

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 22, 2010 – 2 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 2 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, Interim County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale welcomed Attorney Chester Jones who is serving as Interim County Attorney.

**INVOCATION:** Chairman Beale gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one wished to speak during public session.

**ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Chairman Beale stated Item #10B, School Architectural Contracts; Item #11C(4), reappraisal cycle resolution and Item #11D, law enforcement mutual aid resolution would be postponed. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as adjusted. The Board also discussed rescheduling the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting which was handled as part of the consent agenda.

**JOSEPH E. HUNT AWARD PRESENTATION TO TAX OFFICE:** Chairman Beale presented the Joseph E. Hunt Distinguished Jurisdiction Award for small counties to Tax Administrator Richard Lightner and staff. The award is awarded annually to counties and tax offices for achievement in areas of property tax assessment and/or collection, the implementation of a project or endeavors to enhance the overall effectiveness of a county tax department. It was noted this was the third state level award to the Tax Office in the last four years. Also present were tax appraisers Tommy Allen, Joe Breedlove and Kaine Matthews.

**HONOR AIR PROJECT:** Gary Dills from the Franklin Rotary Club gave a presentation including a video on the Honor Air Project and recent trips with World War II Veterans to the memorial in Washington, D.C. Mr. Dills stated the Rotary Club plans another trip in May and hopefully one later in the year. Also present was John Eurmack from the Rotary Club. The Board was extremely complimentary of the program.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER/LME UPDATE:** Brian Ingraham, Area Director/CEO for Smoky Mountain Center and Shelly Foreman, Community Relations Coordinator, gave an update on mental health services stating Smoky is the last LME to become a direct service provider and the time has come to provide service as other LMEs do. Mr. Ingraham reminded the Board that development of a 160A had been explored and deemed too expensive. He stated all services had been reviewed and a request for

application from providers of all services had been published. He added responses are due by March 5<sup>th</sup> and they will take a month to evaluate applications received. Mr. Ingraham stated they hope to maintain integrity of services by bundling the services. Ms. Foreman added that one area they will look at is for providers to maintain a presence in the community with main services being emergency services, mobile crises teams, adult recovery and psychiatric services. No action was necessary and Chairman Beale expressed appreciation for keeping the Board informed.

**NORTH MACON SCHOOL FINANCING:** Per the public notice, Chairman Beale requested the County Manager and Finance Director to present information on the loan to be secured from Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture in order to obtain sufficient funds for the construction of the North Macon School. County Manager Horton stated the Board intends to borrow approximately \$10,500,000 from USDA Rural Development to construct the North Macon School. Finance Director Evelyn Southard explained the total project cost estimate is \$15,000,000 with \$10,500,000 being applied for with USDA at an estimated 4.25% rate for 25 years which will be paid with the one and one-half tax increase the Board has committed to. Additionally, \$3,500,000 will come from a QSCB allocation at 1.97% for 15 years and around \$1,000,000 from local funds. When questioned, she noted if money were borrowed on a conventional installment contract from a financial institution, the interest rate would be higher, the term could not be over 20 years and those two things would require a larger tax increase in order to make the debt service payment. No one from the public wished to ask questions on the matter and no formal action was necessary.

**TECHNOLOGY BID AWARD:** The County Manager advised in the current year's budget the Board agreed to replace the servers in the county's computer system network and bids were received and reviewed per specifications from the County Information Technology Department. A recommendation to award the bid to low bidder, Pomeroy IT Solutions at \$182,852.62 was presented. County I.T. Director Barbara Jacobs and Assistant Andy Muncey were present to answer questions after which Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation to award the bid to Pomeroy IT Solutions at \$182,852.62. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> meetings. **Budget revisions** – Approved the following budget revisions: budget revision #102, transferring \$5,377 from Contingency to Furniture and Equipment in the 5-6 School Capital Project; revision #103, appropriating \$2,776 insurance settlements; revision #104 allocating \$374 for health promotions in DSS; revision #105, budgeting an additional \$12,594 in DSS Energy Administration and revision #106, appropriating \$39,695 additional in the DSS Crisis Program. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$1,286.72. (Note: a print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.) **Unpaid taxes** – Acknowledged unpaid 2009 tax report in the amount of \$2,013,309.59 and authorized for

advertisement. **Tax refund** – Accepted recommendation of Tax Administrator to refund \$2,540.23 taxes to First Citizens bank because leased property was taxed in Haywood County pursuant to NCGS 105-312(i). **March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting** – Cancelled the regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 8<sup>th</sup> and will recess until March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Upon motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Karen Wallace, Terry Stenger and Vince West to the Community Funding Pool. Terms will expire March 1, 2013.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Commissioner Simpson made a motion to go into closed session for attorney/client privilege for possible contract litigation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. The above referenced matter was discussed with no action being taken and the Board returned to regular session.

**RECESS:** Upon motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to recess until Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Board Room on the third floor of the Courthouse.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman