

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**APRIL 12, 2010 – 6 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, Interim County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale announced the Senior Services open house is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 p.m. and a joint meeting with the Towns is scheduled for 6 p.m. on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Boiler Room. The Chairman also expressed appreciation to the volunteer fire departments, law enforcement and all agencies that were involved in fighting and containing a recent fire off Sanderstown Road stating that a very real potential for loss of life, property and homes was prevented.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner McClellan gave the invocation.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING:** Chairman Beale recessed the regular meeting and convened a public hearing on the secondary roads program in Macon County. NCDOT Engineers Brian Burch and Wesley Grindstaff were introduced and gave a review of the allocation for FY 2009/10 stating the resolution was late this year because of budgetary issues at the state level. Mr. Grindstaff explained the total allocation for secondary roads improvements is \$364,198 with \$150,000 allocated for Iotla Church Road alignment improvements near the school and \$214,198 for grading and improvements on 2.76 miles on Onion Mountain Road. Concerns were expressed by the Board on conditions on Buck Creek Road, Wayah Road, and a portion of Wells Grove Road near the new 5/6 school. Mr. Grindstaff advised DOT would check on Buck Creek Road and as soon as the weather permits portions of Wayah Road will be improved. Mr. Burch advised the Board to write a letter to DOT concerning the safety concerns on Wells Grove Road and the County Manager was instructed to send the letter. No one from the public wished to speak. The hearing was recessed and the Board returned to regular session.

**DOT RESOLUTION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution allocating \$364,198 NCDOT Secondary Road Improvements Funds. (Attachment #1)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Bill Vernon** stated he understood steep slope development was to be discussed at the meeting. Chairman Beale explained the sub-committee has a proposed document ready to forward to the Planning Board and after review by the Planning Board they will forward a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Based on this information Mr. Vernon did not make any comments. **Tom Ritter** stated he was representing the owner of Craftsman Village near Ruby Twin Cinemas and what they have read in the paper and heard is not clear. He requested the Board to allow the

scientific facts to stand for themselves and explained they have a meeting with geo-technical engineers to gather further scientific facts. He added that the owner has done everything he can and again asked to let the facts stand.

**ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to approved the agenda as submitted with the addition of one budget revision to item #11B.

**USFS UPDATE:** Mike Wilkins, USFS Ranger, gave an update on USFS roads and projects stating the winter had been tough on the approximately 800 miles of forest service roads in Macon, Jackson and a portion of Swain County that they are charged with maintaining. He noted that about 500 of these miles are in Macon County. He explained timber sales have been good and they have received some stimulus funding. He stated some of the projects and upgrades they are working on are at Standing Indian Campground, Nantahala River, Wayah Bald, various trails and signage which is always being vandalized. When questioned he stated he had tried to obtain funding for Road 711 from Wayah Road to White Oaks in Nantahala and had recently had some officials from Asheville drive the road with him. He also responded to questions stating the closing of the Highlands Office is working out okay and that funding for the second phase of the Dry Falls project has been approved. The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Wilkins and the forest service staff for their contribution to Macon County including their fire fighting efforts.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Beale gave a brief update on the Riverbend Sewer Project, informed the Board that Paul Higdon has been retained to monitor the Little Tennessee/Cartoogechaye Creek Sewer project and that Congressman Heath Shuler had been in the County to meet with the EDC and toured the new 5/6 School.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** LME Director Brian Ingram and Shelley Foreman were present to explain the rationale for the Evergreen Foundation to be returned to Smoky Mountain Center governance and to request adoption of resolution in support of the action. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of SMC's efforts to reinstitute a Foundation Board of Directors that is appointed by SMC, with the majority of Foundation Board members also being members of the SMC Board of Directors from the seven western counties and to restore public oversight of these funds originated for the sole purpose of supporting people with mental illness, developmental and intellectual disabilities and substance abuse disorders in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson and Macon Counties **per attachment #2**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and passed four to one with Commissioner Simpson opposing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** - Approved the minutes from the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. **Budget revisions** – Approved revision #136, appropriating \$15,000 additional DSS Federal

incentive funds; revision #137, appropriating \$31,538 for the child support program in DSS; revision #138, appropriating \$2,894 in Healthy Carolinians from the Community Care Clinic; and revision #139, appropriating \$33,513 in the Legal Department for interim county attorney and special council. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.)

**APPOINTMENTS: Planning Board** – Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Karl Gillespie to the Planning Board. Term will expire April 23, 2013. An appointment to fill the vacant position held by Eric Pierson was delayed. **Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Care Advisory Committee** – An appointment to fill the unexpired term of Steve Reeves who resigned was delayed.

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

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman