

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 8, 2008  
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no announcements.

INVOCATION: Rev. Eddie Truell from Holly Springs Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Al Caiata, 414 Jack Pine Drive, Clarks Chapel, cited example of dogs attacking his animals and his grandson's cat on their property or more specifically their porches. Mr. Caiata stated he understands the County recognizes the risks of stray animals and questions why the County is waiting until April when the shelter is complete to implement the ordinance. Chairman Beale explained the ramifications of implementing portions of the ordinance without a shelter in place and the County Attorney advised state law provides for identification of certain animals through rabies tags. Charlie Cowie, 101 Erwin Stockton Road, stated the economy is bad and the country is in a recession which means the County must operate in a conservative prudent manner. Mr. Cowie stated each store is charged the same landfill fee and a small commercial building with multiple stores pays much more than Walmart for less square footage. He suggested charging businesses by the square foot rather than a flat fee commenting the County stands to gain a lot by implementing this. Chairman Beale requested the Solid Waste liaisons, Commissioner McClellan and Koppers, to meet with the County Manager and Solid Waste Director to discuss Mr. Cowie's suggestion. John Griest, 66 North Valley View, reiterated his previous comments about enactment of portions of the animal control ordinance prior to completion of the shelter. He also suggested hiring personnel so they can train and be ready when the shelter is ready to open.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The following changes were made to the agenda: Item 8A, presentation by MediaCom, was deleted; a presentation by Appalachian Trail Conservancy was added as Item 8A; a Board announcement was added as Item 8B; well testing was added as Item 10C and road maintenance was added as Item 10D. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY: Bill VanHorn, President of the Nantahala Hiking Club, presented information on the Hiking Club explaining that the club maintains 60 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Mr. VanHorn also presented information on a new program the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is in the process of developing that brings together local and regional leaders to understand the Trail as a recreational, volunteer, educational and ecotourism resource. He explained the program is called the AT Community Partner Designation Program and outlined some of the potential benefits of the program. Mr. VanHorn stated they may request a letter of support to the Franklin Board of Aldermen which will add strength to the application Franklin will submit to the ATC. Mike Grubermann added he will be contacting the County Manager for the letter. No formal action was necessary.

MACON COUNTY HELP LINE: Chairman Beale announced, in view of the economic situation in the country and Macon County, a citizen's help line is being made available for citizens to call to learn what resources are available and to assist in navigating the system to seek help in the county. He noted a live person will be on the line to guide individuals to the appropriate source and

the number will be publicized in the media and posted on the county's website.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

RULES OF PROCEDURES: Examination of bonds for public officials - After review of bonds for public officials Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the attached resolution approving the bonds and to cancel the bonds on the County Manager and the Personnel/Accounting Specialist since they are covered by the blanket bond. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored. (Attachment #1)

Rules of procedures - The Rules of Procedures for the Board of Commissioners were reviewed. The Chairman suggested establishing a second monthly meeting for the fourth Monday of each month at 2 p.m. with the suggestion that county departments and staff agenda items should be included in this meeting's agendas. After discussion about the meeting time Commissioner Davis made a motion to establish a second monthly meeting at 2 p.m. on the fourth Monday each month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored with the understanding the time and/or the need for a second meeting can be revisited at any time. Based on the new meeting schedule and review the following changes to the Rules of Procedures were unanimously approved upon motion by Commissioner McClellan and seconded by Commissioner Simpson:

Section IV, Rule 4(b) was changed to read ....the County Manager may (not shall) call the meeting to order; Section IV, Rule 5(a) changed to read The Board shall hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month which shall begin at 6 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively; Section V, Rule 10(a) changed to read The Chairperson may meet with staff preceding the next regular meeting date to prepare the Agenda. The Clerk to the Board shall distribute the agenda packages by the end of the week preceding the meeting date. All agenda materials must be submitted to the Clerk to the Board ten days preceding the meeting date; Section V, Rule 11 changed to 5. Scheduled Public Hearings, 6. Public Comment Period, 7. Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda. (Attachment #2)

WORK SESSION: A work session was scheduled for 9 a.m. on January 10th at SCC on Siler Road and will be facilitated by Vicki Green from Region A.

CHANGE ORDERS 5/6 SCHOOL: School Superintendent Dan Brigman and Architect Terry Watson presented change orders totaling \$108,125.00 for the new 5/6 School. After explanations Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve change orders as submitted per attachment #3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Commissioner Davis questioned how many local contractors were working on the project and Mr. Brigman stated he would provide that information.

WELL TESTING: Commissioner Davis presented information on recent legislation relating to testing of all newly constructed private drinking water wells for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's). Commissioner Davis explained two bills, H 2507 and S 1933, proposed during the 2007-08 legislative session did not make it through the legislative process but the same bills were added to the end of the session to HB 820 and SB 845 which passed. He added that he had spoken with members of the local legislation delegation and they didn't realize this requirement had been enacted. Commissioner Davis made a motion that a letter signed by the Chairman and all Board Members opposing this requirement be sent to the local legislative delegation and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

DOT ROAD MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Simpson stated he had been contacted by a lady from Nantahala who had been told NCDOT would not be salting or scraping roads in that area due to budget cuts. Other Commissioners stated they had

heard comparable comments and it was suggested someone from DOT be requested to attend the January meeting to discuss their policies and/or procedures relative to road maintenance during bad weather.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved:

Tax releases - Approved tax releases in the amount of \$168.61 (Note: a print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the Clerk's Office.)

Budget revisions - Approved revision #71, appropriating \$500 increase for Health Sharing Center Program;  
revision #72, appropriating \$25,000 grant funds for Healthy Carolinians;  
revision #73, transferring fees within Solid Waste to reduce capital budget;  
to transfer from contingency for change orders and for concrete testing;  
and revision #74, appropriating additional \$2,271 JCPC funds. (Revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

Legislative Goal Delegate - Designated Commissioner Davis as the voting delegate to the Legislative Goals Conference to be held January 15th and Chairman Beale as the alternate delegate.

APPOINTMENTS: Franklin/Nantahala TDC Chairman - Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to appoint John Norris as the Chairman of the Franklin/Nantahala TDC.

Watershed Review Committee - Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint the following to the Watershed Review Committee: Kathy Tinsley representing the Cartoogechaye Watershed and alternate Robert Enloe; Bobby Houston and alternate Jimmy Lowe, Big Creek Watershed; and Bob Zoellner and alternate Neville Bryson from the Cullasaja River Watershed will expire January 1, 2009. It was noted appointees must live in the Watershed they represent and all were recommended for reappointment. Terms will expire January 1, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

Board Assignments - Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to accept board/committee assignments made by the Chairman. (A list of appointments is on file in the Clerk's Office.)

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

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman