

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 13, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

**GIRL SCOUT PROMISE:** Members of Girl Scout troops from throughout Macon County led the audience in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Led by the Girl Scouts, the pledge to the flag was recited.

**GIRL SCOUTS CENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION:** With permission from the other board members, Chairman Corbin moved to Item 8B on the agenda, and asked each of the commissioners to take turns reading paragraphs from the Girl Scouts Centennial Proclamation, which they did. Upon a motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the proclamation celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one signed up to speak during the public comment period.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as adjusted, as follows:

- To add consideration of special recognition of some Macon County citizens as Item 10C, per Commissioner Beale.
- To add an item regarding fire security at the Hudson Library as Item 10D, per Commissioner Tate.
- To add discussion of furniture for the new Iotla Valley school under Item 10B, per the County Manager.
- To add a report on the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference as Item 8E, per Commissioner Beale.

**TOBACCO REALITY UNFILTERED (TRU) CLUB PRESENTATION:** Staff members from Macon County Public Health and students from the

Tobacco Reality Unfiltered (TRU) Clubs in the school system addressed the board on the issue of tobacco free parks in the county. Dawn Wilde Burgess, the Community Health Promotion Supervisor with the health department, explained that the county had received a \$12,000 grant in conjunction with this effort, but noted the money must be spent before May 31, 2012 or it reverts to the state. Seeing an opportunity to change a social norm, Mrs. Burgess explained that state law (General Statute 130A-498) allows local governments to adopt ordinances and policies to regulate smoking, with the goal of the TRU Clubs to have 100 percent tobacco free parks. Zee Keener, a TRU Club member, read an essay on "Why We Should Have Tobacco Free Parks" and Kristy Sheldon, also a TRU Club member, shared her personal experiences with second-hand smoke. Becky Barr, Population Health Section Administrator with the health department, told the board that \$400,000 is available from a Community Transformation Grant that the state has chosen to make available on a regional basis to target 11 priorities, one of which is aimed at tobacco free county government areas such as parks. Commissioner Kupperts asked for a breakdown of the \$12,000 grant, with health officials noting that the majority of it would be spent on signage. This was followed by discussion regarding a proposed ordinance that would prohibit smoking and the use of other tobacco products on the grounds and in the buildings in the county's parks system, with concerns expressed over how such an ordinance would be enforced. The County Attorney pointed out that the ordinance would have to clearly specify the parcels that would be affected. Chairman Corbin suggested allowing the County Attorney adequate time to research the matter, and, without objection from the board, tabled the item until the April regular meeting.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK PLAN:** Macon County Cooperative Extension Director Alan Durden updated the board on the impact of the agency's programs during 2011. When asked about trends in agriculture, Mr. Durden noted that the growth areas are in small production (less than three acres) and in tailgate markets and more organic products. He then introduced Kathy Kuhlman, the 4-H agent, who in turn introduced three members of the 4-H Youth Council (Savannah Bruun, Kacie England and Jacquelyn Bruun) who made presentations to the board on the Cherokee Preservation Foundation Youth Council and on the developments at the archery range, which the commissioners had supported last year by providing property for the range.

**USDA SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM:** Crystal Nix with Macon Program for Progress (MPP) outlined plans for a summer food service program that would provide free lunches to children up to the age of 18.

Ms. Nix explained that MPP is the sponsoring agent and was not seeking county funding, but was hoping to increase community awareness and support of the program, which served 4,577 meals last summer. She noted that food must be handed directly to the child, and the program would operate from June 6<sup>th</sup> until the first day of school in August. Commissioner Beale suggested that Ms. Nix meet with Seth Adams, the county's parks and recreation director, to discuss a method of dispersing the meals, perhaps at the picnic shelter at the recreation park.

**NACO REPORT:** Commissioner Beale and the County Manager gave an update on the recent trip by county officials to the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference in Washington, D.C. with Commissioner Beale pointing out the savings available through NACo's Prescription Drug Discount Card Program. The County Manager explained that through the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program, 25 percent of the funds from the sale of timber on national forest land came back to the county to be used for education, but that the program is up for reauthorization.

**911 CALL CENTER:** Following discussion, and upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to:

- Award a bid to Interact Public Safety in the amount of \$168,955.40 for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Geographic Information System (GIS) at the 911 Call Center. Per the County Attorney, General Statute 143-129.8 allowed the county to send out requests for proposals as opposed to formal bids, which allows the county to consider factors other than price as part of its bid specifications. Under that statute, the county is to award the contract to the entity that submits the best overall proposal as determined by the commissioners. The County Attorney also pointed out that the motion needs to include authorization for the County Manager to sign the contract with Interact consistent with the specifications and presentation provided.
- Award a bid to Whitley's Communications in the amount of \$280,632 for the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) radio console system at the 911 Call Center.
- Approve Budget Amendment #147 (Attachment 2) for the E911 Fund in the amount of \$529,345 for the CAD, GIS, VoIP console and phone upgrade for the 911 Call Center, with the money coming from 911 fees, which must be spent on such items.

It was noted that the last major upgrade to the 911 Call Center took place in 1999, and the new upgrade would take four to six months to complete.

Chairman Corbin declared a recess at 7:36 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING TESTING OF WELLS FOR VOCs:**

Following discussion and an explanation from the County Attorney, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adopt the “Resolution of the Macon County Board of County Commissioners Concerning the Testing of Wells for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs),” which requests that the state’s General Assembly consider an amendment to current law so as to require testing for VOCs only when indicated and to provide that it is the responsibility of the local health department to ensure appropriate testing is conducted. A copy of the resolution (Attachment 3) is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes, along with a letter to the local legislative delegation (Attachment 4) regarding this matter, which is also made a part of these minutes.

**QZAB AND QSCB APPLICATIONS:** Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman explained that there are surplus Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) funds as well as Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) funds available from the state, and that he was asking permission to “get in line” and apply for funding, but explained that this requires no commitment from the county at this time. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Macon County Board of Education to make applications for funding as follows:

- QZAB funds of \$1.5 million for Highlands School.
- QSCB funds of \$272,000 for Macon Middle School.
- QCSB funds of \$1.5 million for Union Academy.
- QSCB funds of \$56,000 for Franklin High School.
- QSCB funds of \$195,000 for Nantahala School.

**FURNITURE FOR NEW IOTLA VALLEY SCHOOL:** The County Manager explained that there is a need for furniture for the Iotla Valley Elementary School, but also a question of how to pay for it. One alternative is to use funds left over from the Mountain View Intermediate School project, with the approval of BB&T, and due to the timeframe for opening the new school in August, the new furnishings need to be ordered now. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to proceed as discussed, with a budget amendment

transferring funds between the two projects to be presented for the board's consideration at its April regular meeting.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR CRAWFORDS:** Following comments by Commissioner Beale, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to name the Macon County Senior Services center in honor of John L. and Dorothy R. Crawford, with a formal ceremony to be held on April 27, 2012 at 2 p.m. at the senior center at 108 Wayah Street in Franklin.

**HUDSON LIBRARY:** Commissioner Tate provided the board with copies of a letter from Dale Sticka, the property representative on the Hudson Library Board. The letter explained that the library's security system, installed in 1984, is not up to code. Also included were copies of bids to replace/upgrade the security and fire system. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to pursue the low bid from Custom Sound & Security, Inc. at a cost of \$11,689.55 plus a \$35-per-month monitoring charge.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** - Approved the minutes from the February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> meetings. **Budget amendments** - Approved the following budget amendments: #150 for the Department of Social Services to allocate additional Adult Daycare funding of \$10,974; #151 for the Department of Social Services to allocate \$17,001 in additional Adult Daycare funding; #152 for the Housing Department for contract modifications to allocate \$117,005 in ARRA Weatherization revenue across several line items. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** - Approved tax releases in the amount of \$685.19. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's office.)

**DIALYSIS CENTER LETTER:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to send a letter to Craig Smith, Chief of the Certificate of Need Section for the state Division of Health Service Regulation, supporting the certificate of need application of DaVita, Inc., operating as Total Renal Care of North Carolina and doing business as Macon County Dialysis, to develop a new dialysis center in Franklin. A copy of the letter (Attachment 5) is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**APPOINTMENTS: Board of Equalization and Review** – Upon the recommendation of Tax Administrator Richard Lightner and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Rich Bankston, Dwight Vinson, Bill Martin and Kevin Spivey to the Board of Equalization and Review for terms of one year each, and to appoint Bob Zoellner to a term of one year on the Board of Equalization and Review. Term of office for all five will expire March 13, 2013.

**JOINT MEETING:** The County Manager noted that it was the county's turn to host the joint meeting with the towns of Franklin and Highlands, with the meeting scheduled for April 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

**ADJOURN:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Kuppers, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Kevin Corbin  
Board Chairman