

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 8, 2013**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Corbin convened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Corbin pointed out that the board would be together on two occasions outside of the county this month, with the first being in Asheville on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for the Essentials of County Government workshop. Following a mid-year review and work session scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>, the board members will also be attending the Legislative Goals Session on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Research Triangle Park. The County Manager expressed his thanks to the board members for their well wishes during his recent hospital stay, and he noted that the Finance Director was sick and would not be at the meeting. He also informed the board that state Sen. Jim Davis would be hosting a meeting of local government leaders from the seven-county Region A area in Franklin on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. regarding legislative issues.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Corbin asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Led by Commissioner Haven, the pledge to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Chairman Corbin called the public hearing on the installment financing contract for improvements to Highlands School to order at 6:12 p.m., and recognized the County Manager, who explained that the county was seeking \$1.5 million in Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) funding to renovate Highlands School. He said the net interest rate on the project would be zero, and that the board had scheduled this required public hearing at its December meeting. Final approval from the state Local Government Commission (LGC) will be

necessary. The County Attorney explained that real property, namely Highlands School, will be used as collateral and that an interlocal agreement will convey the property from the board of education to the board of commissioners, who will then lease the facilities back to the school system during the 10-year term of the loan. Chairman Corbin recognized Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan as well as board of education members Gary Shields and Stephanie McCall. Dr. Duncan spoke briefly about the project, noting that most of the improvements would take place in the elementary school wing and that he hoped to have them done over a three-month period. He also thanked the Highlands Country Club for its generosity regarding the required 10 percent match for the QZAB funds. Ashley Coppage, a kindergarten teacher at the school, told the board she was thrilled at the possibility of the renovations, especially a fix to the air conditioning issues. Jennifer Forrester, a volunteer in her son's classroom, also voiced her support of the project, noting several areas that needed to be addressed. Commissioner Beale said that six years ago, the commissioners made a commitment to the school system, and that the renovations at Highlands are one of the last parts of a master plan that has touched all of the schools. Commissioner Haven said he has seen the problems at the school first-hand and was totally supportive of the project. With no one else signed up to speak, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted to close the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Charlie Cowie** addressed the board regarding the need for more manufacturing – in terms of both goods and jobs – in the nation.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as adjusted, as follows:

- To modify Item 9A under Old Business to add a recommendation regarding bids for the renovations for the adult dental clinic, per the County Manager.
- To hold a closed session for the purpose of preserving the attorney-client privilege and to discuss property acquisition under Item 13, per the County Manager.
- To add an item regarding the planning board as Item 8C under Reports/Presentations, per Commissioner Tate.
- To add an item regarding the lease of space in the Business Development Center as Item 10C, per Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:** Prior to his presentation, Sheriff Holland staged a scenario in which commissioners Tate and Haven acted as teachers responding to a situation regarding a gunman in a classroom. Following that, the sheriff told the board that on the Monday after the shootings at the elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, he examined the past, present and future of school resource officers (SROs). He gave the board a brief timeline of SROs in the county, explaining that four were now in place, including two at Franklin High School, and that in his opinion, the county should have SROs in all of the schools. He said that while this will not happen instantly, it needs to be discussed. Dani Burrows, one of the department's SROs, told the board that their mission is to be proactive and to provide an "everyday comfort level" at the schools. Commissioner Beale said that the topic of additional SROs would be discussed further at the county commission/school board liaison meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Gary Shields then gave the board an overview of the Crisis Management Plan for Franklin High School that was developed in 1998 when he was the principal there, and suggested it was time to review and update that plan. Dr. Jim Duncan also noted the need for school officials to be prepared, saying that plans that are in place are being updated and that school bus safety needs to be addressed as well. The sheriff told the board he would need to have six additional SROs in order to have one in each school. After further discussion, no action was taken.

Chairman Corbin declared a recess at 7:27 p.m.

Chairman Corbin called the meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m.

**UPDATE ON PARKER MEADOWS RECREATION PROJECT:** Mike Lavoy with Alliance Consulting Engineers told the board that the Phase I environmental assessment on the project site was complete, and that there were no recognized environmental conditions that would pose a hazard. Mr. Lavoy outlined the items covered during the due diligence process and also pointed out that more than 60 people attended a public input meeting on the project. He said the county was now in a position to move forward with the application for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant, and that with a waiver in hand, the county could purchase the property and be reimbursed at a later date. County Planner Matt Mason informed the board that in regard to how existing land use ordinances might affect the development of the project, he explained that the High Impact Land Use Ordinance would not, but that the Watershed Protection and Flood ordinances would. Mr. Mason presented the board with a letter (Attachment 1) that, in part, stated: "In

summary, the proposed recreation park at Parker Farms will be in full compliance with all of the existing land use ordinances that are in effect for the citizens of Macon County.” A copy of the letter is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. It was also noted that the county has an on-site wastewater permit with a design of 1,650 gallons per day. After discussion involving the location and operation of the concession stand at the proposed park, as well as the amount of the property contained in the floodplain, and the issue of cultural resources on the site, the board agreed by consensus to table any action on this matter until a continuation meeting scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:** Commissioner Tate said that the planning board has finished its review of the subdivision ordinance, and following training from the state Department of Commerce in January and its retreat in February, the planning board would start reviewing the sign ordinance in March. He asked the County Attorney to be involved in that process.

**MACON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH FY 12-13 BILLING AND COLLECTION POLICIES AND FEE SCHEDULES:** Following comments from Macon Public Health Center Director Jim Bruckner, and upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve the health center’s billing and collection policies and fee schedules for FY 2012-13 as presented (Attachment 2), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Higdon, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to approve fee schedule adjustments as explained by Mr. Bruckner (Attachment 3). A copy of the fee schedule is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**ADULT DENTAL CLINIC RENOVATION:** Tom Ritter of Ritter Architecture presented a letter recommending that the board award the bid for the Macon County Dental Office Renovation Project to Arrowood Construction, LLC of Franklin. He explained that Arrowood was the low bidder of the four submitted at \$89,800, with that amount subsequently adjusted to \$84,415. Mr. Bruckner added his recommendation for Arrowood, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to award the bid to Arrowood Construction, LLC in the amount of \$84,415. A copy of the letter is attached (Attachment 4) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**QZAB REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION:** The County Attorney explained that the resolution declares the county's intent "to reimburse itself for capital expenditures incurred in connection with certain improvements to Highlands School from the proceeds of certain Qualified Zone Academy Bonds to be executed and delivered in calendar year 2013." Upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented (Attachment 5), a copy of which is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**REQUEST FROM THE SKY VALLEY/SCALY MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT:** By letter, the Relief Fund Board of Trustees of the Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue had requested that the commissioners reimburse the department \$1,126.71 for the 2011 NC State Fireman's Local Relief Fund. The letter stated that the department was disqualified by the state Department of Insurance to receive a check in that amount because the required annual reports that were sent to the county were not forwarded to the state by the deadline. Following discussion as to how to correct the matter, Commissioner Tate asked that the item be tabled until the February regular meeting in order to determine if the state would reconsider its decision.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TERMS OF LOAN MODIFICATION:** This item represents the second half of a loan modification with Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T), whereby BB&T is revising the interest rate on an amount not to exceed \$7.5-million from 4.59 percent to 2.61 percent. The board took action on a similar matter at its December 11, 2012 meeting. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adopt a "Resolution Approving Terms of Modification," a copy of which is attached (Attachment 6) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**RESOLUTION AND LEASE WITH DRAWBRIDGE SECURE NETWORK SOLUTIONS:** Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins explained that the County Attorney had prepared a resolution declaring property in the Business Development Center to be surplus and had drawn a proposed lease of that space to Drawbridge Secure Network Solutions, LLC for a one-year term at a rate of \$150 per month. The lease, for Unit D at the center, will commence on February 1, 2013 and expire on January 31, 2014. Mr. Jenkins said the business plans to employ up to six workers. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution (Attachment 7) and lease (Attachment 8) as presented, copies of which are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Tate, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the December 11, 2012 meeting. **Budget amendments** – Approved the following budget amendments: #87 for Social Services to appropriate a foster care donation of \$500; #88 for Social Services to appropriate \$7,297 in additional CRC funds and \$1,103 in additional funds for congregate meals; #89 for the Health Department to decrease the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) contracted services line item by \$47,229 and the CTG operating line item by \$47,229 and to reduce the CTG revenue line item by \$94,458; #90 for Social Services to allocate additional Crisis and LIEAP funds totaling \$110,965; and #91 for Social Services to allocate \$407 received from an insurance settlement for vehicle repair. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – Approved tax releases in the amount of \$1,336.14. (A computer printout of releases is on file in the Tax Department and the County Manager’s office.) **Monthly ad valorem tax collection report** – No action necessary.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 8:57 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the purpose of consulting with the attorney under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and to discuss property acquisition under G.S. 143-318-11(a)(5). At 10:03 p.m., and upon a motion by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session. No action was taken.

**RECESS:** At 10:03 p.m., Chairman Corbin recessed the meeting until Monday, January 14, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse at 5 West Main Street in Franklin, NC.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Kevin Corbin  
Board Chairman