

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 9, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

The County Manager called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioners Gillespie, Higdon and Shields were present, as were the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens. Chairman Tate and Commissioner Beale, the board's vice-chair, were in Raleigh attending North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) events.

In accordance with Section VII, Rule 13 of the board's rules of procedure, "If the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both absent from the meeting, the Clerk to the Board shall convene the meeting and the remaining members shall elect a member to preside for that meeting..." The County Manager entertained a motion to elect a chair, and Commissioner Shields nominated Commissioner Higdon, Commissioner Gillespie seconded the motion, and all favored, with Commissioner Higdon assuming the role of presiding chairman.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The County Manager informed the board members that the special needs baseball games would be played at the Parker Meadows Recreation Complex on Thursday (May 11<sup>th</sup>) at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. He also requested that a presentation by Ryan Sherby regarding a National Water Trail designation be added to the agenda, and the board agreed by consensus to do so.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Commissioner Higdon asked if anyone wished to speak to the board, and **David Culpepper** addressed the recent announcement by Mission Health that Angel Medical Center would no longer provide labor and delivery services as of July 14<sup>th</sup>. "I just don't think everything adds up," he said, adding his belief that Mission doesn't have the county's best interests at heart. "I'd like for you guys to ask the tough questions," he told the board.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** At the request of the Finance Director, and upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the board voted 3-0 to approve the following budget amendments:

- **#169** for Social Services for a funding allocation increase from the budget estimate for daycare subsidy in the amount of \$223,115.

- #170 for Social Services to allocate additional revenue of \$4,000 for senior center outreach.
- #171 for Solid Waste to allocate insurance settlements in the amounts of \$4,134 and \$3,200 stemming from a waterline break.
- #172 for Housing to appropriate \$11,276 in additional revenue from a Duke Energy Weatherization grant.
- #173 for Housing to appropriate \$5,060 in additional revenue from a Duke Energy Weatherization grant.
- #174 for Housing to appropriate \$1,519 in additional revenue from a Weatherization LIHEAP grant.
- #175 for Housing to appropriate \$2,118 in additional revenue from a Weatherization HARRP grant.
- #176 for Housing to appropriate \$27,300 in additional revenue from a PNC Bank Health Housing Energy fund.
- #177 for the Sheriff's Department to allocate \$14,586 from an insurance settlement for vehicle repairs.

Copies of all of the amendments are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**NATIONAL WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION:** Ryan Sherby made a brief presentation on behalf of Smoky Mountain Host in regard to the county participating in a regional effort to seek a National Water Trail Designation for five rivers in the area, including the Little Tennessee. He presented each of the members with a brochure about the program and was seeking the county's approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a 10-year plan to keep public access sites open to the public. However, a copy of the MOU was not available for the board's review, and Commissioner Higdon asked Mr. Sherby to forward a copy to the County Attorney for his review and, following that, the board would consider the MOU when it met again on May 16<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

**RECESS:** At 6:18 p.m., with no other business, and upon a motion by Commissioner Shields, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the board voted 3-0 to recess the meeting until Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6 p.m. in the commission boardroom on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse, 5 West Main Street, Franklin, NC.

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Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

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Jim Tate  
Board Chairman