

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 10, 2013
MINUTES**

The Interim County Manager called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. All Board Members, the County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: The Interim County Manager conducted the election for the office of chairman, and opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Beale nominated Commissioner Corbin as chairman, and the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Tate. There were no other nominations. With no further discussion, the Interim County Manager closed nominations and called for a vote on the motion, which was approved 4-0 (with Commissioner Corbin abstaining). The gavel was then passed to Chairman Corbin.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chairman Corbin opened the floor for nominations for the office of vice-chairman, and Commissioner Tate nominated Commissioner Beale as vice-chairman. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Haven. There were no other nominations. With no further discussion, Chairman Corbin closed nominations and called for a vote on the motion, which was approved 4-0 (with Commissioner Beale abstaining).

EXAMINATION OF OFFICIAL BOND FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF MACON COUNTY: The Interim County Manager explained that North Carolina General Statute (N.C.G.S.) 58-72 requires that the board annually examine the bonds of the public officers listed in N.C.G.S. 58-72.12, which includes the Finance Director, Tax Administrator, Register of Deeds and Sheriff. For the record, it was noted that the Finance Director has secured the appropriate bonds with sufficient surety from The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company in order to qualify those officials listed for office. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by

Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution entitled "Examination of Official Bonds for Public Officials of Macon County," a copy of which is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

ADOPTION OF 2014 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE: Chairman Corbin explained that due to scheduling conflicts and a county holiday, there was the need to adjust the board's regular meeting schedule for 2014. The County Attorney explained that in order to do so, the board would need to adopt a resolution that formally establishes a new schedule of regular meetings. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to adopt a "Resolution Establishing New Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Macon County Board of County Commissioners," a copy of which is attached (Attachment 2) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Haven wished everyone Happy Holidays. Commissioner Beale said he would deliver a report regarding the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) later in the meeting. Commissioner Tate reported that the initial meeting with Mission Critical Partners regarding the survey of emergency radio communications went well. Chairman Corbin announced that the county was awarded a \$500,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant. He recognized Seth Adams, the county's recreation director, and asked Mr. Adams and County Planner Matt Mason to come up with a plan for development of the Parker Meadows Recreational Park. The Interim County Manager noted for the record that Finance Director Lori Hall was attending a conference and would not be at the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Chairman Corbin asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by Commissioner Higdon, the pledge to the flag was recited.

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 Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as adjusted, as follows:

- To add a report regarding the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) under Reports/Presentations as Item 12B, per Commissioner Beale.
- To add a report regarding the Board of Elections under Reports/Presentations as Item 12C, per Commissioner Tate.
- To add discussion of waste disposal as it relates to the Highlands swimming pool under New Business as Item 14C, per Commissioner Tate.

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE MACON CAMPUS EXPANSION PLANS: Dr. Don Tomas, President of Southwestern Community College (SCC), introduced several members of the SCC Board of Trustees who were in attendance and then gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the future of SCC's Macon Campus. Among the highlights of that presentation, Dr. Tomas noted that curriculum enrollment at the Macon Campus had increased 74.4 percent over a six-year period from 2007 to 2013, and that likewise enrollment at the Public Safety Training Center had increased 72.9 percent over that same period. Dr. Tomas told the board that the existing Public Safety Training Center, located near the county's industrial park west of Franklin, no longer meets SCC's needs, and he then outlined three phases of building plans to expand the college campus at the Siler Farm Road location over the next 25 years. In order to fulfill these expansion plans, SCC would need 19.3 acres of the 82.7 remaining county-owned acres at the site, he said. The board agreed by consensus to take the request under advisement, and Commissioner Beale suggested that the board hold a half-day workshop with SCC Board of Trustees to discuss the plan.

During the presentation, Dr. Tomas gave each board member a copy of a document entitled "2013 Master Plan Program For Macon County Campus Expansion," dated November 5, 2013, a copy of which is on-file at the Deputy Clerk's office.

Following the presentation, Chairman Corbin recognized Derek Roland, the new County Manager, and said that Mr. Roland would contact Dr. Tomas regarding a meeting of the two boards.

REPORT ON REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION: Commissioner Beale gave the board an update on the Southwestern Commission (Region A) Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and the priority and point system process used to rank transportation projects within the region. He listed a number of Macon County projects and their status and pointed out that there are no longer state funds for secondary road maintenance. No action was necessary.

REPORT ON BOARD OF ELECTIONS: Commissioner Tate said that he wanted to forewarn the board that Elections Director Kim Bishop would soon be appearing before the commissioners in regard to election changes relating to voter identification, the need for a second early-voting site and new forms, all of which Macon County will “pick up the tab” for. No action was necessary.

911 PHONE CONTROLLER UPGRADE PROJECT: Commissioner Tate started the discussion by commending both Emergency Management Director David Key and 911 Coordinator Todd Seagle for their work on the project. Mr. Key began by explaining that he was asking the board to appropriate funds from the county’s 911 fund balance in order to replace a critical piece of equipment, specifically a new phone controller system for 911. Mr. Key gave a brief history of the county’s 911 system, noting that dispatchers now answer approximately 32,000 calls a year. However, the phone switch in the system is now obsolete, with the only other known switch of this type being housed at the Smithsonian, and the new one has the capabilities to utilize text messages and photographs. Mr. Key explained that the North Carolina 911 Board, in a letter to Mr. Seagle, had approved an emergency appropriation for the new system in the amount of \$348,465, with the remaining \$195,946 to come from the county’s 911 fund, pending board approval. Mr. Seagle told the board that with the 20-year-old analog system that is now in place, “if it goes down tonight, we are dead in the water” and could not answer 911 calls. The new system is digital, he explained, adding that the funds will actually purchase two switches. Following further discussion, Commissioner Tate made a motion to approve a budget amendment regarding the use of the money from the 911 fund balance, and Commissioner Beale seconded the motion. A representative of Century Link, the provider of the new equipment, told the board that Macon County had the “oldest 911 phone system in the state of North Carolina.” Following further discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment (Attachment 3), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Also attached is a copy of the letter from the North Carolina 911 Board (Attachment 4), which is hereby made a part of these minutes.

MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS REQUEST REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS: Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin first congratulated the board on its selection of Mr. Roland as County Manager. He also thanked the board for its support of the school system and the \$430,621 in supplemental funding that was provided this fiscal year. With \$401,501 having gone to pay teachers a 2 percent

supplement, Mr. Baldwin requested that the school system be allowed to use \$27,736 of the remaining funds to pay supplements to the school principals and assistant principals, with the balance of the funds to go toward providing steel-toe boots for the school maintenance staff. Chairman Corbin noted that the Finance Director had requested that the county commission vote to approve the use of the remaining supplemental funds. Following discussion, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to give the Macon County Board of Education the discretion to spend the remaining \$29,120 as it saw fit.

Chairman Corbin declared a recess at 7:44 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 8 p.m.

HIGHLANDS POOL WASTE DISPOSAL: Commissioner Tate explained that the county had helped fund the cost of the renovation of the Town of Highlands swimming pool in the amount of \$250,000, but now the issue was how to dispose of the concrete from the old pool. In a conversation with Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl, Commissioner Tate said he learned that the board would need to waive the landfill fees for the concrete to be dumped there, adding that he was seeking the board's guidance for a solution. A number of possible options as to a disposal location for the concrete were discussed, but no action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the November 12th, November 18th and November 26th meetings. **Budget amendments** – Approved the following budget amendments: **#59** for the Department of Social Services to appropriate \$500 in additional Foster Care funds; **#60** for the Department of Social Services to appropriate \$4,500 in additional funds for the CRC; **#61** for the Department of Social Services to appropriate \$306 in additional funds for LIHEAP; **#62** for the Health Department to appropriate \$1,522 in additional TANF funds from the state; **#63** for the Health Department to appropriate \$3,994 in additional money awarded by the state for Health Promotion. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$5,925.54 (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's office.) **Monthly ad valorem tax collection report** – No action necessary.

APPOINTMENTS: (1) Board of Health – Following a recommendation from Public Health Center Director Jim Bruckner, and upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Dr. Frank Killian as the licensed optometrist on the board, with the term of appointment to run from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016; to reappoint Dr. Roy Lenzo as the licensed veterinarian on the board, with the term of appointment to run from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016; and to appoint Dr. Nathan Brenner to serve the remaining term of Dr. David Silverstein as the licensed dentist on the board, with the term of appointment to run until June 30, 2014. **(2) Planning Board** -- Commissioner Higdon made a motion to reappoint Jimmy Goodman to the Planning Board, and it was seconded by Commissioner Haven. Following discussion, the motion failed 3-2, with Commissioners Haven and Higdon favoring and Commissioners Beale, Corbin and Tate opposing. Commissioner Tate made a motion to appoint Ben Lassiter to the Planning Board and it was seconded by Commissioner Beale. Following discussion, the motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Beale, Corbin and Tate favoring and Commissioners Haven and Higdon opposing. The term of appointment is for three years, and will expire December 10, 2016. **(3) Economic Development Commission (EDC)** – By consensus, the board agreed to delay consideration of this appointment until the January regular meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: At 8:16 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the purpose of consulting with the attorney under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). At 8:35 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session. No action was taken.

ADJOURN: At 8:36 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Mike Decker, Interim County Manager
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman