

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 6, 2010 – 6 P.M.
CONTINUED SESSION
MINUTES**

Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room on the third floor of the Courthouse as recessed from the November 22nd meeting. All Board Members with the exception of Commissioner Davis who was at a mandatory meeting for new senators in Raleigh were present. The County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman Beale stated the first item of business was election of the chairman and vice-chairman and, in accordance with the Macon County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedures, turned the meeting over to the County Manager.

County Manager Horton announced he and all Board members would be attending a school in Asheville later in the week sponsored by the School of Government. He expressed appreciation to current and past boards of commissioners for their service and support and read an article attributed to Mother Teresa on public service.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: The floor was opened for nominations for chairman after which Commissioner Koppers made a motion to appoint Commissioner Beale for another term as chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beale and failed on a two-two vote with Commissioners Haven and McClellan opposing. Commissioner Haven then made a motion to appoint Commissioner McClellan as chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and failed on a two-two vote with Commissioners Beale and Koppers opposing. The County Manager stated there was no clear majority for election of chairman and called for a five minute recess. Following the recess Commissioner Koppers stated he understood if no consensus could be reached on the chairmanship no other business could be handled. The County Manager and County Attorney stated, after discussions with the School of Government, that was the determination and if no chairman is elected a motion to adjourn would be in order. Commissioner Koppers stated, with reluctance and since there would be no change in outcome if delayed, he would reconsider the motion to elect Commissioner McClellan as chairman. Upon motion by Commissioner Haven, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to reconsider the motion to elect Commissioner McClellan as chairman. Commissioner Haven then made a motion to elect Commissioner McClellan as chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored. The gavel was passed to Chairman McClellan.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chairman McClellan opened the floor for vice-chairman and upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Chairman McClellan, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Commissioner Koppers as vice-chairman.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS BONDS: Upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the attached resolution approving bonds for public officials as required by NCGS §58-72 was unanimously approved. (Attachment #1)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **Shirley Ches** – Commended the Board for not allowing a stalemate, unlike the Federal Government, on the chairmanship. She expressed concerns about not being able to hear and requested the Board to use the microphones. She stated she believes in Santa Claus and she believes in the Board requesting that the Board take action to enact the steep slope ordinance when presented and to reappoint Al Slagle to the Planning Board. She added the Board’s actions are always studied, fairly presented and considered and she would ask the Board to continue that practice with no more behind the scenes manipulation. **Emily Dale stated** she would like to reiterate Ms. Ches’ remarks and requested consideration of adding two more people to the Planning Board and reappointment of Al Slagle. **Susan Ervin** thanked Commissioner Beale for his leadership and stated she was the only Planning Board member on the slope committee other than Al Slagle. She requested no other individuals be appointed to the Planning Board who does not share the Planning Board’s Mission. She stated it is time to support future, rather than short-time developments.

PLANNING BOARD: Commissioner Beale made a motion to instruct the County Attorney to proceed with changes to the Planning Board Ordinance to increase the number of members from eleven to thirteen and to incorporate language into the Ordinance if a member is detrimental to the mission of the Planning Board that, with a quorum, the Planning Board can request the liaison to present a request for removal to the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and passed unanimously. It was noted the two items may be handled separately.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: Commissioner Beale made a motion to request the County Attorney to start the process of adding two additional alternates to the Board of Adjustments stating it is often difficult to get enough members to hold hearings due to conflict of interests, etc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koppers and all favored.

A retreat in January with both the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners was suggested.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Brian McClellan
Board Chairman