

JANUARY 7, 2002

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:30 P. M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman John R. Ball, Vice Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Commissioner Harry L. Foy, Jr., Commissioner Edward G. Strickland, Commissioner George T. Wynne.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Foy with all present voting "AYE" duly carried the following Consent Agenda Items approved:

- A. Minutes of meetings held December 3, 10, 13 & 20, 2001
- B. Tax Collector's report for month of December, 2001
- C. Tax releases and refunds for month of December, 2001

Ms. Becky Leonard, Allied Health Supervisor, Franklin County Health Department, was recognized and congratulated on her selection as the Employee of the Year for 2001. Ms. Leonard was employed in 1990 and was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the quarter ending June, 2001.

The Board discussed the County's participation in State Tax Refund Debt Setoff Program. During the 1997 General Assembly session, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina League of Municipalities were successful in having enacted a legislative goal that would enable counties and cities to participate in the State's Income Tax Debt Setoff Program. The program permits counties and cities to submit any outstanding delinquent debt, \$50 or more, through a local government clearinghouse to the NC Department of Revenue to attempt to match these debts against individual income tax refunds. Contractual arrangements have been made with Five Star Computing, Inc., of Columbia, SC, to administer the program, and funds collected will be disbursed to each county through Capital Management of the Carolinas. The Board must adopt a resolution indicating their intention to participate in the program and designate a person to hold hearings and conduct necessary proceedings.

Upon motion by Commissioner Strickland, seconded by Commissioner Swanson with all present voting "AYE" duly carried adopt resolution of Franklin County's intention to participate in the State's Income Tax Debt Setoff Program and designate the Finance Director as the person to hold hearings and conduct necessary proceedings; that delinquent debt for Emergency Medical Services not be included in this program until the Board has discussed these payments; a copy of this resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Franklin County received notice of a tentative grant award in the amount of \$400,000 from the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance for a proposed FY 2002 Community Development Block Grant Community Revitalization Scattered Site Category project and as a result advertised for proposals to administer the grant. Proposals to provide general administration, housing inspection and housing activities management services were received from Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and Holland Consulting Planners, Inc. County Manager Self stated that the contracts were analyzed by the Management Team and they were in agreement that the bidders were equal and both have the experience and expertise to complete the project.

Upon motion by Commissioner Foy, seconded by Commissioner Strickland with all present voting "AYE" duly carried award contract to provide general administration, housing inspection and housing activities management services in connection with a proposed FY 2002 Community Development Block Grant Community Revitalization Scattered Site Category be awarded to Holland Consulting Planners,

Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$54,570.

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The Board must also appoint a Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Project Advisory Committee to be included as a part of the grant application. The committee members are selected from various categories including one Commissioner, two at large members and one member from each municipality. It was recommended that the Board appoint one Commissioner and two at large members and authorize staff in consultation with the Commissioner appointed to put together a list of committee members in accordance with the criteria spelled out in the grant.

Upon motion by Commissioner Strickland, seconded by Commissioner Swanson with all present voting "AYE" duly carried appoint Commissioner Foy and at large members Roxanne Bragg-Cash and Judy Hedgepeth and that staff in consultation with Commissioner Foy put together a list of CDBG Scattered Site Project Advisory Committee members in accordance with the criteria spelled out in the grant.

The Board of Commissioners adopted a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative, Comprehensive and Continuing Transportation Planning and the establishment of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for local governments in Region K. The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments was designated as the Region K Rural Transportation Planning Organization. As a part of the Rural Transportation Planning organizational structure a Rural Transportation Advisory Committee with elected officials serving as committee members. The term of office established is a one-year term for a Franklin County Commissioner with subsequent appointments for two years.

Chairman Ball called for nominations for a Commissioner to serve on the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Wynne nominated Commissioner Swanson to serve. Chairman Ball called for other nominations and hearing none declared nominations closed. Commissioner Swanson elected to serve by acclamation.

Mr. Pat Young, Project Manager, Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., was in attendance to review with the Board bids received and opened on December 27, 2001, for housing repair contractors for the rehabilitation of ten flood damaged homes in Franklin, Person, Durham and Warren Counties under Franklin County's Hurricane Floyd Crisis Housing Assistance Program. Mr. Young stated that the Board was being requested to adopt a resolution approving the award of contracts for nine houses. One house was outside the authorized range and is not recommended for award.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Foy with all present voting "AYE" duly carried adopt "Franklin County Resolution Approving The Award of Housing Rehabilitation Contracts Hurricane Floyd State Crisis Housing Assistance (CHA) Program"; resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Strickland with all present voting "AYE" duly carried Mr. Raymond Bragg appointed to serve a one-year term as an alternate on the Franklin County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Upon motion by Commissioner Foy, seconded by Commissioner Strickland with all present voting "AYE" duly carried Mr. Randy Likens appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Term to expire July, 2002.

Commissioner Ball reported to the Board on Mental Health Reform. He stated that the North Carolina

Association of County Commissioners would sponsor two meetings/training sessions in January. The purpose being to help commissioners understand their roles and responsibilities under the recently enacted reform legislation and help begin to model a local business plan.

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Commissioner Strickland reported that KARTS had purchased new software packages for all vehicles that would help with billings and accurate routes; also contracting to rent radio tower in Vance County in order that all vehicles can maintain contact with main office in Henderson.

Commissioner Swanson stated nothing to report from the Social Services Board; the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Board of Directors will be meeting on January 15.

Commissioner Foy stated that the Board of Health was continuing the search for a health director.

Upon motion by Commissioner Foy, seconded by Commissioner Swanson with all present voting "AYE" duly carried that the Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2002, be rescheduled to Tuesday, January 22, 2002, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday for Franklin County Government.

The Board discussed the status of the E-911 Project. The Board requested that County Manager Self review and analyze materials provided by consulting engineers at the Sheriff's request regarding the communications needs in the County. The Board further requested that County Manager Self provide them with an informational memorandum outlining the needs. This information also to be provided to the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Foy stated that he had received numerous telephone calls from citizens regarding the County providing office space in the Courthouse for retired Clerk of Court Ralph Knott. Commissioner Foy stated that he did not support Mr. Knott having an office in the Courthouse and hoped the Board would vote no on this issue.

Chairman Ball recognized Mr. Ralph Knott in order to make comments to the Board regarding his request for the office space. Stated he would spend 65-75 percent of time working for the County and in his estimation would cost \$50,000 if person hired to do what he would do. Had spent half his life working for the County; can produce; should be a business decision. Indicated he would spend 50% of time raising funds for Parks & Recreation; working for Vance-Granville Community College; helping citizens apply for disability for Social Security - representing them in Raleigh; listening to people when they just need someone to talk to; lobbying at the General Assembly; just wants County to provide an office; had the support of the three Democratic Commissioners was reason he had already set up office; if don't have an office will weaken power; Democrats need to stand up and be counted. Commissioner Strickland requested that County Attorney Batton comment on this matter. Mr. Batton stated that Commissioners could provide the office based on future services, not past services; there would be unlawful things prohibited such as helping with Social Security disability, counseling and any political activities; if a lease/contract is approved must be careful of mixing lawful and unlawful issues;

Mr. Bob Winters, Lake Royale, stated that Mr. Knott had done a fine job and worked hard for Franklin County, but Mr. Knott had also worked for himself and the Democratic Party. He was opposed to providing an office in the Courthouse for Mr. Knott.

Chairman Ball stated that in his conversations with Mr. Knott he had indicated that a contract would be

necessary. It was the consensus of the Board that the County Attorney draw up a contract between Mr. Knott and the County for use of an office in the Courthouse and that the Board not vote on this matter until the contract had been prepared. Mr. Knott then questioned if he would be allowed to use the office until such time the Board voted on the issue.

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Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Wynne, voting "AYE" Commissioner Swanson, Commissioner Wynne; voting "NO" Commissioner Ball, Commissioner Foy, Commissioner Strickland, that Mr. Ralph Knott not be allowed to continue using the office in the Courthouse until a contract is ready for approval.

There being no further business to come before the Board, adjournment recorded at 9:00 P. M.

John R. Ball, Chairman Jean Gordon, Clerk