

June 21, 2004

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 Raymond A. Stone, Vice-Chairman Harry L. Foy, Jr., Commissioners Robert L. Swanson and John R. Ball. Commissioner Jimmie R. Gupton was absent due to illness.

Chairman Stone noted the passing of a former County Commissioner, James B. Alford, who served the County well not only as a Commissioner but also through the highway program in the County. Chairman Stone also reported that Commissioner Jimmie Gupton is recovering well from surgery he underwent a week ago and should be going home in a few days.

Addition to the Agenda – Item 13. Resolution – Hazard Mitigation Designation of Applicant's Agent

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried to amend the agenda to add the additional item.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the agenda as amended.

1. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approval of minutes of Regular meeting held on May 17, 2004.
- B. Approval of Tax Collection Report for the period May 1 through May 31, 2004.
- C. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds for the period May 1 through May 31, 2004.
- D. Petitions for Road Additions to the State Maintained Road System:
 1. Nickolas Drive located in Coachman's Trail Subdivision, Phases One, Two, Three, Four and Five, Cypress Creek Township. Located south of the intersection of Sledge Road (State Road 1611) and Sykes Road (State Road 1636). There are a total of 35 occupied homes having street frontage. The application meets State requirements.
 2. Tipton Court located in Tipton Acres Subdivision, Youngsville Township. Located west of the intersection of Hart Road (State Road 1108) and Flat Rock Church Road (State Road 1103). There are a total of 6 occupied homes having street frontage. The application meets State requirements.

2. Public Hearings

A. Proposed FY 2004-2005 Budget

Proper notice having been given and the Board having received the information, a public hearing was held to receive comments on the Franklin County Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Chairman Stone stated the Interim Manager has proposed a budget in the amount of \$60,962,788 to finance several functions of the County during the next fiscal year.

Chairman Stone declared the public hearing open.

Ralph Knott, 310 Edward Lane, Louisburg, NC (Chairman of the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

Mr. Knott stated the following:

- Wanted to report to the Board as part of the process of the budget that the park in Franklinton is now complete.
- The track is in and already paved and over \$90,000 has been raised for the track.
- The park is being used by people all over the County. Sometimes there are six ball teams playing the same night.
- People are going out of their way to use the track. They are enthused with the track. There is a second track in the County; the second track is in Bunn and it is anticipated there will be a great use for the track.
- Recreation on a County wide basis takes a long time and he asked that the Board not lose patience with the Recreation Board and not lose confidence in them because they continue to move forward.
- The Moose Lodge Park is being used, the picnic area at the Franklinton Park is being used, the exercise area is being used, the children's play ground is being used, and it is a worthwhile thing and he feels it is something the Board would want to continue to fund and asked the Board to do so.

Commissioner Ball stated to Mr. Knott that he has had several calls and with the park being so successful it is beginning to overrun the neighborhood with parking. He realizes the park is fairly enclosed and asked Mr. Knott if any thought has been given to the needs of additional parking other than in front of houses and in the street? Mr. Knott replied yes, it needs to be addressed, there are problems. The park is already over capacity in the designated parking area. People are having to park on the highway and that is where the complaints are coming from where people are parking on the edge of people's yards. Mr. Knott stated he does not

know where to go. The park is pretty much pinned in. The only way the parking area could be enlarged is to buy property surrounding the park and most of that property has houses on it. Commissioner Ball stated two ideas have advanced by people in the neighborhood through management of the Town. One being there is a buffer between Park Avenue and the park and there is a wooded buffer there separating the street from the park. Commissioner Ball asked if the Advisory Committee has considered the possibility of there being parking there? Mr. Knott replied they had not considered this but it needs to be looked at because that would be the only place to use for parking and have the buffer. Commissioner Ball asked Mr. Knott to get with the committee to look into for recommendations. He stated with the success of the park it is not fair to the neighbors. Commissioner Ball asked Mr. Knott if the County owns the access lot that goes out to River Road? Mr. Knott replied he was not sure. Commissioner Ball stated Mr. Jonathan Tyndall with DOT was present and asked Mr. Knott if he would arrange a meeting with staff and Mr. Tyndall to see if the access road is available for an exit or entrance to take care of traffic. Mr. Knott stated he would address the issue.

Dr. Bert L'Homme, 108 East Franklin Street, Youngsville, NC (Superintendent, Franklin County Schools)

Dr. L'Homme stated the following:

- The Board of Commissioners and County staff and the Board of Education and staff have been working together since the day he arrived in early January on two very important issues – the local current expense budget and the long range facilities plan.
- There are many people at the meeting to support the public schools – parents, families, faculty, and staff are here to let the Board know that they will support increased funding for the public schools.
- As an old social studies teacher it has occurred to him that what is happening at this meeting is a great civics lesson. A meeting with the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Education and the community is a form of democracy that has its roots in town meetings. It is what we do and it is what we do well. It's about working together to better our community. He

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

encouraged the Board to support full funding of the request of \$1.2 million dollars for the Board of Education's local current expense budget.

- The request is based on increased enrollment, repair of building and grounds, the Charter School payment, increase in insurance premiums, increase in utilities cost and increase in other legislative mandates. The bulk of the request is based on "have tos" – increase in cost of that we have no control over.
- The schools are also asking for an increase in teacher's supplements, which will keep the County competitive with the surrounding smaller counties. The County must keep its good teachers working for Franklin County schools.
- Encouraged the Board to support the long range facility plans, priority 1 and priority 2, for a total of \$45 million dollars. It will replace Franklinton High School, will expand and

renovate Louisburg High School and Bunn High School and will add classrooms to Terrell Lane Middle School. Whatever student reassignment plan is selected, Terrell Lane will increase by nearly one third. Terrell Lane Middle School's expansion must be put on the fast track.

- Franklin County has a long history of generously funding schools and the schools are grateful. He thanked the Board for working with the schools and thanked them for considering the school's request.

Doug Moore, 1673 N.C. Highway 561, Louisburg, NC (Executive Director for Business and Finance, Franklin County Schools)

Mr. Moore stated the following:

- Appreciates all the efforts Franklin County has made to support the educational growth of the students in Franklin County, which is over 8,000 students Countywide.
- We have no greater resource than our children and whatever investment we make in them is an investment for our future.
- Franklin County Schools has made tremendous improvements over the past decade in almost every area you can think of, whether in student achievements, facilities, etc. You can see the improvements Franklin County has made in those areas and we are committed to continue to push to have ongoing improvement in our school system. We have been good stewards of the resources that have been made available to us and we will continue to be good stewards in the future.
- The local current expense budget is what pays the day to day operational bills and we certainly need to maintain a focus on providing needed school facilities in our County. But in doing so we should not fail to realize that the local current expense request is what provides funding and support for what happens inside those buildings on a daily basis. This is the fund source that pays the light bill, insurance premiums, local funded supplements, including teacher's supplements, etc.
- The past three to four years have been especially difficult for everyone from an economic perspective. It has been even more difficult for the school system to meet the demands placed upon it when you consider that multiple factors have occurred all at the same time. In addition to the general economic conditions and economic conditions of the State of North Carolina, we have opened several new schools during this time frame. Each school opened has an operational price tag attached to it. A new Louisburg Elementary School was opened in December, 2000 and that was and still is a grand facility. Riverside Elementary Magnet School opened in 2001-2002 and the new Louisburg Elementary School was in full operation that year. Royale Elementary School opened in 2002-2003 and was in operation for the full year. That basically is three schools, although one was a current school where Riverside was at, but that was three schools in three years that opened up for operation. Rapid growth in the County has challenged us as well as a need to compete for quality teachers and other employees in a very competitive environment. Charter School growth has significant budget implications for the school system. Since operational funding for Charter schools is funded by Local

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

Current Expense Funds given to the school system. Insurance premium increases in all areas have dramatic for all types of insurance coverage. Most if not all of the County's increases over the past three to four years has gone to fund the cost of opening new schools, mandated Charter School payments, insurance premium increases. There is little left to address some of our much pressing needs such as teacher supplement increases, building and grounds issues, technology issues, various instructional and support issues.

- Asked the Board to look favorably upon the request to fully fund the local current expense request presented by the Board of Education. As it stands now there is a \$423,000 difference between the requested amount of local current expense funding and the proposed amount of funding. The total increase requested was \$1,216,592 and the total increase proposed was \$793,496 of which \$400,000 can be attributed to the State ADM source of funds. When that factor is taken into account, the proposed amount of County funded increase for local current expense is actually less than three out of the last four years. Hopes the Board will reconsider and fund the entire request.

Bernard Hall, 1573 NC Highway 39 South, Louisburg, NC (Chairman, Franklin County Board of Education)

Mr. Hall stated the following:

- Was speaking on behalf of the Board of Education with regard to their local current expense budget and their operating budget.
- The Board of Education fully supports the recommended request and all agree on their request presented. The Board and central office staff fully stand behind the request they have asked for. The Board has monitored the central office staff and kept up with what was going on and he can assure you that they have not noted every single request from every single school. There is a lot of request from various schools that were not included in this year's budget.
- During the years he has been on the Board of Education, since 1998, he thinks that they have been very patient in working with the County in terms of their annual request and cannot recall the time when their full funding was granted and they have been patient and worked with that and asked the Board to change that this year and grant them their full request.
- In some of the committee meetings between the two Boards with discussion about the facilities issue, the concept about the County remaining revenue neutral has been talked about and noted in the County's proposed budget that they are proposing a decreased tax rate which is actually less than revenue neutral so look at that small difference which would actually make up the difference in what the school is requesting and what is proposed.
- Thanked the Board of Commissioners for their hard work and for the resources they have provided to the school system through the years and they look forward to working with the Board as a County to continue to move forward in making improvements in the

County's school system.

Joseph DeSantis, 150 Huntington Road, Louisburg, NC

Mr. DeSantis stated the following:

- Spoke on behalf of approving the school Board budget for the fiscal year 2004-2005 as presented.
- Encouraged the adoption of the budget for two reasons. It represents a bare bones approach with no bells or whistles that reflects the true and minimum needs of our public school system to do its job. The budget as presented includes a modest \$500 increase for teachers as part of the Franklin County local supplement. This request comes after three years of no change in the local supplement, which continues to place Franklin County's efforts to attract and retain qualified teachers at a competitive disadvantage.
- He is not suggesting that the County compare its local supplement to huge school districts such as Wake County, Durham County or Chapel Hill, but even comparing our local supplements to surrounding Counties indicates we continue to lag far behind comparable size school districts.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

- Over the past several years the State of North Carolina and the Federal government have demanded more and more of classroom teachers. They have been asked to be more accountable and deliver more educational results than ever before. Those classroom teachers have responded. More of Franklin County schools than ever before have reached their expected levels of academic growth on a yearly basis. More of our students are performing at or above grade level on their end of course and end of grade test. More of our minority students are catching up as we continue to close that achievement gap. It is time to start paying reasonable wages to the people who educate the children of Franklin County.
- His academic credentials and previous teaching experience and professional experience place him on the upper end of the local pay scale. Although \$500 has minimal impact on his personal salary or his decision to remain a teacher in Franklin County it means a great deal to his teaching colleagues on two levels – beginning teachers need every penny of that \$500 to cover the rising cost of living as they begin their academic careers. His more tenured colleagues also need every penny of that \$500 so that they too can afford to send their children to North Carolina's colleges and universities, which themselves have seen major increases in tuition in the past two years.
- If you take the \$500 proposed increase and deduct 22% to cover State, Federal and Social Security deductions, teachers would net an average of \$390 or \$9.75 a week over a ten month contract. With no increase in three years, he would hate to tell those teachers who teach our kids everyday and who do good things in the classroom that after three years they do not deserve a \$9.75 a week raise. As a taxpayer, as well as a teacher, he considers the cost of the proposed increase not only an investment in public education but also an investment in the future of Franklin County.

Grady Macon, 1825 Tarboro Road, Louisburg, NC

Mr. Macon stated the following:

- Asked if an established tax rate had been set yet? Chairman Stone replied no.
- Stated he had heard it was somewhere around \$.79 per \$100 valuation and asked if this was correct? Chairman Stone replied that was yet to be determined.
- Regardless of what the Board sets the tax rate due to revaluation a 45% increase, which would be around \$.80, that's a \$.20 increase in the tax rate as to what taxpayers are presently paying. If the tax rate was not changed in the next six years, until the next revaluation period, you have already got an increase in the tax rate for everybody.
- Asked about the last time the County had a School Bond issue, how much the tax rate had increased to bring in a \$1M revenue? Interim County Manager Charles Murray replied it was around \$.03.
- Asked that since property value has gone up, now every \$.03 brings in roughly \$1M? Mr. Murray replied yes.
- Asked if you borrow \$20M at \$.03, to give taxpayers some idea, if you spread it out over a twenty-year period, not including interest, you can readily see what that going to do to the tax rate no matter which way you go. This is something to be considered. If it's \$60M plus this year then what is it going to be like next year? If you divide the \$60M by the number of residents, which is about 50,000, is not much.
- Stated he knows some of the \$60M is what comes in from Social Security, Medicare and other programs. Half of the \$60M comes from the taxpayers and if you take that amount and divide it by 50,000 people it is a pretty good tax break.
- Looks like no relief in sight. He knows the Board looks over the budget carefully and each year it does not get any easier.
- You cannot give everybody everything they want. Be careful what you spend, it's the taxpayers money.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

Susan Pearce, 434 Rogers Road, Zebulon, NC

Ms. Pearce stated the following:

- Had a handout for the Board showing teacher's salaries in North Carolina.
- Stated she has two children, one in Bunn Middle School and one in Bunn High School, and as a parent she wants her children to have a quality education so that they can gain admission into any college of their choice and wants them to have the skills necessary to pursue the career of their choice and the only way they can do this is if Franklin County can obtain quality educators in the County.

- She wants teachers who have the mind and the heart to motivate and challenge them in a classroom.
- She is also a teacher of 22 years and serves as a mentor to beginning teachers. These teachers work really hard everyday to establish a safe and orderly learning environment. They study new curriculums and make lesson plans everyday, attend staff development, fulfil initial licensing and certification requirements, they make regular contact with parents, prepare students for State mandated test, attend after school activities, etc.
- Asked the Board to take a minute to review the teacher's salaries in North Carolina and stated they should be able to see that teachers are not in it for the money. They teach for one reason – they love children and believe they can make a difference in their futures and they all want quality education for Franklin County and the County needs to do whatever it takes to attract and retain top notch teachers in this County.

Dale Byrns, 22 Ramey Circle, Franklinton, NC (Principal, Cedar Creek Middle School)

Mr. Byrns stated the following:

- He supports all teachers that were in attendance at the meeting, and from an administrative stand point, he works with them everyday and they deserve all the money that they can possibly get.
- He knows of a 26 year veteran teacher that left Franklin County because the supplemental pay is not competitive with some of the surrounding counties and Franklin County is losing teachers at a higher rate each year because of that.
- Urged the Board to adopt a budget that would allow them to grant the request of teacher's supplements in Franklin County and continue to support the great work the teachers are doing.

John May, 272 Dorsey Road, Louisburg, NC

Mr. May stated the following:

- If the results of 2004 are going to be as close as the three previous years, we are losing teachers every day.
- The County is going to pay one way or another. With the resources we have and the time and energy and all that that goes into constantly training new teachers is an expense, so the more teachers we can keep in the County and are trained and on board and doing the good job they have been doing that in itself is a payment to us.
- It is going to cost us one way or another and I would hope the Board sees fit to fulfil the Schools Boards' request.

Johnny Alford, 222 Stallings Road, Zebulon, NC

Mr. Alford stated the following:

- Wants to assure the Board that the schools have a good financial planner in the central office who does an excellent job, Mr. Doug Moore.
- He questioned Mr. Moore about requesting only the things that the schools have to have.
- The schools did not inflate their request. They could have asked for several million more dollars and could have justified for it.
- The schools only asked for what they have got to have in order to ensure the best education for our children.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

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

Chairman Stone asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments concerning the budget.

Commissioner Swanson asked if there were other budget work session scheduled after this meeting? Chairman Stone replied yes, a budget work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Stone made the following statement:

According to State law, school operating expenses are to be funded by the State Public School Fund. Included in that fund are teacher, administrator, and other professional staff salaries, and provision for textbooks, other learning materials and supplies.

But at least half of the request from the Board of Education for operating funds would add supplements to teacher, administrator, and professional staff State salaries; and add positions over and above State allotments. Franklin County Schools employ about 1,200 people to guide, direct, and assist the learning activities of 8,000 students, a ratio of one to 6-2/3, far above State allotments.

About \$5,000,000 of the Board's of Education roughly \$10,000,000 request of the County is to be spent for items that should be funded by the State. Historically counties have provided school buildings and funds for the operation and maintenance of these buildings. Utility, insurance, upkeep, and daily cleaning costs of school buildings are labeled plant operation and capital outlay. In the proposed budget about \$5,000,000 is projected to cover these items. The County readily accepts responsibility for costs associated with school buildings and adequately funds these items.

The weakness of State school finance is that it pits school districts against school districts. Low wealth districts must compete with high wealth districts to attract and hold teachers and administrators of equal competence and worth. Can Franklin Count compete with Wake County for top-flight personnel? Should Franklin County be forced to compete with Wake County to provide equal opportunities for children to learn?

The Board of Education is charged with making decisions to create conditions conducive to learning. The School's request for current expense was \$9,380,000, up from \$8,164,500 for

the current year. The Board of Commissioners appropriated \$8,958,000 of that request, an increase of 9.72 per cent above this year's operating fund. Capital outlay funds are about the same each year, \$1,200,000. School enrollment is not projected to be above last year's membership.

Among its requests for operational funds the Board of Education included \$250,000 for athletic supplements and assistance; \$36,000 for membership in the State School Board Association; \$1,356,000 for additional positions plus benefits; \$187,700 for supplements to administrative positions, including \$35,236 for the superintendent plus benefits, (benefits amounting to about one-third of salary); \$1,166,000 for teacher pay supplements; and \$362,000 for copiers and supplies. All of the above items, by law, ought to be provided by the General Assembly through the Public School Fund.

A public question about supplementing public school salaries is certainly timely. Why supplement teacher and school administrator salaries when no other State personnel are so funded? Highway patrolmen, judges, district attorneys, DOT

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

personnel, court and correctional officials surely do not receive County funded supplements nor do County employees!

Responsibility for public education rests with the State, not the County. The General Assembly and lately the Congress have not supported their enacted mandates. No Child Left Behind, Smart Start, ABC standards, Individual Education Programs (IEP's), to name a few, are underfunded.

My purpose in this statement is not to second-guess the Board's of Education priorities. Rather, it is simply to inform the people of Franklin County where the largest portion of their tax dollars, 31 per cent, is spent.

Franklin County's two principal sources of revenue are property and sales taxes. Conversely, the State and Federal governments have numerous sources of revenue. Taxes ought to be collected where wealth is to educate children where they are.

An increase of nearly 10 percent in funds for the schools by the Commissioners is a commendable effort to support good schools. It represents an act of good faith in all school personnel to create a climate where learning can occur.

Let us join forces to prevail upon the State and Federal governments, Raleigh and Washington, to put forth as much effort to support schools as Franklin County already is making. I challenge the General Assembly and the Congress to match the Board of Commissioners support of schools. School folks, speak as loudly and as clearly to your Federal and State legislators, as you did to the Commissioners. Positive results might come.

A. Installment Financing

Proper notice having been given and the Board having received the information, a public

hearing was held to receive comments on the installment financing for the construction of a Solid Waste Transfer Station and the renovation of the County Human Services Building. Bids were received from five banking institutions. Proposals were requested for five, seven, and ten years. Based on the bids received, First Citizens Bank is the low bidder for a fixed rate of 3.85% for a ten-year period. In the proposed FY 2004-2005 budget, funds have been included for a ten-year pay back.

Interim County Manager Charles Murray stated the project went out for bid solicitation on borrowing \$1.75 million dollars for the construction of a new transfer station at the landfill and to do renovations at the Human Services Building. The bids have come back and Mr. Murray recommended to the Board that based on a ten-year rate, First Citizens Bank has provided the low bid of 3.85% for a fixed ten-year loan regarding this proposed project. Based on those numbers, Mr. Murray requested that the Board approve the financing and instruct him to forward the necessary documentation to the Local Government Commission.

Chairman Stone declared the public hearing open.

Chairman Stone called for comments and hearing none declared the public hearing closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval to accept the proposal from First Citizens Bank at a fixed interest rate of 3.85% for a ten-year period and approval of the associated resolutions.

-

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

B. Map Amendment

Proper notice having been given and the Board having received the information, a public hearing was held to receive comments on a rezoning request filed by Valentine Dean to change the zoning classification of approximately 1.21 acres at the northeast corner of the intersection of Brantleytown Road/Old Halifax Road (State Road 1720) and Pearces Road (State Road 1001) in the Dunn Township from R-30 Residential to Neighborhood Business (NB). The Planning Board recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Background Information: The Future Land Use Plan indicates that properties at the intersection of Brantleytown Road/Old Halifax Road (State Road 1720) and Pearces Road (State Road 1001) should remain as low-density residential. However, property located directly south of the petitioner's property is zoned Neighborhood Business. The rezoning will be an expansion of an existing Neighborhood Business (NB) District. Commercial development should be developed in a nodal pattern at intersections. Spot zoning is more than likely not an issue since the property is located at an intersection, and adjoins other commercial properties.

Mr. Matthew Winslow, Planning Director, was present and gave an overview of the rezoning request.

Chairman Stone declared the public hearing open.

Chairman Stone called for comments and hearing none declared the public hearing closed.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Foy, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the rezoning request.

1. Comments from the Public

Kenneth King, 381 Clifton Pond Road, Louisburg, NC

Mr. King stated the following:

- Has been a supporter of the school system for a long time and has three children that have graduated from schools in Franklin County and gone on to higher education and he supports the teachers and administration on everything.
- Wanted to comment on the \$45 million dollar school bond issue. The school Board has presented a wish list and it's the same wish list that the schools had when he was on the school Board years ago and it is a wish list that the County cannot afford.
- There is a wish list and there is a needs list and with this bond request it is clear that \$23,500,000 is for land and a brand new school for Franklinton High School. It is a wish list, it is a dream and it is not a necessity.
- What we do need is to finance new classrooms, not replace old classrooms. If the Board approves this request, the County will be walking away from a very fine facility, Franklinton High School, which we have already invested over millions of dollars and then we will be left with an albatross around our neck that will cost the County even more tax dollars which we cannot afford.
- Franklinton High School is an old high school as is Broughton High School in Raleigh, but Wake County is not walking away from that facility and we should not walk away from Franklinton High School; it is not perfect but neither are any of the high schools in Franklin County.
- We protect our personal finances and we should treat our tax dollars the same as we treat our own money and not spend it on a wish list.
- We should continue to upgrade Franklinton High School by improving the facility and the grounds, add the necessary classrooms and acquire more land to make a better campus at a quarter to a third of the cost of a new high

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

school. By the time the school is built, the projected \$23,500,000 at 3% interest in five years would cost over \$27,000,000

- The Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education should be stewards of the tax dollars and spend money only on what is needed, not what we want or what we dream to have.
- Urged the Board to approve a bond issue of \$21,500,000 for needed classrooms that are needed now.
- If the Board is still considering a new high school, consider that for every \$1M of debt service that you are able to save, \$1,500 could be passed on to teachers as a supplement per year, which would bring us up to the standards we are competing against in Wake County.

Dallas Pearce, 434 Rogers Road, Zebulon, NC

Mr. Pearce state the following:

- November 17th of last year his wife, Susan Pearce, approached the Board with some concerns over deer hunting in their area. Last year there were four separate situations that caused some real safety issues for not only his family, but for all the people of Franklin County.
- Wanted to be on the agenda at the next regular meeting of the Board to share information he has received on hunting regulations.
- Wanted to get an update on what has been done on the hunting ordinance since November.

County Attorney Darnell Batton stated he would have more information to provide at the July meeting and if Mr. Pearce wanted to provide him with what information he had he would look it over. Chairman Stone asked Mr. Pearce to come to the July meeting.

Dr. Bert L'Homme, 108 East Franklin Street, Youngsville, NC (Superintendent, Franklin County Schools)

Dr. L'Homme stated the following:

- He has already spoke on the bond issue in his previous comments and just wanted to encourage the Board to fully fund the bond issue for \$45M.
- There are needs regardless of what student reassignment plan is decided on. We will have to go forward at Terrell Lane either with temporary classrooms or if there is money to do construction, that will be done.
- He understood Chairman Stone's comments that he made. There is no one in the public school system that would not prefer that the State Board of Education, the State Legislature, the General Assembly and our Federal Government pick up the tab for what they have asked us to do, but, in the meantime, we have needs in the public school system that we encourage you to consider carefully when the Board makes their deliberations.

- When the School Board looks at their budget they see that there is a \$793,496 increase over last year's current expense budget and when you subtract the \$400,000 from the ADM that is a \$393,496 increase from last year, which is one of the lowest increases in the last four years.
- Asked the Board to reconsider and meet with the Board of Education again to look at their expenses and discuss what they are used for, the needs in the public school system and how they are to remain competitive.
- They have no intention of trying to compete with Wake County, Durham County or Orange County. They are not even able to compete with Warren County, Granville County or Nash County.

Bob Frisbie, Vocational Ag Teacher, Bunn High School

Mr. Frisbie stated the following:

- The Vocational Ag program is strong and has good enrollment and participation.
- The Future Farmers of America, which is a student organization and is the largest student club currently at Bunn High.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

- The agricultural building was constructed in the 1940's and has had only minor upgrades since that time. The old building as served well but with the occasional roof leak, outdated wiring, lack of dependable heat, poor lighting, foundation problems, minimal means of access and less than a desirable layout, the facility is in desperate need of replacement.
- The Vocational Ag shop classes are constantly involved in building and fabricating large student projects such as trailers, storage buildings and farm instruments and these projects take up a considerable amount of room in a shop area. The students operate equipment and tools in shop setting that is less than acceptable from a safety aspect.
- Increased space and improved means of getting projects in to and out of the shop is needed.
- According to a facility survey in 1994, the NC Department of Public Instruction rated the Vocational Ag building as a category #4, which means marginal adequacy in construction and condition, design is inadequate for a modern educational program and it is to inflexible to be adapted and may not meet present day code requirements and major renovations is not economically feasible. Also in 1994, a final report from the Facilities Advisory Committee to the Franklin County Board of Education stated the Ag building should have been replaced however, ten years later we have not gotten to it yet, we have made do and do the best we can. Teachers do that with the best of their ability.
- Teachers are not asking for a wish list but for what is needed. We need to put our best foot forward and do what is best for our students and not accept anything less.

- The Bunn community and the surrounding areas that serve Bunn High School are in desperate need of a Vocational Ag facility that will serve our students in the years to come.
- With the Commissioners endorsement of the school bond we believe this is a possibility and are very excited at the possibility of that happening.

Bernard Hall, 1573 NC Highway 39 South, Louisburg, NC (Chairman, Franklin County Board of Education)

Mr. Hall stated the following:

- Wanted to speak on the bond issue and respectfully disagree with Mr. King. He does not believe this is a wish list and understands thoroughly the concept of affordability and regardless of what we can afford now, those needs will still exist. Asked the Commissioners for their consideration and creativity now. Years down the road the \$70M list the Board of Education presented is still going to be there. It is not going away unless students start leaving Franklin County, which is not likely.
- Graduated from Louisburg High School in the 1970's and his children attended Louisburg High School and with very few exceptions, they attended the same facilities he attended in the 1970's and that is something that we need to ponder.
- We do not need to build a grandeur facility, but for any type of building, rather if it is our home or an office building, if you do not reinvest to maintain it, the longevity that can be expected out of it will get shorter and shorter by the day, therefore he asked for the Commissioner's consideration on the bond issue.

Ralph Knott, 310 Edward Lane, Louisburg, NC

Mr.Knott stated the following:

- Does not disagree with Chairman Stone as to what he said about the education system but, when you talk about talking with your Congressman and other representatives, that is passing the buck.
- He knows they need to be involved but he's always thought that if you are going to look after the folks at home it starts at home and what needs to be done here is the Commissioners need to bite the bullet and do what needs to be done for education.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

- What Congress is going to do nobody knows and as for the Legislature in Raleigh, when you see those people here at home they seem to be normal people, but when you go to see those same people in Raleigh, you'd think you were talking to somebody you have never seen before.
- The schools need the money for the teachers. Let's start at home and bite the bullet and educate our children.

- We have 64% of the workforce in Franklin County leaving the County everyday to go to work somewhere else and it is not going to get any better until we commit ourselves to educate our people.

1. Recognition of Employee of the Quarter

The Board recognized and congratulated Mr. Perry Faulkner, Fire Inspector with the Planning and Inspections Department, as the Employee of the Quarter for the Quarter ending June, 2004. Mr. Faulkner has been employed with the County since July, 1999 and selected for this recognition by a committee of his peers. Chairman Stone presented Mr. Faulkner with a certificate and a savings bond.

2. Franklin County Schools Request for a \$45M Bond Referendum

On May 5, 2004, the Franklin County Board of Education submitted a request for \$45M to fund school related capital projects. The County Board of Commissioners has the authority to authorize what amount, if any, to be considered for a Bond Referendum.

Mr. Murray provided the Board with a repayment schedule detailing the cost for a \$20M, \$30M and \$45M dollar bond issue.

Chairman Stone went over the schedule with the Board.

Vice-Chairman Foy asked if the figures represented a margin for future growth? Mr. Murray replied yes, that the growth was computed at a 4.77% rate.

Commissioner Swanson asked when would the voters vote on the bond issue? Chairman Stone replied on the November ballot.

Chairman Stone asked when a decision would have to be made in order for the referendum to be on the November ballot? Mr. Murray replied that in order to have the referendum on the November ballot the Board needed to act soon.

Vice-Chairman Foy asked Dr. L'Homme if Franklinton High School was going to be vacated after the new high school was built? Dr. L'Homme replied that the \$45M would replace the current high school with a new high school. He stated a community-based committee would look at the use of the current Franklinton High School and determine a use for it, it would not be abandoned. It has been suggested to turn it into a middle school.

Commissioner Ball asked Dr. L'Homme about phase two of the land purchase for a middle school and how that fits in with the plans for the Franklinton High School? Dr. L'Homme replied they would take the land purchase out of their request. Commissioner Ball asked if there were other duplications? Dr. L'Homme replied no. Commissioner Ball asked Dr. L'Homme what pressing repairs are needed? Dr. L'Homme replied the current central office is a small renovated space on West River Road, and they also use three trailers for office space. They need a new central office. Commissioner Ball asked Dr. L'Homme is the School Board has

taken into consideration that Franklin County Government offices are scattered in twenty different locations and also need a new office complex? Dr. L'Homme replied that a new central office is not their priority.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

School Board Chairman Hall asked if the Commissioners had received their most recent letter with the updated figures? Chairman Stone replied yes, the May 25th letter.

Commissioner Ball suggested the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners should meet on Tuesday, June 22nd for further discussion.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried to defer action until after the meeting with the Board of Education Tuesday, June 22, 2004.

6. Presentation – North Carolina Department of Transportation – Franklin County Maintenance and Construction Operations

Mr. Stephen Winstead, District Engineer, Department of Transportation, was present to report to the Board the Maintenance and Construction Operations in Franklin County. Mr. Winstead stated the total funds anticipated for paving in Franklin County for the fiscal year 2004-2005 is \$960,000. He gave an overview of the proposed projects for the upcoming fiscal year. He stated Montgomery Road (State Road 1210) Mutt Winstead Road (State Road 1653), and Inscoe Road (State Road 1619) was on the rural paving priority list. Bibby Road (State Road 1225) is on that list as an alternate. Tex Garage Circle (State Road 1278) is on the subdivision paving priority list. General secondary paved and unpaved road improvements include widening, drainage, and shoulder improvements on various routes. Mr. Winstead reported that in accordance with General Statute 136-182, Trust Fund Safety Improvements will consist of clearing of sight distance and drainage improvements. Funds are also reserved for surveying, right of way acquisition, road additions, contingencies, overdrafts, and paving entrances to certified fire departments, rescue squads, etc.

Chairman Stone asked Mr. Winstead what is the State's total for this project? Mr. Winstead replied the funds are evenly distributed to each County in the State.

Commissioner Swanson stated Charlie Morgan Road, which is listed on the Roads with Unavailable Right of Way list, was supposed to be paved years ago but DOT could not get the right of way at that time. He asked Mr. Winstead if the DOT had tried lately to get the right of way? Mr. Winstead replied he would look into.

Mr. Wally Bowman, Deputy Division Engineer, stated they usually wait to hear from the property owners to call when something has changed to enable the DOT to get the right of way. Commissioner Swanson stated he would have the property owners contact the DOT.

Mr. Jonathan Tyndall, County Maintenance Engineer, DOT, stated paving of Montgomery Road, which is first on the rural paving priority list, will begin in July.

Commissioner Swanson stated the State tells citizens that the Board of Commissioners can make changes to the rural paving priority list. Mr. Bowman stated the Board does have the right to change the list.

Vice-Chairman Foy stated the DOT should be focusing on needed turn lanes on major highways. Mr. Winstead stated they are doing this on Highway 401 now. Vice-Chairman Foy asked about a needed turn lane on Highway 39 at Bunn Middle School. Mr. Tyndall stated that a turn lane was looked at for this location, and due to having to compete for funding and based on a study, a turn lane was not needed at this location.

Upon motion by Chairman Stone, seconded by Commissioner Ball, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried to accept the report.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

Commissioner Ball added that he wanted to commend the DOT for the work done on U.S. #1 at Industrial Park in Youngsville.

Mr. Joe Swanson, Franklin County citizen, spoke stating when the DOT is considering what roads to pave they need to look at the safety of fire and rescue vehicles and school buses.

7. Award of Contract to Install Water and Sewer to Serve Youngsville Industrial Park

Interim County Manager Charles Murray reported that informal bids were taken on the water and sewer extensions to serve the Youngsville Industrial Park. Bids were received from three firms – H.G. Reynolds (\$152,865), Hicks Utilities (\$151,932) and Sappah Brothers Construction (\$176,874). Bid documents and backgrounds were checked by Hobbs, Upchurch, and Associates, and they have recommended the bid be awarded to Hicks Utilities.

Mr. Murray stated the Board previously approved \$141,796.88 to complete the project at the January, 2004 meeting. The bids received are higher than the Engineer's estimate. The Engineer attributes the cost overrun to increases in material prices and changes to the bidding climate since last November when the original estimate was completed. This bid will increase the total project cost to \$180,291.38.

Charles McGougan from Hobbs Upchurch was present to answer any questions concerning the bid.

Commissioner Ball stated that the bid was a fairly substantial increase and has there been an engineering change? Mr. McGougan replied no. He stated there have been increases in the piping and the economy climate has changed and contractor prices have gone up.

Chairman Stone asked if this was the best bid? Mr. McGougan recommended not rebidding the project.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried to award the bid to Hicks Utilities for \$151,932 and appropriate an additional \$38,495 from fund balance.

8. Home and Community Care Block Grant for Aging

The Aging Advisory Committee for the Home and Community Care Block Grant met on May 26th and has come to a consensus on a funding plan for the Home and Community Care Block Grant funds. The block grant is authorized under NCGS 143-B 181.1(a)(11) and is designed to improve the planning and coordination of in-home and community based services provided to older adults. The amount of funding in the block grant for the fiscal year 2004-2005 is \$340,511 (Access - \$22,500; In-Home - \$175,728 and Other - \$142,283 [Meals on Wheels and transportation]).

Chairman Stone asked if it was assured the County would get this money? Mr. Murray replied it is just proposed and the State could change its mind.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Foy, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the plan as presented by the Advisory Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

9. Amendments to the Records Retention Schedule for Register of Deeds

Ms. Linda Stone, Franklin County Register of Deeds, was present and reported to the Board the Government Records Branch of the Department of Cultural Resources has issued several amendments to the records retention and disposition schedule for Register of Deeds published August 15, 2003, which was the first time the schedule had been redone in ten years.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the amendments.

10. Appointments

A. Bunn Planning Board Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

The Town of Bunn's Board of Commissioners recommended appointing Ms. Jeanette Mullen to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Elmer Gene "Mann" Mullen and Ms. Dianne Barrett to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Phillip Jeffreys. Ms. Mullen's term will expire September, 2004 and Ms. Barrett's term will expire November, 2006.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the appointments.

B. Research Triangle Regional Partnership

Mr. Ronnie Goswick, Economic Development Director, recommended the reappointment of Mr. Lee Yarbrough to a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2004 and expiring June 30, 2006.

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Ball, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the reappointment.

10. Retirement of Sheriff's Deputy and Declaration of Surplus

After sixteen years of service with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Sheriff James A. Williamson will retire effective July 1, 2004. Deputy Williamson has requested to purchase his service revolver, a Colt 1911, Mk IV Series 80 pistol, serial number FR08299.

Sheriff Jerry Jones was present and stated in accordance with General Statute 20-187.2, it is the practice of many governmental entities to allow retiring officers to purchase their service revolvers for \$1.00 or an amount equal to the original purchase price. The property will have to be declared surplus in order to allow sale to Deputy Williamson.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval to declare the property surplus and allow Deputy Williamson to purchase his service revolver for \$1.00.

12. Budget Ordinance Amendment #9

The purpose of the Budget Ordinance Amendment is to amend the General Fund to recognize revenue collected during the FY 2003-2004, and to appropriate additional funds to various departments for unanticipated needs and other actions previously approved by the Board. The expenditures (total \$824,285) are as follows:

- Governing Body – Advertising (\$5,500)
- Manager's Budget – Contract Obligations (\$58,155)
- Tax Collector – Professional Services (\$70,000)
- Register of Deeds – Supplemental Retirement (\$4,500)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

- Sheriff's Department – Full-time and Part-time Salaries, Benefits and Legal Services (\$82,130)
- Jail Operations – Salaries, Benefits, and Medical Expenses (\$97,500)
- Jail Meal Operations – Food Purchases (\$55,000)

- Rescue Squad Contributions – Incentive Collections Rescue and Incentive Collections Capital (\$90,000)
- Capital Improvement – Landfill Land Purchase (\$350,000)
- Professional Services – Legal Services (\$10,000)
- Airport – Repairs and Maintenance (\$1,500)

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of budget Amendment #9.

13. Resolution – Hazard Mitigation Designation of Applicant's Agent

Interim County Manager Charles Murray reported to the Board that a new Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution needs to be approved in order for the County to obtain certain Federal financial assistance in the event of a disaster. The Board previously appointed the former County Manager as a designated representative for the County. Mr. Murray requested the Board appoint him, Chairman Stone and Clerk to the Board Kathy Moore as authorized representatives for Franklin County.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried approval of the resolution.

14. Board Committee Reports and Comments

Chairman Stone asked County Attorney Batton if he met with Oscar Williams regarding the insurance coverage at Perry School? Mr. Batton responded that Mr. Murray met with Mr. Williams and informed him that the County carries fire insurance on the building and the Alumni did not have to carry the insurance also.

Commissioner Swanson:

- He attended the Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting. The new director is doing well and the Chamber is doing well. He has Tar River Festival t-shirts for sale. The regular meeting of the Social Services Board will be held Tuesday, June 22nd

Commissioner Ball:

- At the Board's request, he has worked with the landowners on a preferred site for the County's hub site recommendation. This resulted in the landowner agreements and this site has been submitted to the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) for consideration.
- At their request, met with a group of professional child service providers last week and among their concerns is the fact that our local program is developed in such a way that

emotionally disturbed children and their families are being denied mental health services. They report that thousands of dollars are being reverted to the State that traditionally had been used in our Mental Health area for services. Feels it is appropriate that we have some concerns about that and hopefully we can get some more information.

Chairman Stone commented that the reversion of funds by the Division of Mental Health was held at the Secretary level in Raleigh. The Governor issued a memorandum to withhold four or five percent of the funds and the Secretary withheld some \$15M in funds and of course the Governor never gave the release time so those funds were never reverted. Consequently, the Legislature decided that if you do not need the money then they will cut it and

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

so they cut some \$10M in the State Mental Health program this year. The decision was made at the highest level of State government.

Commissioner Ball stated they reported that however those decisions were made there are some dire consequences and they had some case illustrations that were of real concern to him as it was to them.

- Attended the Economic Development Commission's quarterly meeting Thursday, 17th – items of discussion included six main items: 1) the hub project and they gave an update in their interest of that; 2) the possibility of moving their meetings to a monthly schedule rather than meeting quarterly as they do now; 3) the need to begin to consider the Pilot area for economic development given that a portion of Highway 64 goes through Franklin County in that area and that could be considered as another economic opportunity for the County; 4) there was discussion about their Website being improved; 5) general concern about water pressure and its effect on development in the area of the Youngsville Industrial Park – there was illustrations of that and discussion was that it was going to require some serious engineering in order to resolve that problem because there are businesses and one is under consideration now, a warehouse type building that has storage near the ceiling and there has to be enough water pressure there for them to justify being in the area and they are trying to find some type of solution to that and 6) there was good discussion about industry and commercial prospects. The disproportion of the relationship in the growth of residential properties in the County as opposed to commerce and industry. It is evident that we are a bedroom community and quickly becoming more so.
- The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Government's (COG) next meeting will focus on water resources and this is something we will be hearing a lot on in the next year or so.
- Neil Mallory, Executive Director of the COG, is in the hospital.

Chairman Stone:

- Attended the Library Board meeting. They are working to revise and update and to put into writing the policies governing the acquisition and distribution of Library materials.
- He received a letter from Wake Med requesting support for a positron emission

tomography (PET) scanner to assist in the diagnosis of cancer, neurological disease, and evaluation of cardiomyopathies related to residents in the multi-county service area. The scanner will be located adjacent to the Western Wake Medical Center campus in Cary. A letter was also received from Wake Radiology requesting support for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner in the service area. The MRI scanner will be located in the Wake Radiology Diagnostic Imaging Garner office in Wake County to serve residents of the multi-county service area. Applications, along with letters of support from surrounding counties, will be filed with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for the PET and MRI scanners. Chairman Stone stated, on behalf of the Board, he would send a letter of endorsement.

15. Interim Manager's Report

Mr. Murray reported the following:

- Tom Couch, Franklin County Public Utilities Director, is leaving effective June 30th. He will start advertising for a new director.

Commissioner Swanson asked if Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, the engineers for the Water and Sewer project, could help out until a replacement is found? Mr. Murray replied yes.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004---cont.

15. Closed Session

Upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Ball, with Commissioners Swanson, Ball and Stone voting "AYE", and Vice-Chairman Foy voting "NO", motion carried to go into closed session at 9:15 P.M. to discuss a prospective employee [General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6)].

At 9:45 P.M., upon motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Chairman Stone, with all present voting "AYE", duly carried to return to open session.

Chairman Stone reported there was no action to be taken at this time.

At 9:46 P.M., upon motion by Chairman Stone, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, with all present voting "AYE", the meeting was recessed until 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 22, 2004.

RAYMOND A. STONE, CHAIRMAN KATHY MOORE, CLERK