

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 22, 2010 – 2 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale announced newly elected board members would be sworn in on December 6th at 9:30 a.m. and this meeting would be recessed until 6 p.m. on December 6th for election of the chairman, vice-chairman and any other required business.

INVOCATION: Chairman Beale gave the invocation.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: **David Seay** questioned the Board if there was any validity to the rumor that a portion of the County Recreation Park was going to be traded to Phil Drake for a parking lot. The Chairman responded “no” adding that most likely there are restrictions in place that the county’s recreation park property could not be traded or sold. **Shirley Ches** stated she wanted to express her appreciation to the Board and county employees for their efforts to maintain and grow our area and added she understood the need for everyone to chip in to help and that usually meant taxes.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: There were no adjustments to the agenda and upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

GFOA AWARD: Chairman Beale presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Finance Director Evelyn Southard and her staff explaining the award is from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Ms. Southard and staff were commended for the job they do for Macon County.

FY 09/10 AUDIT REPORT: Erica Brown with Martin, Starnes & Associates, CPAs, PA, presented the County’s FY 09/10 audit report stating audit highlights were an unqualified opinion, no findings or questioned costs and no material internal control weakness were identified. Ms. Brown reviewed revenues, expenditures, fund balance, etc. and commended the county finance staff for their cooperation. No action was necessary. (A copy of the audit is on file in the County Finance Office.)

ANGEL MEDICAL CENTER/LADIES NIGHT OUT: Chairman Beale stated Angel Medical Center CEO Tim Hubbs had planned to attend the meeting to present a request but was given an incorrect time. A letter from Mr. Hubbs requesting \$10,000 to be able to have funds available through the Ladies Night Out Gap Funds for matching funds in a \$30,000 request to Congressman Heath Shuler was presented. The grant would enable two hundred uninsured/underinsured Macon County residents to have mammograms or other breast related diagnostic screenings such as breast ultrasounds and stereotactic breast biopsies for both women and men. Mr. Hubbs' letter also stated in 2010, the North Carolina Comprehensive Cancer Program estimates that forty-two women in Macon County will be diagnosed with breast cancer and seven Macon County women will lose their battle with breast cancer this year. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to allocate \$10,000 from contingency for the match, contingent upon approval of the \$30,000 grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored.

VIPER TOWER: The County Manager reported a portion of the County owned water tank site off Addington Bridge Road will meet the need for the 800 megahertz (Viper) service to the North Carolina Highway Patrol and possible other emergency services. He recommended the tower be 200 feet verses 300 feet and presented a Proposal to Lease to the State of North Carolina form explaining the form is not a lease but merely allows the state and County to develop a detailed lease for final approval. After discussion Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the Proposal to Lease Form for final draft of the lease agreement for Board approval and to authorize the Chairman and/or County Manager to execute the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Mr. Alfred Wyrick stated he lived on Hickory Knoll Road and questioned if the public would have an opportunity to speak on the location.

IOTLA VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Terry Bell, School Construction Liaison, stated the demolition permit for the Iotla Valley Elementary School project required additional testing for asbestos and the results indicated the presence of some asbestos. Mr. Bell added the abatement needed to occur quickly; therefore, in order for demolition to remain on schedule Ottinger Environmental was contracted to remove the asbestos at a total cost of \$10,550 (testing at \$2,050, abatement at \$7,000 and disposal at \$1,500) and requested a change order in that amount. The County Manager stated the action was unavoidable and recommended approval with the cost coming from project contingency. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to approve the change order and transfer of \$10,550 from project contingency.

NORTHLAND CABLE: County Manager Horton reported Northland Cable, who holds the franchise for the Highlands area, is refinancing and the refinancing calls for assignment of Northland's franchise and required authorization from the County since they are the franchising authority. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chairman to execute the assignment as requested. (Attachment #1)

RIGHT OF WAY/DUKE POWER/GREENWAY: The County Attorney presented information on a proposed relocation, release and right of way agreement around the Siler Road/Greenway areas between Macon County and Duke Energy Carolinas LLC. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to approve the transaction as presented in **attachment #2** and authorize execution by the Chairman.

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 from the November 8th meeting. **Budget revisions** – Approved budget revision #53, recording new annual debt in debt service for Nantahala and Iotla Valley Schools; revision #54, appropriating \$137,250 State Homeland Security Grant in Emergency Management; revision #55, appropriating \$2,000 fees collected in Animal Control; revision #56, appropriating \$19,926 Cherokee Preservation Foundation Grant for Macon County Youth Council and revision #57, appropriating insurance settlement funds in Maintenance, Sheriff and Solid Waste Departments. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$696.00 for October and \$10,179.91 for November. (Note: Computer print-outs of releases are on file in the Tax Office and the County Manager’s Office.) **Christmas bonus** – Authorized payment of a one percent Christmas bonus for county employees as budgeted in the current year. **Community Funding Pool Allocation** – Approved the corrected list of Community Funding Pool allocations reflecting the one percent across the board reduction in expenditures (\$49,500) noting the previously approved list was at \$50,000 and did not reflect the reduction. **(Attachment #3)**

APPOINTMENTS: Planning Board – It was reported the term of Al Slagle on the Planning Board expired November 1, 2010 and Commissioner Koppers made a motion to accept the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Slagle. The motion was seconded by Chairman Beale and failed two to three with Commissioners Davis, McClellan and Simpson opposing. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to appoint Jimmy Goodman to fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed three to two with Chairman Beale and Commissioner Koppers opposing. Term will expire November 1, 2013.

FORMER COMMISSIONER JAY DEE SHEPHERD: Chairman Beale stated since the previous meeting former commissioner Jay Dee Shepherd had passed. He noted that Mr. Shepherd had been a pioneer in many ways, serving and leading the region and county. He requested everyone to stand and honor Mr. Shepherd with a few moments of silence.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS’ RESIGNATION: Commissioner Davis submitted his resignation from the Board to be effective January 10, 2010, due to his recent election to the North Carolina State Senate. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation.

COMMISSIONER SIMPSON: Commissioner Simpson who is leaving the Board was presented with a plaque and gift of appreciation. Each board member was given an opportunity to comment on Commissioner Simpson's service. Commissioner Simpson expressed appreciation to the citizens for electing him to serve eight years and commended county staff for their dedication and service. He added that everyone should volunteer for public service. A reception followed the meeting.

RECESS: Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to recess until 6 p.m. on December 6, 2010, in the Board Room on the third floor of the Courthouse with a note recently elected members would be sworn in on December 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman