman, and Commissioners Davis and McClellan opposing. A refund in the amount of \$1,136.26 to Ronnie Bateman (Account #54847) was presented with an explanation from Mr. Lightner that the refund is due to a clerical error by the Tax Office on assessment of landfill fees and qualified for refund under general statutes. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner McClellan the Board unanimously voted to approve the refund as requested.

Releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale the Board unanimously approved tax releases in the amount of \$660.97 as presented. (Note: A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the Clerks Office.)

NCDOT SECONDARY ROADS RESOLUTION: A letter was presented from NCDOT District Engineer Wesley Grindstaff explaining the resolution approving secondary road improvements which was adopted at the February 12, 2007, meeting was incorrect and a new resolution was presented for consideration. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale the Board

unanimously voted to rescind the resolution adopted on February 12th. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt the corrected resolution per attachment #3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and all favored.

RECREATION STUDY RECOMMENDATION: Commissioner Simpson, liaison to the Recreation Commission, reported among the recommendations made in the Recreation Master Plan was the establishment of a single countywide recreation commission. He explained facility issues are progressing but direction is needed on the administration and program expansion portions. After discussion Chairman Leatherman asked Commissioner Simpson and the County Manager to research the issue and make a recommendation at a future meeting. No formal action was necessary.

FINANCE: Resolution - County Manager Greenwood gave an update on the sewer interceptor project after which Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing loan application to the North Carolina Clean Water Revolving Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. (Attachment #4)

Budget revisions - The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #96, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale, budgeting \$2000 DARE donations in the Sheriff's Department; revision #97, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner McClellan budgeting \$500 donation from American Legion to the Sheriff's Department; revision #98, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale, appropriating \$2,576 in grant funds for Emergency Management radio maintenance (during discussion Commissioner Simpson expressed concerns about updates and repeater service on certain cell towers); revision #99, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$8,148 funding increase in the Smart Start Program; revision #100, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner McClellan, appropriating \$2,260 new funds for the Safe and Drug Free Community Program at the Health Department; revision #101, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$19,741 new funds for the Safe and Drug Free Community Program at the Health Department; revision #102, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, decreasing state funding for Emergency Preparedness by \$6,672; revision #103, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale, moving \$74,500 revenues from Fund 13 to Fund 11-(General Fund); revision #104, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Beale, moving \$74,500 expenses from Fund 13 to Fund 11-(General Fund); revision #105 - the Finance Officer requested the revision be pulled; revision #106, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$742 federal forfeiture funds; revision #107, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$5,047 federal forfeiture funds; and revision #108, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale, combining 2004 and 2006 Vision 100 grants into 2003 Air 21 for the perimeter fencing project at the airport. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the minutes of the February 5th and 12th meetings and the February 12th DOT public hearing were unanimously approved as submitted with spelling changes and the following change: on the February 12th continuation meeting minutes the motion to approve the audit contract was changed to show Commissioner Davis making the motion and Commissioner Simpson seconding the motion rather than Commissioner Davis.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Beale the meeting was adjourned with a reminder beginning in April the meetings will be on the second Monday rather than the first Monday as approved at the February meeting.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Charles D. Leatherman
Board Chairman

Minutes
03/05/07
Page #4