

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 5, 2006  
MINUTES

Chairman Bryson convened the meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to add a closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to add discussion of illegal immigrants to the agenda.

MINUTES: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1st and 22nd meetings and the May 22nd hearing on 2007 Revaluation Schedule of Values as submitted with the following correction: May 1st minutes, page 1, under Solid Waste change to read "the motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis". The motion for approval was seconded by Commissioner and all favored.

PUBLIC SESSION: Bill Vernon stated he was a developer, had served on the Planning Board's Steep Slope Committee and he would be satisfied with reasonable rules. He asked that if the Board was going to regulate to give guidelines. Van Rogers stated he was a builder and road builder and advocated the promotion of development stating development adds to the tax base and the budget is always going to grow. Betsy Whitlock informed the Board she is a realtor, her husband works at Wal-Mart and they have been fulltime residents since 1993. She stated she has real concerns about the future of the county and requested the Board not to make a hasty decision by adopting the proposed subdivision ordinance adding that nothing in the ordinance will improve development or health and safety. (Note: during Ms. Whitlock's comments the regular meeting was recessed to convene the public hearing and her presentation continued after the hearing.)

6:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING- HIGHLANDS ETJ BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT: The regular meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m. to convene the public hearing for the purpose of considering the selection of one County resident of the extraterritorial zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Highlands as noticed. No one wished to speak or make application for appointment. The hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting was reconvened. It was reported Tony Potts had made application for appointment and upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Potts to the position.

PUBLIC SESSION CONTINUED: Charlie Cowie stated he feels jobs are often created by political hierarchy and the only thing left in this county for people to make a decent living is building and development. He stated the proposed subdivision ordinance has no latitude and asked the Board to be compassionate of the people and not do things for the sake of money.

BUDGET ORDINANCE: The budget ordinance and rate schedules for FY 2006/2007 were presented for consideration. The County Manager explained he had met with the interim school superintendent to finalize budget numbers for schools local expense and numbers will not be available until July after which a budget amendment will be presented if necessary. Chairman Bryson asked Board Members for comments before consideration of adoption of the budget.

Commissioner Davis expressed concerns about adding the 2% teacher supplement to the state COLA when county employees are only getting 4%,. Commissioner Simpson expressed concerns about new code enforcement fee schedules, and expenditures in various departments. Commissioner Shepherd stated he depended on the expertise of the County Manager and Finance Staff. Commissioner Leatherman stated he understood Commissioner Davis' concerns and that he was reluctant about some of the budgeted items but felt it was a good budget.

Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance and rate schedules as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and passed four to one with Commissioner Simpson opposing. (Attachment #1)

PLANNING BOARD/SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE: County Attorney Moorefield gave an overview of the proposed Subdivision Regulation Ordinance submitted by the Planning Board. Several Planning Board members presented varying opinions on the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to accept the current proposal as part one of the ordinance and add to the ordinance as necessary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman. However, after explanation by the Attorney that this action was premature both parties agreed to rescind the motion. Commissioner Shepherd then made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the proposed ordinance and schedule a public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on July 10th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the County Manager's Office.)

LEGAL: Norton Farms Appeal - The Attorney reported a resolution had been worked out on an appeal of decision of violation of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance by Wayne Moss/Norton Farms.

LEASES - Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution finalizing leases with Whitley Products and Shadetree Creations for lease of space at the Incubator Facility and to authorize the County Manager to execute the leases.

Attachment #2. Aeromodelers - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Franklin RC Modelers were granted permission to continue use of the old landfill for an air strip. The County Attorney explained this club is a new branch of the Franklin Aeromodelers and they are okay with the request. The motion included authorization for the County Manager to execute any necessary documents.

CLARKS CHAPEL FIRE DEPARTMENT: Based on a request from Clarks Chapel Fire and Rescue Commissioner Simpson made a motion to authorize commencement of the process to transfer a tract of property on Middle Skeenah Road to the Department for use as a substation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

DOT RESOLUTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioners Davis the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution accepting the recommendations of NCDOT that a portion of Marcetta Drive and Barnard Road be added to the state secondary road system for maintenance. (Attachment #3)

APPOINTMENTS: Board of Adjustments - Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Ben Swafford to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Adjustments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. Term will expire April 23, 2007.

Planning Board - Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to appoint Lewis Penland, Jr. to fill an unexpired term on the Planning Board. Term will expire November 1, 2008.

Community Funding Pool - Upon a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mary Ann Sloan to fill an unexpired term on Community Funding Pool, Term will expire March 1, 2008.

Area Agency on Aging - Commissioner Davis made a motion to (re)appoint Dorothy Crawford representing senior citizens (alternate Melissa Leatherman), Ken Ring (alternate Jane Kimsey and Commissioner Shepherd (alternate Allan Allman) to the Area Agency on Aging. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Terms will expire June 30, 2009.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Tax releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and

seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously approved tax releases in the amount of \$1,936 as submitted.

Schedule of Values - Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt the Schedule of Values for the 2007 revaluation as presented at the May 1st meeting and the May 22nd public hearing. The motion was seconded by commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (Note: a print-out of releases and the Schedule of Values are on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.)

BUDGET REVISIONS: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #134, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating donations in the Department on Aging; revision #135, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, budgeting \$15,000 in DSS for Foster Care; revision #136, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, budgeting \$3,035 timber sales revenues for the schools; revision # 137, upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson appropriating fire district tax; revision #138, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating funds for the housing department including transfer of \$100,481 from Contingency; revision #142, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis appropriating \$13,175 state funds for Bioterrorism; revision #143, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$5,350 extra funds for CJPP and revision #144, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$5,000 additional NC Heath & Wellness Tobacco Grant funds. (Note:revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

ILLEGAL IMMINGRANTS: Commissioner Davis again expressed his concerns about costs to local government due to illegal immigrants and the need to quantify these costs in order to lobby the legislative delegation to get a handle on the problem to either "fund it or fix it". He then made a motion to authorize the County Manager to set up a forum for local and state agencies to present concerns, fiscal impacts, and increased service demands on their respective departments/agencies due to illegal aliens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. During closed session a county personnel issue was discussed and the H.R. Director was instructed to look into the matter. No formal action was taken and upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board returned to regular session.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman the meeting was adjourned with a reminder the July meeting was previously changed to July 10th with the public hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Daniel A. Bryson  
Board Chairman