

October 7, 2013

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 Sidney E. Dunston, Commissioners Harry L. Foy, Jr., David T. Bunn, John M. May, Cedric K. Jones and Don Lancaster.

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Foy asked to remove Item 1-C from the consent agenda for discussion.

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

The items approved follow.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. August 5, 2013 Minutes
- B. September 16, 2013 Minutes
- ~~C. Consider TDA (Tourism Development Authority) request to fund a \$5,000 grant for the Allen de Hart Concert Series~~
- D. 2014 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Regarding Item 1-C, Commissioner Foy asked if the Tourism Development Authority grant request would be given to a non-profit for the Allen de Hart Concert Series. Finance Director Chuck Murray stated the grant would be provided to Louisburg College, a non-profit organization. Commissioner Foy takes issue with funding grants to organizations that are for-profit.

Commissioner Foy made a motion to approve Item 1-C (Consider Tourism Development Authority request to fund a \$5,000 grant for the Allen de Hart Concert Series), seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

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. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FINANCING PROPOSALS FOR JAIL RENOVATIONS

Commissioner Foy made a motion to call for the public hearing on November 4, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

4. DISCUSSION: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITIONS

The Board received an update on a recent administrative meeting held with Superintendent Dr. Randy Bridges and Franklin County Schools' staff regarding school safety needs, specifically the need for additional school resource officers (SROs).

County Manager Angela L. Harris stated a meeting was held recently with County representatives and school staff to discuss the need for SROs. The school system has applied for a grant from the state that would fund two SROs for a two-year timeframe if awarded. She said the proposal would supply a roving SRO to be shared between Laurel Mill and Edward Best Elementary Schools. The second SRO would be shared between Royal and Long Mill Elementary Schools. If the grant is awarded, four elementary schools would be without SROs including Franklinton, Youngsville, Bunn and Louisburg Elementary Schools. She said a number of options were discussed including sharing one SRO between Franklinton and Youngsville and another between Bunn and Louisburg. She said Sheriff Jerry Jones indicated he would provide officers as best he could with existing staff for the remainder of the fiscal year. She also noted a match for the grant is required.

Sheriff Jones was in attendance. He stated he had reached out to Police Chiefs in each of the three municipalities involved and said all are in cooperation. He confirmed that if the grant was awarded, he would reposition qualified staff for the remainder of the fiscal year in order to have a total of four SROs serving elementary schools. The Sheriff indicated he had spare patrol vehicles that could be used by the officers and said the need for SROs would need further discussion in the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner May asked if SROs would be used in other ways when schools are out of session. Sheriff Jones confirmed the officers would be used for other purposes when school is out of session.

Sheriff Jones confirmed SROs could/would be pulled out of schools in the occurrence of a major event within law enforcement service and vice versa.

Mrs. Harris indicated she had spoken with each Town Manager. Out of those conversations came a recommendation to have an SRO cover both elementary and middle schools. Mrs. Harris said at this time she feels the goal is to meet needs in the most cost effective manner. She suggested a further explanation be provided regarding at-risk money identified for the grant. She said a better understanding is needed of what services would be given up if at-risk money continues to be used to fund SRO positions.

Chairman Mitchell stated he spoke with some commissioners from various municipalities and said even though he was met with some concern, all were on board will sharing officers and acknowledged it is best from a financial standpoint at this time.

Doug Moore, Franklin County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, stated the amount of at-risk money provided by the state would not cover the cost of an SRO. He stated the four schools chosen for the grant were selected because they are located in remote areas of the county which translates to longer response times by the Sheriff's Department. He said the total amount requested from the state is \$59,801. He said \$56,000 of the money is actually to be designated for the SRO. The difference would be used for training. He said a match is required. He said the school system has committed the other \$56,275 out of at-risk student service money which is the funding source that has funded the original six SROs already in use.

Mr. Moore stated at-risk student service money is the funding source for many SROs, provides in school suspension personnel at middle and high schools and covers the cost of the Creative Education Center and other programs. He said it is the one source of funding the state has not cut.

Chairman Mitchell stated the meeting with school staff was not only about the need for SROs but school safety as a whole. He said he felt the proposal to share SROs between elementary schools was the best scenario and most economical at this time. He said other safety measures are being examined as well.

After a recent visit to one of the county's schools, Commissioner Dunston suggested the monitoring system be revisited.

Mr. Moore said the school should know whether or not the grant was awarded by the first or second week of November, 2013.

Commissioner May made a motion to move forward with the County offering a grant match of \$56,275 for the SRO positions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foy and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Mrs. Harris noted Interim Superintendent Dr. Randy Bridges wanted to extend to the Board of Commissioners an invitation to a breakfast meeting on October 30, 2013 at 8:00 A.M. The meeting would be open to the public.

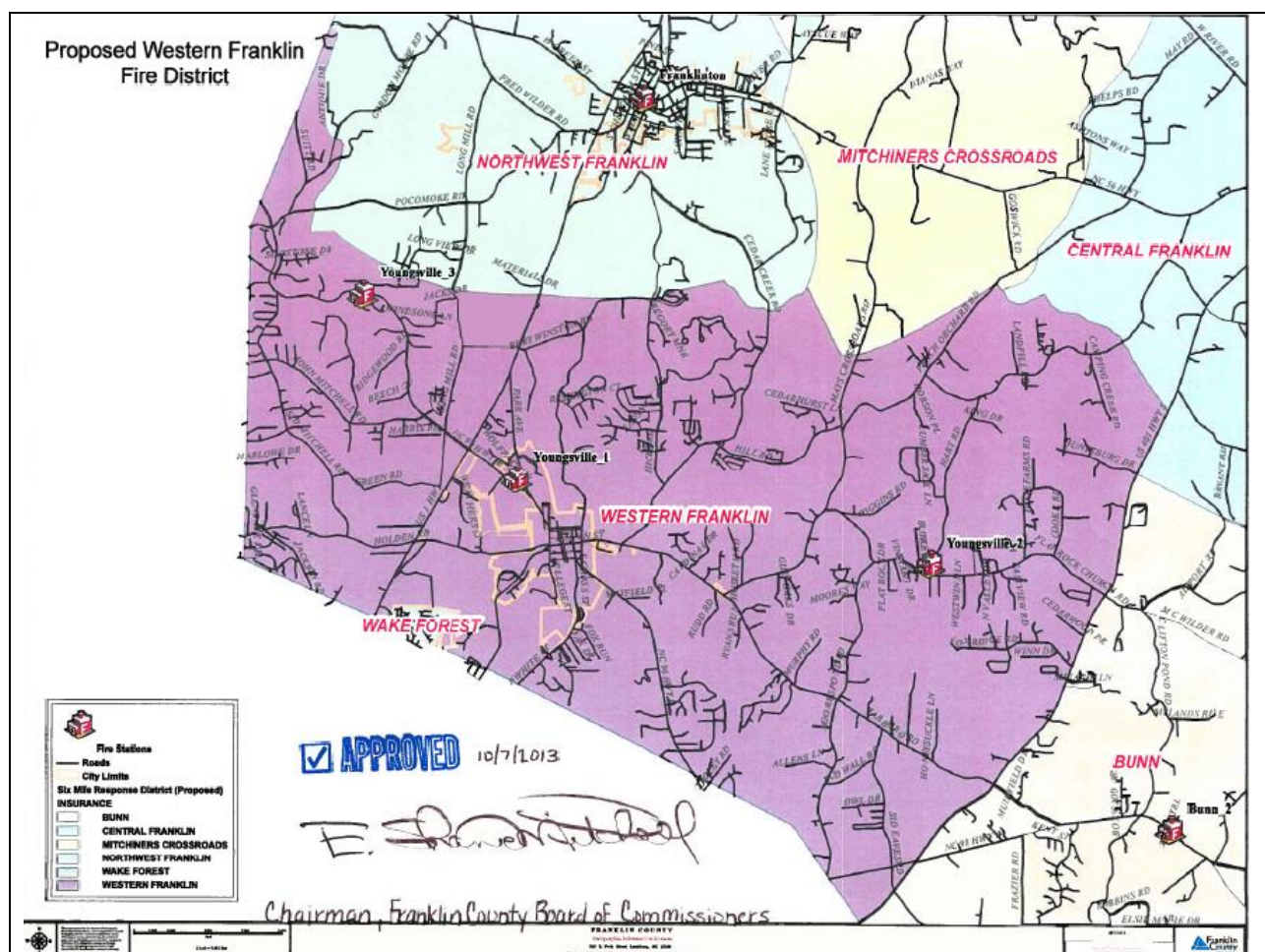
Commissioner Jones asked if there is a long-range plan for school safety. Tommy Piper, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, provided a brief synopsis of actions currently being taken to improve security.

5. WESTERN FRANKLIN RESPONSE DISTRICT MAP REVISION

Jeff Lewis, Emergency Services Director, asked to approve revisions to a map of the Western Franklin Fire District response area serviced by Youngsville Fire Department Station 3. If approved, the map would be submitted to the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal and used to set homeowner's fire insurance rates. Approving the revisions would improve fire insurance rates for homeowners in the area currently known as the Brassfield District.

Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to approve revisions to the Western Franklin Response District Map. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

The approved map is below.



6. OTHER BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

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 Foy: Commissioner Foy said he attended the annual Senior Fun Day held in Louisburg. Commissioner Foy then asked for an update on a legal issue regarding the Animal Control Department. County Manager Angela L. Harris stated the Board would later be briefed in closed session.

Commissioner Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Dunston: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Lancaster: Commissioner Lancaster provided a welcome at the annual Senior Fun Day held at Riverbend Park in Louisburg. He said the event was well attended.

Commissioner Jones: Commissioner Jones recently attended an open house/reception at Franklin Manor Dementia/Memory Care in Youngsville.

Commissioner May: Commissioner May attended the following events:

- Committee of 100 Banquet/Meeting
- Youth fundraiser at Saints Delight Church
- Centerville Firemen's Day
- Department of Social Services Board meeting
- White Level youth fundraiser
- Franklin County Firefighter's Association banquet
- Shriner's Fish Fry
- Franklin County Boys and Girls Club banquet
- White Level Fire Department Fish Fry

Commissioner Mitchell: No comments were offered.

County Manager Angela L. Harris: Mrs. Harris commented on the following:

- Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions will conduct community forums in Halifax, Granville, Vance, Warren and Franklin counties to gather feedback on mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services. In Franklin County, the forum is scheduled for October 29, 2013 at the Franklin County Administration Building from 5:00-7:00 P.M.
- Vance Granville Community College has invited the Board to a dinner prior to its Board meeting on November 18, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.
- Mrs. Harris shared a video provided by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. The video provided an update on Steering Committees and how commissioners can participate as well as an overview of an upcoming seminar on the Affordable Care Act and how it affects counties and the Association's Risk Management Services.
- Mrs. Harris shared a photograph with the Board that depicts a new plotter recently purchased and used in the County's GIS (Geographic Information System) department.

8. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was asked to consider entering into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

At approximately 7:58 P.M., Commissioner Dunston made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried approval with a 6 to 1 vote. Commissioner Foy voted "NO."

At approximately 8:52 P.M., Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Bunn. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Mitchell announced the Board had asked County Attorney Pete Tomlinson to respond and negotiate with the Department of Agriculture regarding letters of violation it sent to the Animal Control Department.

Chairman Mitchell then called on Emergency Communications Director Christy Shearin and Harris Corporation representative Kevin Desmond for an update on the E911 project. It was reported the radio system is nearing completion and that problematic areas are continuing to be addressed as they are identified.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:08 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

E. Shane Mitchell, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

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