

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 14, 2010 – 6 P.M.
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, Interim County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale reminded everyone of the reception on June 22nd for SCC President, Cecil Groves who is retiring.

INVOCATION: Chairman Beale gave the invocation.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Vic Drummond** asked the Board to scrap the property tax increase, to decrease the budget by one to five percent or to use fund balance because once a property tax increase is in place “there is no turning back”. Chairman Beale reminded Mr. Drummond that the proposed tax increase (1.5¢) is strictly for debt service on the new K-4 school and will not contribute to the general fund. **Gail Chapman** stated she understood that departments have already been asked for cuts but felt the need to go further. She advocated cutting all budgets but the sheriff’s department who protects us. She added that the federal and state are going to raise taxes and taxes should not be raised locally. **Hal Chapman** reiterated Ms. Chapman’s comments stating the ATM is running out of money. He added that you cannot spend you way out of a recession and spending should be cut in order not to raise local taxes. **Loretta Newton** suggested the Board cut salary and wages across the Board by ten percent stating people were struggling and did not need additional taxes.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the agenda was unanimously approved with the addition of the following items: assignment agreement between Macon County, the Board of Education and Bowers, Ellis, & Watson Architects for the Nantahala School renovations, an amendment to the interlocal agreement between the County and the Board of Education, an engagement letter for bond counsel, a budget amendment on the Nantahala School project and discussion on topics of previous requests.

HEALTH INSURANCE TASK FORCE UPDATE: Health Director Jim Bruckner gave a brief update on the health insurance task force activities stating the entire task force had agreed on offering two options but did not have adequate time to educate employees to get it implemented this contract year, that health risks assessments for all employees and follow up on high risk individuals had been discussed as well as education on wiser use of our current health care system. Another meeting of the entire task force will be scheduled in the near future. No action was necessary.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION/BARBARA McRAE: Chairman Kupperts introduced a resolution in honor of Barbara McRae for her contributions to the preservation of the county's heritage. Chairman Beale read into the record the resolution which designates Ms. McRae as an "Honorary Historian of Macon County" per attachment #1. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

BUDGET ORDINANCE: County Manager Jack Horton reviewed changes to the proposed FY 2010/11 budget as discussed at previous work sessions and presented the budget ordinance with general fund appropriations of \$42,021,521 along with various other funds, debt service, solid waste enterprise fund, etc. per attachment #2. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt the budget based on the ordinance as reviewed and presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kupperts. Each Board member was given an opportunity to comment on the budget prior to the vote which passed four to one with Commissioner Davis opposing.

BOARD OF EDUCATION/NANTAHALA SCHOOL PROJECT/CONTRACTS AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: The County Attorney briefed the Board on the need for certain actions in relation to the Nantahala School Renovation Project and financing. **Assignment Agreement** - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to an Assignment Agreement between Macon County, the Macon County Board of Education and Bowers, Ellis and Watson Architects assigning the architectural design, plans and specifications on the Nantahala School project to Macon County per attachment #3. **Architect Agreement** - Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the Board unanimously voted to enter into a contract with Bowers, Ellis & Watson, Architects, PA for the Nantahala School Project and authorize the County Manager to execute the document per attachment #4. **Interlocal Agreement** - Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the County of Macon and Macon County Board of Education, dated March 22, 2010 per attachment #5. **Contract** - Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept the recommendation from Mike Watson, Project AIA, to award the contract to the low bidder, H & M Constructors, for the renovation of Nantahala School in the amount of \$1,499,200 and to authorize the County Manager to execute the necessary documents per attachment #6.

LITTLE TENNESSEE/CARTOOGECHAYE CREEK SEWER PROJECT: County Manager Horton presented a request on behalf of the Town of Franklin for a change order on the Little Tennessee/Cartoogechaye Creek Trunk Sewer Project upsizing the proposed 8-inch gravity sewer line to the Indian Mound pump station to a 16-inch gravity sewer line. He explained the increase is necessary to provide a connection point to the 24-inch trunk sewer for the new 16-inch Crawford Branch sewer line being constructed by the Town and they have agreed to reimburse the County for the cost of the change order at approximately \$16,970. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the change order as presented with funding coming from the Town. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kupperts and all favored.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers the Board unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the May 24th and 27th meetings and the June 1st, 2nd, 5th and 7th meetings. **Budget Revisions** – Approved budget revision #192, appropriating \$3,159 insurance settlement in the recreation budget; revision #193, appropriating \$2,524 controlled substance tax funds; revision #194, appropriating \$12,442 from Contingency to Construction Testing in the Little Tennessee Sewer Project fund; revision #195, appropriating \$1,513 WIC funds and revision #196, transferring \$20,300 from Contingency to Renovations in the Hudson Library Project Fund. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Nantahala School Capital Project Ordinance and budget amendment** – Approved the Nantahala School Renovations Capital Project Ordinance in the amount of \$1,865,300 (attachment #7) and the related budget revision per attachment #8. **Bond Counsel** – Approved a fee for Bond Counsel on the QZAB bonds for Nantahala School in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 (previously approved a not to exceed amount of \$10,000) and authorized the Finance Officer Evelyn Southard and County Attorney Chester Jones to negotiate the fee down as much as possible.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: After discussions on various requests made during the year the Board agreed to appropriate the following amounts from Contingency during the current fiscal year: (1) Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, \$15,000 to the Scaly Mountain Community Club toward debt on building upgrades which is used as a polling place. Unanimously approved. (2) Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, \$27,000 for completion and/or upgrades to Highlands softball field. Unanimously approved. (3) Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, \$5,000 to the Fair Association for septic system upgrades. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Simpson was designated as the Board liaison to the Fair Association Board. (4) Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, \$3,000 to help fund a charrette to develop a master plan for the use of Cowee School. Unanimously approved. (5) Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, \$5,000 to the Macon Historical Society toward building renovations. Passed four to one with Commissioner Davis opposing.

APPOINTMENTS: Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Rev. Andy Cloer to the Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee to fill the position previously held by Steve Reeves who resigned. Term will expire August 31, 2013. **Jury Commission** – Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the recommendation to reappoint Sarah Waldrop to the Jury Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored. Term will be for one year and expire June 30, 2011. **DSS Board** – Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Jim Garner to replace Dom D’Ascoli on the DSS Board. It

was noted Mr. D'Ascoli has served the maximum number of terms allowable by state statute. Term will expire June 30, 2013.

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

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman