

**March 17, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met at 5:00 P.M. at the Cooperative Extension Annex 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. and Bob Winters. Commissioner Donald C. Lancaster was absent.

The purpose of the meeting was Cooperative Extension's annual report/dinner. At the meeting, staff members were introduced to those in attendance and guests participated in a game that allowed the group to learn more about the services offered through Cooperative Extension.

This was an informal meeting and no action was taken.

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The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for its Regular Meeting at 7:00 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 and asked the Board to consider removing Item 5 from the agenda and to add a Financial Update regarding the county budget.

Commissioner Buffaloe made the motion to add the financial update, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Buffaloe then made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swanson and duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The items approved are as follows:

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Consider scheduling a meeting of the 2008 Board of Equalization and Review on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- B. Releases, Refunds and Tax Collection Report
- C. Consider the adoption of a Resolution on Continuation of the VWGF Resource Center.

## 2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments were made during this time set aside by the Board of Commissioners to allow individuals five minutes to address the Board on issues concerning the county.

## 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. TEXT AMENDMENT: CHAPTER TWO – ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 6. DISTRICT REGULATIONS, SECTION 6-1: TABLE OF PERMITTED USES AND SECTION 6-2: NOTES TO TABLE OF PERMITTED USES CONCERNING UTILITY BUILDING SALES

Chairman Swanson opened and closed the public hearing with no comments from citizens.

Commissioner Foy then made the motion to adopt the text amendment, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting “AYE.”

### B. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT: COBB’S MILL UTILITY BUILDINGS LLC, GOLD MINE TOWNSHIP, 4002 NC HWY 561, AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL (AR) TO NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS (NB), 2.00 ACRES

Chairman Swanson opened and closed the public hearing with no comments from citizens.

Commissioner Foy made the motion to adopt the zoning map amendment, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting “AYE.”

## 4. EPSOM DECONSTRUCTION REPORT

Christy Shearin, Communications Director, presented a final report regarding the deconstruction of the Old Epsom School with the attached PowerPoint presentation.

See Attachment A - 031708

Mrs. Shearin said the project was completed March 7, 2008 with the cost of the project totaling \$173,288 as of February 29, 2008. She stated that a final payment of \$21,052.86 is due and asked the Board for authorization to issue the final payment.

Upon motion by Commissioner Dunston to authorize the final payment, seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe, with all present voting “AYE,” the motion duly carried.

Lastly, Mrs. Shearin stated that Piedmont Communications had agreed to sow grass seed on the property now that it has been cleared.

## **5. ~~AUDIT CONTRACT FOR FYE 2008~~**

The Board was scheduled to hear a recommendation from the Finance Director and County Manager on audit services, but this item was stricken from the agenda.

### **5-A. PRESENTATION: FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Chuck Murray, Finance Director, gave a financial update regarding the county budget with the attached PowerPoint presentation.

See Attachment B - 031708

No action was needed.

## **6. DISCUSSION: JAIL EXPANSION**

On February 28, 2008, Brennan Associates, Inc. attended a work session with the Board to discuss the feasibility study of the proposed \$36 million dollar jail expansion. The Board asked Brennan Associates, Inc. to make a second presentation concerning anticipated operational expenses. County staff and representatives from Brennan Associates were present to answer Board questions and to make a presentation.

Todd Davis, Brennan representative, presented the Jail Operations Budget.

See Attachment C - 031708

Sheriff Pat Green stated the jail expansion project would create 40 new jobs with county benefits and said within 5-7 years, the County will have to add on to the jail by federal decree whether the choice is made to partner with the U.S. Marshals or not. He said U.S. Marshals desperately need jail space and commented that housing federal inmates would be a "win-win" situation for the county as it would bring in additional revenue and assist in building the infrastructure needed for the growing Franklin County inmate population.

Commissioner Foy expressed concern that U.S. Marshals would not provide a written guarantee for a contract for 300 federal inmates. Sheriff Green responded by saying he felt comfortable whether the agreement is written or verbal. He stated the Franklin County Jail has been working with the U.S. Marshals since the early 1990's and said they had always honored their contracts in the past. He said a "gentleman's agreement" had worked well for years.

According to the Sheriff, a written Intergovernmental agreement already exists paying the county \$63 per inmate per day as a per diem. He said the figure can go up if and

when the county expands the jail or following. He also said the figure can be reviewed in 18 months for an increase.

An estimate of two years was given to complete the jail expansion including approximately nine months to prepare construction documents and 14-16 months to construct the facility, should the board elect to expand the jail.

Commissioner Swanson commented that another work session on the topic is needed.

Commissioner Lancaster asked for a letter of intent from the U.S. Marshals.

The Board asked the Manager and staff to review the information and to come back with a recommendation at the Board's next regular meeting on April 7, 2008.

## **7. REQUEST FOR OFFICE SPACE**

Wake Health Services requested the use of the Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic during daytime hours until they can locate or build suitable space for the federally funded Community Health Center. In consideration of the request, Volunteers in Medicine asked the County for use of office space in the old Ag building on Nash Street, currently housing the parole office. Three office spaces were needed to house the Patient Assistant Program and business office during daytime hours.

Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine representatives Beverly Kegley, Executive Director and Dr. Phillip Stover, Medical Director, made a presentation and stated the Community Health Center should have been in operation by January, 2008. Both expressed concern about the fact the clinic hasn't opened.

The Board directed staff to call Wake Health Services and ask for an update at its April 7, 2008 meeting.

Mrs. Kegley stated Wake Health Services most recent plans are to open April 1, 2008 within the offices of the Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic and said in order to accommodate them and insure that the underserved and uninsured are treated immediately, additional office space is needed.

Mrs. Angela Harris advised the Board that office spaces located at the old Ag building on Nash Street could accommodate two offices without negative impact.

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to grant Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine the office space requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foy and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

## 8. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The Chairman was asked to appoint Commissioners and assign duties for the Public Utilities Committee to consist of three County Commissioners, the County Manager, Director of Public Utilities, Director of Planning and the Director of Economic Development. Appointments to the committee are to occur on an annual basis and coincide with the election of a new Board Chairman.

Chairman Swanson appointed Commissioners Young, Lancaster and Buffaloe to serve. Commissioner Buffaloe then made the motion to approve formal endorsement of the creation of the Public Utilities Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

## 9. APPOINTMENTS

### A. Airport Commission

An appointment was needed to the Airport Commission, however no appointment was made.

### B. Upper Neuse River Basin Association

An appointment was needed to the Upper Neuse River Basin Association, however no appointment was made.

### C. Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority

An appointment was needed to the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority, but no appointment was made.

### D. Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman, recommended that the Board appoint Thomas Wade, Jr. to the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to appoint Mr. Wade, seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

## 10. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK'S COMMENTS

**Commissioner Swanson:** Commissioner Swanson commented on his attendance at a recent Special Olympics event held in Franklin County.

**Commissioner Lancaster:** Commissioner Lancaster also attended the Special Olympics event and commented the event was well organized and that it was a joy to attend.

**Commissioner Buffaloe:** No report.

**Commissioner Dunston:** Commissioner Dunston reported on a recent meeting he attended of the RPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. He also commented on the annual report of Cooperative Extension held earlier in the evening and complimented staff on the event.

**Commissioner Foy:** Commissioner Foy questioned the vehicle maintenance RFQ's recently distributed. Commissioner Young served on the committee that designed the recently adopted purchasing policy and replied that the purpose for the policy was to create fairness. In reference to comments made at a previous board meeting by local garage owners, Commissioner Young said a standard for training was set based on recommendations by public safety staff and said the policy sends the message to any operator that if they want the county's business, they must meet the standard in order to obtain the business.

**Commissioner Winters:** No report.

**Commissioner Young:** Commissioner Young commented on her attendance at the Special Olympics event and at a recent meeting of the Franklinton American Legion Ladies dinner. She also mentioned a citizen complaint pertaining to paving Cripple Creek Drive off of West River Road. Commissioner Dunston stated he too had received the complaint for some time, and said he recommended the citizen call Steve Winstead with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

**County Manager Angela Harris:** Mrs. Harris reported on the following items:

- Mrs. Harris commented on a citizen's request to purchase old computers that have been disposed of at the Franklin County landfill. She stated that currently a company picks up those computers, erases the hard drives and then pays the county a certain amount of money for the material. She recommended the county continue with the plan in place now and says it is good for the county financially and for recycling. She added that any changes to this plan could be considered at budget time.
  - Mrs. Harris stated funds were available to assist the county with the recent Special Olympics event and said less than \$900 had been spent on the event at no cost to the county.
  - She commented on a recent visit by area students who were given information on county government and citizenship.
  - She gave an update on plans for the upcoming County Government Week.
  - She stated she had approved a 5% increase for Communications Director Christy Shearin.
  - Mrs. Harris also stated that options were being explored for office space for Richie Duncan, Existing Industry Coordinator. She stated that an office adjacent to the Economic Development office is available at a cost of \$345 per month.
- Commissioner Buffaloe made the motion to approve the idea and to secure**

**a lease for office space for Mrs. Duncan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."**

**County Clerk Kristen King:** Mrs. King mentioned upcoming dates for the Southeast High Speed Rail County update meetings.

## **11. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Buffaloe then made a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy casting the dissenting vote. The items discussed are as follows:

- A. The Board will consider entering into a closed session pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6), in order for the board to discuss a personnel matter.
- B. The Board will consider going into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Foy. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

It was announced that no action was taken in closed session.

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, the motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

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Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board