

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 14, 2009  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:** Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure the gavel was passed to County Manager Jack Horton for election of chairman for the coming year. Mr. Horton opened the floor for nominations and Commissioner Kupperts nominated Chairman Beale for another term. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Davis. There were no other nominations and upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, Commissioner Beale was elected by acclamation. The gavel was passed to Chairman Beale and he opened the floor for nominations for vice-chairman. Commissioner McClellan nominated Commissioner Davis for vice-chairman. There were no other nominations and upon motion of Commissioner Kupperts, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, Commissioner Davis was elected by acclamation.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS BONDS:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the attached resolution approving bonds for public officials as required by NCGS §58-72 was unanimously approved. (Attachment #1)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale announced the Senior Services open house was scheduled for 2 p.m. on December 18<sup>th</sup> and reminded everyone the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting had been cancelled.

**INVOCATION:** Rev. David Crunkleton from Louisa Chapel Methodist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Sandra Crownover** commended the Board for saying a prayer and pledging the flag at their meetings. She expressed concerns that dogs are running loose with out tags or collars, that Lyle Street near where she lives is too narrow for two buses to pass, about the immoral conduct of county employees on county time in county vehicles and questioned why she had to pay taxes to both the county and town. Ms. Crownover stated something needed to be done about these things. She was asked to provide any specific information she has to either the Chairman or County Manager. **Charlie Cowie** stated the Board needs to think about the Senior Center that it may not be too long before it is obsolete. He also requested that at the upcoming public hearing on the amendment(s) to the County Subdivision Ordinance that the Board look at the segment of the ordinance that addresses the ten percent grade for gravel roads adding that requiring paving at fifteen percent is ludicrous and should be addressed. Mr. Cowie

informed the Board he had discussed the inequity of the landfill fee for commercial buildings with Mr. Horton and Chris Stahl and would request the Board reconsider and charge commercial buildings by the square footage rather than by storefront. He commended the Board for doing a good job.

**ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda with the following additions: add a report on the area mental health feasibility study for the formation of a 160A, audit report, a resolution from the school board, AdoptaPlatoon request, closed session for personnel and property acquisition, report on Health Insurance Task Force, QZAB funds for Nantahala and the local government retirement system's employer rate increase.

**MENTAL HEALTH 160a:** Chairman Beale reported funds were probably available for the seven western counties to form a 160A but funds for sustainability would not be there. He stated he wanted the Board to be aware the committee is going to explore other possibilities as pertains to mental health services and the committee is continuing to look at options.

**AUDIT REPORT:** Chairman Beale read into the record a letter from Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Controller. The letter stated the auditor's report on compliance, internal control and/or schedule of findings and questioned costs did not disclose any instances of noncompliance for which the Department is responsible for resolution and no corrective action is necessary. Chairman Beale stated this is another example of the excellent job done by the finance staff and county departments.

**SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION/COWEE SCHOOL:** Chairman Beale read the attached resolution recently adopted by the Macon County Board of Education stating that upon completion of the new K-4 school the Cowee School building will be offered to the County for the sum of \$1.00. No action was necessary but it was requested the resolution be entered into the record per **Attachment #2**.

**ADOPTaPLATOON:** Chairman Beale stated he had been approached by the Pine Grove Community Development to match \$224 for the AdoptaPlatoon project to send a care package to troops in Iraq or Afghanistan. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to authorize the match. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kupperts. During discussion Commissioner Davis suggested, in order to maintain the integrity of the Community Funding Pool process, that each Commissioner donate \$50. Chairman Simpson withdrew his motion with the agreement of Commissioner Kupperts and each Commissioner agreed to donate \$50.

**HEALTH INSURANCE TASK FORCE:** Commissioner Davis reported the Health Care Task Force had met, discussed various options, appointed a sub-committee and felt overall the meeting had been very productive. He advised the next meeting of the full Task Force will be January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM'S EMPLOYER RATE:**

Commissioner McClellan stated he want to make sure all members received the notification that the employers proposed contribution rate to the Local Government Retirement System will increase from 4.8% of payroll to 6.35% next fiscal year and made note that this increase will have to be budgeted.

**TAX REASSESSMENT RESOLUTION:** At the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board voted to delay the property reassessment until 2013 and upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously adopted the attached resolution changing the next general reappraisal of real property to January 1, 2013, as provided by NCGS §105-286(a)(2). (Attachment #3)

**LITTLE TENNESSEE/CARTOOGECHAYE SEWER PROJECT:** County Manager Horton presented information on revision of the contract with McGill Associates for engineering services on the Little Tennessee/Cartoogechaye Creek Sewer Project per attachment #4. He explained the construction observation supervision element of the contract was originally \$77,200 and the county intended to use the county engineer at that time; however, now the county does not have an engineer on staff. Based on this information Mr. Horton recommended approval of the revised contract with authorization for him to revisit the construction observation portion to see if the county can accommodate this in a more cost effective way. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the revised contract and authorize the Manger to revisit the construction observation portion.

**QZAB FUNDS/NANTAHALA SCHOOL:** Commissioner Simpson stated he had visited Nantahala School and was embarrassed by the gym at the school as should be the entire Board of Commissioners and Board of Education. He urged the Board to push for remodeling of the current gym using QZAB funds. Chairman Beale stated the schools are charged with bringing forth and prioritizing recommendations on school renovations but they would bring up the suggestions at the next school facility meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Communications Towers** – Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe and North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) representative Lane MacNeil explained funding has been available for 238 radio sites in North Carolina and the project is being coordinated by the NCSHP. Trooper MacNeil explained there are two sites currently in Macon County (Cowee Bald and Wine Springs) and funding is available for three additional sites. He explained one of the preferred locations is on county-owned property in Highlands on Aunt Dora Drive. After discussion it was recommended the County Manager be brought up to date on these sites and a recommendation be brought back to the Board. It was noted the grants expire September, 2011. **Oblique Imaging Project** – Mr. Cabe requested approval to allow Pictometry International to upgrade aerial photographs of the County for mapping purposes to oblique images. He explained the new images will indicate height of structures and objects; that the company utilizes patented technology; that the purchase is pursuant to Federal Purchasing GAS Schedule #GS-35F-0801N; that the cost is \$135,785

and is 100% funded by NC 911 Grants. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to approve the request for the upgrade as presented. **EMS garage bids** – It was noted all bids received for the EMS garage to be located at the former Senior Services Building had been over budget. After a brief discussion Commissioner Davis made a motion to reject all bids, refine the specifications and rebid the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** EDC Coordinator Trevor Dalton and EDC Consultant James McCoy presented Economic Development Grant Guidelines on behalf of the Economic Development Commission. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to accept the guidelines as presented. (Attachment #5)

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Budget revisions/contract (Rhodes Brothers/BR #76)** – Approved the following budget revisions: revision #72, appropriating \$8,268 funds in the Sheriff’s Department received from U.S. Marshal’s Service; revision #73, budgeting \$4,473 additional DSS crisis funds; revision #74, budgeting \$300 DSS donation for foster children Christmas; revision #75, budgeting \$320 DSS donation for foster children Christmas; revision #76, transfer and appropriation of \$21,780 to cover cost of paving road at South Macon School and approval of contract with Rhodes Brothers in the same amount for the paving; revision #77, appropriating \$150,000 in Hudson Library Capital Project; revision #78, correcting 5-6 School Capital Project Ordinance (\$20,000); and revision #79, appropriating 911 grant funds of \$154,300 for Aerial Oblique Imaging Project. (Note – budget revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$924.58. (A computer print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the Clerk to the Board’s Office.) **Animal Control Fees** - Adopted the following schedule of fees to cover Animal Control Center operations:

Adoption Fee (including rabies vaccine and spay/neuter costs.....	\$65
Quarantine Fee (Confinement at animal control shelter due to bites.....	\$10 per day
Euthanasia Fee (at the request of the Owner).....	\$60
Redemption Fee (for domesticated animals impounded by animal control)	
First impoundment.....	no charge
Redemption Fee (for domesticated animals impounded by animal control)	
Second and subsequent impoundments.....	\$25

**CLOSED SESSION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss personnel and property acquisition. During closed session the above referenced items were discussed with no action being taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion by Commissioner Kuppers the meeting was adjourned.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman