

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 3, 2005
MINUTES

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

Commissioner Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the minutes of the September 12th meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Chairman Bryson stated he had a draft letter from the auditors addressing questions related to transactions with Smoky Mountain Systems and asked that the item be added to the agenda. Upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to add the item to the agenda.

AUDIT FINDINGS: Chairman Bryson distributed a draft of a letter e-mailed to the Finance Officer addressing questions related to certain transactions between the County and Smoky Mountain Systems which stated no violations of State or County policies were found. A copy of the letter will be posted on the county's website.

PUBLIC SESSION: Shelia Myers, from the Humane Society, stated the Board had not done anything about animal control issues for over a year and she wasn't sure the newly formed study committee wasn't fluff. She added the Humane Society is doing all they can do and she hopes the problems can be solved quickly. Arthur Cataldo representing Friends of Animals (FOA) gave a recap of the group's activities for the past year, stated new officers and directors were elected in August and questioned what could the FOA Board now do to continue these programs. Kathy Hildreth stated she had appeared before the Board in August to ask for help with a problem of barking dogs in Lower Burningtown and since that time had communicated with all five board members by mail. Ms. Hildreth stated she did not feel this is a unique problem, that she is very interested in the future of the County and again asked what she could do to help with the problem.

Narrelle Kirkland expressed concerns about the Poplar Cove area of Macon County stating it looks like a miniature Peeks Creek and asked that it be placed on a list of priority areas.

Ron Reems displayed an x-ray showing a broken collar bone and two broken ribs he got by hitting a stray dog while riding his motorcycle. He stated he had called the Sheriff's Department and they informed him they could not do anything. Mr. Reems added that something needs to be done about the stray animal situation.

DSS - WORK FIRST: DSS Director Jane Kimsey informed the Board that N C DHHS has issued a directive for County Departments of Social Services to take and process applications for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees and explained that Macon County is an Electing County for the Work First program and the eligibility criteria is established by the County Commissioners in accordance with G. S. 108A-27.3(2).

Ms Kimsey stated the Macon County Welfare Reform Planning Committee met on September 19, 2005, and their recommendation is to apply the approved eligibility criteria to all applicants including evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. She added that Work First Block Grant funding for SFY 05-06 was cut resulting in decrease of funds and benefits for the Emergency Assistance Program, a program to help families with children pay for heating and utility costs. Commissioner Davis made a motion to support the Welfare Reform Committee's position on Work First and to accept the recommendation to apply the approved eligibility criteria to applicants including evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and all favored.

RECREATION MASTER PLAN: Jon Wood with Haden-Stanzial presented the final draft of the Macon County Comprehensive Recreation Master Plan which included comments from the presentation at the August Board meeting and four public meetings. Commissioner Simpson commended Mr. Wood for his firm's work on the plan, the local committee's participation and made a motion to accept the Plan to use as a tool for future recreation planning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored. (A copy of the plan is one file at the Recreation Department/Community Facilities Building, the County Manager's Office and currently posted on the County's website.)

MACON AREA TRANSIT: Transit Director Kim Angel and Transportation Planner with URS Corporation Brett Wallace presented a request for approval of a new service design to expand the transportation program in Macon County to include general public passengers. Ms. Angel presented a letter from the Town of Franklin noting they had voted to allow the Macon Area Transit Services to use a portion of the Burrell Building property for a transfer station and to allocate \$37,075 in funding to assist with FY 05/06 operational cost. After discussion Commissioner Leatherman made a motion to continue the item to the December meeting in order for Ms. Angel to bring further information on funding, service design changes, etc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored.

APPOINTMENTS: Planning Board - Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation to appoint Evelyn Owens to the Planning Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Neville Bryson. Term will expire April 23, 2008.

Animal Control Study Committee - Commissioner Simpson made a motion to appoint a designee from the Humane Society, Friends of Animals, Health Department, the Sheriff's Department, Town of Franklin, Town of Highlands, Willard Barrett representing the Sporting Dog Association and Dr. Amy Patterson representing veterinarians to serve on the Animal Control Study Commission along with Commissioner Leatherman and himself. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored.

Airport Authority - Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Gary Schmitt to the Airport Authority. Term will expire June 30, 2011.

HIGH IMPACT ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATOR: Appointment of an ordinance administrator for the recently adopted High Impact Ordinance was tabled until a job description can be developed. (Note action taken later in the meeting.)

TAX DEPARTMENT: Releases - Upon motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Simpson the Board unanimously voted to approve tax releases in the amount of \$2,425.75 as submitted. (A computer print-out of releases is on file in the Tax Office and the County Manager's Office.)

Refunds - Based on advise from the Staff Attorney and Tax Supervisor on statutory criteria the following actions relating to tax refund requests were taken: upon motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to approve a refund request of \$106.56 from On Cue, Inc. (Acct. 92535);

Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to deny a refund request of \$306.82 from Gregory Hoover (Acct. 68264). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed four to one with Commissioner Simpson opposing; upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd the Board unanimously voted to deny a refund request of \$1,214.82 from Brenda Vale (Acct. 4057).

BUDGET REVISIONS: The following budget revisions were unanimously approved: revision #19, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Davis, appropriating \$520 ABC Funds for the DARE Program; revision #20, upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, appropriating \$5,000 DSS Foster Care funds; and revision #21, upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner

Davis, budgeting \$13,712 for DSS Angel Medical outpost position.
(Note: revisions with corresponding number are attached.)

NOVEMBER MEETING: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Leatherman the Board unanimously voted to hold the regular November meeting in Highlands and to meet jointly with the Highlands Town Board prior to the regular meeting at 6 p.m. The meeting time and place will be noticed.

HIGH IMPACT USE ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATOR: Upon motion by Commissioner Leatherman and seconded by Commissioner Davis the Board unanimously voted to appoint County Manager Sam Greenwood as the interim High Impact Use Ordinance Administrator.

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

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board
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Daniel A. Bryson
Board Chairman