

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 29, 2011 – 9 A.M.
WORK SESSION
MINUTES

Chairman McClellan convened the meeting at 9 a.m. as recessed. All Board Members, County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Officer, purchasing agent, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman McClellan asked if any member had any item to add to the agenda for discussion. There were no additions.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW: – County Manager Jack Horton reviewed county activities during 2010 including school construction and renovations, water/sewer expansion, renovation of the Hudson Library, relocation of Senior Services and Franklin EMS, updates of the detention center security and alarm systems, updates of the county computer servers, development of the planning and transportation comprehensive plans, the community garden project, the 2010 census and the Veterans Memorial project. Mr. Horton added he feels the county has done a lot with a little.

Chairman McClellan expressed appreciation to all Board members for attending the Needmore Project hearing held by NCDOT.

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW – Finance Director Evelyn Southard gave a mid-year report on the county's finances. She reported that based on very early projections as of June 30, 2011, general fund revenues and expenditures should be close to balanced. She reminded the board that sales tax revenues are very difficult to project in this kind of economy. Ms. Southard explained with the budget cuts that have been made in both revenues and expenditures in the last 3 years, if there is a shortfall, it will not be as great as prior years. She stated staff will continue to monitor revenues to be sure that Macon County keeps expenditures within the current year revenue stream. Ms. Southard provided charts reflecting the trend of certain revenues over the past 6 years. Also presented was the FY 11/12 budget calendar.

BUDGET CHALLENGES AND GOALS: Commissioner Beale discussed the 2011-12 Legislative Goals as presented at the January 13th meeting and the financial impact of these goals on counties. The Board briefly discussed the fund balances of the county and the schools.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Chairman McClellan stated he wanted to reconvene discussions on offering HSA options to employees and review retirees insurance coverage. He suggested a meeting of the Task Force be coordinated.

MENTAL HEALTH: Chairman Beale gave a history of area mental health, the Local Management Entity (LME) and the Evergreen Foundation. He added that the LME is nearing an agreement with Evergreen.

GOALS: Each member was asked to define their goals for 2012 and some of those are: build and/or strengthen relationships with municipalities, the Board of Education, Planning Board and other boards; decide on health care for active employees and retirees; adopt a workable budget that meets the county's needs with no tax increase; work with the Economic Development Commission to bring economic opportunities into the County; to continue to improve services to the citizens in the most economic way and maintain the current services; look at new revenue streams; think positive and look at new ideas; work diligently with the EDC to give the workforce more opportunities to prevent the "brain drain"; continue to promote Southwestern Community College because it is a great investment for the citizens; work with Cowee Community to lock in use of Cowee School; look at comprehensive plans; look at offering DSS services and a full-time deputy for Nantahala; continue work on day care facility noting that this is a major economic development factor; look at diversity for jobs and hold the line on spending thereby leaving money in hands of the population.

Chairman McClellan stated he was encouraged about where the County is and where the County is going. He also commended volunteers in Macon County stating they put in countless man hours and do not get enough recognition.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned with no formal action being taken.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Brian McClellan
Board Chairman