



**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
CONTINUED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Shields called the meeting back to order at 9:00 a.m. as recessed from the September 10, 2024, regular meeting. Board Members Commissioner Gary Shields, Commissioner Josh Young, and Commissioner Danny Antoine, County Manager Derek Roland, Deputy Clerk Tammy Keezer, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, and County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present, as were a number of county employees, media, and citizens. Commissioner Paul Higdon and Commissioner John Shearl were not present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**(A) RATIFICATION OF VOTE FOR CEMENT STABILIZATION FOR THE MACON MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK**

– Mr. Roland reminded Board members about the discussion at the September 10, 2024, regular meeting and indicated that a decision on a final course of action was not made. He said after that meeting the contractors were in a position where they needed to move ahead or the project would be at a standstill and by consensus of the Board they were permitted to move forward. Ms. Carpenter said a budget amendment in the amount of \$130,153 from the general fund balance would need to be approved because there was no contingency in this project. Commissioner Shields reminded Board members that two bids presented at the last meeting and a third was requested but Commissioner Young later communicated that Geosurfaces offered another option and that we needed to move forward with that option. Commissioner Shields stated that he called Board members and got a consensus to move forward. Project Coordinator Jack Morgan said the contractor is trying to finish the project before the end of October. Commissioner Shields made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, to ratify the consensus vote and the budget amendment in the amount of \$130,153 from the general fund balance. The vote was unanimous.

**(B) CLARIFICATION OF OPTION FOR TANK REMOVAL FOR HIGHLANDS SCHOOL**

– Mr. Roland provided a review of the discussion at the September 10, 2024, regular meeting stating that when the Board appropriated \$825,000 for the project, it was the understanding of this Board that the amount was the most financially viable should the tank need to be removed. He reported that feedback has since been received from the Construction Manager (CM) at Risk indicating that contamination levels will not rise to the level of danger to the students and staff at the school. Mr. Roland said he has verified with the Board of Education that the tank does not need to be removed and that the contractor can proceed with Option 1 which is to leave the tank in the ground and follow the mediation recommendations made by DEQ. Commissioner Young asked about the \$610,000 cost for Option 1 and details of the remediation.



Project Coordinator Jack Morgan explained the remediation requirements of DEQ. Commissioner Young said he wants a transparent process with multiple bids. Mr. Roland said we will see the bids for this portion of the project and clarified that this is a not to exceed amount. Commissioner Young said it is about \$12,000 worth of concrete and that the \$610,000 seems excessive. A consensus to proceed with option 1 was reached.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**(A) DISCUSSION REGARDING RECRUITMENT OF A COUNTY MANAGER –**

Commissioner Shields introduced Jack Horton with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) as the Liaison to assist with recruitment as needed. Mr. Horton said he has worked part-time with the NCACC for the past two years as an Outreach Manager and covers the 26 western counties. He shared information about the outreach services available including helping with retreats for budget work, consulting on various aspects of county government, peer review for tax collections, assessments, attending meetings, and providing consultation on various topics. Mr. Horton said his role includes assisting with the search for key county positions and that he can assist with filling interim and permanent positions at no cost. Commissioner Shields said November 1, 2024, is Mr. Roland's last day. Mr. Horton shared that it could take months to find a permanent placement and that an interim could be a retired County Manager and last for a short-term commitment usually up to three months. Commissioner Shields encouraged the Board to utilize Mr. Horton's services. Commissioner Young requested to go in to closed session and have further discussion and said he feels there needs to be some internal discussion with the Board before making any decisions.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 9:37 a.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Antoine, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session as allowed under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney,(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract, (a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. At 11:25 a.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business, at 11:27 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.



Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Gary Shields  
Board Chair