

**FEBRUARY 2, 1998**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:30 P. M. in the Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood Courthouse Annex with the following Commissioners present: Chairman James G. Hardy, Vice Chairman James T. Moss, Jr., Commissioner Harry L. Foy, Jr., Commissioner Robert L. Swanson, Commissioner George T. Wynne.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Moss with all present voting "AYE" duly carried the minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 1998, approved.

Proper notice having been given this is the time and place set for a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the octennial revaluation of property which is mandated by North Carolina General Statute 105-286.

Chairman Hardy declared public hearing open and stated that Mr. Mike Sparks, representative of the ColeLayer-Trumble Company, the company which was contracted to conduct the revaluation, was present to answer any questions which may arise regarding the company's role in the revaluation process. Chairman Hardy then called for public comments and the following people spoke:

- 1) Mr. David Woodard, 189 Mulberry Road, Spring Hope, NC 27882  
someone must be accountable to the citizens; taxes too high; the Legislature must remove some of the mandates that are passed to the counties to enable the counties to lower the tax rates
- 2) Mr. Grady Macon, 1825 Tarboro Road, Youngsville, NC 27596  
addressed his comments and questions to Mr. Mike Sparks; questioned the number of parcels that were revalued in the process; during the appeal hearings when errors were found, why were they not changed; all property owners were not aware that company representatives had visited their property

Chairman Hardy called for further comments and hearing none declared public hearing closed.

Mr. Gene Allen, Superintendent of Schools, on behalf of the Board of Education, and pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 115C-426 (f), appeared before the Board to ask approval of the Board of Commissioners as to the amount to be spent for a school site. The Board of Education was requesting approval for a site for the Louisburg Elementary School at the corner of the Stone/Southerland Road and North Carolina Highway 39 South. The request was to purchase 22 acres at \$15,000 per acre with funding to be provided from State Bond Funds.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded Wynne with all present voting "AYE" duly carried upon the recommendation of the Board of Education approve the purchase of 22 acres, at \$15,000 per acre, at the corner of Stone/Southerland Road and North Carolina Highway 39 South, as the site for the location of Louisburg Elementary School.

County Attorney Batton reported to the Board on the results of the recent polygraph examinations that were administered to an employee of the Franklin County Tax Collector's Office and to a taxpayer, Mr. Raymond Strickland. Mr. Strickland had alleged that he had paid

his 1996 real estate tax bill twice and the Tax Collector's Office employee maintained that Mr. Strickland had not. The test was administered by Mr. Steve Davenport of Davenport Associates. Mr. Davenport reported that the Tax Collector's Office employee's exam revealed no physiological reactions indicative of deception and that distortions by Mr. Raymond Strickland due to his body movements and failure to provide yes or no answers as instructed caused inconclusive results. Mr. Batton stated that even though the results of Mr. Strickland's examination were inconclusive that did not necessarily indicate deception on his part. Mr. Batton further

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stated that due to the fact that the exam of the Tax Collector's Office employee revealed no indication of deception and the absence of documentation he was of the opinion that there was no legal basis for considering a refund to the taxpayer as Mr. Strickland had requested.

The Board was presented a list of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that constitute a lien on real property. Deputy Tax Collector Bobbie Gravitt had prepared this list and requested that the Board order that these tax liens be advertised in the newspaper.

Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Swanson with all present voting "AYE" duly carried order the Deputy Tax Collector to publish the tax liens in the Saturday, March 14, 1998, edition of the newspaper.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Moss with all present voting "AYE" duly carried accept the report of taxes collected for the month of January, 1998.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Moss with all present voting "AYE" duly carried approve the list of tax releases for the month of December, 1997 and the list of tax releases for the month of January, 1998.

County Manager Leary advised the Board that a property owner at Lake Royale had offered to deed Lot No. 2919 to the County. Mr. Leary stated that if the County accepted this offer that the County would no longer receive taxes for this property.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Wynne with all present voting "AYE" duly carried decline offer-that Lot No. 2919 at Lake Royale be deeded to Franklin County.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wynne, seconded by Commissioner Swanson with all present voting "AYE" duly carried that as an example for other county employees and pursuant to the Substance Abuse Policy adopted by the Board on January 5, 1998, that each member of the Board undergo a drug test within the next thirty days.

The Board discussed the need for County departments to be audited on a regular basis. The Chairman requested that the County Manager formulate a recommendation on the best way to accomplish this and bring it back to the Board at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the Board, adjournment recorded at 8:30 P. M.

