

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. Chairman Beale, Commissioner McClellan, Commissioner Simpson, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Vice Chairman Davis and Commissioner Koppers were excused and not in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale reminded everyone of the Animal Control Facility open house on October 9th at 2 p.m. and the joint meeting with the Towns on October 22nd at 6 p.m. at the Highlands County Club.

INVOCATION: Rev. Jim Cannon from Cullasaja Assembly of God Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No one wished to speak during public session.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Beale requested a presentation on Ladies Night Out be added under Reports as item #8A (1), the Finance Officer reported she had one budget agenda to add to item #11C, the Deputy Clerk corrected the meeting date in item #11D to the October 26th meeting and Commissioner Simpson requested personnel be added to closed session. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK: Debbie Roberts, President of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) Appalachian South, gave a brief update on NAMI and requested the week of October 4th through October 10th be declared Mental Illness Awareness Week in Macon County. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a proclamation designating Mental Health Awareness Week per **attachment #1.**

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Bonnie Peggs briefed the Board on Ladies Night Out explaining it is a collaborative effort of Angel Medical Center and the Macon County Health Department. Ms. Peggs gave cancer statistics for Macon County stating the goal is to save women with breast cancer by early detection. She stated Ladies Night Out would meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Angel Medical Center with the first meeting being October 27th. Jennifer Garrett stated that the program had “gone faster than anyone guessed and the community has been very involved and supportive. She added that monthly meeting topics will be based on different health issues. Bea

Sanford expressed appreciation to the Board for funding through the Community Funding Pool adding it will make a huge impact and the program is going to touch a lot of lives. She named some organizations that are making contributions to the program such as providing the cost of a mammogram, funding through pledges, sponsoring a program, etc.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION: DSS Director Jane Kimsey presented an analysis on the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program explaining the General Assembly directed through its 2009 Budget Appropriations Act that effective July 1, 2010 each CSE office will be administered by county government. Ms. Kimsey listed the four options for program administration: (1) establishment of a stand alone county agency, (2) consolidation into an existing county agency, (3) privatization or (4) regionalized office. She added that counties are required to submit plans outlining their proposed operation no later than January 1, 2010. She explained analyzing of the four options, operating child support enforcement within the county DSS is the most popular option statewide and also appears to be the most cost effective option for the county. Ms. Kimsey stated a draft budget was developed based on current caseloads and fiscal impact on the county cost of operating CSE internally within DSS was about \$25,000 less than entering into a privatized contract. After discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to designate DSS to be the Child Support Enforcement agency for Macon County effective July 1, 2010.

UPDATE ON RECENT WEATHER CONDITIONS: Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe gave a brief up date on recent weather conditions stating the county did fairly well but did not totally escape damage. He added that 14 homes suffered damage, 3 businesses, 51 homes indirectly affected, 8 roads closed and 2 rescues occurred during the rain and flooding. The issue of rescue of a resident on Arthur Drake Road was discussed. Chairman Beale stated thirty-nine families live on the road and are isolated when the river floods which puts residents, service crews, emergency personnel, etc. at risk. He asked the County Manager to gather information to see what the Board could do to help facilitate with road improvements, another access, etc. Mr. Cabe was commended for the work emergency crews do and the service provided.

HOUSING UPDATE: Housing Director Rick Norton gave an update on housing stimulus money stating the Board had originally approved requesting ten percent or \$46,000 of the \$427,000 Macon County should receive; however, they have now received notification that the County can request release of fifty percent of the funds (\$213,500) and requested permission to make the request. He explained the funds must be spent within fifteen months and can be used for weatherization only. The County Manager reported he had questions on allocation of the funds and would work with Mr. Norton on the budget. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to authorize request for release of fifty percent of the county's allocation of stimulus funds.

CARENET: Vanessa Bailey, Betty Wilkerson and Bruce Tanner were present from Carenet to follow-up on their request for funding. Chairman Beale stated the request had

been forwarded to the Community Funding Pool who chose not to make a recommendation because the application deadline has passed, all applications have been reviewed, recommendations have been made and funds disbursed. Ms. Bailey stated Carenet had received funding from the CFP in the past but missed the deadline this year. She added that the demand on Carenet was unprecedented and the needs continue to grow. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to assist Carenet with \$5,000 due to overwhelming need and unprecedented demands. The motion was seconded by Chairman Beale. Commissioner McClellan requested action on the issue be postponed until the entire Board was present adding Commissioner Davis had specifically requested delay. After a brief discussion Commissioner Simpson withdrew his motion with Chairman Beale agreeing to withdraw his second.

HUDSON LIBRARY LEASE: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the lease agreement with the Hudson Library per **attachment #2**.

LITTLE TENNESSE/CARTOOGECHAYE SEWER PROJECT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: The County Manager reported now that the Little Tennessee/Cartoogechaye Sewer Project is ready for construction a formal interlocal agreement needs to be approved by the County and Town of Franklin. An agreement was presented for consideration after which Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the concept of the agreement, to authorize the County Attorney to make legal changes and authorize execution of the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and passed unanimously. **(Attachment #3)**

ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY: A change order on the Animal Control Facility in the amount of \$6,000 and approval for final closeout was unanimously granted upon motion by Commissioner McClellan and seconded by Commissioner Simpson. It was noted this was the only change order on the project and the facility was completed within budget.

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner McClellan: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes of the September 14th meeting. **Finance** – Adopted a Capital Project Ordinance for the Riverbend Water System Extension in the amount of \$2,131,800 per **attachment #4**. Adopted a Capital Project Ordinance Amendment on the Little Tennessee River/Cartoogechaye Creek Sewer Project in the amount of \$1,043,250 per **attachment #5**. Approved budget revision #30, appropriating \$60,000 State Aid to Counties in the Health Department; revision #31, appropriating \$11,602 for Health Department/School Health Nurse; revision #32, budgeting \$3,000 from Contingency to Construction Management; and revision #33, appropriating \$83,134 for Governor’s Crime Commission Grant for the Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Unit which includes transfer of \$24,392 local match from Contingency. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax Releases:** Approved tax releases in the amount of \$3,518.16. (A printout of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the County Manager’s Office.) **OCTOBER 26TH MEETING:** Changed the second meeting in

October from Monday, October 26th at 2 p.m. to Wednesday, October 28th at 9 a.m. The main purpose of the meeting will be to receive information and discuss county health insurance.

APPOINTMENTS: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to appoint Dave Jones to the Franklin ETJ to fill the unexpired term of Lloyd Swift which will expire January 31, 2010, and to appoint Ken Stonbraker as an alternate with a term to expire September 15, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss property acquisitions (an easement from Four Quarter LLC, Deed Book 21 – pages 474-477) and personnel. During closed session the above items were discussed with no action being taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion of Commissioner Simpson the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman