

August 20, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for its Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Conference Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman E. Shane Mitchell, Vice-Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Sidney E. Dunston, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Cedric K. Jones, David T. Bunn and Don Lancaster.

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and introduced Mr. Gene Rountree as Interim Tax Administrator. Mr. Rountree comes to Franklin with 36 years of experience. He has served Nash and Edgecombe counties and last served as interim in Chowan County. Mr. Rountree will work approximately three days per week in Franklin.

Chairman Mitchell then asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Dunston made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The items approved are as follows.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. August 6, 2012 Minutes
- B. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- C. CDBG Scattered Site Grant (11-C-2310) – Resolution
- D. CDBG Scattered Site Grant (11-C-2310) – Project Ordinance

Item 1-C

Resolution to Accept Award of FY 11 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant 11-C-2310

WHEREAS, the County of Franklin has received a Grant Agreement and Funding Approval for \$400,000 from the NC Department of Commerce, Community Investment and Assistance for the FY 2011 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant 11-C-2310 for housing rehabilitation activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Franklin accepts the grant award and authorizes the following employees to sign Requisition for Funds Forms:

Angela L. Harris, County Manager
Charles Murray, Finance Director
Scott Hammerbacher, Planning & Inspections Director

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing resolution was adopted this 20th day of August, 2012 by the County of Franklin Board of Commissioners. _____
affirmative votes; _____ opposing votes.

Chairman Mitchell asked the Board to consider adding a closed session to the agenda pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

Commissioner Swanson made the motion to add the closed session to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The item will be considered as Item 8.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

This was the time set aside by the Board of Commissioners to allow individuals five minutes to address the Board on issues concerning the county.

Jeremy Neal, 2859 White Level Road, Castalia

- Mr. Neal offered praise regarding the process used to test the County’s new radio system. He said the system is impressive and commended Franklin County Emergency Communications Director Christy Shearin and her staff. Secondly, Mr. Neal agreed with Commissioner Lancaster that the County should not pay the remaining balance owed to the revaluation company. He also commented the County should look into holding a larger retainage on all of its contracts.

3. VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The Board was asked to consider adopting an amendment to the Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. The amendments included an Enhanced Voluntary Ag District Option and a public hearing for condemnation of land. Charles Mitchell, Franklin County Cooperative Extension Director, made a presentation. Members of the Agricultural Advisory Board were also in attendance.

Mr. Mitchell offered the following presentation.

Voluntary Ag District Background

- Authorized by the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Enabling Act
- Over 83 VAD(/EVAD) programs in North Carolina have been enacted — and more have been proposed
- 21,000 acres in Franklin with 70 landowners - Established in 2003

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions



Franklin County
Voluntary
Agricultural Districts

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Collaborative Partners

- North Carolina Cooperative Extension at N.C. State University
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Collaborative Partners

- North Carolina Farm Bureau
- North Carolina State Grange
- Local governments

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions

North Carolina Statutes

- Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Enabling Act
–N.C.G.S. § § 106-735 through 106-749
- Agriculture defined
–N.C.G.S. § 106-581.1

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions

North Carolina Statutes

- Present-Use Value
–N.C.G.S. § 105-277.2 et seq.
- Conservation and Historic Preservation Agreements Act
–N.C.G.S. § § 121-35 through 121-42

NC Cooperative Extension Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Components in Creation

- Grassroots initiated
 - Farmers and other citizens
 - Farm Bureau and State Grange
- Local government
 - Planning
 - Tax office
 - Register of deeds
 - GIS
 - CES, Soil and Water Conservation

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Agricultural Advisory Board

- Type of citizen advisory council
- Review and recommend concerning establishment and modification of agricultural districts
- Advise the governing board on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy or way of life within the county

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Agricultural Advisory Board

- Countywide farmland protection planning
- Ordinance amendments
- Education about agriculture

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Terms & Abbreviations

- Voluntary Agricultural District
 - VAD
- Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District
 - EVAD
 - Only duration of agreement and benefits differ

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

VAD/EVAD Programs

- Low cost programs that can accomplish multiple objectives
- Support farm/forestry/horticulture based economic development
- Support North Carolina's #1 Industry: Agriculture
 - Over \$71 Billion per year

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

VAD Conservation Agreement

- 10-year period, but is revocable
- Automatic renewal possible
 - Review all qualifications prior to renewal

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

EVAD Conservation Agreement

- Similar terms as VAD agreement except:
 - Irrevocable for 10 years
 - Automatic renewal for 3 years absent notice as required by the ordinance

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Benefits of EVAD

- All VAD benefits
- Remain bona fide farm purpose exempt from county zoning even if sales of up to 25% nonfarm product (burden of proof on farmer)
- Eligible for a higher percentage of cost share funds under N.C.G.S. § 143-215.74(b)

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Other Benefits of EVAD

- "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" is a bona fide farm purpose
- Priority consideration for grants from state departments, institutions or agencies

NC Cooperative Extension

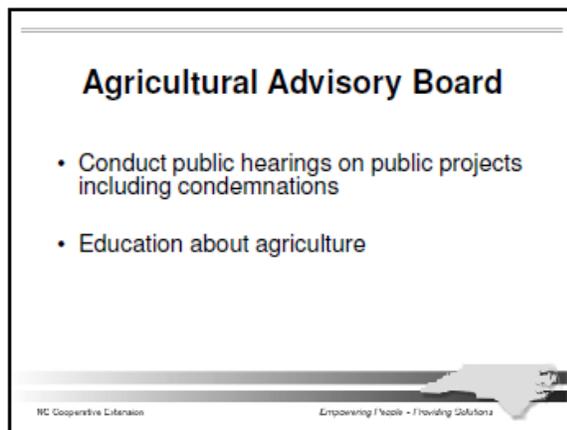
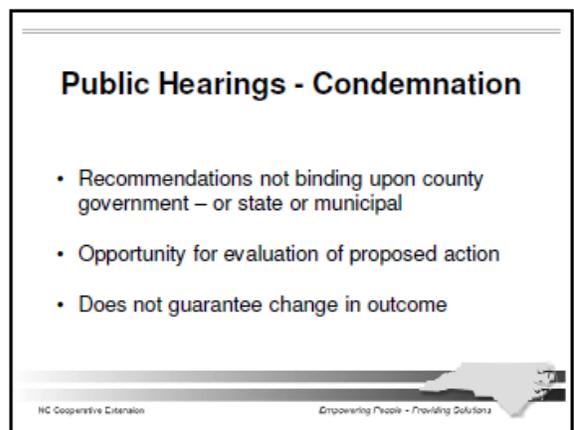
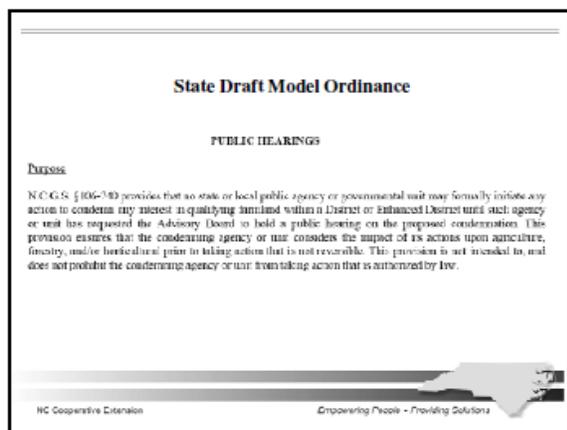
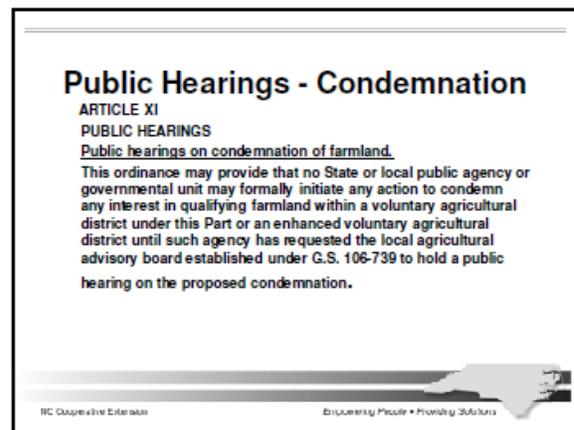
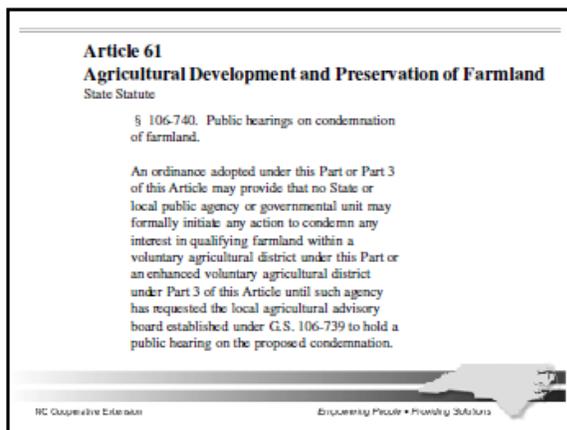
Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Other Benefits of VAD/EVAD

- Municipalities may amend zoning ordinances to provide flexibility to farms in a district
- Education about agriculture
- Official role in county/municipal government

NC Cooperative Extension

Empowering People • Providing Solutions



Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to approve the amendments to the Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance in principal to be brought back at the next meeting (September 4, 2012) in final form for final approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and duly carried with all present voting “AYE.”

Mr. Mitchell thanked Commissioners who attended North Carolina Association of County Commissioner’s conference and attended the Horn of Plenty dinner. The event featured local foods from a variety of North Carolina counties including Franklin.

4. DISSOLUTION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Franklin County Animal Advisory Board voted and requested that the Board of Commissioners dissolve the Animal Advisory Board.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to dissolve the Franklin County Animal Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Dunston.

Commissioner Bunn expressed appreciation to those who have served the Animal Advisory Board and asked that Commissioner Lancaster’s motion to be amended to include placement of a plaque or certificate expressing gratitude to that Board to be placed on display at the Franklin County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Lancaster

agreed to amend his motion, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Mitchell thanked the Animal Advisory Board for its many years of work.

5. APPOINTMENTS

Research Triangle Regional Partnership Board of Directors

The Board was asked to consider the reappointment of Mr. David Williams to the RTRP Board of Directors. Mr. Williams agreed to serve a two-year term that will expire June 30, 2014.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to reappoint Mr. David Williams to the RTRP Board of Directors for two-year term that would expire June 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swanson and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chairman Mitchell called attention to a document provided by the Clerk to the Board that included proposed dates for future Board of Equalization and Review meetings. He asked that the Board coordinate their availability individually with the Clerk.
- Commissioner Bunn stated there had been discussions in the past regarding the consolidation of County offices and said he would like to review options again as a possible cost saving measure for the County.
- Commissioner Bunn asked if the money recently returned to the County by former Franklin County Sheriff Pat Green would be given specifically to the Sheriff's Office. Franklin County Finance Director Chuck Murray stated he was not certain at this time and would need to confer with the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) before money is earmarked. Payment came after Pat Green plead guilty to two felony counts of embezzlement and was sentenced to three to five years in prison for taking more than \$221,000 from the County. As part of the plea deal, Mr. Green also agreed to repay all the money owed.
- Commissioner Dunston asked for an update regarding an issue at the Animal Shelter regarding misappropriation of monies. County Attorney Pete Tomlinson stated the case is being investigated with the SBI.

7. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK'S COMMENTS

This was the time set aside for the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Clerk to the Board to report on various activities. The Board may also discuss other items of interest.

County Clerk Kristen G. King: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Lancaster: Commissioner Lancaster stated he attended the recent North Carolina Association of County Commissioner's (NCACC) conference as a voting delegate. He stated Howard Hunter III (Hertford County) will now serve as President of the Association. Ray Jeffers (Person County) is President Elect. Ronnie Beale (Macon County) is First Vice President. Glen Webb (Pitt County) is Second Vice President. A commissioner from Person County will now serve as the District 8 Director for the NCACC, formerly held by Commissioner Lancaster. District 8 includes Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren Counties.

Commissioner Jones: Commissioner Jones commented on his attendance at the NCACC conference. He said he values what he learned there.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston attended the NCACC conference. He was educated about basic law enforcement training and said he gained an appreciation for the split second decisions that must be made by law enforcement professionals.

Commissioner Foy: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Mitchell: Commissioner Mitchell attended several educational seminars at the annual NCACC conference. He said he would be following up with department heads regarding some of what he learned. Commissioner Mitchell stated he recently welcomed 86 new teachers to the county at the New Teacher's Luncheon sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. He also mentioned an event scheduled for October 28, 2012 at Triangle North Executive Airport celebrating 50 years of service by the Franklin County Fireman's Association.

Commissioner Swanson: No comments were offered.

County Manager Angela L. Harris:

- Mrs. Harris stated Franklin County was recognized for the second consecutive year for its best Liability and Property claims experience for a large county for policy year 2011-2012. The recognition was offered at the NCACC annual conference.
- Mrs. Harris commented on the participation of Franklin County Cooperative Extension at the NCACC's annual conference event known as the "Horn of Plenty." Local foods from Franklin County were included in the meal.
- Mrs. Harris commented on the completion of the comprehensive development draft plan. She said the document would be presented to the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Government's board on August 23, 2012. The document will be presented at a later date to Franklin County by Mr. Rick Seekins.
- Mrs. Harris commented on the retirement of Mr. Pete Stallings. Mr. Stallings retired from the Maintenance Department.
- Mrs. Harris stated she participated in a webinar on sequestration.
- Mrs. Harris mentioned the Tar River Festival is scheduled for September 8, 2012.
- Mrs. Harris commented on the status of the YouthBuild grant application. She stated unfortunately Franklin did not receive the grant.
- Mrs. Harris noted Finance Director Chuck Murray serves on the Finance Officers Association. She said Mr. Murray served on the planning committee for the association's annual conference and commended him for going above and beyond his duties.

8. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was asked to consider entering into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4), to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

At approximately 7:45 P.M., Commissioner Swanson made the motion to enter into closed session pursuant to the statute listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion carried 5 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting "NO."

Following closed session at approximately 8:16 P.M., Commissioner Dunston made a motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Mitchell stated no action was taken.

At approximately 8:16 P.M., Commissioner Dunston made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

E. Shane Mitchell, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

(blank)