

January 19, 2016

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

Chairman Dunston called the meeting to order and asked the Board to consider an amendment to the consent agenda to include an Amended Grant Project Ordinance – FY 11 Community Development Program Scattered Site Housing Project.

Commissioner Foy made the motion to add the item to the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner May. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

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

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

The following items were approved.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. December 11, 2015 Minutes
- B. January 4, 2016 Minutes
- C. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- D. Amended Grant Project Ordinance – FY 11 Community Development Program Scattered Site Housing Project

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. No comments were offered.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Dunston said he was aware of misinformation being shared regarding the closing of Novant Franklin Medical Center and offered a brief history in order to offer clarity and understanding of how and why the hospital was transferred to ownership of the county.

In previous years the county owned the hospital which was later sold in 1986 to HMA (Health Management Associates) of Naples, Florida. At that time the entire facility was sold with the caveat the property would revert ownership to the county (if it ever ceased to operate as a hospital) with consideration the county would pay for any improvements made to the property.

HMA later sold the hospital to Novant Health Services. Chairman Dunston noted the county had nothing to do with the operation nor hospital property at that time.

Chairman Dunston noted Novant made a business decision to close the hospital and informed the public the Board of Commissioners only became involved with the hospital closing when Novant vacated the facility on December 31, 2015 with little notice. A prompt search began to locate a replacement but the search was unsuccessful. Since that time he said the county had been in successful negotiations with Novant who recently agreed to a settlement that included \$1.6 million to assist with the operation of ambulances that must now travel extra distances to outlying areas for emergency services. The funds will also assist the Sheriff's Office with its assistance of care for mental health patients. He noted the settlement was intended to help bridge the gap between Novant's closing and the county's attempts to locate a new provider. Novant agreed to maintain the property for one year as well as supply security. Equipment was also left operational for use by the next provider.

4. 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 Foy: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner May: Commissioner May recently attended the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce as well as a local celebration in honor of Martin Luther King. He asked Assistant County Manager Elton Daniels to provide an update on public input meetings for Owens Park at Bull Creek. Mr. Daniels said a second meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. At that time, public input will be obtained regarding future plans for the park. Park survey results will be shared at the meeting.

Commissioner Jones: Commissioner Jones commented on his attendance at several Martin Luther King celebrations in the community.

Commissioner Mitchell: Commissioner Mitchell was absent.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston attended several local Martin Luther King celebrations as well as the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce. He commented on a recent project completed at the Franklin County Animal Shelter in which the shelter received an "extreme makeover" by the NC 158 Legacy Center Team. Volunteers completed the project within 24 hours at no cost to the county. The value of improvements is estimated at \$220,000. Commissioner Dunston also commented on his attendance of the spring convocation at Louisburg College and a visit with students at Edward Best Elementary School.

Commissioner Lancaster: Commissioner Lancaster was absent.

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

- Mrs. Harris said she is proud of planning efforts being made for Owens Park at Bull Creek. She encouraged Board members to attend the upcoming public input meeting scheduled for January 21, 2016.
- Relative to comments made earlier by Chairman Dunston regarding a settlement with Novant Franklin Medical Center, Mrs. Harris said in addition to the maintenance, Novant has agreed to pay up to \$36,000 per month to insure the building until such time another buyer is located or the one year deadline has been met.

Commissioner Bunn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner May. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Sidney E. Dunston, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board