

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 2, 2004
MINTUES

Chairman West convened the meeting at 9 a.m. in Room 345 of the Macon County Courthouse as noticed. Board members presented the following service awards to county employees: ten years of service - Jeanette Awtry, Bobby Bishop, Shelia Corbin, Shirley Dillard, Angela Kinsland, Gail Lehman, Kenneth McCaskill, Pam Perry, Angela Phillips, Steve Sears, Sue Shope, Tava Welch, Don Willis and Charles Womack; fifteen years - Pat Deal, Dan Gregg, Lillian Haselden, David Houston, Kay Key, Pam Ledford and Donnie Wallace; twenty years - Mary Jo Arrant, Virginia Casada, Anita Cloer, Randall Cowart, Evelyn Dalrymple, Diane Holbrook, Teresa Holbrooks, Felicia Mashburn, Ray Shepherd and Linda Tyler; twenty-five years - Frances Crisp, Anne Hyder, Stan Polanski and Suzanne Williams. The Board commended the recipients for their dedication and service.

The meeting recessed to reconvene in the Board Room for the business session. All Board Members, the County Manager, County Attorney, Staff Attorney, Deputy Clerk, County Finance Director, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the January 5, 2004, meeting as submitted.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS: The following items were unanimously approved to be added to the agenda: schools, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman; recreation park, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd; Welfare Reform Committee appointment, upon motion of Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Bryson and Committee/Board assignments upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman.

PUBLIC SESSION: William Thomas stated he lived in a mobile home at 1186 Lake Emory Road, explained some Franklin Police officers came to his house looking for someone else, told him he needed to exchange his California license plates and driver's license to North Carolina and a few weeks later he was followed home by two county sheriff's deputies and ticketed for invalid plates and driver's license. Mr. Thomas stated he feels he is a victim of harassment. Sheriff Holland was present and stated, when asked, that Mr. Thomas had never contacted him about the matter but he would get the information from Mr. Thomas and check into the matter. Narella Kirkland updated the Board on the Country Inn billboard she had expressed concerns about at a previous meeting and it is being taken down. She stated she had spoken with Mr. Crisp about planting trees around his junk yard and he told her he didn't want an outsider planting the trees, they would do it themselves. Ms. Kirkland added that another citizen had approached her about litter on Highway 28 and encouraged an education and awards program for recycling. She stated the second concern is abandoned house trailers that are eye sores but, more importantly, a safety issue for playing children. She suggested gathering information on pilot projects in other counties. Ms. Kirkland displayed photos of the Klatt property in Frogtown and again advocated preservation of the property as a nature conservancy, park, etc.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Gary Nicholson, Human Resource Director, presented updates to the County's Policy on Workplace Harassment and the Policy to Maintain A Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace explaining that neither are new policies, that he, along with the Staff Attorney, had updated and/or combined existing county policies. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Workplace Harassment Policy as submitted per attachment #1. Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Policy to Maintain a Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace was unanimously adopted as submitted per attachment #2.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to forward a resolution to NCDOT requesting addition of .3 miles of Creek Road off SR 1110 and a portion of Stiwinter Mountain Road to the State Secondary Road System for maintenance

per attachment #3.

FUNDING OF NONPROFITS: Preliminary discussion on continuation of nonprofit funding, continuation of the Community Fund Pool concept and budget allocations was tabled until March.

APPOINTMENTS: Community Funding Pool - Appointments tabled until March. Franklin Recreation Commission - Commissioner Simpson made a motion to reappoint Dennis Conley to the Franklin Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored. Term is for two years and will expire February 28, 2006. It was reported Roger Talley has moved from the area and submitted his resignation from the Franklin Recreation Commission. Upon motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to accept Mr. Talley's resignation. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to appoint Tex Davis who is active in senior games to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Talley's resignation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored. Term will expire January 2, 2005. Library Board - It was noted the terms of Rachel Hamilton (Highlands), Randolph Bulgin and Mildred Landrum on the Library Board of Trustees will expire February 28, 2004. A recommendation for reappointment was presented along with a request that term limits be waived for Mr. Bulgin who has served two complete terms because he is currently serving as chairman of the board and is involved in some major library projects. Commissioner Bryson made a motion to waive the term limit for Mr. Bulgin and reappoint all three as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored. Terms will expire February 28, 2007.

TAX DEPARTMENT: Tax releases - Action on tax releases of \$12,655.20 was delayed pending further explanation/research. Tax report - Commissioner Bryson made a motion to, pursuant to General Statute 105-369(a), to accept the report of the Tax Collector showing \$1,330,113.11 as the amount due on 2003 real property as of January 31, 2004, and authorize advertisement as required by law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. It was noted the 2003 collection rate as of January 31, 2004 was 93.71% compared to a 92.15% rate collected on 2002 taxes as of January 31, 2003.

FINANCE: Financing resolution - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to adopt a resolution authorizing the negotiation of an installment financing contract per attachment #4. Public hearing - Commissioner Bryson made a motion to schedule a public hearing on March 1, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. on the approval of the contract and deed of trust and the county's refinancing of certain debts as approved in the previous resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. Budget revisions - The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #98, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$500 donation to Emergency Management; revision #99, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, adjusting original grant budget for the mobile dental unit; revision #100, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, appropriating \$1,375 March of Dimes grant for Health Department; revision #101, upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$1,000 additional funding for the Schools Worksite Wellness Program; revision #102, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, appropriating \$37,824 State Homeland Security Grant Part I in Emergency Management; revision #103, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$91,760 State Homeland Security Grant Part II in Emergency Management; revision #104, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$1,070 Domestic Terrorism Exercise Grant in Emergency Management and revision #105, upon motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman appropriating \$15,544 federal Health Resources Services Administration grant in Emergency Management. (Note: Revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

LEGAL: LBJ Project - The County Attorney presented a deed of conveyance to the Town of Franklin in connection with the LBJ project pursuant to agreements between the Town and County and requested approval. Upon a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve the deed of conveyance and authorized execution by the Chairman and County Manager.

(Attachment #5) Negotiations relative to Macon/Jackson solid waste agreement - The County Attorney presented a resolution authorizing for negotiations relative to the Solid Waste Agreement between Macon and Jackson Counties for consideration. Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to adopt the resolution as presented. (Attachment #6)

SCHOOLS: Commissioner Bryson stated the Board had concentrated on upgrading school buildings, infrastructure, etc. and now it was time to look at something to help school personnel. He turned the item over to Commissioner Leatherman who presented statistics on teacher salaries including supplements in other counties and entry levels for teachers in Rabun County, Georgia. After a brief discussion Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to authorize the County Manager, School Superintendent and County Finance Officer to work together to bring back to the Board evaluated alternatives to implement a salary supplement system for the Macon County school system instructional personnel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored.

RECREATION: A proposal from Franklin Little League Baseball for construction of a new restroom/concession stand for the Franklin Recreation Park was presented and discussed. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the plan as presented with the understanding Little League will provide the labor and the County will contribute up to \$40,000 for materials, supplies, etc. County Manager Greenwood advised there should be sufficient funds in the current year budget for the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryson and all favored. Fencing problems/needs in the Park were discussed and the general consensus was that these were problems maintenance could handle.

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE: Commissioner Leatherman presented a recommendation and made a motion that Farrell Jamison be appointed to the Welfare Reform Planning Committee to replace Chris Perrigo representing manufacturing/industrial sector. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS: Chairman West explained with increased or additional activities he felt the need to make additional Board assignments as follows: Commissioners Bryson and Shepherd to the Water/Sewer Committee; Commissioners Simpson and West to the SCC expansion project; Commissioners Leatherman and West to the Economic Development Commission and Commissioners Shepherd and West to the Airport Authority.

MEETINGS: Town of Franklin - A tentative date of February 19th for a joint meeting was set if the date is agreeable with the Town. A notice will be sent when confirmed. April meeting - Upon a motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Bryson the Board unanimously voted to schedule the April 5th meeting for 6 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and all favored.