

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONTINUED SESSION
JUNE 4, 2013
MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin reconvened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. in the commission boardroom as recessed from the May 30, 2013 continuation meeting. All board members, the County Manager and Deputy Clerk were present. Also present were members of the Macon County Board of Education and school system administration, members of the news media and interested citizens.

Chairman Corbin explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed budget for the school system, but there were some items for the commissioners to address first.

Brian Bateman, the chief of Nantahala Volunteer Fire & Rescue, had requested permission from the board to hold a fireworks display in the Nantahala Community on Friday, July 5th. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve the request as presented. A copy of Mr. Bateman's letter is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Beale announced that there would be a special flag-raising ceremony at 10 a.m. on June 5th in front of the courthouse and urged everyone to attend. The County Manager explained that the Finance Director was in Raleigh in regard to an internship program and would not be at the meeting.

In a brief statement, Chairman Corbin told the school system representatives that the county commissioners recognize the "budget crunch" that the system is in, but asked them to confirm that this situation is not the fault of the county, to which they agreed. He also

voiced the commission's support for education and noted he was grateful that the two entities could talk face-to-face and not go "back and forth" using the media. School Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan then provided the board with an overview of the system's current budget situation following recent cuts made by the Board of Education. However, he said the system was requesting an additional allocation of approximately \$440,000 over and above the amount in the County Manager's recommended budget. The County Manager provided a brief history of the county's appropriations for local education along with his perspective on the current situation. This was followed by a lengthy discussion between county and school officials that touched on a variety of topics, including the recent cuts in teacher positions made by the school board, possible increases in class size and potential cuts in Advanced Placement classes, and the possibility of doing away with the local teacher salary supplements. On the latter item, Chairman Corbin pointed out that the only way to reallocate those funds is for the school board to make that decision. He also said, based on a consensus of the commissioners, that it was up to the school board members to be accountable for the total amount provided to the system by the county, but that they also had the leeway to move funding around as needed. Commissioner Beale suggested that it was time to seek local legislation that would recognize the county's funding needs in terms of having some of the last K-12 schools (Highlands and Nantahala) in the state. Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove wrapped up the conversation by telling the commissioners that while the system does need some extra money in the coming year, the school board is taking a hard look at the "complete package."

Chairman Corbin declared a recess at 7:09 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Beale requested time for discussion on funding for the Community Care Clinic, which operates out of the county's Public Health Center. Following a request for \$50,000, the County Manager's recommended budget contains \$10,000 for the clinic. Linda Tyler, who chairs the clinic's board of directors, shared the clinic's mission, what it does, who it serves, a statistical overview of the patients served, and what would happen if it did not exist. She also outlined its fundraising activities, and requested the full \$50,000 from the county in order to keep the clinic operating. Commissioner Beale said he wanted this brought before the board because the county funding gives the clinic the "base" it needs to survive. No action was taken.

The board discussed having another work session, possibly on June 13th, following the public hearing on the budget scheduled for the regular meeting on June 11th. The schedule calls for the board to consider adoption of the budget on June 18th. The County Manager again offered to meet individually with the commissioners to discuss any questions or concerns.

With no other business, and upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Kevin Corbin
Board Chairman