

**June 12, 2006**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for a recessed meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Sidney E. Dunston, Vice-Chairman Lynwood D. Buffaloe, Commissioners Harry L. Foy, Jr., Raymond A. Stone, Jimmie R. Gupton, Donald C. Lancaster, and Robert L. Swanson.

## **1. PUBLIC HEARING – PARATA SYSTEMS, LLC**

Economic Development Director Ronnie Goswick requested the Board consider a motion to offer incentives to Parata Systems, LLC. The company is currently under contract with Flextronics in Franklin County to mass produce large computerized pill dispensing machines. Parata now wishes to make a smaller version of the machine and is considering production at Flextronics as well, relocating approximately \$5 million in equipment to the Franklin County Flextronics site. If the incentive package is not offered, Goswick says it is possible Parata could move all operations out of state. If the package is approved, Parata would bring the equipment to Franklin County allowing Flextronics to create additional jobs in the area.

At approximately 7:11 P.M., Chairman Dunston opened and closed the public hearing with no comments made by the public.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Gupton to approve the incentive package contingent upon a contract developed with the County Attorney, with all present voting "AYE" the motion duly carried.

## **2. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The County Manager and the Board discussed details of the 2007 budget proposal including a 10% increase in inspections fees and a proposed solid waste availability fee.

Commissioner Stone expressed concerns with imposing a solid waste availability fee and suggested the Board utilize the money needed for solid waste from fund balance, without affecting the county's credit rating. Commissioner Gupton stated he disagreed with using money from fund balance stating the money should be readily available for emergency situations.

In reference to the solid waste availability fee, County Manager Chris Coudriet listed several alternatives as follows:

### **Fiscal Alternatives:**

- Increase the tax rate an estimated 3.5 cents for \$100
- Prompt cuts of \$1 million in other departments of county government to fund solid waste
- Appropriate an estimated \$1 million from available fund balance

### **Program Alternatives:**

- Exempt town residences and businesses from the solid waste fee without differentiation
- Exempt town residences and businesses from the solid waste fee with differentiation, e.g. a sticker system and limit access
- Maintain convenience center operations at 4 days per week

- Some combination of program alternatives proposed

Franklin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme addressed the Board concerning the county's budget and said although the proposal doesn't fully meet the School Board's requests, it supported the suggested spending plan.

Chairman Dunston asked the Board for a motion to include a discussion on the Nassif property being considered for the construction of a replacement site for Franklinton High School. The motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commission Gupton and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE" to include the item on the agenda.

Commissioner Foy asked if there were other sites being considered and inquired about their locations and prices for land.

Franklin County Schools' representative Tommy Piper gave the Board an explanation on how the Nassif site was selected. Originally there were eleven sites to be considered. Many of the sites were dismissed as options due to water issues, costs and the fact that many landowners declined to sell. The School Board was then asked to go back and look at alternative sites and Piper said that was how the Nassif site came about. Piper said the site is located in a watershed, but said there were ways to manage that. He said the cost of the property is reasonable and said the Nassif site was in the search area looked at from the beginning of the search. In reference to additional site options, Piper said another site had recently been presented to the School Board.

Commissioner Stone made a motion that the Board of Commissioners not approve the Nassif site. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Swanson voting "NO".

### **3. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Foy:** None.

**Commissioner Stone:** Commissioner Stone commented on time spent speaking with legislators about Medicaid and increased funding for mental health in the state.

**Commissioner Buffaloe:** Commissioner Buffaloe commented on successful activity at the Franklin County Airport. He said approximately 150 people attended a recent event there when the Young Eagles visited. He also commented positively about work done by the Airport's Director Leigh Osborn and invited to the Board to visit [www.airnav.com](http://www.airnav.com), a website where two favorable comments were written about the airport. Commissioner Foy then posed a question pertaining to safety and insurance coverage for events such as the one held recently. In response, the County Manager and County Attorney stated the county has liability coverage.

**Commissioner Swanson:** None.

**Commissioner Gupton:** Commissioner Gupton asked the Board to consider giving more authority to fire departments when responding to "illegal burns." He says oftentimes firemen are called out several times to the same illegal fire, but are not legally allowed to extinguish them. County Attorney Darnell Batton commented the county's solid waste ordinance can and will be amended to address the problem without adopting a new ordinance. Batton says work on the matter is already in progress.

**Commissioner Lancaster:** None.

**Commissioner Dunston:** None.

**County Manager Chris Coudriet:** Mr. Coudriet asked the Board if it wished to schedule another budget work session, stating presently the proposed budget is up for adoption at the next meeting June 19, 2006. An additional work session was not scheduled.

**County Clerk Kristen King:** Mrs. King stated she had plans to attend a notary public class the following day and reminded the Board of an upcoming conference in Chicago, Illinois sponsored by the National Association of Counties scheduled for August 2006.

#### **4. CLOSED SESSION**

At approximately 8:45 P.M. Chairman Dunston asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss litigation with regard to the estate of Ted Horton vs. Franklin County and others. The motion to enter into closed session was made by Commissioner Swanson and seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting "NO".

At 9:20 P.M. Commissioner Foy made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Stone. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE". Back in open session, Chairman Dunston announced that no action was taken.

Chairman Dunston then asked the Board to consider its regularly scheduled July 3, 2006 meeting due to the fact it is scheduled the evening prior to the Independence Day holiday. Commissioner Stone made a motion to cancel the July 3, 2006 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gupton, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

At approximately 9:21 P.M., Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gupton, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

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Sidney E. Dunston, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board