

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 10, 2011
MINUTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Koppers requested a moment of silence in memory of Robbie Newton, principal at Nantahala School, who passed away on May 8 following a long struggle with cancer.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Koppers gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The pledge to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING/FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATION – Upon a motion by Commissioner Corbin, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to recess the regular meeting at 6:05 p.m. and to open the public hearing on the Section 5310 grant application as noticed. Chairman McClellan recognized Kim Angel, Macon County Transit Director, who gave a brief overview of the federal program, its purpose and available funds. Mrs. Angel noted that this funding helps to provide transportation for the elderly and disabled. With a total funding request of \$323,319, Mrs. Angel explained that the 50 percent local share of \$161,660 would be matched through other grant resources. The funds will be used to purchase a vehicle to expand service in the Nantahala area and to expand the number of seats available on the service's routes. Following comments and questions from the board, Chairman McClellan asked anyone wishing to come before the board to speak for or against the proposed funding to do so at this time. No one signed up to speak, and Chairman McClellan opened the floor for any other comments. Hearing none, and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. and return to open session.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Mary Ann Widenhouse** provided information on homelessness in Macon County, and told the board that on January 26, 2011, there were 31 homeless people in Macon County (25 adults and six

children). Ms. Widenhouse said she believed, however, that this was just the “tip of the iceberg” because that number was based on a strict definition of the term. She asked where she might be able to obtain more information on this subject, and Commissioner Beale suggested that she contact Kathy McGaha with the Healthy Carolinians program.

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

- To move Item 8B (Voluntary Agriculture District Board) ahead of Item 8A (Presentation of the recommended Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget).
- To add two additional budget revisions to the consent agenda.

VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICT BOARD: Mike Breedlove made a brief presentation to the commission, asking the board to appoint five members to a newly formed Voluntary Agriculture District Board that would operate under the Macon Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. Breedlove explained that this board would replace the Farmland Preservation Committee that had operated under the Cooperative Extension Service, but had become inactive in the past few years. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to appoint Kathy Tinsley, Tony Ashe, Pam Bell, Clint James and Ben Ledford to the Voluntary Agriculture District Board for terms of three years each.

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 BUDGET: The County Manager presented his recommended budget for the upcoming fiscal year and provided the board with his budget message ([Attachment 1](#)). In addition, the County Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the highlights of the proposed budget, which is balanced at \$42,435,322 and calls for no increase in the ad valorem tax rate, currently the second lowest in the state at 27.9 cents per \$100. He also noted that the public hearing on the budget is scheduled for June 7, 2011 at 6 p.m. in the commission boardroom. Following discussion, the board agreed to hold its first budget work session on Friday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom, and scheduled a second work session for Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m., also in the boardroom.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RESOLUTION: Following the public hearing held earlier in the meeting, Chairman McClellan read the Public Transportation Program Resolution for the record ([Attachment 2](#)), and upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

McCOY BRIDGE RESOLUTION: Commissioner Kupperts read the Resolution Concerning McCoy Bridge for the record (Attachment 3) and explained the issues that led to its creation. Upon a motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, the board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

HONORARY HISTORIAN RESOLUTION: Commissioner Kupperts read the Resolution Designating Margaret Ramsey as an Honorary Historian of Macon County for the record (Attachment 4), noting this was the second individual to receive this recognition from the county. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Haven, the board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

SURPLUS GENERATOR: Upon a motion by Commissioner Kupperts, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, the board voted unanimously to declare a 250kw Onan generator as surplus and to authorize its transfer to the Town of Highlands for use at the Highlands Parks and Recreation Center. Chairman McClellan noted that the mayor and the town's board of commissioners expressed their thanks to the county, as the generator will allow the center to remain in full operation during power outages and emergency disaster situations, bringing the town one step closer to opening the center as an emergency shelter.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon a motion by Commissioner Corbin, seconded by Commissioner Kupperts, the following items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the April 7th, April 12th and the April 26th meetings. **Budget revisions** – Approved the following budget revisions: revision #147, appropriating \$16,000 from contingency for solid waste fees for schools; revision #148, appropriating \$8,250 from contingency for legal fees related to property tax appeals; revision #150, appropriating \$18,000 in grant funds to cover the anticipated costs of tire disposal in the solid waste department; revision #156, appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,860 and \$1,192 received from insurance settlements for repairs to a 2001 Dodge truck in the solid waste department; revision #157, appropriating revenue from excess fees of \$6,300 (\$5,000 in adoption fees, \$500 in animal control fees and \$800 in donations) in the animal control department for expenditures for professional fees. (Revisions with corresponding numbers attached.) **Tax releases** – There were no tax releases for approval. **Board of education resolution** – Chairman McClellan read the Resolution of the Macon County Board of Education to Transfer Funds from Current Expense Fund Balance to 2010-2011 Capital Outlay Fund into the record. **457 Deferred Compensation Plan Resolution** – The County Manager explained that the resolution authorized the

current County Manager and Human Resources Director to act on behalf of the county with regard to the plan, replacing individuals who formerly held those positions.

APPOINTMENTS: Southwestern Community College – Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to recommend to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners that Terry Bell be reappointed to the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees, with the term of appointment to expire June 30, 2015. **Standing committees/terms of appointment** – Chairman McClellan explained that a list of committees was contained in the board’s agenda packet and that later this year the board would consider designating term limits for the members of some of those committees.

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:46 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and to preserve the attorney/client privilege. Chairman McClellan declared a brief recess, and following it, the board went into closed session at 7:58 p.m. Upon a motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and back into regular session at 9:05 p.m.

REQUEST TO ABANDON SR 1135: Chairman McClellan explained that the county had received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding a request by Doug Battles to abandon SR 1135, Middle Skeenah Road, from the state-maintained road system. According to the letter, all abandonment requests must go before the respective boards of commissioners for comment. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted unanimously not to recommend abandonment and to notify NCDOT of that decision.

HUDSON LIBRARY REROOFING: The County Manager explained that the Hudson Library in Highlands needed a new roof, and that he had obtained four quotes on the project, the lowest of which was from Williams Roofing at \$23,750. Upon a motion by Commissioner Corbin, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the board voted 5-0 to accept the County Manager’s recommendation and award the bid to Williams Roofing as quoted.

RECESS: Chairman McClellan recessed the meeting until Friday, May 13, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the commission boardroom on the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Brian McClellan
Board Chairman