

April 17, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for a recessed meeting at 10:00 A.M. in the Board Room located at the Department of Social Services with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young, and Commissioners Lynwood D. Buffaloe, Bob Winters, Harry L. Foy, Jr. and Donald C. Lancaster. Commissioner Sidney E. Dunston was absent.

Chairman Robert L. Swanson called the recessed meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. and welcomed everyone that was in attendance. He stated Tammy Davis would be filling in as Clerk for this meeting since Kristen King was absent. He recognized Interim County Manager Angela Harris. Mrs. Harris stated the purpose of the recessed meeting was to discuss space needs for departments in Franklin County. She presented the Board with a list of focal points of inadequate space and substandard facilities. Glen Lyles (Director of Maintenance) presented the Board with a slide presentation showing pictures of the conditions of the County Office Building. The slides showed the deteriorated piers, mold and rotten wood located underneath the building. He stated there are blocks supporting the joists of the building, sink holes that hold water and an infestation of fleas caused by cats underneath the building.

Mrs. Harris went over the possibility of consolidating existing County Departments. She presented the Board with examples and went over the benefits of consolidation. Vice-Chairman McGhee-Young pointed out there is no reception area in the Administration Building and suggested that someone is needed to greet and direct the public that comes in. Mrs. Harris agreed the suggestion would provide good customer service as well as security. Mrs. Harris presented the Board with a hand-out on the newly vacant BB&T banking facility. She stated Allen DeHart is interested in pursuing the opportunity of using the BB&T building as a museum. She stated he is interested in seeking grants and since the facility has a vault, valuable artifacts could be stored.

Chuck Murray (Finance Director) presented and went over current lease arrangements that the County has currently. Commissioner Winters questioned what would happen to the old buildings after the county departments are moved. Darnell Batton (County Attorney) stated the County could declare it surplus and sell the property. He stated he would be concerned with sold surplus properties not being utilized and causing an eyesore. Commissioner Buffaloe suggested creating parking areas that would enhance the downtown area.

Angela Harris recognized Karl Pernell (Mayor of Louisburg), Mark Warren (Town Manager) and Boyd Sturges (Town Attorney). She stated the Town of Louisburg is proposing an opportunity to partner with them in an effort to eliminate the problem of facility needs. Boyd Sturges presented the Board with pictures of a proposed future office building. He stated the County is an ideal tenant for the project. He stated the Town would build a building and parking area to suit its tenant. He stated the Town has discussed the proposed aspect with Michael Leonard (local builder). He stated the Town would provide the building, sidewalks, driveways and parking. He stated the County would have the option to purchase the building at the end of the lease (10-15 years based on the lease agreement).

Angela Harris then went over the list of suggested next steps that she had put together. Commissioner Lancaster stated he feels we need to have someone complete the next steps to determine what the County's needs and assessments are. Mrs. Harris stated she would proceed with them and report back to the Board.

Vice-Chairman McGhee-Young made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Winters to recess until 2:30 P.M. on Monday, April 21, 2008. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

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