

October 19, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for its Regular Meeting at 5:00 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 E. Shane Mitchell, Commissioners John M. May, Cedric K. Jones, David T. Bunn, Don Lancaster and Harry L. Foy, Jr.

Chairman Dunston called the meeting to order and asked the Board to consider removing Item 3 (Funding Request – Sheriff's Department Vehicles) from the agenda.

Commissioner Bunn made the motion to remove Item 3 (Funding Request – Sheriff's Department Vehicles) from the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

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

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

The items approved are as follows.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. September 21, 2015 Minutes
- B. October 5, 2015 Minutes
- C. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report

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.

Felix Allen, 408 North Main Street, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Allen made comments relative to the recent closing of Franklin Regional Medical Center. He said Franklin County Government is failing its citizens and felt the physical facilities of the county have or are currently undergoing stop gap measures in order to remain in operation and serve the public. Mr. Allen stated the school system is less than favorable and felt the county's industrial development program had stagnated. He feels it is time for commissioners and citizens to make difficult choices in order to put the county back on a progressive path. He suggested county employees need better facilities to enable them to efficiently perform their duties. He felt schools need funding to entice great teachers and administrators. Mr. Allen said the industrial development program needs energy and enthusiasm and imaginative leadership. He suggested "status quo" is no longer acceptable and feels sacrifices must be made in order to be successful. He encouraged the Board to develop a multi-year plan to place the county on a path to progress.

~~3. FUNDING REQUEST – SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLES~~

~~The Sheriff is requesting funds from the Federal Inmates Fund to purchase new vehicles.~~

~~ACTION REQUESTED: Consider approval.~~

4. APPOINTMENTS

A. Firefighters' Relief Fund Board of Trustees

Jeff Lewis, Emergency Services Director, asked the Board to consider appointments to the respective individual Local Firefighters' Relief Fund Board of Trustees to include the following:

Bunn Fire District:

Robert Moore (2 year term)
Kevin Alford (1 year term)

Centerville Fire District:

Herbert Gene Leonard, Jr. (2 year term)
Shad Leonard (1 year term)

Epsom Fire District:

Ray Merritt (2 year term)
Charles Hilliard (1 year term)

Franklinton (Northwest Franklin Fire District):

Michael Devall (2 year term)
David Robbins (1 year term)

Gold Sand Fire District:

Trey Hale (2 year term)
Rodney Hilliard (1 year term)

Justice Fire District:

Warren Harris (2 year term)
Greg Lloyd (1 year term)

Mitchiners Crossroads Fire District:

Richard Hoyle (2 year term)
Joe Jenkins (1 year term)

Pilot Fire District:

Gerald Jones (2 year term)
Kenny Williams (1 year term)

White Level Fire District:

Delton Nelms (2 year term)
Billy Brewer (1 year term)

Youngsville (Western Franklin Fire District):

Fred Wheeler, Jr. (2 year term)
Scott White (1 year term)

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve all suggested appointments to the Firefighters' Relief Fund Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

5. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to comments made earlier in the evening by Mr. Felix Allen, Commissioner Lancaster agreed the county needs a long-range plan that focuses on industrial and economic development. As a result, the Board directed staff to begin organizing a planning retreat.

Commissioner Foy inquired about next steps following the recent closing of Franklin Regional Medical Center. Chairman Dunston responded by saying there are legal issues regarding the closure that would later be discussed in closed session with the county attorney. Chairman Dunston recommended the board designate a spokesperson to answer questions and make

comments relative to the hospital closing. He suggested the board designate the county manager as spokesperson.

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: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Foy: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner May: Commissioner May agreed with comments made by Commissioner Lancaster regarding a board retreat. In addition, he suggested the board meet with each municipality to discuss common interests and how to progressively move the county forward.

Commissioner Jones: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Mitchell: No comments were offered.

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 commented on the recent closing of Franklin Regional Medical Center and stated ownership of the hospital would revert back to the county on December 31, 2015. She asked staff to comment on ways the closing would affect services such as emergency services, social services, law enforcement and economic development.

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 May 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 Jones and was approved 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting “NO.”

The Board entered closed session at approximately 5:50 P.M.

At approximately 6:32 P.M., following closed session, Commissioner Bunn made a motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner May. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting “AYE.”

Relative to the recent closing of Franklin Regional Medical Center, County Manager Angela L. Harris said county officials will continue to explore all possible avenues in an effort to identify a health care provider to occupy the now vacant facility. Officials will continue to work with Novant to obtain detailed information about the facility with the goal of locating a provider to meet the needs of the community. Mrs. Harris said avenues are being explored at the local, state and federal level as well as private partnerships. She noted staff would provide periodic updates as progress is made and expects to soon receive an inventory of Novant’s facility and overview of

contract. Mrs. Harris said she and the Board want to make the public aware county government is working to address health needs in Franklin.

At 6:34 P.M., Commissioner Lancaster 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