

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 22, 2003
CONTINUATION MEETING & DOT HEARING
MINUTES

Chairman West convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. as recessed. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

PROPOSED BUDGET: County Manager Sam Greenwood presented the proposed FY 2003-2004 and budget message (attachment #1). Mr. Greenwood explained the budget as presented is revenue neutral, stated fund balance for general fund is near the twenty-five percent goal, pointed out different facets of the budget and discussed uncontrollable factors involved. Norm Roberts stated he felt the public did not have adequate time to review the budget prior to the public hearing scheduled on May 27th. Chairman West stated the budget would not be considered for adoption until the June meeting and there would be a public session at that meeting when citizens can comment.

JUNE MEETING: Due to schedule conflicts, upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, the Board unanimously voted to change the June meeting from June 2nd to June 9th at 6 p.m.

RECESS: Chairman West recessed the meeting to convene the annual DOT Secondary Roads Public Hearing.

DOT SECONDARY ROAD PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman West convened the annual DOT Secondary Roads hearing at 10 a.m. as noticed. County Officials introduced themselves to DOT representatives and Conrad Burrell, DOT Board Member, introduced DOT staff. Ron Watson, DOT Division Engineer, explained two new programs DOT is implementing: NC Moving Ahead and HB 22 which will allow use of funds for improvement of existing paved roads and purchase of some right of ways for road improvements in counties where all roads on the priority list have been paved that right-of-way has been refused. The floor was opened for public comments.

Jo England expressed appreciation for DOT's work on West Side Duck Mountain and road upkeep/maintenance in the Scaly area. Ms. England requested DOT re-look at Buck Knob/Dryman Road stating the right-of-way situation on that road might have changed. Ms. England added she mainly wanted to thank DOT for their efforts.

Narelle Kirkland stated she would like to echo Ms. England's words of appreciation, stated she was a bicyclist and the area is going to find an increase in bicyclist, questioned what the completion status is on Crawford Road, requested reconsideration of a request to change the speed limit on Highway 28 from Lee Tallent Road to Sanderstown Road to 45 mph, expressed concern about road shoulders and asked for consideration of plasticizing gravel or cementing of shoulders, expressed safety concerns about the intersection of Phillips and Wayah Streets and made comments about conditions on Maxwell Road to Patton Road, Lee Tallent Road, Iotla Church Road and Upper and Lower Burningtown Roads. Ms. Kirkland was advised DOT crews are back working on Crawford Road and that there had been a moratorium on pipe replacement that held up the project. They also advised that under the TIP program work on Highway 28 is in two parts: the completion of the Depot Street Extension to Highway 28 and extension from there to Sanderstown Road is in review.

Harold McGaha expressed concerns about the paving on Highway 28 and said he couldn't recall the road being resurfaced in the past forty years. Officials agreed with Mr. McGaha that the road did need resurfacing but there is a very scientific rating system that is done every two years.

Richard Jones noted some residents from Hemlock Hills had been present earlier but left noting they were there in support of the petition to add the road into Hemlock Hills to the state system.

Milles Gregory, Chairman of the Macon County Airport Authority, expressed appreciation to DOT for road and bridge improvements and maintenance on Airport Road but requested DOT take another look at the road stating the road is very narrow and creates a safety hazard for the volume of traffic. Mr. Gregory commended DOT Board

Member Conrad Burrell and DOT staff members.

EXPENDITURES OF SECONDARY ROADS FUNDS: District Engineer Brian Burch stated \$2,569,294 has been recommended for safety improvements on paved secondary roads in Macon County and \$735,772 for spot stabilization, safety improvements, curve widening, drainage improvements, road additions, etc. and requested adoption of a resolution approving the \$3,305,066.

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further comments from the public Chairman West adjourned the hearing and reconvened the meeting in regular session to consider approval of expenditure of secondary roads funds in Macon County.

DOT EXPENDITURES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution approving the expenditure of \$3,305,066 secondary roads funds as presented at the public hearing. (Attachment #2.)

Commissioner Bryson stated he would like to publicly express his appreciation to DOT for their help,

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson the meeting was adjourned noting the public hearing on the budget would be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27th in Courtroom A.

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

Mark B. West
Board Chairman

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