

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 11, 2010
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 several interested citizens were present.

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

INVOCATION: Rev. Guy Duvall from Oakdale Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Rev. Greg Rogers** stated he was present to respond to a recent article in the Smoky Mountain News concerning prayer at Board of Commissioners meetings. Rev. Rogers stated he appreciated the boldness of some of the Board's comments and he would pray for each board member by name. He noted several people in attendance were there in support of the Board and he wanted to voice that support and say "thank you". **Charlie Cowie** expressed appreciation to the Board and stated the Board is the people who individuals can lobby to make things happen, that the Board can lobby the State and the State then can lobby the Federal government. Mr. Cowie urged the Board to lobby to the state to bring back manufacturing business in the country. He stated the term "green" may have stagnated some industries because of so many rules and regulations they have moved out of the country. He also expressed concerns about deer eating crops and stated it would benefit the county to alter breeding habits so that the deer would be larger. Chairman Beale informed Mr. Cowie the North Carolina Wildlife Commission would be holding a meeting in Sylva in the near future, possibly January 13th.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Chairman Beale advised an update by the veterans would be delayed until later in the meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following changes: a clarification in the minutes, addition of two budget amendments and addition of appointments to Macon Program for Progress.

UPPER CULLASAJA RIVER RESTORATION: A letter on behalf of the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association was presented. The letter explained a project for significant water quality improvement on the Cullasaja River in the Highlands public water supply watershed and requested adoption of a resolution of support. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution of support per **attachment #1**.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the December 14th meeting with the following change: on page 3 under **Local Government Retirement System’s Employer Rate** – change “the employers contribution rate to the Local Government Retirement System will increase from.....to read “notification that the proposed employers contribution rate..... **Finance** – Approved the following budget revisions: revision #80, appropriating \$740,000 in the 5-6 School Capital Project for furniture and authorized a \$150,000 deposit be made on the furniture; revision #81, appropriating \$8,500 of QZAB balance for doors at East Franklin School; revision #82, budgeting \$1,140 in DSS for foster care donation; revision #83, budgeting \$500,000 debt proceeds for purchase of equipment and revision #84, appropriating \$4,300 from Contingency to EDC for marketing materials. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached) **Animal Control Ordinance** – Approved the attached amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance incorporating civil penalties as discussed at the December 14th meeting. **(Attachment #2)** **Mental Health** – Adopted the attached resolution authorizing Smoky Mountain Center to purchase property in Watauga County noting a resolution is required from each county in the service area before purchase can be authorized. **(Attachment #3)** **Governor’s Crime Commission** – Authorized submission of grant application for continuation of the Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Unit in the amount of \$94,111.44 with a 25% local match of \$23,527.86 which is included in the Sheriff’s budget.

APPOINTMENTS: **Franklin TDC** – Kristy Dodge’s resignation from the Franklin TDC as the Franklin/Nantahala District at large representative was presented. No action was taken and Commissioner Simpson will bring a recommendation to the next meeting. **Economic Development Commission** – Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Ed Shatley to the EDC. Term will expire January 31, 2013. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to appoint Gary Drake as the Highlands Town Board representative to the EDC replacing Hank Ross. Term will expire January 31, 2011. **Franklin Town Board of Adjustments (ETJ)** – Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, David Jones was reappointed to the Franklin ETJ Board. Term of appointment will expire January 31, 2013. **Macon Program for Progress** – Chairman Beale announced, if there were no objections, he would be joining Commissioner Simpson as a liaison to the Macon Program for Progress Board stating it was often difficult to attend the meetings and hoped at least one of the two could make it to the meetings.

VETERANS SERVICE: Bob Litten, Chairman of the Veterans Memorial, announced he would be stepping down as chairman of the project and expressed appreciation to the Board and several others for their staunch support of the project. The Board all commended Mr. Litten for the excellent job he did and the end result. Chairman Beale presented Mr. Litten with a framed replica of the county flag. Mr. Litten then introduced Neal Reindau who has been very active in the project and will assume the chairmanship.

Mr. Reindau advised the Board of future plans stating the project is still a work in progress, they are very proud of the work done and that the work will continue. The Board reiterated their appreciation for the project in honor of all veterans. Chairman Beale noted the local veterans had presented an American flag to the County which is flying at the Courthouse and the group will replace the flag with a new one each year on Veterans Day.

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner McClellan made a motion to go into closed session for attorney/client privilege and a potential claim. During closed session the above referenced items were discussed with no formal action being taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Back in regular session the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Commissioner Koppers.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman