

February 18, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for a Special Called meeting at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young, Commissioners Lynwood D. Buffaloe, Sidney E. Dunston, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Bob Winters and Donald C. Lancaster.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Buffaloe made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) in order for the Board to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and carried 6 to 1 with Commissioner Foy casting the dissenting vote.

At approximately 6:45 P.M. Commissioner Young made the motion to enter back into open session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Buffaloe then made a motion to re-open bids for the County Manager position for a period of 30 days to receive additional resumes. Included in the motion was the desire to list the job posting on the NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) website, various list servs and other areas at minimal cost to the County. The motion received a second by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The Chair then called for a recess until the Board's regular meeting at 7:00 P.M.

At 7:00 P.M., the Chairman called the regular meeting to order and asked the Board to consider approval of the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion by Commissioner Winters to pull Item 1-K from the Consent Agenda for further discussion, seconded by Commissioner Foy, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Foy then made a motion to pull Item 1-H. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Buffaloe then made a motion to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, with all present voting "AYE," duly carried. The approved items are as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. January 22, 2008 minutes
- B. January 29, 2008 minutes
- C. February 4, 2008 minutes
- D. Releases, Refunds and Tax Collection Report
- E. Consider approval of Annual Report of Unpaid Taxes that are liens on Real Property
- F. Consider a Resolution establishing a 6-year revaluation cycle
- G. Consider approval of Long Mill Utility Station and Pipeline Easement
- H. ~~Consider approval of changes to the Franklin County Animal Control Ordinance~~
- I. Consider approval of a joint Resolution celebrating 100 years of County unity in recognition of our Association's Centennial (NCACC)
- J. Consider bid award to Vaughan Utilities for the installation of a gravity sewer line to service the Bert Winston Road Elementary School
- K. ~~Consider Request for Qualifications for Fleet Maintenance~~

After a question about continuing education requirements in reference to Item 1-K, Commissioner Winters made the motion to approve the "Request for Qualifications for Fleet Maintenance." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

In reference to Item 1-H, Commissioner Foy asked about specific changes suggested to the Franklin County Animal Control Ordinance. Animal Control Director Graham Stallings informed the Board the proposed changes involved improvements to grammar and punctuation only. He said content would not be changed with this action. Upon motion by Commissioner Dunston to approve changes to the "Franklin County Animal Control Ordinance," seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

2. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The Board was asked to adopt a resolution in appreciation to all individuals who assisted friends, neighbors, as well as strangers during a time of crisis on February 10, 2008 when Franklin County residents were impacted by major wildfires.

County Attorney Darnell Batton read the resolution of appreciation.

Commissioner Winters made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Foy. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The Board wanted to personally thank all individuals involved in fighting the wildfires. Framed copies of the resolution will be distributed to local organizations in appreciation for their service and staff will coordinate with local media to ensure that all volunteers are aware of the Board's action.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

This is the time set aside by the Board of Commissioners to allow individuals five minutes to address the Board on issues concerning the county.

Chuck Stires, 151 Rockinghorse Lane, Youngsville, NC

- Mr. Stires thanked all volunteers for their outstanding service involved in fighting wildfires on February 10, 2008. In reference to the upcoming budget cycle, he suggested the Board offer a report to taxpayers about how funds have been spent during the current fiscal year.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Bond Order/Resolution Calling for a Bond Referendum

This time was set aside for citizens to make public comments regarding the bond order entitled “ORDER AUTHORIZING \$53,000,000 SCHOOL BONDS.”

Finance Director Chuck Murray stated the public hearing is the last step in the process of bringing the bond before the public for a referendum. Following the public hearing, he said the Board would be asked to consider approval of the bond order and the resolution calling for the referendum.

Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing.

Chuck Stires, 151 Rockinghorse Lane, Youngsville, NC

- Mr. Stires stated it was not his intention to be negative about the bond referendum. He commented on his participation in meetings with Franklin County School administrators and staff about funding alternatives. He said the public would have to wait and see what alternative ideas they may have. He stated that certain laws make public/private partnerships difficult which often remove any possible cost savings in North Carolina. In other states, Mr. Stires said public/private partnerships allow for a savings of 10% and that schools were constructed 10% faster. He ended the conversation by saying the School Board is receptive to alternatives.

At approximately 7:19 P.M., the public hearing was closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Buffaloe to adopt the bond order and the resolution calling for the referendum, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, with all present voting “AYE,” duly carried.

B. Airport/Hub Small Area Plan (SAP)

This was the time set aside for the public to hear a presentation concerning the proposed SAP and to offer comments.

In February, 2007 the Board authorized development of an Airport/Hub District Small Area Plan to study approximately 19 square miles surrounding the Franklin County Airport and Triangle North Hub site. The purpose of the SAP was to develop a comprehensive development strategy for the Airport/Hub district.

Shane Mitchell, Chairman of the Small Area Plan Advisory Committee, Patrick Young, Planning and Inspections Director and Max Rogers, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor made recommendations and presented the information on the SAP development process. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

(See Attachment A – 021808)

Following the presentation, Commissioner Buffaloe suggested that the Hub now be referred to as “Triangle North Franklin.”

Commissioner Young questioned the timeframe when public water would be available and stated citizens were concerned about the use of their groundwater. She was informed that public water would not be available until June. Commissioner Young also asked who the responsible party is for the site’s marketing strategy. In response, she was informed that Economic Development Director Ronnie Goswick and the Economic Development Commission Team would take the lead in marketing.

The Board also wanted to know if affected residents of the SAP had been communicated with. Mr. Young said there was no way that staff could distribute all of the information discussed, but stated residents were mailed notices of all meetings and that information had been placed on the internet for public inspection. He said subsequent action from tonight would require that property owners be notified of any changes.

Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing.

Tony Efird, 148 Sam Horton Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Efird stated he was neither for nor against the SAP and said he was in favor of any action that would bring about jobs in Franklin County. He said he was against subjugation and said the Board considered the availability of county water and sewer for the airport area more important than its availability to county citizens. He said the Board constantly allocates water

and sewer to businesses, leaving citizens out. He also expressed his frustration with the inability to receive high speed internet at his home. In response, Commissioner Lancaster stated the Board was making every effort to create jobs and stated the Board was unable to force Embarq to offer hi speed internet access to Mr. Efird's area.

Chuck Stires, 151 Rockinghorse Lane, Youngsville, NC

- Mr. Stires wanted to know at what point would the county's resources be needed and what the county has learned from the Wilson Airport and the Global TransPark. In response to his first question, Bryce Mendenhall, Public Utilities Director, stated allocations and capacities would be studied as a whole. In response to what lessons have been learned from the Wilson Airport and the Global TransPark, Pat Young, Planning Director stated Wilson was primarily related to potential conflicts with residential development and said Franklin County is working to keep mid and higher density residential areas away from flight paths. In terms of Global TransPark, he said that issue was related to Economic Development positioning and he thinks that the County and Kerr-Tar Board's recruitment strategy will allow us to avoid some problems that have been encountered by the Global TransPark.

At approximately 8:15 P.M. Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Young commented on the need for the Board to consider public health when considering the SAP. She said studies have proven that people who live near airports have a higher risk of heart attack and other health problems.

Commissioner Buffaloe then made a motion to adopt the SAP, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

5. REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT PERMANENT LAWN IRRIGATION SCHEDULES TO AID IN THE CONSERVATION OF POTABLE WATER USE

The Public Utilities Department feels it to be in the best interest of Franklin County to implement permanent lawn irrigation schedules in an attempt to lessen the impact of non-potable/non-essential water uses. Bryce Mendenhall, Director, stated weather models have suggested the impacts from the current drought will continue with no sustainable moisture predicted. He said the use of potable drinking water for non-essential uses has increased greatly over the past several years and the trend is expected to continue. The proposed water schedule is an attempt to allow individuals to manage their landscaping improvements while protecting current water resources.

Upon motion by Commissioner Young to approve the amendment of the Water Conservation Ordinance to reflect permanent lawn irrigation schedules, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, with all present voting "AYE," duly carried.

6. SEWER ALLOCATION, RECONCILIATION AND FLOW REDUCTION ANALYSIS

The County is requesting that Stearns and Wheler assist with reconciling flows, summarizing available collection system allocation and actual capacity, and presenting a more accurate residential flow value. After analysis, the County will decide whether to submit to DWQ for a flow reduction (obtaining a lower per residential flow value than in the rules), what flows can be reconciled with DWQ, and move forward with a refined allocation procedure that avoids premature expansion of the collection system or treatment plant, tracks building more closely and potentially have allocation requesters share in the cost of new extensions and upgrades to serve their developments through fees.

Upon motion by Commissioner Dunston, seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe, to approve the request for permission to engage the services of the engineering firm Sterns/Wheler to perform a sewer study, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

7. REQUEST FOR FUNDING 2008/2009 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY

The Board was asked to assist the Library with its competitive bid for federal 2008/2009 Library Services and Technology Act funds in the amount of \$100,000. A Franklin County commitment of support in an amount not to exceed \$30,634 is required to pursue the grant application process. The Library requested that the Board endorse the bid for the aforementioned federal funds by a resolution of local financial support.

Upon motion by Commissioner Buffaloe to approve the funding commitment necessary, seconded by Commissioner Winters, with all present voting "AYE," duly carried.

8. APPOINTMENTS

A. Airport Commission

An appointment is needed to the Airport Commission is needed. No appointment was made. (Commissioner Foy)

B. Department of Aging Advisory Board

An appointment was needed to the Department of Aging Advisory Board. Commissioner Winters nominated Tom Nichols and with all present voting "AYE," the motion duly carried.

C. Upper Neuse River Basin Association

An appointment was needed to the Upper Neuse River Basin. No appointment was made.

D. Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority

An appointment was needed to the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority. No appointment was made.

E. Animal Advisory Board

An appointment was needed to the Animal Advisory Board. No appointment was made. (Commissioner Winters)

9. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK'S COMMENTS

This was the time set aside for the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Clerk to the Board to report on various activities. The Board may also discuss other items of interest.

County Clerk Kristen King: Mrs. King reminded the Board of several upcoming events including a visit March 10, 2008 by the Franklin County Leadership Group; the annual dinner/report on March 17, 2008 by Cooperative Extension; and the tentative annual dinner/report on April 7, 2008 by the Department of Social Services. Mrs. King also mentioned the Board's agenda packet is once again available on the county's website for public viewing along with available positions on various county boards and commissions.

Commissioner Lancaster: No comments.

Commissioner Buffaloe: In reference to the recent wildfires, Commissioner Buffaloe commented on the success of the Code Red system used to notify area residents of the threat of danger.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston stated he attended a recent meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and said he is pleased that Franklin County EMS has now become a training institute allowing all of the county's personnel to conveniently train locally.

Commissioner Young: Commissioner Young commented that sales tax revenues are well below the amount budgeted and posed the question as to whether or not it is time to begin making cuts. County Manager Harris stated complete information on that issue would be brought before the Board on March 17, 2008.

Commissioner Winters: No comments.

Commissioner Foy: No comments.

Commissioner Swanson: In reference to Commissioner Buffaloe's comments about the Code Red system, Commissioner Swanson stated he too is pleased the program is paying off and is beneficial for the county.

Interim Manager Angela Harris: Mrs. Harris mentioned gave an update on the following items:

- The 2008-2009 Budget Kickoff has been scheduled.
- An inquiry on the availability of the old BB&T building revealed the County is one of 15 parties potentially interested in renting/purchasing the facility.
- The mental health audit is complete and available for review in the Manager's office.
- The Kerr-Tar Economic Development Commission annual report is complete and has been distributed.
- The deadline is approaching for area students to apply for scholarships with the County's Veteran's Affairs Division.
- Approximately 30 interested taxpayers and media attended the Wake/Franklin County boundary forum held February 12, 2008. A follow up meeting will soon be held with Wake County and a formal report will be given to the Board at its next regular meeting.
- Human Resources is working to improve and enhance employee's orientation sessions by offering additional training.
- Research has been done on gym usage fees and the Manager stated she recommends waiving those fees;
- Updates to the county's website were mentioned.
- At 3:00 P.M. on February 28, 2008, the Board is expected to hold a work session to discuss the Jail Study.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5) to establish or instruct the staff of the County concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the County in negotiating the price or other material terms of the acquisition of real property for a sewer easement from Raleigh Alexander Cleghorn and Elizabeth Joyce Cleghorn to serve the new elementary school. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe and carried with a 6 to 1 vote, with Commissioner Foy casting the dissenting vote.

Following the closed session, Commissioner Dunston made a motion to enter back into open session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The Chairman announced that no action was taken.

Upon motion to adjourn by Commissioner Winters, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board