

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 9, 2006  
MINUTES

The Board convened at 5 p.m. as noticed to host a reception and present annual service awards to county employees. Chairman Bryson presented a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) to Interim Finance Director Evelyn Southard and the Finance staff noting the award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The following annual service awards were presented by the Board: ten years of service - Diane Aiello, Jennifer Alexander, Connie Baird, Sue Blaine, Teresa Curtis, Kyra Doster, Todd Doster, Jennifer Hollifield, John Hook, Darryl Jamison, Diane Keener, Shane McConnell, Gene McDonald, Teresa McDowell, Kevin Nix, Kenneth Planck, Kevin Sellers and Louise Wilson; fifteen years service - Rebecca Barr, Shane Corbin, Tim Fish, Melissa Leatherman, Kathy McDonald, Debbie Reeves, Tamara Welch and Royce Wood; twenty years service - JoAnn Cope, Bobby Hunt, Richard Lightner, Pat Muse and Bruce Wooten; twenty-five years of service - Judy Bell, Fred Campbell, Jan Moore and Lisa Parrish and thirty years service - Wilma Anderson and Linda Harrison.

Chairman Bryson convened the regular meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, Staff Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman Bryson introduced Donald Mullen recently elected Mayor of Highlands. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the minutes of the December 5th meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Additions/adjustments: Chairman Bryson advised item 6(B), update on inmate health care, was being removed from the agenda. Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to add the recreation agreement between the County and the Town of Highlands as agenda item 7(a) and upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to add school funding as item 7(B).

PUBLIC SESSION - No one registered to speak in public session.

UPDATE ON VOTING MACHINES: Chairman of the Board of Elections, Sue Waldroop, updated the Board on purchase and funding of new voting machines for Macon County stating with the allocation of State funds the purchase would require no county funds. Ms. Waldroop presented the attached resolution (attachment #1) recommending purchase of specific machines. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to pass a resolution in support of the recommendation. (Attachment #2)

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/GRANT APPLICATION: Sheriff Holland presented statistics on the Narcotics Unit and requested authorization to submit a 2006 grant pre-application for continued funding for the Unit. Upon a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to authorize submission of the grant. (A copy of the application is on file at the Sheriff's Office and the County Manager's Office.)

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$3,794.19 as submitted. (A printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.)

Refunds - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner

Davis a refund of \$424.07 for Wayne Sheffield was unanimously approved. The Staff Attorney advised this was due to a clerical error and met the criteria for release under NCGS. Commissioner Davis stated he had requested a refund request of \$306.82 for Gregory Hoover (Acct. #68264) which was denied at the October, 2005 meeting and presented again at the December, 2005 meeting by Mr. Hoover during public session be placed on the agenda. Commissioner Davis stated he felt it is not right to collect taxes on the same property twice and after discussion made a motion to approve the refund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

**PUBLIC HEARING/APPOINTMENTS TO HIGHLANDS PLANNING BOARD:** Chairman Bryson recessed the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. to convene a public hearing pursuant to NCGS §160A-362 for the purpose of considering the selection of two Macon County residents of the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the Town of Highlands for appointment to the Planning Board of the Town of Highlands. It was noted appointees would be selected only from those who apply at or before the hearing as noticed and applications from Mike Bryson, Katy Calloway, Thomas Craig, Mitch Gurganus and King Young had been received. No one wished to address the Board and the hearing was adjourned. Back in regular session Chairman Bryson made a motion to appoint Mike Bryson and Mitch Gurganus as the County's representatives to the Town of Highlands Planning Board with terms to expire June 30, 2006.

**OCCUPANCY TAX AUDIT AND TAX COLLECTION SYSTEM:** Chairman Bryson stated he felt the contract for consultant services with Gary Nicholson relating to occupancy tax was unacceptable and questioned the County's legal options. Staff Attorney Rick Moorefield stated it was a valid, binding contract. Commissioner Leatherman made a motion, for purpose of discussion, to discuss the prospect of whether or not the Board wished to renegotiate the contract with Mr. Nicholson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Commissioner Leatherman stated he had talked with Mr. Nicholson and he would be willing to renegotiate the contract. Funding for the contract was discussed and the Board was advised \$30,000 would be paid in FY 2005/06 and \$30,000 in FY 2006/07. After discussion it was agreed Commissioners Leatherman and Simpson would meet with Mr. Nicholson to renegotiate the contract.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Economic Development Commission - Appointments to the EDC were postponed until the February meeting. Watershed Review Board - It was reported The following terms on the Watershed Review Board expired January 1, 2006: Cartoogechaye - Siler Slage/Robert Enloe Alternate; Big Creek - James H. Keener /Billy Lowe Alternate; Cullusaja River - Bob Zoellner/Neville Bryson Alternate. Appointees must reside in their respective watershed areas. It was noted all have served at least two consecutive terms; however, there has not been a meeting in several years because they only meet when necessary. A recommendation that term limitations be waived and all be reappointed was presented.

Based on the information presented Commissioner Davis made a motion to waive the term limits in this case. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to reappoint current members with a term to expire January 1, 2009.

**HIGHLANDS RECREATION AGREEMENT:** Execution and finalization of the agreement between the County and the Town of Highlands for recreation funding was discussed. The Highlands Mayor stated he understood after the November joint meeting in Highlands that terms of the agreement had been worked out and questioned the status of the contract and release of funds. Highlands Commissioner Alan Marsh gave a brief outline of discussions at the November meeting. County Manager Greenwood stated he had requested information from the Highlands Town Manager to finalize the agreement and had not yet received a list of recreational facilities. After discussion including term and termination of agreement, capital expenditures, and funding issues, Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the agreement with the discussed changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. (Executed agreement attachment #3.)

SCHOOLS: School Superintendent Rodney Shotwell reiterated his request made at a previous meeting for additional funding to help get through the current school year. After discussion Commissioner Simpson made a motion to allocate an additional \$300,000 from fund balance (\$130,000 for current expense and \$170,000 nonrecurring). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (Attachment #4)

BUDGET REVISIONS: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #44, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$1,973 increase in WIC funding; revision #45, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$1,585 additional state funding for Immunization Action Plan; revision #46, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, reducing budget for Health Promotion due to decrease in state monies; revision #47, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$4,295 insurance reimbursement in Sheriff's Department; revision #48, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$2,215 unauthorized substance tax funds; and revision #49, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$13,157 additional DSS emergency energy funds. (Note: Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.)

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

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

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Daniel A. Bryson  
Board Chairman

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