

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 12, 2016  
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Corbin said that tonight marks the first time county residents can log on to the county's website and watch the board meeting live. He explained that citizens will also be able to access the video of the meeting afterward as well. He noted that many county commissions across the state do this for "transparency," and informed the audience of the locations of the cameras that were in operation. Commissioner Beale pointed out that the district meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) would be held in Waynesville on April 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one signed up to speak.

**ADDITIONS, ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to make additions to and approve the agenda as adjusted, as follows:

- To delete Item 11A under New Business, resolution and agreement regarding Macon County Business Development Center lease to Magnetic Wrench Manufacturing, per Chairman Corbin.

- To add consideration of the cancellation of two deeds of trust in connection with Macon County Housing as Items 11D and 11E under New Business, per the County Attorney.
- To add consideration of an interlocal agreement between Macon County Transit and the Town of Franklin Tourism Development Authority in connection with transportation of Appalachian Trail hikers as Item 11F under New Business, per the County Attorney.
- To add consideration of approval of an application to draw down lottery funds as Item 11G, per the Finance Director.

**RECOGNITION OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL:** Chuck Coburn, the president of the Holly Springs Community Development Club, read a letter requesting that the board issue a proclamation honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the former Holly Springs School. A copy of the letter is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Mr. Coburn explained that the school was active from 1916 until the early 1950s, and that the building is still in use as a county voting location and the home of the community development club. Chairman Corbin said the board could verbally proclaim its recognition of the event, and upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, voted unanimously to do so.

**SOUTHWESTERN COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT:** Sarah Thompson, the incoming director for the Southwestern Commission Council of Governments, presented the board members with the organization's annual report. Ms. Thompson, who will assume the director's role on April 25<sup>th</sup>, is taking over for Ryan Sherby. She told the board that last year marked the Southwestern Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving as the council of government for the state's seven westernmost counties, also known as Region A, and the 17 municipalities therein. Chairman Corbin currently serves as the chairman of the organization, and Commissioner Beale serves on the Rural Planning Organization (RPO), which prioritizes transportation needs for the region. She explained that each county pay dues based on a per capita basis, and those funds are used to leverage more than \$6-million in additional funding. She said the organization's focus is on three areas – the area agency on aging, workforce development and planning, and she provided highlights of the report from each area. Commissioner Beale and Chairman Corbin offered their insights into the work of the Southwestern Commission. No action was necessary.

**ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to add a presentation by Department of Social Services Director Patrick Betancourt and Senior Services Administrative Officer Sheila Jenkins to the agenda.

**NCACC VIDEO:** Those in attendance watched a video from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) that provided an update on recent NCACC activities, which included an announcement that Commissioner Beale would be running for a seat as a North Carolina representative on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board.

**TOUR MACON COUNTY NC:** Dale and Dawn McGiboney presented information on the “Tour Macon County NC” video project. The McGiboneys provided detailed information on the cost to sponsor the video segments that make up the project, and played a sample of the segments for the board, all of which represented local business owners who were in attendance at the meeting. Dawn McGiboney asked the board members to express their support for the project through means such as letters to the editor of the local newspapers. No action was necessary.

**RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS:** Commissioner Beale explained that he and the County Manager had the privilege of attending a recent event at which the volunteers at the county’s Senior Services Center were recognized, and he had asked Mr. Betancourt and Ms. Jenkins to attend a board meeting to share more details. Mr. Betancourt, referencing the event Commissioner Beale spoke of, said that approximately 50 of the agency’s more than 100 volunteers were on hand to be recognized for contributing a total of 15,000 hours of their time in the past year, which equates to \$216,000. The volunteers assist in the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), which helps seniors in making decisions regarding complex insurance issues. Volunteers also assist by delivering meals, and Ms. Jenkins said the agency is on track to deliver more than 32,000 meals this fiscal year. Commissioner Beale thanked Mr. Betancourt and Ms. Jenkins for their work and praised the volunteers for their service.

**AMENDMENT TO LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER GREENWAY ORDINANCE:** The County Attorney told the board that, following a presentation to the commissioners on the “Read2Me” program, he had reviewed the county’s conservation easements and the ordinance pertaining to the Little Tennessee River Greenway. He submitted an amendment for the board’s consideration that would add an exemption to the use of the greenway such that “Macon County may authorize individuals and/or entities to take such actions as are necessary to install reading boards at the Greenway in the area of the Rotary Park Loop as part of a reading program.” Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve “An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Regulating the Use of the Little Tennessee River Greenway, As Amended,” with one correction to remove a

typographical error. A copy of the ordinance is attached (Attachment 2) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**READ2ME AGREEMENTS:** The County Attorney then presented two similar versions of an “Agreement to Provide Recreation Opportunities,” one that would allow the Read2Me program to install 15 story walk reading boards along the Rotary Park section of the Little Tennessee River Greenway, and the other to allow 15 of the boards to be installed at the Parker Meadows Recreation Complex. Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, both agreements were approved as presented. Copies of each are attached (Attachment 3 and Attachment 4) and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**CANCELLATION OF DEEDS OF TRUST:** The County Attorney presented two “Satisfaction of Security Instrument” documents for the board’s consideration, and explained that both stem from housing rehabilitation projects where the loans for the improvements end up being forgiven. One is for Maxine Hyde, and the other is for Jack E. Cheek. The County Attorney said that Macon County Housing Director John Fay confirmed that it is appropriate to cancel both. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chairman Corbin and the County Manager to sign both of the Satisfaction of Security Instruments as presented. Copies of both are attached (Attachment 5 and Attachment 6) and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** The County Attorney presented a proposed “Interlocal Governmental Agreement” that would have Macon County Transit provide a shuttle service for users of the Appalachian Trail from the trail to a point within the Town of Franklin, and in return the Town of Franklin Tourism Development Authority (TDA) would support the transit service in the amount of \$3,375. Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, and it was seconded by Commissioner Beale for purposes of discussion. Commissioner Shields raised the question of a matching amount of support from the Franklin/Nantahala Tourism Development Commission (TDC). The County Attorney noted this would require another interlocal agreement. Following further discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the agreement as presented, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 7) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**APPLICATION FOR LOTTERY FUNDS:** Following an explanation by the Finance Director and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve an application to the Public School Building Capital Fund to draw down \$290,048.50 in funds

available to the county from the North Carolina Education Lottery. A copy of the application is attached (Attachment 8) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the following items on the consent agenda were approved unanimously: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the March 8, 2016 regular meeting. **Budget amendments** – Approved the following budget amendments: #168 for Social Services to allocate a \$500 donation earmarked for senior citizens; #169 for Social Services to allocate \$6,802 in additional funds for a crisis program; #170 for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to appropriate additional JCPC funds of \$1,548; #171 for Social Services to allocate \$4,100 to purchase computer software; #172 for Transit to appropriate additional grant funds of \$16,027 and to reduce other grant funds by \$2,000; #173 for the Sheriff's Department to appropriate state and federal drug forfeiture money totaling \$8,405; and #174 for the Macon County Detention Center to increase canteen revenues and expenditures by \$26,000 due to an increased inmate population: (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached). **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$2,355.66. (A computer printout of the releases is on file in the Tax Department and the Deputy Clerk's office.

**APPOINTMENTS:** (1) **Town of Franklin Planning Board and Board of Adjustment:** Upon the recommendation of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Dave Jones to the Town of Franklin Planning Board and Board of Adjustment as a representative of the town's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) for a term of three years beginning April 4, 2016 and ending April 4, 2019.

**CLOSED SESSION:** The County Attorney requested a brief closed session for the purpose of preserving the attorney-client privilege as allowed under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), and at 7:12 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session. At 8:00 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business, and at 8:02 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

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Kevin Corbin  
Board Chairman