

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 29, 2008
CONTINUATION MEETING
MINUTES

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

Sissy Pattillo, Town Alderwoman, requested the County to consider matching the Town of Franklin's contribution of \$40,000 to the Main Street program for the purpose of continuing the plan that is being developed for the future of the Town.

She also asked that serious consideration be given to the development of the FrogTown Crawford Branch area and to the Jaycee Memorial Park renovation project. The total amount was projected at \$100,000. Ms. Pattillo requested the county to participate 50/50.

She also commented that we do not have enough recreational facilities in the Franklin area of Macon County. She referred to the per capita dollars spent in Highlands compared to Franklin area.

Heather Shields, Macon County Historical Society, explained the purpose and the functions of the Society and asked that the County contribute \$20,000 to their organization.

Joyce Handley, Town Alderwoman, commented about the use of the Jaycee Park for family reunions, birthday parties, baby showers etc. and the fact that the park is safe for children to play. She requested the board consider the request for funding.

Sam Greenwood, Town Manager spoke relative to all the projects as well as the Historical Society and how these projects will benefit not only the Town but the County as well. He said the Town is interested in joint recreational projects with the County.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN/HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Commissioner Beale made a motion to appropriate in 2008/2009 budget, \$80,000 which would be \$40,000 for the Main Street project, \$20,000 for inclusion of the Crawford Branch area in the Town's plan, and \$20,000 for the Historical Society to be drawn from the EDC reserve fund if that is allowable. He asked that the Finance Director and the County Attorney determine if the reserve funds can be used for this purpose. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

BUDGET/GENERAL: Commissioner Davis commented that the 08/09 recommended budget is 9.6% greater than the current year, and expressed an interest in discussing ways to trim that back. He stated he had asked the EMS director for some statistical data relative to the Nantahala EMS base and wanted to explore ways to cut costs there without cutting services. He added the cost of service per call is huge since the county offers a fully staffed 24 hour service there for a small population and said one area to look at might be the teachers supplement paid by the county. He also discussed new positions that are being requested. including the new deputy requested for the Sheriffs department which is to offer greater coverage to the Nantahala area. The purchasing agent requested for the Finance Department was discussed briefly. Ms. Southard explained the need for that position and commented that it is believed that a staff person can pay for themselves by purchasing savings. No action was taken on these positions.

SCHOOL FUNDING: After much discussion about the schools request for additional funding in current expense, Commissioner Beale made a motion to increase the funding for current expense by an additional \$300,000 providing that the Board of Education appropriate another \$300,000 of their fund balance.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson and the vote was unanimous.

COUNTY SALARIES/401K: After considerable discussion relative to the County Manager's recommendation of a 4% pay increase for full time county employees and a 2% contribution to 401K, Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the 4% pay increase and the 2% 401K contribution. Commissioner Beale seconded the motion and the vote was four to one with Commissioner Davis opposing.

RECREATION: Commissioner Simpson made a request of the board, as a representative of the Recreation Commission, that a staff person for Special Events, estimated at \$26,000 plus benefits be added to the budget and \$10,000 for a storage unit at the Nantahala Park be approved. A motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, passed unanimously.

MACON CITIZENS ENTERPRISE: Chairman Leatherman requested that an additional \$16,000 be allocated to the Macon Citizens Enterprise for operational costs explaining they have not had an increase from the county for the past several years. That request was motioned by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson and unanimously approved.

FAIR ASSOCIATION: Commissioner Beale made a request and motioned that \$74,600 be included in the budget for renovations at the Macon County Fair Association and the funds should come from the EDC reserve fund explaining these improvements are for elimination or correction of safety issues. Commissioner Simpson seconded that motion which passed unanimously.

SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY FUNDING: Commissioner Davis motioned to approve application of the Macon County School Board to the Public School Building Capital fund for approximately \$325,000 to be used for Technology purposes. There is no county match for Technology purchases from that fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and the motion passed unanimously. (Attachment #1)

OCCUPANCY TAX: Commissioner Simpson suggested that the Board approve an extension of 90 days beyond June 30, 2008, which is through September 30, 2008, for the Chambers of Commerce in the Towns of Franklin and Highlands to administer Occupancy Tax proceeds. Commissioner McClellan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RECESS: The meeting was recessed until 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, May 31, 2008

C. Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Charles D. Leatherman
Board Chairman

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