

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONTINUATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2003
MINUTES

Chairman West called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. as recessed. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Deputy Clerk, members of the news media and several citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: The County Manager reported that by the meeting on March 3rd cost figures for the Highlands School gym project should be finalized and requested authorization to advertise for bids for rock removal from the site. Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to authorize advertisement for rock removal at the site.

BUDGET ISSUES: Revenue Rate: The County Manager reported tax revaluation notices should be mailed by the end of February and requested the Board to adopt a revenue policy based on the new revaluation figures. After discussion Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to construct a formula for a revenue neutral budget for the upcoming fiscal year based on the new property assessments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored. Sales Tax Resolution: County Manager Greenwood noted that to implement the optional one-half cent sales tax a notice of intent to adopt the resolution must be published. Upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to advertise the intent to adopt the resolution at the March 3rd meeting. County Health Insurance: The County Manager reported the county's health insurance rates increased by approximately \$460,000 last year and in order to maintain the same level of coverage and the current plan it would be necessary for employees to assume more cost of the plan. He noted that health insurance is based on a calendar year and since December 31st the County has picked up the increase. A recommendation that new rates be adopted for employees effective April 1, 2003 which will net around fifty percent (50%) of the increase was presented. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation as presented. (A copy of the rate schedule is on file in the Human Resource Office and the County Manager's Office.) Medicaid Briefing: County Manager Greenwood reported Medicaid usage rates from the State have resulted in a fund balance of approximately \$100,000 which will be used as match in the upcoming fiscal year budget which means it will not be necessary to raise local revenues for match. No action was necessary.

CLOSED SESSION: The County Attorney advised the Board needed to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter and to receive and consider a report from the County Attorney on continuing litigation. Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to go into closed session. During the session a personnel matter was discussed with the Sheriff and the County Attorney briefed the Board on two contractual matters, one dealing with the airport that was discussed at length. No action was taken and upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to return to regular session.

AIRPORT AGREEMENT: Commissioner Bryson made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Macon County Airport Authority and Franklin Aviation, Inc. per attachment #1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and during discussion it was agreed the Airport Authority and FBO should attend the March meeting (closed session) to discuss issues dealing with the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a motion by Commissioner Leatherman the meeting was adjourned with a note several Board Members would be attending the County Commissioners school in Dillsboro sponsored by the Institute of Government and NCACC beginning February 25th and that the next regular meeting would be at 6 p.m. on March 3rd.

Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

Board Chairman

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