

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 7, 2002
MINUTES

Chairman Corbin convened the meeting at 9 a.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Leatherman gave the invocation. Rev. Steve Reeves from Iotla Baptist Church arrived during the invocation and was asked to remain for the CDBG update.

MINUTES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West the minutes of the September 9, 2002 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Sandra Hann requested consideration be given to holding public hearings or any meetings dealing with anything important to the people in the evenings so working people can attend.

Norm Roberts stated Macon County citizens have endured a serious disservice for more than a week while the chief building inspector was on vacation and no building permits or certificates of occupancy were issued. Mr. Roberts requested an inquiry into the matter, disciplinary action for Jack Morgan (Chief Inspector), Joe Stark (Inspections Supervisor) and Sam Greenwood (County Manager) and a written apology issued to citizens affected by not issuing permits or certificates of occupancy. The Chairman distributed to the media a position statement on the matter. (Copies of both Mr. Roberts' comments and the Chairman's statement are on file in the County Manager's office with these minutes.)

Norelle Kirkland again urged the county to take action to stop clear cutting and/or massive cutting of timber stating the landscape and mountain vistas are being destroyed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG): Project Director Rick Norton presented an update on the CDBG 2001 Scattered Site Rehabilitation Project (per attachment #1) and the participation of World Changers. Rev. Steve Reeves and Commissioner Leatherman both commended World Changers participants, the thirty local churches involved and host families, which enabled repairs, weatherization and rehabilitation of seventeen different residences within the County. The group was also able to raise \$20,000 toward the purchase of materials. The report was accepted as reported and Mr. Norton and all volunteers were commended for their volunteer efforts.

SOCIAL SERVICES/WORK FIRST: DSS Director Jane Kimsey reported the proposed Work First Electing County Plan for Macon County for FY 2003 through 2005 has been open for public review and has been recommended by the Welfare Reform Committee for adoption. Ms. Kimsey outlined minor changes to the plan and commended DSS staff member Virginia Cassada for her contribution and work with the plan. Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the plan as submitted. (A copy is on file in the Department of Social Services and the County Manager's Office.)

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (CTP) FUNDING: Transit Services Director Kim Angel presented for consideration a resolution seeking permission to apply for CTP funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The motion was unanimously adopted upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West per attachment #2.

SOUTHWESTERN COMMISSION REVOLVING LOAN FUND

APPOINTMENT: Upon a motion by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to reappoint Mike Morgan to the Southwestern Commission Revolving Loan Fund Advisory Committee. Term is for two years and will expire September 30, 2004.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$6,486.17 as submitted. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Office and County Manager's Office.) Refunds - A tax refund request for Joyce Hammack in the amount of \$87.52 continued from the September meeting was

discussed. The Board was reminded Ms. Hammack had been paying on taxes she presumed she owned but lost the land in a court case. After a lengthy discussion, including the lack of common sense at the state level, and two withdrawn motions, Commissioner Greene made a motion that the refund, due to legal implications, not be paid from County funds but that each Board Member, the County Attorney and County Manager contribute equally to pay the refund to Ms. Hammack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. Interlocal Agreement with Town of Highlands - Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously approved an interlocal agreement with the Town of Highlands for collection of tax due the Town on gross receipts derived from retail-short term lease of rental vehicles. (See attachment #3.)

CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST GRANTS: County Manager Greenwood gave an update on the \$2.9 million dollar Clean Water Management Trust Grant award for the preservation of the Little Tennessee and Cullasaja Rivers. Mr. Greenwood advised the project should be complete by June 30, 2003 when the grant terminates with cash match coming from Duke Power and in-kind from the County. He explained upon completion Duke Power and the County will control ninety-three percent of the target area around the river. Mr. Greenwood added the project has been very successful with eleven easements and acquisitions in process. No action was necessary.

COIN/GRIBBLE PROPERTY: An offer to purchase Tracts 1, 2, and 3 of the Coin/Gribble property was presented for consideration with the explanation if the Board accepts the offer then it will necessary to rescind the vote to accept the original offer from Condor Investments on Tract 2 and Tract 3. Mr. Greenwood explained parties involved with the previous offer understood and had no problem with the county accepting the new offer. Chairman Corbin asked that the record show all properties involved in these transactions were purchased by previous boards. Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West the Board unanimously voted to rescind action accepting an offer to purchase Tracts 2 and 3 of the Coin/Gribble property by Condor Investments. Commissioner Bryson made a motion to accept the negotiated offer to purchase Tracts 1, 2 and 3 of the Coin/Gribble property at \$409,171 made on behalf of James Carter Mason, et. al and to authorize and instruct the County Manager and County Attorney to place proper advertisement of the negotiated offer for upset bids. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and all favored.

FINANCE: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #26, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, budgeting \$322 insurance claim in Sheriff's Department; revision #27, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, budgeting a \$25 DARE donation; revision #28, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, budgeting \$8,539 insurance claim for Transit Services; revision #29, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating funds from fund balance for printers ordered in FY 2002 for Administration and Transit; revision #30, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, budgeting a \$1,000 donation in the Health Department; revision #31, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West, appropriating \$2,505 in health funds received in prior year and not expended; revision #32, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating \$500 contribution to DSS/Aid to the Blind; revision #33, upon a motion by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, increasing DSS funding by \$12,854; revision #34, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West, appropriating \$2,459 DSS funds received in FY 2002 and not expended; revision #34, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$388,697 funds in School Package B Capital Project as requested; revision #36, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$130,000 additional funding to complete Garage/Maintenance Facility; revision #37, upon a motion by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$5,250 proceeds from sale of assets to Transit Services Capital Project; revision #40, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner West, appropriating \$16,200 NCDOT funding for Transit Services Facility land purchase; revision #41, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West, appropriating \$321 drug forfeiture funds; revision #43, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating federal funding of \$28,889 and local match of \$2,889 for funding of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and revision #44, upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Leatherman (under protest) reducing FY 2003 budget by

\$554,800 due to lack of appropriation from the State of local reimbursements. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

Commissioner Greene stated she took opposition to Commissioner candidate J.B. Coram's comments that the county finances were in disarray, that anyone who makes that statement cannot read a budget and commended the Finance Officer and her staff.

SALES TAX: Deadlines for adoption of the additional sales tax were briefly discussed and the general consensus was the Board is still not ready to consider action on the matter.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/911: A request to change the official agency head of the 911 Communications Center from the Sheriff to the Emergency Services Director was presented with the explanation that the official agency head changed several years ago from the E.S. Director to the Sheriff to meet the Division of Criminal Information Computer requirements and the 911 Center now has full access under their own agreement with the SBI Division of Criminal Information System. Commissioner Bryson made a motion to officially change the agency head to the Emergency Services Director as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: SCC Director of Public Safety Susan McCaskill and Instructor Curtis Dowdle presented statistics on the courses offered through their department and information on a joint project for addition of showers at the Industrial Park facility to accommodate the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. Ms. McCaskill explained programs/courses have been expanded and the state requires showers as part of some of these courses. Commissioner Greene requested information be brought back to the Board as soon as possible. Ms. McCaskill also expressed appreciation for use of the old Cartoogechaye School gym for instruction purposes.

WATERSHED AMENDMENTS: Attorney Jones reported the Board had approved amendments to the Watershed Ordinance at the September meeting and since that time he had included a narrative of map references made in the amendments and requested another vote, noting nothing in the amendments had changed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and seconded by Commissioner West the Board unanimously voted to approve the amendments. (Attachment #4)

GARAGE PROPERTY: The County Manager reported the County has applied for rezoning of the garage property on Old Murphy Road. Commissioner Greene questioned if the schools have a need for the property and Mr. Greenwood stated he would discuss the matter with the Superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson the meeting was adjourned.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Harold P. Corbin
Board Chairman