

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE CENTER
APRIL 12, 2004
MINUTES

Chairman West convened the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center as posted. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Staff Attorney, Deputy Clerk, Assistant County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Rev. Baker Crane gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the minutes from the March 1st and 25th meetings were unanimously approved as submitted.

PUBLIC SESSION: Neal Hearn representing Friends of Animals stated there is a real need for an effective county-wide spay/neuter program in Macon County and Friends of Animals, which has many well trained volunteers and responsible pet owners among its many members, would like to implement such a program. Mr. Hearn requested if any county or state funds are made available to anyone for such a program that some of the funds be made available to their group.

Narelle Kirkland registered to speak but delayed her presentation to the NCDOT public hearing in May. Carol Coleman, Friends of Animals member, questioned if the Board had received and reviewed a large package of information from her last fall and, more recently, copies of two complaints. All Board Members acknowledged receipt of the information. A brief question and answer session followed.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: The following items were added to the agenda: consideration of resolution in support of Durham County impact fees, landfill comments, contract to audit occupancy tax and closed session for discussion of personnel.

MPP/CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM: Housing Director Rick Norton explained that although the federal budget was passed in January HUD has not released CDBG funds to the States which means the Division of Community Assistance (DCA) has been unable to send out grant approvals/agreements.

Mr. Norton further explained without grant approval prior to April 1st funds will not be available to carry out the World Changers project in June and requested approval to utilize the \$30,000 matching funds allocated by the County for the purpose of funding the World Changers project with funds being reimbursed back to the administrative budget from CDBG program funds when released by DCA and received by the County. Letters of approval from DCA were presented with Mr. Norton's letter of request.. (Letters on file in the County Manger's Office and Housing Office.) Commissioner Leatherman who is involved in the World Changers program was asked to explain the program. Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve the request as presented.

TAX RELEASES: Upon motion of Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson tax releases in the amount of \$3,245.43 were unanimously approved as submitted. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DURHAM COUNTY IMPACT FEES: Commissioner Leatherman, who is the District 17 representatives on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Board of Directors, stated NCACC supports Durham County's high impact fee proposal and made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of the fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. (Attachment #1)

6:30 p.m. - ROAP PUBLIC HEARING: At 6:30 p.m. Chairman West recessed the regular meeting to convene the public hearing on the proposed Rural Operating Assistance Application to the NCDOT as posted. Transit Director Kim Angel explained programs included in the application are Elderly/Disabled Transportation (EDTAP), Work First and Rural General Public (RGP). No one wished to comment on the application and upon motion of Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the hearing and return to regular session. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to authorize submission of the application and authorize necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored.

LIBRARY SPACE NEEDS STUDY: Randolph Bulgin, Chairman of the Library Board, introduced library staff and board members who were present and Consultant Ron Dubberly of Dubberly Garcia Associates, Inc. who reviewed the space needs study his firm recently conducted on the county's public libraries. (A copy of the study is on file in the

County Manager's Office and at the Franklin Library.) No action was required at this time.

HUMANE SOCIETY: Sharon Archer, Director of the Macon County Humane Society, introduced other Society members and presented statistics on the Society's spay and neuter program. Mrs. Archer proposed to the Board an opportunity to assist in the operation of a state-funded low-cost spay/neuter program for county residents. She explained the County Manager's Office would be responsible for filing for reimbursement from the State within thirty days of receipt of a voucher, the State will forward funds to the County which will then be submitted to the Humane Society in order to pay for spay/neutering vet fees. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to sponsor the program as outlined by Mrs. Archer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and after a brief dissuasion passed unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Human Resource Director Gary Nicholson reported he, the County Manager and the Staff Attorney reviewed the County's Personnel Policy and after clarification of several sections, updating of legal references and better defining stated goals and purposes the revised policy was sent to the Board on March 12th for review and comment. Mr. Nicholson requested adoption of the new policy. Upon motion of Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to approve the updated policy. (A copy is on file in the County Manager's Office and the Human Resource Office.)

FINANCE: Courthouse Renovation Project Ordinance - Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the capitol project ordinance in the amount of \$556,430 for courthouse renovations was unanimously approved. (Attachment #2) Budget Revisions: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved:
revision #139, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating \$3,140 insurance settlement for the Sheriff's Department;
revision #140, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating insurance settlement of \$3,544 for EMS;
revision #142, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating an increase of \$25,125 in Family Planning Health Funds;
revision #143, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating and increase of \$10,625 in Family Planning Health Funds;
revision #144, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$53,700 additional funding for the WADE Program;
revision #145, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating an increase of \$30,586 TANF funding;
revision #146, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating state forfeiture funds of \$4,064;
revision #147, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$8 Sheriff restitution fees;
revision #148, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating interest for 441-South Water/Sewer Capital Project close-out;
revision #149, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$38,413 final interest and contingency for close-out of Schools Package B Capital Project; and
revision #150, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$550,000 in the Courthouse Renovation Capital Project. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

NCDOT RESOLUTION/AIRPORT: The Macon County Airport Authority requested adoption of resolutions requesting NC DOT to improve Airport Road (SR 1434) and to make certain drainage improvements on Iotla Church Road near the airport. Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt resolutions as requested per attachments #3 and #4.

APPOINTMENTS: EDC - The term of F.P. Bodenheimer on the Economic Development Commission expired January 30, 2004. It was noted Mr. Bodenheimer has served the maximum number of terms allowed and Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to appoint Ed Shatley. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Term will expire January 30, 2007. Board of Adjustments - Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Beverly Mason and alternates Larry Stenger and Terry Bell to the Board of Adjustments. Terms will expire April 23, 2007. Planning Board - Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board

unanimously voted to reappoint Ronnie Beale and Eric Pierson to the Planning Board. Terms will expire April 23, 2007.

PUBLIC FORUM USE: Staff Attorney Rick Moorefield explained temporary procedures to establish an orderly use of the public forum area on the Courthouse Square have been in place and presented a use request form outlining restrictions for consideration. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the form as presented effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. (Attachment #5)

LANDFILL COMMENTS: Commissioner Simpson stated he wanted to congratulate Reporter Candice Cunningham on her article on recycling that was in a recent edition of the Franklin Press and Chris Stahl and staff on recycling efforts. He stated more changes need to be made in the recycling effort, need to enhance recycling in the State and decrease the waste stream. (sic)

ROOM TAX AUDIT: Gary Nicholson presented information on a proposal from Jerry Howard, a retired state auditor, who will review the county's occupancy tax collections records and make comparisons for accuracy at a fee of thirty percent (30%) of any unpaid tax he finds and the county collects. After discussion Commissioner Simpson made a motion to proceed with the proposal/contract with Mr. Howard insuring inclusion of a cancellation clause. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored.

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to go into closed session to discuss two personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. During closed session the personnel matters were discussed with the County Manager and Human Resource Director who were directed to deal with the issues and report back to the Board. No action was taken and upon motion of Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board returned to regular session and recessed.

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

Mark B. West
Board Chairman