

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 9, 2012
MINUTES

Chairman Corbin convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The County Manager noted the passing of Jeff McCord, a county employee in the Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Beale pointed out that the dedication of the bridge in honor of “Nat” Henry was scheduled for 2 p.m. on October 12th, and that a fund-raiser for county employee Dennis Tippet was set for October 13th beginning at 5:30 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Chairman Corbin asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by Commissioner Kuppers, the pledge to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Dwain Picou**, the swim coach for the Franklin Area Swim Team (FAST) thanked the board members for their consideration of the proposed improvements to the swimming pool and poolhouse at the county recreation park. **Chris Stahl**, the county’s solid waste director and the newly elected president of FAST, shared with the board regarding his family’s participation in the team and noted that the commissioners have had “a longstanding commitment” to the children of the county. **Alicia Teague**, speaking in regard to the pool improvements, said she wanted to thank everyone who is working to make this happen, adding her hope that this is the first of many improvements. **Kim Terrell** said she was “ecstatic” about the upgrade to the pool facilities, and had planned to show the board a slideshow regarding what she felt were dangers at the pool.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as adjusted, as follows:

- Consideration of adding a resolution for consideration at the board’s November regular meeting under New Business as Item 10I, per Commissioner Beale.

- Adding a report from Matt Bateman regarding the Franklin Venture Local program under the beginning of reports and presentations, per Chairman Corbin.
- Consideration of new signage for the Macon County Airport under New Business as Item 10J, per Commissioner Kuppers.
- Consideration of the annual interlocal agreement for recreation with the Town of Highlands under New Business as Item 10K, per the County Manager.

VENTURE LOCAL FRANKLIN: Matt Bateman updated the board on the Venture Local Franklin effort, a grassroots movement to develop new business ideas and to boost the local economy. No action was taken.

NC FAST SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION: Jane Kimsey, the director of the Department of Social Services (DSS) provided the board with a briefing on the implementation of the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (FAST) program, a new enhanced automation system that DSS will soon begin to put in place starting with the Food and Nutrition program. She said it involves building a huge database, and wait times will increase, which may prompt complaints to the board. The implementation is being done with existing staff, although the energy program is being outsourced to CareNet. While her staff is anxious about the change, she said she hopes it will result in better service to the community. Commissioner Beale noted that most counties have added anywhere from five to 25 additional employees to help implement FAST. No action was taken.

STATUS OF CELL II AND DEVELOPMENT OF CELL III AT THE MACON COUNTY LANDFILL: Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl updated the board on the current status of Cell II at the landfill, and projected the remaining “life” of the cell at 4.7 years, or January of 2017. He then outlined the development schedule for Cell III, explaining that the hydrogeological work will be key, as some 23 test wells must be put in and a year’s worth of data collected from each. The County Manager noted that it takes a great deal of time to secure the permit for the new cell, and Mr. Stahl said the whole process will take well over three years to complete. No action was taken.

MERCURY PRODUCT HANDLING PROGRAM: Mr. Stahl also explained a program involving the handling and recycling of mercury containing products such as fluorescent lamps and mercury thermostats, as products containing mercury are listed as hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in the landfill. Under the new program, the solid waste department will recycle the lamps, but must get approval from the state

to modify its operations plan in order to do so. He said he has also submitted a grant application for \$3,000 to the state Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach for development of the program. Finally, he asked the board to approve a handling fee of 75-cents per lamp for all commercial customers, with no charge for residential users. Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve the handling fee, and it was seconded by Commissioner Beale. During discussion, Commissioner Haven said he could not go along with the idea and suggested that all of the lamps be taken for free. Commissioner Beale suggested a lead time and notification of the proposed fee, and Mr. Stahl said the charge would not be instituted until January 1, 2013. The board voted 4-1 to approve the fee, with Commissioner Haven opposing.

LEADSONLINE PROGRAM: Sheriff Robert Holland presented information on the LeadsOnline program, which he is looking to institute to help address crimes such as metal theft. Under the program, certain businesses such as pawn shops and metal dealers would be required to enter data into a free software program, which the sheriff's office has been using on a trial basis. The County Attorney explained that an ordinance would need to be adopted requiring those records to be transmitted electronically, and the sheriff said he was not asking for that to be done at this meeting. The sheriff also noted he could cover the \$2,900 cost of the program out of his departmental budget. Among the comments from the board, Commissioner Koppers said his only hesitancy was to get some feedback from the affected businesses, particularly those who might be forced to purchase a computer. However, the consensus of the board was for the sheriff to move toward implementation of the program, with consideration of the necessary ordinance to be placed on the agenda for the November regular meeting. No action was taken.

Chairman Corbin declared a recess at 7:36 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 7:47 p.m.

POOLHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT: Tom Ritter of Ritter Architecture explained the bid process for the renovations to the poolhouse at the Macon County Recreation Park, noting that invitations were sent to 10 contractors, with four responding. He also described the seven possible alternates to the base bid. Mr. Ritter told the board that he was recommending award of the bid to Kopp Construction of Franklin, NC in the amount of \$207,500, including bid alternates numbered 1, 3 and 4. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to

award the project as recommended, with the funding coming from the county's undesignated fund balance. Chairman Corbin pointed out that this action required neither a loan nor a tax increase. A copy of Mr. Ritter's letter of recommendation and the bid tabulation for the project (Attachment 1) are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

POOL RENOVATION PROJECT: Seth Adams, the county's director of parks and recreation, told the board that three bids were received on the proposed renovations to the pool at the county recreation park. He said the low bidder was Augusta Aquatics, Inc. at \$360,142, but that the bid was negotiated down to \$338,500, and that the firm comes highly recommended. Upon a motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to award the bid to Augusta Aquatics, Inc. in the amount of \$338,500 with the funding coming from undesignated fund balance and with the caveat that there would be an amendment at a later date to fund repairs to the pool in Highlands. Also included in the motion was acknowledgment of the payment and performance bonds on the project. A copy of a letter from Aquatics H2O regarding the bids (Attachment 2) is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND FOR DIAMOND FALLS SUBDIVISION: County Planner Matt Mason read a letter (Attachment 3) recommending that the board release the total amount of the improvements guarantee for Phase II of Diamond Falls Subdivision. Prior to acting on the release, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to formally appoint Mr. Mason as the county's subdivision administrator. Then, upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to release the performance bond for Diamond Falls Estates, LLC, based upon Mr. Mason's recommendation and upon a corrected letter of certification (Attachment 4) from Larry Lackey, an engineer with CEtech Associates. Copies of both letters are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR SCHOOL COMPUTER EQUIPMENT: Following an explanation from the Finance Director, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Kuppers, the board voted unanimously to approve a Capital Project Ordinance in the amount of \$1.5 million for computer equipment for Macon County Schools (Attachment 5), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AND CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND GRANT: The Finance Director explained that the board would first need to approve the transfer of a Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant from the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to Macon County. If the county accepts the grant, then the adoption of a Capital Project Ordinance for the Little Tennessee Stream & Riparian Restoration Program would be necessary in order to spend the \$412,269 available from the CWMTF. The Finance Director noted that the SWCD does not have the funds to “front” the project, while the county can accept it, spend the funds and then get reimbursed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to accept the grant and to adopt the Capital Project Ordinance as presented (Attachment 6), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

RELEASE OF SEWER EASEMENT: The County Manager explained that a 15-foot sewer easement obtained from Jeffrey and Evelyn Boatwright was not used due to relocating the sewer line and recommended release of the easement. The County Attorney had prepared a “Resolution Authorizing Quitclaim Deed of Individual Sanitary Sewer Easement” to address this matter, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented (Attachment 7), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PLANNING BOARD ASSIGNMENT: Commissioner Tate, the liaison to the county planning board, noted that the planners were moving efficiently in their review of the subdivision ordinance, and he recommended that when that task was complete, the planning board should review either the sign ordinance or the high impact ordinance. The consensus of the board was to review the sign ordinance, and this was approved unanimously upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Tate. Commission Beale requested that the County Attorney be “an integral part” of that review.

DECLARATION REGARDING PANCREATIC CANCER: Commissioner Beale requested that the board declare November as pancreatic cancer awareness month in Macon County and made a motion to have the County Manager prepare a resolution to that effect for the board’s November regular meeting. Commissioner Haven seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SIGNAGE FOR MACON COUNTY AIRPORT: Commission Kuppers explained that the Macon County Airport Authority was working to make the airport look more presentable and said there was no sign near the runway welcoming flyers to the county. He presented an estimate in the amount of \$2,916.11 for three signs to be installed at the airport, and suggested the county fund half of the cost. The Finance Director suggested a total of \$1,388, since the county would be reimbursed the sales tax on the signs. Commissioner Beale made a motion to take \$1,388 from contingency and to increase the airport operating budget by that amount, and it was seconded by Commissioner Kuppers. The board voted 4-1 to approve the expenditure, with Commissioner Haven opposing. A copy of the estimate is attached (Attachment 8) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HIGHLANDS FOR RECREATION: The County Manager explained that this was essentially a renewal of an annual agreement to appropriate \$495,000 to the Town of Highlands to help operate the recreation program there, including those on county-owned property. Upon a motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve interlocal agreement (Attachment 9), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the September 11th and September 24th meetings. **Budget amendments** – Approved the following budget amendments: #41 for the Sheriff's Department to appropriate \$6,186 in additional money received from an insurance settlement for vehicles; #42 for Soil and Water Conservation to increase the departmental budget by \$7,225 in revenue from a Voluntary Agricultural District grant; #43 for Social Services to appropriate \$10,901 in additional SHIPP grant funds; #44 for Social Services to appropriate \$183,176 in additional TANF funds; #45 for Solid Waste to allocate \$861 from an insurance settlement to equipment maintenance to cover a portion of the cost to replace a damaged door on a tractor; #46 for Health to appropriate additional money (\$10,693) awarded from the state for emergency preparedness and to take \$3,935 from fund balance to match those funds; #47 for Health to decrease revenue from the Zonta Community Care Grant by \$5,585; #48 for the Sheriff's Department to appropriate \$406 in controlled substance tax revenue and to appropriate \$18,780 in federal drug forfeiture funds. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$1,850.03. (A computer printout of releases is on file in

the Tax Department and the County Manager's office.) **Monthly ad valorem tax collection report** – No action necessary.

APPOINTMENTS: Town of Franklin Planning Board and Board of Adjustment – representatives from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) – Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Janet Greene as a member of the board for a two-year term, and to reappoint Ken Stonebreaker as an alternate for a three-year term, based upon a recommendation from the Town of Franklin.

ADJOURN: At 8:42 p.m. and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman