

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 2, 2006
MINUTES

Chairman Bryson convened the meeting at 6 p.m. All Board Members, The County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation. Chairman Bryson welcomed everyone present.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to add a closed session for personnel to the agenda. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to add a request from REACH for consideration of a proclamation.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: A letter from Attorney General Roy Cooper commending Officer Mike Trammel of the Sheriff's Department for his achievements was read and Officer Trammel was presented a certificate of achievement.

REACH PROCLAMATION: REACH Director Ann VanHarligen explained, in response to the recent shooting at the Jackson County Reach shelter, the District Attorney and related agencies have devised a five point plan to increase security in the local shelter and added that more information on the plan will be presented at the November meeting. Ms. VanHarligen also presented a proclamation proclaiming October, 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to adopted the proclamation per attachment #1.

MINUTES: Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2006, meeting as submitted with a couple of spelling corrections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

FRANKLIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The annual occupancy tax report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Chamber President Candy Avery and Public Information Director Tony Angel were present to give a brief overview and answer questions. No action was necessary and a copy of the report is on file in the County Manager's Office.

DSS - WORK FIRST PLAN: DSS Director Jane Kimsey presented the Electing County Work First Biennial Plan for 2007-2009 as reviewed and recommended for approval by the County Welfare Reform Planning Committee. Ms. Kimsey noted the following changes to the current plan were recommended: (1) Policies regarding exemption of one vehicle per household and counting fair market value of other vehicles as a resource, (2) policies regarding citizenship, identity and residence to be changed to concur with Medicaid policies and (3) appoints Tammy Dills representing the Public Health Board and two consumers of Work First Services as determined by the Plan. Ms. Kimsey recognized staff members Virginia Casada and Holly Bradley for their work on the Plan. Commissioner Davis made a motion, under protest of federal mandates, to approve the plan as recommended and commended the DSS staff for their excellent work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored. (A copy of the Plan is one file at the DSS Office and the County Manager's Office.)

HOUSING: Housing Director Rick Norton gave a progress report on the housing program noting the program had been a County department for a year now. Mr. Norton requested permission to apply for a \$200,000 grant for rehabilitation of low income, elderly or handicapped residents' housing. He explained some matching funds from other programs can be used as well as labor from World Changers next year. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to authorize application of the grant and included authorization for the County Manager to execute necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

HUD - Chairman Bryson stated he had been contacted by MPP Director Chuck Sutton requesting a joint meeting of the two Boards prior to consideration of adoption of a resolution requesting HUD to transfer the Section 8 Program to Macon County from MPP. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to delay any action until after a joint meeting with the MPP Board. (Note: the meeting was scheduled for 5 p.m. on October 16, 2006, in the fourth floor Board Room of the Courthouse.)

HIGHLANDS ETJ: Lawsuit - County Attorney Rick Moorefield gave an update on the lawsuit against the Town of Highlands concerning ETJ representatives. Mr. Moorefield explained the county's case was dismissed but Chairman Bryson's case as a resident of the ETJ was not thrown out. After discussion the general consensus was if the Board didn't represent the residents of the ETJ no one else will. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to pursue an appeal on behalf of the County and the Board of Commissioners.

ETJ Representatives - Attorney Moorefield explained communications with the Town of Highlands had resulted in confusion on reappointment of the two ETJ representatives on the Planning Board and the one representative on the Zoning Board whose terms expired June 30, 2006. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to reappoint Mike Bryson and Mitch Gurganus as ETJ representatives on the Highlands Planning Board with terms to expire June 30, 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Tony Potts as the ETJ representative to the Highlands Zoning Board with a term on expire June 30, 2009.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: Barry Patterson and Ken Ring gave an update on the Environmental Health Section stating progress is being made. As requested at the September meeting a recommendation from the Board of Health that, in order to support the privatization of services to reduce backlog in wastewaters inspections as well as speed up the process, that "fast track" fees be reduced from \$165 to \$100. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the recommendation and reduce fast track fees to \$100. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored.

TAX RELEASES: Upon motion of Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson tax releases in the amount of \$20,316.67 were approve as submitted. (A printout of releases is on file in the Tax Collector's Office and the County Manager's Office.)

FINANCE: QZAB - The Finance Director reported the Board of Education is moving forward with the approved allocation of \$2,000,000 in Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABS) for renovations at the East Franklin Elementary School. She explained the process of issuing the bonds will require construction bids in hand prior to approval by LGC and therefore some expenditures will be necessary prior to issuing the bonds and presented a reimbursement resolution to allow reimbursement of any preliminary expenditures. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adopt the reimbursement resolution per attachment #2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. A letter included with the agenda from Dr. Frank Yeager, Interim Superintendent, outlining capital outlay problem/needs was briefly discussed.

Budget Revisions - The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #22, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$15,000 increase in Health Department funding; revision #23, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating Library Construction change orders; revision #24, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$1,500 for Healthy Carolinians; revision #25, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating Medicaid Cost Settlement funds; and revision #26, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$1,075 Family Planning funds. (Note:

revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to go into closed session to discuss two personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored. During closed session two personnel items were discussed with no formal action being taken. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to return to regular session.

RECESS: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to recess until 5 p.m. on October 16, 2006, in the Board Room on the fourth floor of the Courthouse. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board
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D. Allan Bryson
Board chairman