

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 6, 2010
WORK SESSION
MINUTES**

Chairman Beale convened the work session at 8:30 a.m. as noticed. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director and members of the news media were present.

COUNTY UPDATE – County Manager Jack Horton gave a power point presentation reviewing recent county activities including school construction and renovations, water/sewer expansion, appointment of various committees including the Child Care Review and the Health Insurance Review Committees, the FY 08/09 departmental reductions and on-going efforts to reducing costs.

BUDGET UPDATE – Finance Director Evelyn Southard gave a budget update stating the county's financial situation was better than at this time last year. She explained in January, 2009, about \$1.3 million was trimmed from the 08/09 budget and that the 09/10 budget was trimmed even more than that with revenues in the 2009/2010 budget being reduced significantly to be more realistic. She added the reality is that some revenues are still not coming in to the budgeted level and revenues are estimated to be short by around \$480,000 depending on how sales tax performs in the second half of 09/10. Also expenditures at the end of December, 2009, were about 10% to 15% below the 50% mark for one half the year; she explained if sales tax revenues continue at the same level for the second half of the fiscal year and expenditures stay below the budgeted amounts, we might break even. However, she recommended not filling vacant positions nor allowing vacancy salary funds to be used through the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Horton presented the FY 10/11 budget calendar.

SCHOOLS - School Superintendent Dan Brigman, BOE Chairman Jim Breedlove and School Finance Director Angie Cook gave an update on school projects stating they were not sure what their state allocation would be this year, that they had been able to do some important ADA and safety updates at various schools and expressed appreciation to the Board for their ongoing support.

COUNTY-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/2010 Census – County Planner Derek Roland gave an update on the County-wide Comprehensive Plan stating the plan had been taken into the communities and it was a “plan of the people.” Mr. Roland stated he and Rhonda Blanton had been working very closely with the 2010 U.S. Census Staff and the census bus will be coming to Macon County explaining this is the only county west of Buncombe that it will visit. Also present was Planning Board Chairman Lewis Penland.

ANIMAL CONTROL – Animal Control Officer John Hook presented statistics for the first six months of operation of the Animal Control Department. He stated they were averaging fifteen calls per day.

ARTHUR DRAKE ROAD – Commissioner Simpson stated he had met with Town Manager Sam Greenwood and property owner Lamar Sprinkle to discuss options on upgrades of Arthur Drake Road. Various options were discussed and the general consensus was that the County is not in the road construction business and options would continue to be explored.

The meeting was recessed for lunch.

HEALTH INSURANCE – Commissioners Davis and McClellan gave a report on the Health Insurance Task Force meetings and Agent Mike Norris presented a recommendation offering two options to employees – the current plan with an optional flex savings account or a high deductible with a health savings account with incentives. The item is expected to be on the February 22nd agenda for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT – The session was adjourned with no formal action being taken.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman