

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 30, 2008
CONTINUATION MEETING
MINUTES

Chairman Leatherman reconvened the meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney and the County Finance Director were present.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESERVE FUND: Commissioner Beale asked Ms. Southard whether staff had determined that the Economic Development Reserve fund was restricted for a specific purpose. Ms. Southard replied that the Legal Department had researched the minutes for previous years and there was no record that the fund had been established by resolution or ordinance; therefore it is believed, based on the information available, that the fund was established as an accounting function, and therefore funds could be transferred from the fund for any economic development purpose.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN/HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING: Commissioner Beale then made a motion that the Board set aside in the 08/09 budget, funds of \$20,000 to be held for a feasibility study on improvements on Crawford Branch; that \$40,000 be appropriated to the Main Street functions of the Town of Franklin, and that \$20,000 be appropriated to the Macon County Historical Society contingent upon a like match by the Town of Franklin. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would prefer that the Macon County Historical Society make application to the Community Funding Pool for a grant of county funding. Commissioner Davis commented that the Community Funding Pool was created by the county in order to establish a fair and equitable method of funding agencies outside county departments adding the members of the committee work very hard to provide that service. Commissioner Davis wanted it made clear that he had no problem with the Historical Society allocation but much preferred that the concept of the pool be adhered to. He informed the Board that if Commissioner Beale's motion included the Historical Society that he would vote against the motion. The motion stood and the vote was 4 to 1 favorable with Commissioner Davis dissenting.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: Commissioner McClellan introduced the topic of adding an additional deputy at the Sheriff's department in order to enhance the hours of coverage in the Nantahala area. Sheriff Holland spoke briefly about the current system he uses to cover that area and how another deputy would provide more hours in that area. No action was taken since the position is in the recommended budget and no one wanted to eliminate it.

TEACHERS SUPPLEMENT: The Board discussed the topic of the Teachers Supplement which is included in the recommended budget. No action was taken to remove it.

SCHOOL FINANCING: The Board discussed the financing package for school projects. Evelyn Southard provided a calculation based on new numbers provided by the Board of Education bringing the estimate of projects down to \$20,000,000. Commissioner Beale suggested appropriating \$2,000,000 of fund balance and borrowing \$18,000,000. After considerable discussion, Commissioner Beale made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Commissioner McClellan. The motion passed unanimously. A discussion ensued relative to the \$1,600,000 in funds that Macon County has advanced to pay preliminary expenses relative to the project. Those funds were to be reimbursed to the general fund from the debt proceeds. Commissioner Beale rescinded his original motion and made a new motion to forego reimbursement of the \$1,600,000 and appropriate an additional amount of \$400,000 of fund balance and borrow \$18,000,000. Commissioner McClellan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RECESS: The meeting was recessed to Monday, June 2, 2008 at 5:45 p.m.

C. Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Charles D. Leatherman
Board Chairman

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