

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 14, 2013
MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Beale called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All Board Members with the exception of Chairman Corbin, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice-Chairman Beale noted that Chairman Corbin was out of town and asked if there were any other announcements. Commissioner Tate reported that four of the county's volunteer fire departments were seeking tax increases. Vice-Chairman Beale announced that the board would recess this meeting until Monday, May 20th at 7 p.m. at the civic center in Highlands.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK: Several law enforcement officers were present at the meeting, and as part of National Police Week (May 12th-May 18th), Vice-Chairman Beale recognized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Highway Patrol, the Town of Franklin Police Department, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, and the Town of Highlands Police Department. He then asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for six officers in North Carolina who had lost their lives. The officers joined the commissioners in reciting the pledge to the American flag. Vice-Chairman Beale said this was a way for the county to offer a "small appreciation" for their service, and opened the floor for the officers, the commissioners and the county manager to make comments.

DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR THE MACON COUNTY INMATE ACCOUNT – The Finance Director explained that in order to be in compliance with internal control and audit requirements, she was requesting that the board designate Steve Stewart and Lucretia Sharp as authorized signers on the Macon County Inmate Account. Following

questions from the board, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to designate the authorized signers as presented.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #168: The Finance Director explained that she was requesting approval of Budget Amendment #168, in the amount of \$29,337, in order to appropriate additional funding awarded to a weatherization grant for the Housing program. However, she pointed out that the funds must be spent by June 30, 2013, and that no county match is required. Following discussion, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment as presented, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER GREENWAY RESTORATION PROJECT: Vice-Chairman Beale recognized Sonja (Sunny) Himes, who spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Greenway (FROGS). She explained that the group was seeking permission to submit a grant application to the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District Board to do some restoration work on county property along the greenway. The project would include the reforestation of approximately 6.2 acres along with the removal of some exotic invasive plants. The County Attorney warned that the project should not violate any conservation, electric line or sewer line easements, but that the board could approve the submission of the application subject to those easements. Following further discussion, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to grant permission for the submission of the application by the Friends of the Greenway as outlined, subject to any property rights in the project area.

Prior to the closed session, Commissioner Haven stated his desire for the board to consider lowering taxes. No action was taken.

CLOSED SESSION: At 6:32 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the purpose of consulting with the attorney under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and to discuss property acquisition under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(5). At 9:12 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session. No action was taken.

RECESS: With no other business, and upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously at

6:55 p.m. to recess the meeting until 7 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2013 at the Highlands Civic Center, located at 600 North 4th Street in Highlands, NC.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman