

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 10, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. Chairman Beale, Commissioners Kuppers, McClellan and Simpson, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Vice-Chairman Davis and the Finance Officer were absent.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale announced Vice-Chairman Davis and Finance Officer Evelyn Southard were out of town and excused from the meeting.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Kuppers gave the invocation.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS -** The regular meeting was recessed and a public hearing on the proposed Rural Operation Assistance Program (ROAP) application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation was convened as noticed. Transit Director Kim Angel explained the total funding for the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, is \$159,991. Ms. Angel reported she had received no comments on the application and no one from the public wished to speak. Chairman Beale adjourned the hearing and upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Kuppers, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Rural Operation Assistance Program Certified Statement per **attachment #1**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Shirley Ches stated Macon Pride had a booth at the barbeque and music fest held this weekend and there were no visible recycling bins. Ms. Ches stated she was aware this was not a county sponsored event but felt the County should urge events sponsors to provide recycling containers and to contact the Solid Waste Department who would assist them with the bins. She stated junkyards were always an issue and again encouraged regulations for them.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as submitted with the discussion on paving of the South Macon access road added under agenda item #10B.

**NCDOT SECONDARY ROADS:** N.C. Department of Transportation board member Conrad Burrell and DOT staff were present to provide an update on the proposed spending plan for secondary roads in Macon County for the year ending June 30, 2010. Mr. Burrell stated DOT had seen a decline in revenues resulting in employee lay offs and project delays. Division Engineer Joel Setzer and District Engineer Wesley Grindstaff explained how the \$385,000 secondary roads funds will be expended in 2009-10. Also

discussed were discretionary funds for road projects at the new 5/6 school, South Macon School, Highway 28 and the 441/Siler Road area. DOT staff reiterated that the allocation of funds presented were for secondary roads only. The floor was opened for questions and/or comments from the public. No action was necessary and Chairman Beale expressed appreciation to Mr. Burrell and staff for the jobs they do.

**CARENET:** Vanessa Bailey, CareNet Executive Administrator, gave an update on services provided by CareNet, statistics for the past two years stating they have seen a major increase in the number of families seeking assistance and their food cost for 2009 has already exceeded 2008's total. Ms. Bailey stated they see no decline in the needs of the community and therefore are concerned as CareNet looks toward the upcoming winter. She added that they realize the county's budget is tight but would appreciate consideration of a request for \$5,000 to continue their service to Macon County. Chairman Beale expressed appreciation for all their service and asked that their request be submitted to the Community Funding Pool (CFP) for evaluation. He explained the CFP accepts applications and evaluates requests from nonprofit organizations and, although, they have already completed the process for FY 2009/10, the CFP needs to determine that criteria, etc. is met. Chairman Beale added a determination would be made after a recommendation from CFP is received.

**SOLID WASTE BIDS: Scrap metal bid** - Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl reported he had re-reviewed the scrap metal bids and calculated each bid to make a fair comparison of the two different bid structures. Mr. Stahl stated the Omisource bid would bring in more revenue for the County but the DeSoto Trail bid includes staffing the metal pad for separation of different metal types, which would result in increased revenues and maintenance of the pile, whereas Omisource will not provide a person on-site for management of the white goods and scrap metal. He added the projected revenues from Omisource would not be sufficient to cover the cost of the County having to provide a staff person which is necessary and therefore recommended that the scrap metal bid be awarded to DeSoto Trail Construction. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to award the bid to DeSoto Trail Construction as recommended. **Scale bids** – Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl and Jeff Bishop from McGill Associates reported three sealed bids were received for the scale area improvements project and recommended the contract be award to the low bidder H&M Contractors in the amount of \$278,942.20. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to award the contract as presented contingent on clarification of the warranty pertaining to the section stating “equipment must be continuously maintained by an authorized Cardinal dealer”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and after a discussion, including the longevity of both scale brands and comments by a representative of East Tennessee Scale Company, the motion was withdrawn and action delayed until the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VETERANS HONOR AIR:** John Yermack and Gary Dills representing the Franklin Noon Rotary Club updated the Board on the Rotary Club's Honor Air project that provides travel for World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. to the World War II memorial. They reported the first trip included eleven veterans and the second trip is

planned for twelve veterans and one escort per three veterans at a cost of \$7200. Mr. Yermack stated the Town of Franklin had donated \$1800 to this effort and requested a like donation from the county. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to fund the request.

**SCHOOL PROJECTS: East Franklin School** – A memo from Architect Mike Watson listing items of work to fully complete the renovation of East Franklin School and play areas once covered by modular classrooms was presented. After discussion Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the attached budget amendment transferring \$89,206 from the project's contingency for construction (\$47,380) and furniture/equipment (\$41,826). The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored. **(Attachment #2) K-4 School** – The County Manager reported Civil Designs Concepts had submitted a proposed contract for on-site water and sewer design in the amount of \$125,500 and Mountain Soils had proposed doing an on-site soils analysis which is required for the on-site waste water system in the amount of \$11,000. He explained this work will be essential whenever the project is able to proceed and funds for this work would come from the capital projects fund for the North Macon K-4 Project which has a balance of \$284,000. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to allocate an amount not to exceed \$136,500 for the projects as proposed. **Highlands School Projects** – The County Manager reported the Board of Education was considering three items pertaining to the Highlands School Soccer Field and bathroom projects: change order #1, in the amount of \$1,260 to form and pour a concrete transformer pad; change order #2 in the amount of \$5,071.50 to install spread footing foundation for a Musco Pole which is required because of encounter of excessive rock and allocation of \$3,000 to replace sewer line to new bathrooms. He explained this does not require any formal approval from the Board but they needed to be aware of the change orders. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to acknowledge and accept the change orders. **South Macon School** – The County Manager reported the North Carolina Department of Transportation has agreed to pave the new access road at South Macon School but they cannot get all the paperwork approved in Raleigh in time to do the job before school starts and requested permission to expend the approximate \$32,000 to pave the road with funds being reimbursed by NCDOT when the funds are secured from Raleigh. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to authorize expenditure of the funds as requested.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT GRANTS:** Sheriff Holland advised the Board that apparently stimulus funds have expedited the grant approval process for the Governor's Highway Safety Program grant funds and his office was notified in July, 2009 that their proposal had been approved for \$41,950 in Federal funds after the beginning of the Federal fiscal year on October 1, 2009. The Sheriff added the equipment consists of four mobile data terminals in one contract that requires a 50% match of \$16,000 and the other consists of four dual antenna radars and four-in-car video systems with a 25% match of \$8,650. He requested adoption of resolutions accepting the grants and allocating the funds. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers,

the Board unanimously voted to adopt the two attached resolutions and fund the \$24,650 for the match from Contingency. (Attachment #3 and #4)

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Item D, consideration of transferring a surplus vehicle to SCC Public Safety Training Center, was pulled from the consent agenda pending clarification on the County's policy on disposing of surplus vehicles. Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items on the consent agenda: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> meetings as submitted. **Budget revisions** – Approved revision #225, transferring \$3,175 from contingency to construction in the SCC Construction project; revision #12, budgeting \$500 won by Wesley Peek in SWANA competition in Solid Waste Management travel; revision #13, budgeting \$3,880 in Lifesaver Project; revision #14, appropriating \$665,541 remaining balance from the Highlands School Project; revision 15, appropriating \$61,980 for Housing weatherization grant #1061WA and revision #16, appropriating \$4,000 from fund balance to Animal Control for chemical supplies. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Community Funding Pool** - Approved the recommendation of the Community Funding Pool and authorized payment to non-profits per attachment #5. **Rural Center Grant Resolution** – Adopted the attached resolution authorizing filing and execution of a grant application with the NCREDC (Rural Center) for construction of a trunk sewer line following the Little Tennessee River and Cartoogechaye Creek to the Industrial Park. (Attachment #6)

**SOLID WASTE:** Chairman Beale noted one of the budget amendments was for financial assistance from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) for Solid Waste employee/equipment operator Wesley Peek for travel expenses to attend the International Road-E-O in Florida. The Chairman stated that Wesley had won first place in the 2009 North Carolina SWANA competition held earlier this year in Durham and stated this was just an example of the professionalism and quality of employees Macon County has. He asked the Solid Waste Director to present some suggestions on how Wesley and the other Solid Waste employees could be recognized in a manner they would appreciate.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** The County Manager stated the animal shelter is in complete operation and would like to schedule an open house and dedication of the facility in September.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Chairman Beale stated there were a number of future appointments coming up and a list would be submitted to the Board.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session for discussion of a personnel matter. The Deputy Clerk and County Attorney were excused. During closed session a personnel issue was discussed with no action being taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman