

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 3, 2003
MINUTES

Chairman West called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Rev. Gary Brown from Franklin Resurrection Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the minutes from the February 3rd, 10th and 17th meetings were unanimously approved as submitted.

PUBLIC SESSION: Chairman West advised public session would be delayed and that the one individual who had requested speak was going to be late due to attendance at the Macon Leadership class.

SOCIAL SERVICES/HEALTH: Work First Plan - DSS Director Jane Kimsey presented revisions to the Work First Electing County Plan for FY 2003-2005 per attachment #1 noting changes are minimal, will not change the concept of the plan and have been reviewed and approved by the Macon County Welfare Reform Planning Committee.

Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to approve the revised plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. CAP-DA Lead Agency Designation - DSS Director Jane Kimsey and Health Director Ken Ring presented information on the Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults (CAP-DA) which helps individuals remain in their home as an alternative to nursing home placement and presented a recommendation that the Health Department be designated as the lead agency (DSS is currently the lead agency) and transfer involved employees.

After discussion action was delayed until the April meeting. Ms. Kimsey advised the Board that to meet HIPPA compliance the transfer would need to be authorized by April 14, 2003. Health Department Grant - Upon a motion by

Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to accept a \$135,366 grant from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission to underwrite Community/School teen tobacco use prevention and cessation to be administered by the Health Department.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/911 TELEPHONE SYSTEM: Warren Cabe, Emergency Management Coordinator, informed the Board that bids had been received and reviewed for the 911-E telephone system update.

Mr. Cabe recommended proceeding with installation of an upgraded system to replace the outdated 1992 vintage system which is at capacity and to integrate 911 and the business systems together.

Mr. Cabe stated proposals requested three breakdowns in pricing for the telephone system, a clock synchronizer and a reverse 911 system and proposals were received from Verizon, National Communications Incorporated, Smoky Mountain Systems, InterAct Public Safety Systems and Orbacom. The results of each bid was presented after which Mr. Cabe recommended accepting the bid from Smoky Mountain Systems for a total not to exceed \$68,182

After discussion Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to accept the bid from Smoky Mountain System, the lowest bid that met specifications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. (Bid tabulations and reviews are on file in the Emergency Management Coordinator's Office.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION/HIGHLANDS SCHOOL PROJECT: Kevin Corbin, School Board Chairman, introduced School Board Members Tommy Cabe and Susie McCoy, Highlands School Principal Jack Brooks, Highlands Mayor Buck Trott and Highlands resident Mark Meadows.

Mr. Corbin expressed appreciation to the Board for moving forward with the plans for the Highlands School gymnasium project. Mr. Brooks outlined how the additions/renovations will benefit the school, Mark Meadows how they will benefit the community at large and Mayor Trott the citizens of Highlands. They reiterated Mr. Corbin's appreciation and support for the project. Architect Donnie Luke outlined the project and stated the Board of Education had approved the plans.

Commissioner Bryson made a motion to authorize the Board of Education to finalize plans and advertise for bids with a note the project would be advertised locally and bid in such a manner local contractors would be able to bid on all or portions of the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to authorize county staff to proceed and/or coordinate with the Local Government Commission for final approval of financing.

VETERANS SERVICE OUTPATIENT CENTER: Bryon McClure, Art Dewitt, Ken Ring, and Mike and Judy Chapman, members of the Blue Ridge Advocates for Veterans Outpatient Services (BRAVOS), presented a resolution of support for a community based veterans outpatient center in Macon County. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously adopted the resolution of support per attached #2.

LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER RESTORATION: Bids for restoration and replanting FROGS member Hank Shuler presented bids for three phases of restoration and planting along the Little Tennessee River per attachment #3 with a recommendation that bids be awarded to low bidder Clark Brothers.

County Manager Greenwood advised three bids were not necessary because this was an informal bid and funding would come from Clean Water Management Trust Funds. Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to accept the low bid of \$153,000 from Clark Brothers.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - The County Attorney advised he had been working with state officials developing a Memorandum of Understanding between Macon County and the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund which has been finalized and needs to be approved, executed and submitted to the State for execution.

Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to approve the MOU as submitted per attachment #4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

SALES TAX RESOLUTION: The County Manager reminded the Board that at the December 2, 2002, meeting the Board voted to implement the third one-half cent local sales tax effective July 2003 if the state does indeed drop their one-half cent levy scheduled to sunset at that time and pursuant to N.C. General Statute proper notice that the Board intends to consider adoption of a resolution to enact the tax has been published in the Franklin Press and adoption of a formal resolution needs to be considered to follow proper procedures for implementation.

Commissioner Leatherman presented arguments against levying the tax stating he felt the County would have more control over a one-cent property tax increase. Other members stated they felt adoption of the resolution would put pressure on the State and send them a message. Commissioner Bryson made a motion to adopt the resolution per attachment #5 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd. After discussion with note that the tax would not be levied if the State does not sunset their one-half cent levy on June 30, 2003, the motion passed four to one with Commissioner Leatherman opposing.

TAX RELEASES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$3,020.35 as submitted. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager's Office.)

FINANCE: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved:
revision #109, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, budgeting a \$100 DARE donation;
revision #110, upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$19,963 NC Health and Wellness tobacco settlement funding;
revision #111, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, budgeting \$2,028 contributions for incentives-School Site Immunization;
revision #112, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$25,000 donation for Healthy Carolinians;
revision #113, upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, budgeting \$4,300 Bioterrorism grant funds;
revision #114, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, budgeting \$153,300 DSS-TANF funds;
revision #115, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, increasing DSS funding authorizations by \$6,970;
revision #116, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, budgeting \$15,257 additional allocation for DSS Crisis and Energy Administration;
revision #117, upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating wireline fund balance of \$23,000 for renovation of Barrett Building;

revision #118, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$1,200 in the 441-South Water/Sewer Capital Project; revision #119, upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating funding in the Nantahala EMS building capital project to cover equipment and additional costs; revision #120, upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$3,930 funding for county buildings capital project; and revision #125, upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson, appropriating \$100,000 in the Highlands Recreation Capital Project to cover project elements for lighting and other side improvements. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

PUBLIC SESSION: Chairman West asked if anyone wanted to speak during public session. Norella Kirkland stated it is time for tourist to begin arriving and expressed concern about billboards and signs in poor repair. Ms. Kirkland suggest utilizing the highway department and volunteers to identify signs that need refurbished or removed, submit that information to the proper authority and send a notification to the owner requiring action. Ms. Kirkland also reiterated her proposal made at the February meeting that volunteers be used for litter collection along public roads.

210 MILITARY POLICY COMPANY: Commissioner Leatherman noted the local 210 MP Unit has been alerted that they are being deployed and urged public expression of appreciation to the unit. Staff was asked to get information on ceremonies that are being planned and inform Board Members.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss matters with the County attorney dealing with property litigation and contractual matters. During closed session the above referenced items were discussed including a contractual matter which involved discussion with the members of the Airport Authority. No action was taken and upon motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to return to regular session.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY: Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to appoint Gary Schmitt to fill the unexpired term on the Airport Authority created by the resignation of Dr. Ed Henson. Term will expire on July 1, 2005.

MEETING WITH SCC: The general consensus of the Board was March 17th was an acceptable date to reschedule the joint meeting being hosted by Southwestern Community College.

AJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson the meeting was adjourned.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Mark B. West
Board Chairman

Minutes
03/03/03