

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HIGHLANDS CIVIC CENTER
NOVEMBER 7, 2005
MINUTES

The Board convened in joint session with the Highlands Town Board at 4:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center as noticed. All Board Members with the exception of Commissioner Davis who was out of town, the County Manager, Staff Attorney, Finance Director, Deputy Clerk, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

The Board discussed the joint recreation agreement at length and a final agreement will be drafted for each Board's consideration. Other items of mutual interest were discussed with no action being taken.

After a brief recess Chairman Bryson convened the regular meeting at 6 p.m. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation. Highlands Mayor Buck Trott welcomed the Board to Highlands and thanked them for holding the meeting there.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the minutes of the October 3rd meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to add to the agenda consideration of a resolution concerning the designation of a public housing agency related to HUD issues.

PUBLIC SESSION: Dale Ries registered to speak but declined the opportunity. Mark Meadows thanked the Board for coming to Highlands and expressed appreciation for what the Board has done for Highlands. Mr. Meadows presented information on the Pine Street Project which would be located on a 0.36 acre parcel on the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets and be used as a green space for community and cultural activities. Mr. Meadows explained to acquire the property and restoration and developments cost would require between \$900,000 and \$1.2 million and requested the Board to consider a contribution to the project and fund raising effort explaining allocation could be in the next budget year. He added that when completed the property would be turned over to the Town of Highlands. Charlie Cowie stated he had been denied a sign permit by Sign Enforcement Officer Gregory Hunt who had been misleading and extremely rude. Mr. Cowie was advised to follow the appeal process and to contact Staff Attorney Moorefield for appeal procedures.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Assistant Emergency Management Director David Key explained in accordance with Homeland Security Macon County Emergency Management had purchased equipment for law enforcement agencies using funds received from Homeland Security Grants. Mr. Key explained two of these agencies were the Franklin and Highland Police Departments and requested authorization for transfer of this equipment to the respective agencies.

Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to authorize transfer of the equipment as requested per attachment #1.

HUMAN RESOURCES: HR Director Gary Nicholson presented a restated VALIC 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan explaining the plan needed to be adopted to remain in compliance with federal tax law changes.

Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution amending and restating the plan. (Attachment #2)

OTTO FIRE AND RESCUE: County Manager Greenwood explained the County had received a request from Otto Fire and Rescue for a portion of the property at the Otto Convenience Center to be used for a substation in order to better

serve the northern section of their district.

Mr. Greenwood stated Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl had met with representatives from the Fire Department at the site and did not feel their plans would have any negative impact on the Otto Center. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to donate the property to the Otto Fire and Rescue as requested following necessary legal procedures for disposal of county property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

NCDOT/JIM DEAL ROAD: Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution accepting the recommendation of NCDOT that 0.26 Jim Deal Road be added to the state secondary roads system for maintenance. (Attachment #3)

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$3,466.43 as submitted. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.) Refunds - Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to deny a request from Macon Bank for a refund of \$197.11 for 2005 taxes for account of Thomas Hornyak based on the advise of the Staff Attorney that the refund did not meet the criteria under NCGS §105-381. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: The following budget amendments were unanimously approved: revision #23, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, budgeting \$15,654 from Fund Balance for completion of Recreation Master Plan; revision #24, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$17,414 Eat Smart, Move More Program grant funds; revision #25, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$10,188 insurance settlement in the Sheriff's Department; revision #26, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$4,879 additional Criminal Justice Partnership funds; revision #27, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$1,000 additional Asthma Grant funds; revision #28, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$14,646 Zonta Grant Funds from the prior year in the Health Department; revision #29, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd appropriating \$2,705 Healthy Carolinians contributions received in prior year; revision #30, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating federal forfeiture funds in the Sheriff's Department; and revision #31, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$2,075 insurance reimbursement in Solid Waste. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.)

PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution as pertains to designation of a public housing agency for Macon County. (Attachment #4)

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman the meeting was adjourned.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Daniel A. Bryson
Chairman

