

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2014
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the commission boardroom. All board members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT CARTOOGECHAYE SCHOOL: Sheriff Robert Holland presented the board with an organizational chart of his department – one as it presently exists and one showing the shifting of a Patrol Unit deputy to a new School Resource Officer (SRO) position at Cartoogechaye School. Sheriff Holland said that the move, if approved, would result in every Macon County school having a SRO. The sheriff shared the results of a poll from his Facebook page regarding SROs, as well as a copy of an article from The New York Times headlined, “F.B.I. Confirms a Sharp Rise in Mass Shootings Since 2000.” He also shared copies of e-mails from Cartoogechaye Principal Josh Lynch and Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, who voiced concerns about Cartoogechaye having been publicly identified as the one remaining school in the county without an SRO. In his e-mail, Dr. Baldwin wrote, “Should someone have ill intentions, they know where our students are most vulnerable.” The sheriff said that Commissioner Beale has asked him to review his manpower situation with an eye toward placing an SRO at Cartoogechaye. Like the school officials, Commissioner Beale said he felt like Cartoogechaye had been “singled out,” and that he had asked the County Manager to look into the budgetary aspect of funding the SRO. The County Manager said that shifting the patrol deputy to a SRO involves no new money for this fiscal year, but that he and the sheriff will have to discuss personnel when the budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 is prepared. Following further discussion, Commissioner Beale made a motion to approve the SRO position at Cartoogechaye Elementary School with the understanding that it comes with no new expense, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner

Tate. Commissioner Higdon questioned why the move needed board approval, saying it was an internal transfer and “a management decision.” Sheriff Holland stated that he wanted the board’s support.” Commissioner Tate noted that all of the SROs in the county are paid with county funds except in Highlands, where the SRO at Highlands School is supplied by the Highlands Police Department. The board voted unanimously to approve the SRO position at Cartoogechaye, and Sheriff Holland then introduced the other SROs who were in attendance at the meeting.

PROPOSED GIFT OF PROPERTY: The County Manager explained that the county had received an offer of a gift of a .66-acre parcel of property, located off of the Highlands Road in Franklin adjacent to the Little Tennessee River Greenway, from R.S. Jones, Jr. and his wife, Melissa. The County Manager said that he had asked County Planner Matt Mason to review and inspect the property, and that Mr. Mason believed the county would benefit by accepting the gift. Chairman Corbin asked if there was any reason not to accept it. The County Manager recommended that the County Attorney look into the right-of-way associated with the property, which is valued at \$12,140, and the County Attorney said that he saw no downside to accepting it. Commissioner Beale made a motion to accept the gift of the property, with thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and to authorize the County Manager to finalize the deal, pending the County Attorney’s investigation of the allowable uses of the 12-foot right-of-way. Commissioner Haven seconded the motion, and all favored.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENTS WITH DUKE ENERGY: The County Attorney told the board of the need for right-of-way agreements with Duke Energy for the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex as well as the Macon County Recreation Park. However, instead of using the normal “form” agreement, the County Attorney said he wished to meet with Duke representatives to “narrow the extent” of the agreements, and asked the board to hold off on taking any action. The consensus of the board was to direct the County Attorney to proceed as outlined. No formal action was taken.

AMENDMENT TO GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT: Sheriff Holland explained to the board that a resolution passed by the board at its September 9, 2014 regular meeting inadvertently contained the wrong amount of funding that would come from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program to support the cost of a traffic safety officer. Instead of the 50 percent share of the position being \$30,221, it is actually \$32,414, the sheriff said. Following a brief discussion, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the revised Local Governmental Resolution and the revised Agreement of Conditions. Copies of the resolution (**Attachment 1**) and the agreement (**Attachment 2**) are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION: At 6:38 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the following purposes:

- a. G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.
- b. G.S. 143-318 (a) (5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

At 8:16 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session. No action was taken.

ADJOURN: With no other business, at 8:16 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman