

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 1, 2010 – 6 P.M.**  
**CONTINUATION MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. as recessed and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Interim County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Beale reminded everyone the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting had been cancelled and the next meeting would be on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner McClellan gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one wished to speak during public session.

**ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner Kuppers, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following changes: A report by Sheriff Holland was added as Item #8D and as part of Item #12 a replacement for Steve Pierson to the Board of Equalization and Review will be delayed.

**LANDSLIDE VIEWING FLIGHT:** Jenny Sanders, Executive Director of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (LTWSA) and Josh Pope, County GIS Administrator, updated the Board on the recent Landslide Hazard Aerial Assessment done by Southwings in cooperation with LTWSA, Macon County GIS, and the N.C. Geological Survey Group. A PowerPoint presentation with photos was also shown. No formal action was necessary and Ms. Sanders stated she hoped there would be another viewing flight in the near future.

**SHERIFF/WEAPONS ON COUNTY PROPERTY:** Chairman Beale stated he had received several calls on a recent situation that occurred when a young man climbed the fence at the Macon County Recreation Park and sat in a lifeguard chair with a gun while several people were in the park including children. Sheriff Holland explained he, Attorney Brian Welch and the magistrates had looked at the General Statutes and the only thing the man could be charged with was trespassing. He explained there is a county ordinance prohibiting concealed weapons on county property but not a ban of all firearms. Chairman Beale asked the Sheriff, County Manager and County Attorney to review what the County could do to prevent instances such as this.

**2010 U.S. CENSUS UPDATE:** Derek Roland and Rhonda Blanton updated the Board on progress Macon County has made on the 2010 U.S. Census. Mr. Roland explained census data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to determine what

community services to provide, to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to various levels of government as well as other determinations on funding and representation. He added that several area leaders from various organizations have been meeting for training and planning sessions on how to get a complete census count. Mr. Roland reminded the Board that the Census Tour Bus will be in Macon County on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and Macon and Buncombe Counties are the only two counties out of the twenty-three western counties the bus will visit. Mr. Roland and Ms. Blanton were commended for their work on this project.

**COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS:** Health Director Jim Bruckner presented the 2010 County Health Rankings stating this is a federal level report used to rank the overall health of counties and to stimulate conversations within the counties to improve the overall health of the population. He explained Macon ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out the 100 counties in health outcomes and 15<sup>th</sup> in health factors. Also present were Health Department staff members, Jimmy Villiard, Cathy McGaha and Jennifer Hollifield.

**SCHOOLS ARCHITECT CONTRACTS:** County Manager Horton informed the Board that they had not had enough time to complete the architect contracts and inter-local agreement with the Board of Education for construction on the North Macon School and renovations at Nantahala. He stated he and the County Attorney had met with the School Superintendent and School Attorney, had a conference call with USDA and also talked with the Local Government Commission. He explained final contracts and agreements are in progress and he hopes to have the item on the March 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda. Mr. Horton also gave an update for the on-site permit at the North Macon site.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items on the consent agenda: **Minutes** – Approved the minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting with one typographical correction. **Budget revision** – Approved budget revision #108 appropriating \$997 insurance settlement in the Sheriff's Department. (Copy Attached) **Mutual Aid Assistance** – Approved a Resolution Adopting a Policy for Mutual Assistance with Other Law Enforcement Agencies per **attachment #1**.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Rich Bankston, Bill Martin, Dwight Vinson and Bill Mason to the Board of Equalization and Review for one year. Terms will expire on March 1, 2011. A replacement for Steve Pierson, the representative of the Highlands area, will be on the March 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jack Horton, County Manager  
Clerk to the Board

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Ronnie Beale  
Board Chairman