

December 7, 2015

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 Sidney E. Dunston, Commissioners John M. May, Cedric K. Jones, Harry L. Foy, Jr., David T. Bunn and Don Lancaster. Vice-Chairman E. Shane Mitchell was absent.

Chairman Dunston called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to County Attorney Pete Tomlinson to conduct the Election of Officers.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Tomlinson opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner May nominated Commissioner Dunston to serve as Chairman. With no further nominations received, nominations were closed. The nomination duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE." Commissioner Dunston was elected to serve as Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Tomlinson then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Dunston nominated Commissioner Jones to serve as Vice-Chairman. With no further nominations received, nominations were closed. The nomination duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE." Commissioner Jones was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Tomlinson turned the meeting over to Chairman Dunston who then asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

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

The following items were approved.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- B. Consider TDA (Tourism Development Authority) request to fund a \$5,000 for the Jack Johnson Story: The Night It Happened
- C. Budget Ordinance Amendment #6 (Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Officer is requesting a budget ordinance amendment in the amount of \$70,166 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 to amend the General Fund.)
- D. Recertification of North State Medical Transport, Bunn, White Level and Youngsville Rescue Franchises. It is not recommended the Board recertify franchise agreements with Louisburg and Franklinton due to correspondence stating their operations would discontinue December 31, 2015.
- E. Public Officials and Employee Bonds

3. 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.

Pamela Hayes, 21 Hayes Brothers Way, Louisburg, NC

- Ms. Hayes thanked the Board of Commissioners for its longstanding support of Louisburg Rescue. She said the group was disbanding due to lack of funding. The following letter was offered by Ms. Hayes and made part of the record at the request of Chairman Dunston. Chairman Dunston also called for a moment of silence in honor of the late Asher Johnson, a founding member of the Louisburg Rescue Squad.

Louisburg Rescue & EMS, Inc

Departure Letter

December 7, 2015

It is with a heavy heart I put my fingers to the keys of this computer and type this letter, Louisburg Rescue is closing due to a lack of funds.

As the founder of Louisburg Rescue, Mr. Asher Johnson came to the end of his journey on earth so does the legacy he was so much a part of.

In 1948 Mr. Johnson and a group of other young men saw a need for a rescue service in Louisburg and went about the business of establishing the organization that is Louisburg Rescue. It was one of the first rescue services developed in the state of North Carolina. These men were volunteers dedicated to coming to the aid of the citizens of Franklin County and surrounding areas. Back in those days employers would allow these volunteers to leave their jobs to go help someone in an emergency situation. Those were the days of "swoop and scoop" care, first aid, splints and bandages, water accident recoveries, and if you were found in cardiac arrest it was over for you.

This was a time before computers, pagers, and cell phones. There was a siren in town which could be heard for several miles that was set off to alert the rescuers and firemen of a call. I grew up on a farm and remember hearing that siren go off many times while we were working in the fields.

A lot has changed since those days. The volunteers of the area rescue squads in Franklin County must become a certified EMT by the state of North Carolina to be able to get on an ambulance and treat patients. There are different levels of EMT status, which entails hours of time and training, followed up by 36 hours a year continued education classes. All of this is volunteer/unpaid time. Protocols have been set for patient care and treatment which include starting IVs, administering medications, placing patients on cardiac monitors, going further than just CPR in the field by attempting to revive a patient in cardiac arrest using defibrillation.

Many men and women have dedicated their time and energy as volunteers to Louisburg Rescue and other area volunteer rescue squads in Franklin County. Closing the doors of this organization is a very sad day after about 68 years of operation in Franklin County. When the doors of the organization that is Louisburg Rescue close it will be gone. There will be no more Louisburg Rescue & EMS, Inc.

Louisburg Rescue was under the direction and receiving some funding from the Town of Louisburg several years ago. In 1999 Louisburg Rescue Service was separated from the Town of Louisburg and became incorporated at that time, thus the name Louisburg Rescue & EMS, Inc. After separating from the Town of Louisburg the rescue was allowed to remain in the same building but received no more funding from the Town of Louisburg after a few years. The operating funds of Louisburg Rescue & EMS were then received from Franklin County, Fund Drives, and donations and they were sincerely

appreciated. The donations and fund drives assisted in paying for equipment outside the budget requests such as purchasing ambulances, Hurst tools, boats for water rescue, and funding Matching Funds Grant purchases.

In the past few years the funding of the area volunteer rescue squads by Franklin County has been declining causing a drop in the morale of the volunteers as members feel they are not appreciated. The funding of Louisburg Rescue and other squads ceased July 1, 2015. This along with family obligations and members working 2 and 3 jobs to survive has resulted in further decline in participation as members feel they are not appreciated.

The volunteers of Louisburg Rescue thank all the citizens of Franklin County for their continued support over the years of this service and are saddened and deeply regret it must come to a close.

Again we thank you all!

4. APPOINTMENTS

Board of Health

The Board was asked to consider appointing Cletus Simpson to the Board of Health.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to appoint Cletus Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Dunston offered comments relative to healthcare in Franklin County following the recent close of Novant Franklin Medical Center. He thanked Emergency Services Director Jeff Lewis, Sheriff Kent Winstead and their staff for a commendable effort to ensure the welfare of citizens.

He noted Novant approached the county approximately one year ago with the intent to reduce services. At that time, he said commissioners and staff immediately set out to examine possibilities with hopes of finding a party interested in replacing services offered by the hospital. He said larger hospitals as well as legislative representatives had been contacted for assistance. At the start of October, 2015, he said the county was given a one week notice that Novant planned to shutdown October 16, 2015. Since that time, he said commissioners/staff had been vigorously working to locate a party interested in the hospital facility in order to operate a health facility with an emergency room, imaging services as well as operating and recovery rooms.

Chairman Dunston wants citizens to be assured commissioners/staff are doing everything possible, in a sustainable way, to fill the void left by Novant. He said negotiations will continue with Novant as they maintain a presence in the county until December 31, 2015 when the county takes over the hospital.

6. 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: Mrs. King reminded the Board of the Employee Service Recognition Ceremony scheduled December 9, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at Vance Granville Community College. The Board was also reminded of a luncheon with the Franklin County School Board scheduled for December 11, 2015.

Commissioner Foy: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner May: Commissioner May commented on his attendance at recent meetings of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Social Services Board, and Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity. Additionally, he commented on his attendance of recent holiday parades and steering committee meetings for Owens Park.

Commissioner Jones: Commissioner Jones attended a recent meeting of the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Mitchell: Commissioner Mitchell was absent.

Commissioner Dunston: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Lancaster: No comments were offered.

County Manager Angela L. Harris: Mrs. Harris shared the following information:

- Mrs. Harris stated the Lake Royale Property Owner's Association is pursuing a grant to dredge Lake Royale. She stated the County would be the grant applicant and responsible for grant management if awarded. The opportunity is being explored and will be brought before the Board in January, 2016.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was asked to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privileged Communication.

Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privileged Communication. The motion was seconded by Commissioner May and was approved 5 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting “NO.”

The Board entered closed session at approximately 7:40 P.M.

At approximately 8:32 P.M., following closed session, Commissioner Bunn made a motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting “AYE.”

Chairman Dunston noted Commissioner Mitchell was absent due to medical reasons. He then congratulated the Bunn High School Wildcats for their regional victory.

Commissioner Jones then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bunn. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting “AYE”

Sidney E. Dunston, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board