

**September 15, 2003**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Harry L. Foy, Jr., Vice-Chairman Jimmy R. Gupton, Commissioner Robert L. Swanson, and Commissioner Raymond A. Stone. Commissioner John R. Ball was absent.

### **1. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the following consent agenda items:

- A. Approval of minutes of meeting held on August 18, 2003.
- B. Approval of Tax Collectors Report for the period August 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003.
- C. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds for the period August 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003.

### **1. Solid Waste Property**

Mr. John Faulkner, Solid Waste Director, was present to discuss the space needs at the landfill. Mr. Faulkner presented a map to the Board showing the location of 109 acres adjoining the existing landfill, which is for sale. The Solid Waste Section with NCDENR has recommended that the County purchase the land to provide a buffer that would surround the current closed landfill. Mr. Faulkner reported some of the advantages of the additional property are it could be used for future growth such as any and all types of solid waste and recycling collection and processing, it could be used for a future landfill, it would give the County space to improve the current steep slopes that are present on the current landfill, and the property could provide needed soil or clay for future repairs and projects. There are also contaminants in the groundwater wells on both sides of the current closed landfill being investigated by the Groundwater Section of NCDENR. Some of the disadvantages are the property is rocky and may limit how it can be used. An engineer could do some basic testing to determine the potential use for the property.

Commissioner Stone asked if the County could go to the current landowner and ask permission to do testing. Mr. Faulkner responded that his purpose at this meeting is to ask permission from the Board to do this. It would cost the County \$5,000 to hire an engineer to do the testing. Commissioner Stone asked what the professional appraisal of the property was. Mr. Faulkner responded the tax value is listed at \$180,000.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Gupton, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with Vice-Chairman Gupton, Commissioner Swanson, and Commissioner Stone voting "AYE", and Chairman Foy voting "NO", motion carried to approve the hiring of an engineer to test the potential use for the property and the cost for this service not to exceed \$5,000.

### **2. School Resource Officers**

Mr. Doug Moore, Franklin County Schools, and Sheriff Jerry Jones were present to request the Board's consideration of placing School Resource Officers in the three middle schools. The Board of Education has obtained a grant from the State which will cover the cost of the positions. Mr. Moore reported that the presence of a uniformed School Resource Officer would

strengthen the ongoing efforts to maintain the most safe and orderly school environment possible. The visibility of a uniformed officer on school property is first and foremost a preventative approach to handling inappropriate or violent behavior in schools. The officers will assist in monitoring each middle school campus, interact with  
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students and staff, be a positive role model, support the school administrators, and respond to any law violation or violence occurring at the school. The officer would also be utilized by the Sheriff's Department during the summer and during breaks to fill in during peak vacation time, etc.

Mr. Moore reported that the officers would be employed by the Sheriff's Department and trained and equipped like any other officer. Franklin County Schools would contract with the Sheriff's Department for these services and all of the officers' salary, benefits, training and equipment would be billed to the school system and paid from State funds targeted to pay for at-risk and alternative school activities.

Chairman Foy asked what would happen if the funding from the State ended. Mr. Moore replied that it is likely this would not happen. The State funding has not been cut in the past when other programs have been.

Commissioner Stone asked how many incidents occurred in the past year where the Sheriff's Department was called to the schools. Sheriff Jones replied that he did not have an exact number but estimated up to twenty-five incidents were reported this year. Commissioner Stone stated he could see the need for officers in the High Schools and it bothers him to have the need for officers in the middle schools were you have 12, 13 and 14 year olds. Sheriff Jones responded that students do not have the family involvement in schools that they had in the past. The safety of students is important.

Commissioner Stone stated he felt that by having an officer present in the school would take away from the status of the principal. Mr. Moore stated that the principal's authority would not be taken away. Having a Resource Officer on campus makes a huge statement and sends a signal and changes behavior. He feels the Sheriff will select the right people for the positions.

Commissioner Swanson stated not only will the schools benefit from the Resource Officers, but the County will benefit also by utilizing the time of the officer.

Chairman Foy asked if the officers would be armed. Sheriff Jones responded yes.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approving the contract with the Board of Education with budget ordinance amendment #1A, authorizing three deputy positions in the Sheriff's Department and authorizing the County Manager to sign the necessary documents.

### **3. Economic Development**

Mr. Ronnie Goswick, Director of Economic Development, was present and reported to the Board that the lack of adequate water pressure for fire protection has created a situation where Nomaco may have to relocate which will impact 41 jobs in Franklin County. The Town of Louisburg has applied for a CDBG-ED Grant to meet most of the cost of extending the water

line from Franklin County Correctional Facility on T Kemp Road to the location of Nomaco on West River Road. This water line will provide a needed hydraulic loop, provide adequate water pressure to Nomaco and open approximately 400 acres of light industrial property between NC 56 Highway and West River Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$437,335 of which the grant will cover 75%, leaving a balance of \$109,335 to be shared between the County and the Town of Louisburg.

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Mr. Goswick reported there is no other existing building in the County for Nomaco to relocate their production overflow to at this time, and they do plan to expand their manufacturing facility in Youngsville in the future.

Commissioner Swanson stated that not only will this grant keep Nomaco in the County, it will also help to keep their existing facility in Youngsville. Mr. Goswick added Nomaco plans to build a warehouse in Youngsville.

Commissioner Stone asked if Nomaco has indicated how long they will stay in the existing warehouse in Louisburg. Mr. Goswick replied two years. Commissioner Stone asked if water and sewer is put in at this location could another company use it. Mr. Goswick responded yes.

Upon motion by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the cost sharing with Louisburg in the amount of \$54,667 for the water line and approval of budget ordinance amendment #1A.

#### **4. Division of Community Corrections**

Mr. Royster Washington, Judicial District Manager, was present to update the Board on activities of the Division of Community Corrections in Franklin County. Mr. Washington stated that a copy of the annual report, which covers July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, was forwarded to the County Manager to share with the Board and ask if they had any questions. He thanked the Board for their support.

#### **5. Schedule of Values**

Mr. Jim Wrenn, Tax Administrator, was present to answer questions about the proposed Schedule of Values. The next step in the process is to advertise for four weeks to allow challenges to the schedule. Mr. Wrenn reported that he feels the proposed Schedule of Values are accurate and the process has been an effective training tool for staff.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the Regular Schedule of Values for the 2004 Revaluation and the Present Use Schedule of Values for the 2004 Revaluation and instructed the Tax Administrator to submit the required publication notices for challenges to the Schedules.

Commissioner Stone asked Mr. Wrenn what was the difference in Regular Schedule of Values and Present Use Schedule of Values. Mr. Wrenn responded farm property is considered

Present Use and all other real estate is considered Regular Schedule.

## **6. Air-21 Grant Funds Administration**

The County has a long-standing relationship with the LPA Group who provides consulting services for the County airport. Fees associated with the LPA Group are paid with AIR-21 Grant funds. The grant provides funding for resealing the aircraft-parking apron. Mr. Ronnie Goswick was present and stated the grant funds 90% of the total project and the County's match has already been budgeted. The LPA Group will prepare plans and specifications and request quotes for contractors.

Commissioner Stone asked what is the cost for resealing the parking apron. Mr. Goswick responded that the LPA Group would get bids. Their contract is a fixed fee contract. County Manager Richard Self stated that for contracts below a certain level, the engineer will give an estimated dollar amount rather than a

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percentage amount. Commissioner Stone asked if the County's engineer, Tom Couch, could do the estimate. Mr. Couch responded that he was not familiar with all of the FAA requirements.

Chairman Foy asked why does the County have to have a consultant for the bidding process. Mr. Goswick responded that the County does not have anyone on staff that has dealt with plans and specifications for airports.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the LPA Group contract to administer the AIR-21 Grant funds and authorize the County Manager to sign the necessary documents.

## **7. Kerr-Tar Hub**

The Kerr-Tar Council of Governments has led an effort to create an economic development hub in the five county regions (Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren). The Golden Leaf, Inc. has funded the initial study for a hub and an application is being prepared to go to the second step in the process. Support from the five counties is needed in filing a grant request to Golden Leaf, Inc. A copy of a letter to Golden Leaf, Inc. endorsing the hub concept and requesting consideration of this grant request was provided to the Board.

Mr. Ronnie Goswick reported to the Board that the hub study committee would identify a site and submit the grant request to Golden Leaf, Inc. for funding the project. The hub will consist of 500 acres or larger near a four-lane highway with access to water and sewer, an airport, and population centers. A site in each of the five counties will be certified for possible location of the hub. If Franklin County does not get the hub it will still have 500 or more acres already certified and marketable. This hub concept is being looked at nation wide and it should bring business to the area.

Commissioner Stone stated his concern was that if you have one hub in a five county area then the county lines become "unfixed". Mr. Goswick stated that the project is needed to accommodate job training in the growing biotechnology industry. He stated the General Assembly has passed a law that allows counties to share in joint adventures and each of them

benefit from the multi-county hub. He also stated that the EDA feels this project is an important demonstration to the rest of the state showing how counties can work together.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the letter endorsing the hub concept and requesting grant funding.

## **8. Appointments**

Upon motion by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the following reappointments and appointments to Franklin County Boards and Commissions:

### Aging Advisory Board:

#### *Reappointments:*

Eldora Perry  
Robert Perry  
Hazel Collier

#### *New Appointments:*

Dot Roberson  
Lyn Buffaloe  
Tom Wade

### Aging Committee, Recommendations by Kerr-Tar Council of Governments:

#### *New Appointments:*

Jo Anne Waterman  
Louis Bragg

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### Child Fatality Prevention Team:

#### *Reappointments:*

Pat Green  
Donald Lancaster  
Velvet Newman  
Alease Harris  
Thomas Riggan  
Randy Likens  
Nicki Griffin

### E-Community Steering Committee:

#### *Reappointments:*

Holt Kornegay, Committee Champion  
Gary Cunard  
Kristen Gilliam  
Ronnie Goswick  
Al Grissom  
Kim Webster  
Susan Leisy  
Bobbie Jo May  
Kim Webster  
Reverend Claude Dunston

Economic Development Commission:

<i>Reappointment:</i>	<i>New Appointment:</i>
Joel Callihan	Ralph Brown

Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority:

<i>Reappointments:</i>	<i>New Appointment:</i>
Michael Leonard	Wesley Berry
Jimmy b. Cottrell	
J.W. Weathers, Jr.	
Ray Hodges	
Joel Callihan	
Charles M. Davis	

Louisburg Planning Board ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

*Reappointment as requested by the Town of Louisburg:*  
Fannie Perry

Louisburg Board of Adjustment ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

*Reappointments as requested by the Town of Louisburg:*  
Edward Brown  
Ray Hodges

Vice-Chairman Foy suggested eliminating the Boards and Commissions where no activity is taking place.

Commissioner Stone suggested a Board workshop be held to discuss advertising Board and Commission vacancies and to discuss the status of each Board and Commission.

**9. Comments from the Public**

No one signed up for comments.

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**10. Board Committee Reports and Comments**

Vice-Chairman Gupton:

- attended the Franklin-Granville-Vance-Warren Opportunity meeting September 4<sup>th</sup> – discussion was on the budget and the new Federal Government requirements for Rest Homes – they must all be wheelchair accessible; they must provide a deaf person a bed that vibrates to warn them of a fire; and residents must be allowed to have pets

Chairman Foy:

- attended the Health Board meeting August 21<sup>st</sup>. – there is a severe shortage of nurses in the Health Department – Ms. Sandra Wood, Health Department Director, is working

on grants for assistance in purchasing computers, is also working on a bioterrorism grant and a Reynolds grant

- Chairman Foy congratulated Mr. Charles Murray and the Finance Department staff for their Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the US and Canada. This is the fourth year in a row the Franklin County Finance Office as received this award.
- Chairman Foy congratulated Ms. Nicki Griffin and the Social Services Department staff for their participation in the Challenge for Children, a Foster Homes for Children program. They have participated in this program for five years. Ms. Griffin reported that Franklin County Social Services Department received \$30,000 in Federal funding last year for exceeding the number of placements of children in foster homes.
- reminded everyone of the upcoming Tar River Festival to be held Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Stone:

- reported that with the changes to the delivery of the Mental Health program from in-house to outside contract, delivery of services is not going well. Vance-Granville-Franklin-Warren Area Authority is trying to work through a 165,000 population base and they need a 200,000 base
- is on a Economic Development committee study group dealing with making the region a worldwide market for industry
- is still getting calls from citizens in the Epsom community regarding the Epsom High School – it is a health hazard and an eye sore and he would like the Board to enact a definitive statement to the public as to what the Board can or cannot do
- would like for the current noise ordinance to be made clearer as to enforcement

Chairman Foy stated that at the last Board workshop the need for a Board Retreat was discussed. He requested the Board set a date. Vice-Chairman Gupton stated that November 19<sup>th</sup> would be a good date and he felt the Board needed a facilitator. Commissioner Swanson asked who would do the agenda. Chairman Foy replied he would facilitate and prepare the agenda. Commissioner Stone suggested that the Commissioners submit their agenda items to Chairman Foy. The Board decided on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> or Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> as tentative dates for a Retreat. Chairman Foy stated the retreat should be held in the County. Commissioner Swanson suggested the Cooperative Extension building.

## **1. Manager's Report**

County Manager Self reported the following to the Board:

- reminded the Board of the World Flight celebration Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>
- meetings have been held with Nash County and Rocky Mount on common drainage basins and flood control
- the upgrades at the Communications Center are progressing on schedule

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- still working with Henderson on water for Creedmoor and Wake Forest
- David Guin, Attorney with Batton and Guin, reported to him that he and Youngsville are on the final drafts and will have an agreement ready for the Board very soon

Ms. Angie Callihan, Director of Emergency Services, was present and updated the Board on Hurricane Isabel.

Commissioner Stone stated that in regards to the upgrades at the Communication Center, he has received reports that the southern portion of the County is out of reach of communication. County Manager Self stated that the project is not complete, the hand held radios have 99.9% coverage at this time. Sheriff Jerry Jones commented that the complaints were probably the fire channel prior to being switched over to the new antenna. During the change over, the coverage area dropped. County Manager Self reported that most are satisfied with the coverage and the project is heading toward the last testing phase with the volunteers.

County Manager Self responded to Commissioner Stone's concerns with the current noise ordinance. He stated he has received an updated draft ordinance from the Sheriff and has given it to the County Attorney for review.

County Attorney Darnell Batton provided the Board a copy of the Resolution adopting the new election district boundaries for the Board of Education. He asked if the Board would accept the Resolution supporting the 5/2 plan.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Gupton, seconded by Commissioner Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried the acceptance of the Resolution.

Mr. Batton also reported to the Board the School Board's concern with the two Bunn schools not being in District 4 and their reasoning being that they need minority numbers in this district. Mr. Batton read a Resolution from the Board of Education requesting the Board of Commissioners endorse having a November 4<sup>th</sup> referendum on redistricting for both Boards.

Commissioner Stone stated he understands the intent to have the three schools in the District 4 area. Population growth will force building schools where you can find land.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried endorsing the November 4<sup>th</sup> referendum.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Commissioner Stone to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gupton, with all present voting "AYE". Adjournment recorded at 9:00 P.M.

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HARRY L. FOY, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD B. SELF, CLERK