

NOVEMBER 9, 2001

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina met in Recessed Session at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Vice Chairman George T. Wynne, Commissioner John R. Ball, Commissioner Harry L. Foy, Jr., Commissioner Edward G. Strickland.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wynne, seconded by Commissioner Ball, voting "AYE" Commissioner Wynne, Commissioner Ball, Commissioner Strickland, Commissioner Swanson, voting "NO" Commissioner Foy the Board went into Closed Session pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications of a prospective public employee.

Upon motion by Commissioner Strickland, seconded by Commissioner Wynne with all present voting "AYE" duly carried the Board reconvened in Regular Session and Chairman Swanson stated that no action was necessary as a result of the Closed Session.

Mr. Dave Munden, Franklin County Recreation Director, Mr. Guy Angster and Mr. Don Manta, representatives of Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Consulting Engineers, were in attendance to review with the Board bids received on October 23, 2001, for the Franklinton Area Park Project. The following bids were received:

S. T. Wooten Corporation	\$1,262,131.67
W. E. Garrison	\$1,338,713.00
D. A. Thomas Construction	\$1,149,500.00
H. G. Reynolds Company	\$1,296,194.00
Thompson Contracting	\$1,276,715.00
Faulkner Construction	\$1,229,952.00
R & G Construction Company	\$1,286,970.00
Blythe Development Company	\$1,182,300.00

Mr. Angster stated that his firm took responsibility for the bids being so out of line with the amount of funds that were available. He stated that changes required because of the Tar-Pamlico Riparian Area Protection & Maintenance Rule was one reason for the high bids. The North Carolina Department of Water Quality was also requiring a retaining wall to avoid disturbing the 50-foot buffer along a tributary to Billy's Creek that could cost in excess of \$84,000. He advised the County to request the Division of Water Quality to eliminate the need for that retaining wall. He further stated that he had met with County staff and adjustments in several areas had been made for a significant savings. He stated that in his opinion these were major adjustments and that the project should be rebid and there would be no charges for his firm's additional services.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Foy with all present voting "AYE" duly carried reject all bids received on October 23, 2001, for the Franklinton Area Park Project, rebid the project as designed by Consulting Engineers, Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern and request the Division of Water Quality to eliminate the retaining wall requirement pursuant to the Tar-Pamlico Riparian Area Protection & Maintenance Rule.

Sheriff Robert Redmond was in attendance to report on activities of the E-911 Committee. The Sheriff stated that a draft Request for Proposals had been prepared. Finance Director Chuck Murray had advised that in his opinion that General Statute 62A-8 does not allow any payment from E-911 funds for costs associated with dispatching the call from the E-911 Communication Center to emergency personnel. He

further stated that he felt it would be wise to ask the County Attorney to issue a legal opinion on this matter. The Committee recommends that the County not wait until May, 2002, when the General Assembly reconvenes to request again that the law be changed that would allow these funds to be used for this upgrade of communications

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2001---continued

equipment. If law is not changed, then the County will need to look for other sources of funding. Sheriff Redmond stated that he felt that the firm bidding on this equipment should come in and review and tell the County what is needed to eliminate the problems countywide. He stated that 95% of communication should be 95% of the time on walkie talkie. Feels that a communications expert should review the bids received prior to acceptance. Acting County Manager Harris recommended that an outside, unbiased engineering firm review the bids.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wynne, seconded by Commissioner Strickland with all present voting "AYE" duly carried that the County solicit proposals to update the County's public safety communications system and the bidders review and advise the County what will solve the problems and that a communications expert review the bids received.

Acting County Manager Harris requested the Board to establish a date to meet with representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the purpose of reviewing the Thoroughfare Plan. The Board set Monday, November 19, 2001, at 6:00 P. M. as the time to meet with the DOT officials to review the Thoroughfare Plan.

Mr. Jim Wrenn, Acting Tax Administrator, was in attendance to review with the Board the final draft of Franklin County's 2004 Specifications For Appraisal Of Property Preparation Of Tax Assessor's Manual And Property Record Cards.

Mr. Wrenn also requested that the Board consider approval of an additional Tax Clerk in the Tax Collection Office. Mr. Wrenn stated that the primary focus of this individual would be on customer service such as taking payments, answering the telephone and processing mail. This would enable one experienced employee to focus full time on enforced collection procedures such as garnishments, attachments and foreclosures.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Wynne, voting "AYE" Commissioner Ball, Commissioner Wynne, Commissioner Strickland, Commissioner Swanson, voting "NO" Commissioner Foy authorize a full time Tax Clerk in the Tax Collections Office effective December 1, 2001.

There being no further business to come before the Board adjournment recorded at 4:30 P. M.

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Robert L. Swanson, Chairman Jean Gordon, Clerk