

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2009
MINUTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale announced the Vice-Chairman would not be at the February 23rd meeting because he would be out of the country helping establish a dental clinic, that a moment of silence in memory of former County Commissioner Siler Slagle would be held after the invocation, and the Board would be asking for an update on well and septic inspections at the next meeting.

INVOCATION: Rev. Tim Hayes from Prentiss Church of God gave the invocation followed by a moment of silence for former County Commissioner Siler Slagle who recently passed away. Chairman Beale recapped Mr. Slagle's service as a County Commissioner and to the community.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No one registered to speak during public session.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Beale announced Jenny Sanders with the Little Tennessee Watershed Association had a presentation to be added as item 8A and a closed session for personnel needed to be added to the agenda. Commissioner Kupperts made a motion to add the two items to the agenda as requested and approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS: Jenny Sanders Director of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association announced they were partnering with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service to offer an Erosion and Sediment Control in the Mountains workshop. She added the program would be offered on March 3, 2009 and would meet continuing education requirements for grading contractors to maintain their Macon County grading licenses. Ms. Sanders requested the Board for monetary support for scholarships for the registrations. Upon motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to provide financial support up to \$2,500 for the program.

OLD BUSINESS:

TAX RELEASE - ESTIE JANE PASSMORE HARRIS ESTATE: Commissioner Davis made a motion to deny the request for release of taxes from the Estie Jane Passmore Harris Estate as presented at the January 26th meeting stating, based on the advice received, he did not feel the Board could legally release the tax although he felt it was morally wrong. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOLK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION: Margaret Ramsey and members of the Folk Heritage Association Board of Directors were present to give an update on the project and request financial aid of \$5,000 to help fund a \$25,000 feasibility study on the project. Ms. Ramsey stated the establishment of a Living Heritage Village and Farm can be a major component in the economic future of Macon County and the entire region. Ms. Susan McCaskill from Southwestern Community College discussed how SCC would be a part of the project and use resources of the college. Chairman Beale stated one of the goals of EDC is to create new business and this project will have a positive economic impact on the area. He added he had discussed the request with the EDC Chairman, Mark West, who

was present. Mr. West stated he was supportive of the request but could not speak for the EDC but would discuss it with them at the next meeting. Sustainability of the project was discussed and, when questioned, Ms. Ramsey stated this would be the last time they would appeal for local funds but would go to a "higher power". Commissioner Simpson made a motion to fund the \$5,000 from EDC funds as proposed contingent upon approval of the expenditure by the EDC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kupperts and all favored.

IOTLA SCHOOL WATER/SEWER: The County Manager reported the School Facilities Committee met recently and agreed the North Macon School Project should be in a shovel ready position in case the promised Federal Economic Stimulus Package makes funds available for construction ready projects. He explained the plans for the school are complete with the exception of water and sewer and the large subsurface soil evaluation for a trench-type system needs to be completed. Horton added that Huff Environmental Consulting did the preliminary soil study and had submitted a contract at \$15,000 to complete the detailed study which the county can recoup when the project is funded. He recommended proceeding with the study with at least one new test well in order to verify that there would be an adequate water supply if on site water and sewer are required in order to be construction ready. After discussion concerning use of local vendors, Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the project concept at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 with the source (provider) to be determined based on discussion with local vendors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: Minutes - Approved the minutes from the January 26, 2009, meeting correcting the NCGS referenced on page 2 under "Tax Issue.." from NCGS 105-28(c) to NCGS 105-287(c).

Budget revisions - Approved budget revision #100, appropriating an increase of \$841 in WIC funds;
revision #101, appropriating an increase of \$4,522 in additional state Family Planning funds; approved budget
revisions #'s 102 - #121E budgeting departmental budget decreases as submitted
- revision #102, reduction of \$17,765 in Finance;
revision #103, reduction of \$42,600 in Tax;
revision #104, reduction of \$34,188 in Legal;
revision #105, reduction of \$57,000 in Elections;
revision #106, reduction of \$34,000 in Register of Deeds;
revision #107, reduction of \$124,500 in Information Technology;
revision #108, reduction of \$4,000 in Garage;
revision #109, reduction of \$143,097 in Maintenance;
revision #110, reduction of \$69,000 in Law Enforcement;
revision #111, reduction of \$44,500 in Inspections;
revision #112, reduction of \$108,958 in Emergency Services;
revision #113, reduction of \$50,458 in Planning;
revision #114, reduction of \$2,250 in Soil Conservation;
revision #115, reduction of \$11,200 in Cooperative Extension;
revision #116, reduction of \$100,000 in DSS Medicaid budget;
revision #117, reduction of \$35,400;
revision #118, reduction of \$3,000 in Veterans Service;
revision #119, reduction of \$96,349 in Recreation;
revision #120, reduction of teachers supplement by \$12,764 to actual budget;
revision #121, reduction of \$65,602 in the Health Department;
revision #121A, reduction of \$21,345 in Health Administration;
revision #121B, reduction of \$59,800 in Health Management Support;
revision #122C, reduction of \$64,541 in School Health Nurse funding;
revision #121D, reduction of \$34,146 in Dental Health Program; and
revision #122E, reduction of \$99,306 in On-site Wastewater funding.
(Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.)

Tax settlement report - Acknowledged receipt of the 2008 unpaid tax report in the amount of \$1,753,247.95 and authorized for advertisement of unpaid tax.

APPOINTMENTS: Community Funding Pool - Commissioner Davis made a motion to waive term limits for Bobbie Contino and reappoint her to another term on the Community Funding Pool. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and a discussion followed concerning waiver of term limits. The motion passed three to two with Commissioners McClellan and Simpson opposing stating it was no reflection on Ms. Contino. Term will expire March 1, 2012. Chairman Beale noted term limits was a discussion for another meeting and will be on a later agenda. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Sandy Vinson for another three year term to expire March 1, 2012. A recommendation to fill the position previously held by the late Gail Criminger will be presented at a later meeting.

Library Board - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to reappoint Vince West and Cindy Trevatham to the Library Board. Terms will expire February 28, 2012.

Southwestern RC&D Council - Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation to designate the Erosion Control Officer to permanently fill one of the two County positions on the RC&D Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored. It was noted the Soil Conservation Supervisor is designated to fill the other County position.

Day Care Study Committee - Chairman Beale stated, as discussed at the January work session, he would like to appoint a committee to study day care needs in Macon County and see what is available for child care and what is needed. He stated he and Commissioner Simpson would serve as liaisons with members Barbara Waters, Chuck Sutton, Bob Wright, Susie McCoy and John Mira-Knippel.

Commissioner Koppers made a motion to form the study committee with liaisons and members as suggested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. During closed session the County Manager updated the Board on a personnel situation. No action was necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Back in regular session, upon motion by Commissioner Davis the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman