

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 12, 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale announced the Town of Highlands would be hosting a joint meeting with the County and the Towns of Franklin and Highlands at the Highlands Country Club on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m., noting he would be out of the country and unable to attend. He also announced the second regular meeting had been changed from October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. to October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Rev. Stacy Woods from Iotla Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No one wished to speak during public session.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Chairman Beale stated a presentation by Morris Broad Band needed to be added as item #8B, that item #9A should be deleted as Carenet had withdrawn their request for funds, that item #10D was deleted pending receipt of information from the Town, a resolution concerning funding on the Little Tennessee River/Cartoogechaye Creek Sewer Project needed to be added as item #11C and a lease for office space for the Sheriff's Department added as item #11d. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the agenda with adjustments as noted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuppens and all favored.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER:** Chairman Beale introduced Mr. Brian Ingram who is the new LME Area Director. Mr. Ingram and Shelly Foreman updated the Board on legislative actions to eliminate community support services, how this will impact area services and what Smoky Mountain Center is doing to respond to the situation. Chairman Beale stated progress is being made on the 160A (service provider organization for the LME) which could help in deciding regional mental health needs and offer care that best fits the area. The Board welcomed Mr. Ingram to the area and expressed appreciation for the update.

**MORRIS BROADBAND/CABLEVISION:** Chairman Beale stated he had asked representatives from Morris Broad Band to attend the meeting to give the Board an explanation of what went wrong with the switch over from Mediacom to Morris Broadband that resulted in major service outages of cablevision, internet and telephone service. Mr. Beale noted Macon County's number is on the bill and board members and

staff had received many phone calls and didn't have any answers or explanation to give. He suggested a procedure for the County to receive a courtesy call when there's a service outage. Craig Mitchell, Maggie Blythe, and Mike Kai explained the upgrades Morris had made to the system since February; however, when the actual transition was made they discovered some wires were crossed when installed, which when combined with other problems, resulted in corrupt data and other problems. They added the call center was overwhelmed noting the center hoped to have about 700 calls a day and they were receiving 2000 a day. They stated the transition did not go as well as they had hoped but felt they were "over the hump" now. They explained customers will receive credit for time out of service. Chairman Beale reminded Mr. Mitchell that a local call center and customer service were two of the concerns of the Board during the transfer of the franchise and reiterated that county officials need to be notified about service outages and/or problems.

**DOT – OFFER TO PURCHASE/RIGHT OF WAY:** The County Manager presented an offer from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to purchase .051 acres from SR 1660 (Siler Road) to SR 1662 (Wiley Brown Road) for the Siler Road extension project at \$6,000. He added DOT is looking at an additional piece of property in the same vicinity with the possibility of making an offer on it also. The item was presented for information only and no action was requested at this time.

**ARTHUR DRAKE ROAD:** Chairman Beale reminded the Board of discussion at the previous meeting on the status of Arthur Drake Road and stated since the last meeting there had been meetings with some of the residents on the road and discussions are on-going.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes of the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Finance** – Approved budget revision #37, appropriating \$7,000 increase in state funding for Health Administration and budget revision #38, appropriating \$1,000 in grant funding for school health nurse. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Resolution** – Adopted a resolution accepting the State Revolving Loan offer of \$2,043,250 per **attachment #1**. **Lease** – Approved a lease with R.S. Jones and Fred H. Jones for space to be utilized by the Sheriff's Department per **attachment #2**.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Larry Stenger to the Planning Board with a term to expire November 1, 2012.

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

---

Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

---

Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman