

SPECIAL CALLED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**December 13, 2002**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met in a Special Called Meeting at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman John R. Ball, Vice-Chairman Harry L. Foy, Jr., Commissioner Raymond A. Stone, Commissioner Jimmie R. Gupton, and Commissioner Robert L. Swanson.

The purpose of this meeting was to update the Board on the ice storm and to discuss a resolution to the State and Federal governments seeking support and assistance in dealing with the crisis.

Chairman Ball opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Reginald Ponder, President, Louisburg College. Dr. Ponder spoke of the need for citizens in Franklin County to assist with the clean up from the ice storm. He offered the assistance of the college to the citizens in an effort for everyone to pitch in and work together.

Chairman Ball spoke stating there are a number of items regarding the tragedy that has struck our County and staff has done extraordinarily well assessing the damage throughout the County.

Angie Callihan, Director of Franklin County Emergency Management Services, was present to update the Board on the ice storm. She reported that on December 4th at 2:00 P.M. she called key officials to discuss the upcoming weather. The National Weather Service reported that the storm would be a 24-hour event. The Department of Social Services, Health Department, Department of Aging, and EMS (Dialysis and FRMC) contacted their clients, etc., to warn them of the storm, have them prepare to be self-sufficient, store up food, water and medicine and take care of any special needs such as oxygen, etc. The first shelter opened at the Sheriff's Office on December 4th. Assessments on a need-by-need basis regarding shelters were made. The Senior Center and Louisburg Elementary School were opened as shelters as these were the only two places with power. There were approximately 20 people, including staff at the shelters so the decision was made to combine the shelters and move into the Senior Center. The Senior Center remained open until the night of December 9th. On December 9th, 10th and 11th, people were provided with motel accommodations instead of running the shelter(s). It was reported that the local Red Cross spent \$15,500.00 to operate the shelters, and 300 meals were prepared for 144 people in the shelters.

Getting the word out to people in the County was difficult due to the local radio station being without power. Joe DeSantis of The Franklin Times, was at the EOC on a regular basis. TV stations were notified to report the conditions in Franklin County. Communication with the State was done using the Emergency Management Internet System.

On Friday morning, December 6th, after precipitation ceased, assessment teams, led by Jim Wrenn of the Tax Department, went out to survey damage. Every road in the County was driven. Ms. Callihan reported the following figures:

- Debris - \$6,750,000
- Property - \$ 616,400
- Landfill - \$ 200,000 (as of today, 659 tons of debris there now)
- Forestry - \$ 950,000 (Timber)
- Agriculture - Undetermined at this time – No livestock loss reported
- Industry - \$1,996,050 (production and damage to equipment)
- Overtime cost - Undetermined at this time

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2002—cont.

- Health and Safety - No Fatalities; EMS/Rescue Calls – 60 storm related, 154 EMS included, etc.; Fire – 165 county wide
- Health Department reported many sick people
- Power Outages - CP&L starting reporting on Wednesday with approximately 14,000 without power and Wake Electric reported approximately 5,700 without power for a total of 19,700 power outages in the County. Peak days/outages - CP&L had 200 customers scattered throughout the County and as of today, 37 still without power. Wake Electric had all customers back on Wednesday, December 11th except for those customers whose service was pulled away from their home. The permit fee for the inspection of power repaired at a person's home was waived. Ms. Callihan reminded everyone that the crisis was not over until everyone had power.
- Telephone Service – Most people have cordless phones that do not work without power, so these numbers are hard to determine however, Sprint reported Tuesday, December 10th that 200 were without phones and they were trouble shooting problems.
- Water and Sewer – No reportable spills. Water and Sewer to everyone functioned the entire time
- 911 Center and EOC – needs were addressed as they came in. Several welfare checks were made, numerous house visits for fuel, checking oxygen, etc. Life threatening unmet needs have been met.

Ms. Callihan also reported that as of 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th, the Department of Social Services continued to address the needs of individuals who suffered losses during the ice storm. The agency coordinated with Care and Share to open on Monday, December 9th, Tuesday, December 10th, and Thursday, December 12th, to provide a seven-day supply of emergency food to 202 non-food stamp recipients. The agency sent staff to Care and Share to determine eligibility in an effort to assist Care and Share as well as in an effort to reduce the number of customers waiting in the lobby.

The agency implemented emergency food stamp replacements on Monday, December 9th. Since that date, 262 requests have been made and are in the process of replacement of benefits.

The agency coordinated with Emergency Services to provide 500 Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) to people in need of emergency food during times Care and Share was closed. They coordinated with the North Carolina Food Bank to accept referrals for food replacement for individuals who have transportation to Raleigh.

The agency spent \$5,200 in funds to assist individuals with needs other than emergency food.

DSS has seen a total of 776 customers since December 9th. This is a daily average of 194 customers based on four workdays. The average number of customers seen daily on a regular basis is 120. Staff were reassigned from other units to open two windows at the reception area to decrease the waiting time for clients.

Since December 9th, the agency has received seven Adult Protective Services (APS) reports alleging abuse or neglect of disabled adults. The agency typically receives a monthly average of four APS reports.

Ms. Callihan reported that she has met with FEMA and SERT (State Emergency Response Team) and Franklin County is included in the 35 counties requested by Governor Easley for disaster declaration.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2002---cont.

Sheriff Jerry Jones reported to the Board that all departments worked well together during the storm. The total law enforcement calls from December 4th through December 11th were 1,989. Over 400 of these calls were storm related. The jail prepared meals. He will report overtime figures at a later time.

County Manager Richard Self reported that he has been working with staff and volunteers to take care of Franklin County citizens. He stated that Franklin County is fortunate to have a local Red Cross. He reported that the landfill fees have been waived for debris. The Department of Transportation is in the process of collecting debris throughout the County. They have started on Highway 39 to Highway 98, Highway 401 to Highway 39 in the Pilot community, and Highway 56 to Granville County. The DOT is contracting out clean up for secondary roads which will be swept twice.

County Manager Self also reported that the County has had to use so much of its crisis money already that we do not have the funds for January and February. The General Assistance Funds are from the County budget and the Crisis Funds are Federal.

Chairman Ball asked if there were any questions from the Board. He thanked Joe DeSantis of The Franklin Times and Kristen Gilliam of Radio WHLQ for getting information out to the citizens during the storm.

Chairman Ball read a Resolution on Disaster Assistance. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Foy, seconded by Commissioner Stone, with all present voting "AYE" to adopt the Resolution.

RESOLUTION ON DISASTER ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, Franklin County Citizens were devastated by the ice storm on December 4, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County Citizens have endured over a week without electricity and the normal conveniences of everyday life, have suffered financial hardship, have lost wages and are being treated for a variety of illnesses directly related to the ice storm; and

WHEREAS, Removal of debris is estimated at almost seven million dollars (\$7,000,000.00) in the County; businesses have lost production in addition to property damage, the County has lost revenues and diverted its resources to assist the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the County Social Services Department has depleted the annual fuel assistance and general assistance budgets; the approaching winter weather normally creates a need for this type of assistance which will not be available; and

WHEREAS, CP&L and Wake Electric have been working to restore power to the homes in Franklin County; the NC Department of Transportation has been working to clear state maintained roads; and the Franklin County landfill is receiving unprecedented amounts of storm debris.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners

THAT the State of North Carolina assist Franklin County in its efforts to deal with the aftermath of the ice storm and replenish Social Service allocations to pre-ice storm levels; and

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2002—cont.

THAT the General Assembly Delegations exert their combined efforts to speed the certification and approval process by the State of North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this RESOLUTION be forwarded to the above named parties.

ADOPTED this 13th day of December 2002. (Signed copy of Resolution on file in the County Clerks office.)

Chairman Ball read a Resolution of Appreciation. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Foy, with all present voting "AYE" to adopt the Resolution.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Franklin County residents have been devastated by the Ice Storm which struck the County on December 4, 2002; and

WHEREAS, At the peak of the storm, most residents in the county suffered a loss of electricity and access to the necessities of life; and

WHEREAS, Businesses were forced to close, household income was lost, food spoiled, roads were blocked, telephone lines were broken, water pipes burst, and lives were generally disrupted; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers, fire and rescue members, county and town employees and private sector employees worked together to aid the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, These caring volunteers cleared roads, checked on neighbors and strangers, opened their homes to friends, provided food; County staff and the Red Cross provided shelters, checked on residents, provided information, kept water and sewer functional, provided meals and supplies, and coordinated various federal, state, local and volunteer groups.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin County Board of Commissioners extends its appreciation and admiration to all those individuals who helped their friends and neighbors as well as strangers during this time of crisis.

Adopted this 13th day of December 2002. (Signed copy of Resolution on file in the County Clerks office.)

Commissioner Stone commented that the County needs to look at what we did extremely well during this storm and what can we do to improve.

County Manager Self reported to the Board that Department Heads would do a final analysis when the crisis was over and there would be a full debriefing.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Stone, RECORDED AT 9:15 A.M.


JOHN R. BALL, CHAIRMAN


RICHARD B. SELF, CLERK