

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 10, 2012
MINUTES

Chairman Corbin convened the meeting at 6:02 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 announced that the next joint meeting with the towns of Franklin and Highlands was scheduled for July 26th in the Franklin Town Hall Boardroom, with a “meet and greet” beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting starting at 7 p.m. Commissioner Beale announced a luncheon at the LBJ Job Corps Center on August 3rd. Chairman Corbin acknowledged “thank you” notes from retired county employee Revena Shuler and former Macon County School Superintendent Dan Brigman. Chairman Corbin also noted the passing of former county commissioner Jack Cabe, former county employee Elizabeth Pearson (Mr. Cabe’s sister), Ruby Cansler (the mother of DSS Director Jane Kimsey), Jean Sutton (wife of former county commissioner Jerry Sutton) and Al Slagle (a member of the county planning board).

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 HEARING – RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ROAP) APPLICATION: Chairman Corbin called the public hearing to order at 6:09 p.m. and recognized Macon County Transit Director Kim Angel. She explained that the hearing focused on three individual state-funded programs, the first being the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance (EDTAP) program, with the county expected to receive \$59,339 in funding; the Employment Transportation Assistance Program, with the county expected to receive \$10,182 in funding, and the Rural General Public (RGP) Program, with the county expected to receive \$63,853 in funding, bringing the total allocation to \$133,374. She added that the funds are allocated by formula and that no match is required except for the RGP Program, which requires a 10 percent match that comes from passenger fares. No one signed up to speak at the hearing, and following questions to Mrs. Angel from the board members, Chairman Corbin closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. and returned to open session. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by

Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve the application for these funds and to have Chairman Corbin, the County Manager and the Finance Director sign the required certified statement (Attachment 1), which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: State Senator Jim Davis, a former Macon County Commissioner, provided the board with a brief report on the legislative session that had just recently concluded. Sen. Davis shared that it was his intent to visit every county commission within his district, stating that his emphasis is on local government. The County Manager noted that Sen. Davis had “held true to his word” by contacting county officials for input before voting to find out the local effect of proposed legislation. **Phillip Cochran** of Watson Contracting, Inc. spoke to the board in regard to the Macon County Airport apron project. Mr. Watson questioned the decision by the county’s airport authority to award the bid based on a concrete option as opposed to asphalt, which he contended would have created 100 jobs locally as opposed to the bid going to an out-of-county contractor. Mr. Watson said a cost analysis showed that the concrete option would save \$86,000 over a 30-year period, but said the local jobs created under the asphalt option would far outweigh those savings. Chairman Corbin noted that the airport authority is a separate entity from the county and can enter into contracts on its own authority. Commissioner Koppers, the board’s liaison to the authority, said he felt like the authority tried its best to award the bid locally, with Commissioner Beale expressing his disappointment that it won’t be going to a local firm. Following further discussion, the public comment period closed at 6:44 p.m.

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

- To add two budget amendments, #10 and #11, under the Consent Agenda in Item 11B, per the County Manager and Finance Director.
- To add a report on the county planning board by Commissioner Tate as Item 8B under Reports/Presentations.
- To add two resolutions as part of existing Item 9A under Old Business, per the County Attorney.

PRESENTATION ON COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY: The County Manager recognized John Anzivino and Stephanie Davis of Springsted, Inc., who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the results

of a compensation and classification study performed by the firm. Mr. Anzivino started by noting that the county was fortunate to have “really good people” who are “focused on getting the job done.” He and Ms. Davis then went over the objectives of the study, the terminology used, the methodology employed by Springsted and the findings, explaining that the current minimum, midpoint and maximum salary levels are significantly below the market. They continued by discussing pay philosophy, the “benchmark” communities used for the survey, and the results and comparisons from that survey. The survey led to a proposed new pay scale that would be accompanied by a job evaluation system that could be used to keep the scale up to date. Three options were presented for the county’s consideration, one that moves employees to the minimum of the salary range if they are under it, another that includes that option and provides a minimum 2 percent increase for all other employees, and a third one that adjusts all employees to the minimum and also adjusts based on years of service. A proposed implementation schedule was outlined, one that would cost approximately \$1.4 million stretched over three fiscal years if the “years of service” option was chosen. In closing, on-going administration of the pay plan was addressed, and the fringe benefits provided by the county were found to be primarily consistent or occasionally better than those in the survey group. Following comments and questions from the board, Mr. Anzivino agreed to come back for a work session, to be held in the near future, to discuss the study in more detail. No action was taken.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Commissioner Tate shared with the board that he was extremely pleased with how well the planning board was working together, adding that the planners would be ready to consider their next task at their August meeting, and had requested that, if possible, the County Attorney be present at that meeting. No action was taken.

VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: At the discretion of the Chairman and without objection from the board, Chairman Corbin moved to Item 10C on the agenda and recognized Mike Breedlove, the supervisor of the county’s soil conservation district, who went over the proposed changes to the voluntary farmland preservation ordinance. Mr. Breedlove pointed out that in addition to the name change – from farmland preservation to voluntary agricultural district – the other significant items were to create four regions within the county and to reduce the qualifying amount of farmland to one acre that has been farmed for a minimum of three years. The County Attorney said that he had taken the state model and tweaked it to fit Macon County, and that he could highlight the changes for the board in anticipation of

further discussion at the August meeting. He also noted that a public hearing on those changes might be required.

Prior to calling a recess, Chairman Corbin noted that he and others had met with representatives of Duke Energy and that the discussion had focused on three issues – the property owned by Duke off Dowdle Mountain Road as a possible site for economic development, the idea of an amphitheater near the Little Tennessee River and public swimming access on Nantahala Lake. He then called a recess at 7:50 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m.

DISCUSSION REGARDING POOL RENOVATIONS: Commissioner Koppers explained the need to have two sets of specifications, one for improvements to the swimming pool and the other for renovations to the pool house. He told the board that \$12,500 should be sufficient to obtain plans and specifications for the pool, with plans and specifications for the pool house to cost approximately \$6,000. Commissioner Koppers said a proposed timeline called for having the specifications completed in July, bidding the projects in early August and opening or awarding bids at the board's September meeting. The County Manager explained that he had asked the County Attorney to prepare resolutions for the board's consideration that would exempt the projects from provisions of the state's General Statutes where the estimated professional fees were less than \$30,000. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Exempting Architectural Design Project from the Provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-64.31 (Attachment 2), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Exempting Engineering Design Project from the Provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-64.31 (Attachment 3), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to reappropriate \$18,500 from the contingency fund in the current year budget to cover the expenses for the architectural design (\$6,000) and the engineering design (\$12,500) associated with the pool house and pool, respectively.

CHANGE ORDER #12 ON THE LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER/CARTOOGECHAYE CREEK TRUNK SEWER PROJECT: The County Manager explained that the project is complete and in use with the exception of the reuse system, and pointed out that the largest single

item in the change order was a modification to change a portion of force main sewer to gravity sewer along Roller Mill Road. The total amount of the change order is \$25,519.23 and will be paid for by grant funding. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the board voted unanimously to approve the change order as presented (Attachment 4), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ADDITION OF “457 PLAN” BENEFIT

PROVIDER: Human Resources Director Mike Decker requested that the board adopt a resolution authorizing Prudential to offer county employees what is known as a “457” or deferred compensation plan. He explained that Prudential currently administers the county’s 401(k) plan and, while the county has existing 457 plan providers, this would give employees another option. He also requested that the board authorize the County Manager to sign the necessary documents to initiate the process of getting the plan in place. Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution as presented (Attachment 5), a copy of which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMISSION RESERVE: The County Manager explained that he was requesting approval of a budget amendment allowing up to \$50,000 to be transferred from the Economic Development Commission (EDC) reserve fund in order to renovate a 7,300-square-foot portion of the county’s Business Development Center to cover HVAC, construction and clean-up costs. He said the facility needs work and should be cleaned up as there is a potential new client interested in securing the space. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment request as presented, with Commissioner Tate questioning the need to have a provision that the current tenant be required to leave the space in good shape. The County Attorney said he would review the standard lease agreement for space at the center and address or clarify this point.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE TO THE NCACC ANNUAL

CONFERENCE: Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to designate Chairman Corbin as the board’s voting delegate for the upcoming North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) annual conference to be held in Raleigh August 16th-19th.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the June 12th meeting. **Budget amendments** – Approved the following budget amendments: **#1** for the Little Tennessee River/Cartoogechaye Creek Trunk Sewer Project to move \$25,520 from contingency for Change Order #12 to pay Gary’s Grading and Pipeline Co.; **#2** for the Health Department to allocate \$975 in additional funds received from the state for Diabetes Capacity Building; **#3** for the Health Department to allocate \$500 in funds awarded from MAHEC for upkeep and improvements to the walkway near the Human Services Building and the Sheriff’s Department; **#4** for Social Services to appropriate \$66,196 in fund balance transfers covering Project Fans, general foster care and special adoption funds; **#5** for Transit to adjust a number of grant revenues to actual amounts, and to appropriate funds for bus stop shelters and a vehicle not purchased in Fiscal Year 2011-12; **#6** for Detention to move \$2,100 in funding for property/building improvements to the 2012-2013 budget year; **#7** for Housing to move \$3,251 in weatherization funds into the line items where the money will be spent; **#8** for Housing to move \$57,592 in weatherization funds into the line items where the money will be spent; **#9** for Housing to move \$26,861 in weatherization funds into the line items where the money will be spent; **#10** for Economic Development to approve a budget amendment transferring \$50,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund to the General Fund for renovations at the Business Development Center; **#11** to approve a budget amendment for a school capital project to take \$5,660 from contingency to run fiber line to the pump house at the new Iotla Valley Elementary School. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$518.30. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager’s office.) **Tattoo Fee Review** – Approved a tattoo fee review for Macon County Public Health per the attached outline. **Monthly ad valorem tax collection report** – No action necessary.

APPOINTMENTS: Board of Adjustment – Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to appoint Richard A. (Tony) Potts to the Board of Adjustment for a term of three years, filling the remaining slot on the board left vacant by Gary Drake declining reappointment. Term of appointment will expire on July 10, 2015. The County Manager also noted the need to advertise and fill the seat on the planning board left vacant by Al Slagle.

CLOSED SESSION: At 8:35 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Kupperts, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the purpose of consulting with the attorney under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(4). At 9:25 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Kupperts, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session. No action was taken.

ADJOURN: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kupperts, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman