

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONTINUATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 7, 2010
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. as recessed 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. Chairman Beale stated the public hearing on the budget would be held as noticed with a couple of business items to be handled following the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2010/11 PROPOSED BUDGET: Chairman Beale opened the public hearing and requested the County Manager Jack Horton to review changes from the recent work sessions. Mr. Horton reported that the Board had held several hours of work sessions on the proposed budget and meet with the schools and some department heads to review their budget requests. He reviewed some of the changes that have been made to the proposed budget and stated there will be further adjustments. He added that departments are being asked to trim another one percent from their budgets and another goal is to try to reduce the debt service on the new K-4 School and the Nantahala School renovations from a 1 ½¢ to a 1¢ tax increase. **Narelle Kirkland** expressed appreciation for the work done on the budget stating the Board has to meet state requirements and take care of local residents. She added there would be resentment if businesses do not pay an equitable share of fees, i.e. landfill fees and that citizens living on small limited incomes have had enough increases. **Tim Keener**, Chief of Clarks Chapel Fire Department, stated the increases requested by their department was to purchase a new truck to replace an old 1986 pumper and they were just requesting enough to cover the truck payments. He noted there are now four schools, two propane storage facilities and the 441 natural gas line in their district. **Charlie Cowie** passed a donation to the Wayne Proffitt Scholarship fund to Chairman Beale. Mr. Cowie stated he had spoken to everyone about his opinion on the landfill fees and that it is no mystery that we are in a bad economy. He added that our area is dependent on people coming here and they come because they like the people and the economy of the area; therefore, we need to keep taxes and fees down because that is inviting. He also suggested a moratorium on restrictions such as the steep slope and subdivision ordinance because these are stagnation points for development. He reiterated his opinion that it is unfair to charge commercial customers the landfill fee on store fronts rather than by square footage. **Pete Haithcock** expressed appreciation to the Board for their support of fire departments.

Chairman Beale expressed appreciation for the comments stating the plan is to consider adoption of the budget at the June 14th meeting and a final budget work session was scheduled for 3 p.m. on June 11th. The hearing was adjourned and the meeting reconvened in regular session.

ANIMAL CONTROL: The County Attorney presented an amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance, Section 90-4, Jurisdiction, for consideration. Chairman

Beale read the amendment into the record after which upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers the Board unanimously voted to approve the amendment. The Attorney noted that both the Towns of Franklin and Highlands will need to adopt a resolution authorizing enforcement of the Animal Control Ordinance within their jurisdiction and he would contact the respective attorneys for the towns. (Attachment #1) Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt a resolution per attachment #2 concerning “potentially dangerous dogs” in Macon County designating the person responsible for determining when a dog is a “potentially dangerous dog” and designating the Board responsible for hearing any appeals of a decision in which it is determined that a dog is a “potentially dangerous dog”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to designate Commissioner Simpson to continue as the commissioner representative on the board to hear appeals in “potentially dangerous dog” cases.

UPDATES: The County Manager updated the Board on two easements, one on the old drive-in property and the Siler Road extension. No action was requested. The Board also discussed extending water service to Windy Gap Road residents and the Chairman stated if there were no objections he, the County Manager, representatives from the Town and McGill Associates would meet with some of the residents.

RECESS: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to recess until 3 p.m. on June 11, 2010 in the Commissioners Board Room on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman