

May 5, 2008

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, Bob Winters, Sidney E. Dunston, Harry L. Foy, Jr. and Commissioner Donald C. Lancaster.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Young asked the Board to consider removing Item 1-B and Item 1-D from the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Swanson mentioned that an item needed to be added to the agenda to include a brief presentation on the 5th Annual Franklin County Farm, Foods and Crafts Tour. Commissioner Dunston made the motion to add the item to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

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

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. April 21, 2008 minutes
- ~~B. Resolution in support of the Franklin County Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant Committee to Reduce Alcohol-Related Crashes and Fatalities~~
- C. 2008 County Clerks Week Proclamation
- ~~D. 2008 National County Government Week Proclamation: Protecting Our Children~~

In honor of County Clerks Week, the Board presented County Clerk Kristen King with a floral arrangement and thanked her for her service.

Commissioner Young then made reference to a map displayed in the board room that signifies areas where alcohol related crashes have occurred in Franklin County. She made a motion in support of the "**Resolution in support of the Franklin County Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant Committee to Reduce Alcohol-Related Crashes and Fatalities.**" Commissioner Buffaloe seconded the motion and it duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Young also referenced a resolution entitled "**2008 National County Government Week Proclamation: Protecting Our Children.**" She stated the importance of the county being aware that children are at risk for sexual aggression through the internet and other means. She also mentioned the need to move forward and actively combat this problem. She mentioned a forum that was held recently during County Government Week highlighting ways that Franklin County works to protect children and said she wants attention brought to the problem. Commissioner Young made a motion in support of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Bob Radcliffe, a local farmer and participant in the Franklin County Farm, Foods and Crafts Tour, presented two commercials that will be aired on WRAL –TV to promote the tour as well as agritourism in Franklin County. He also gave a description of the tour scheduled for May 17-18, 2008.

2. 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. No comments were made.

3. RECOMMENDATION: FUTURE WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS

On February 26, 2008, a work session was held regarding future water supply options for Franklin County. At the conclusion of the presentation, three recommendations were delivered to the Board for consideration including:

- Development of a Franklin County Public Utilities Advisory Committee
- Begin formal discussions with representatives from Riverplace regarding a potential public/private partnership to withdraw waters from the old Burlington Mills plant in Wake County
- Begin formal discussions with representatives from the City of Henderson that identify available allocations and discuss a partnership in a future upgrade of the Kerr Lake Regional Water System.

The development of the Public Utilities Advisory Committee has already been endorsed and created. Bryce Mendenhall, Public Utilities Director, said emphasis must now be placed on endorsing one or both of the remaining recommendations through formal action.

Mr. Mendenhall suggested charging the Utilities Committee with entering into discussions with Riverplace Associates and Henderson to begin discovering benefits and disadvantages. He reminded the Board that according to the water study, multiple sources of water are needed. Commissioner Lancaster agreed with the recommendation and said he'd like to see both options explored.

Commissioner Buffaloe added that options should also be explored involving the Tar River as a potential source.

Commissioner Foy asked if Wake County was considering Kerr Lake as a water source. In response, Mr. Mendenhall stated Raleigh is looking at two options including Kerr Lake and even a pipeline from the ocean.

Commissioner Young made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Dunston, charging the Public Utilities Committee to move forward in seeking options with the Neuse River and possibly a wastewater treatment plant there and in Henderson to increase usage.

Commissioner Winters then asked if impoundment of the reservoir on the Tar River was possible or "out of bounds." Mr. Mendenhall said it was not impossible, but stated doing so may be part of a long term solution and wouldn't remedy an immediate need. He said construction of a reservoir would take time. He said he wouldn't dismiss the idea, but reminded the Board that infrastructure built within Franklin County must be accompanied by a wastewater treatment plant which would increase costs even further.

The Board unanimously approved Commissioner Young's motion with all present voting "AYE."

Mr. Mendenhall's PowerPoint presentation is attached.

(SEE ATTACHMENT A – 050508)

4. BID AWARD: HUNTER PLACE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1

Separate sealed bids were received by Franklin County on April 21, 2008 for the Phase I upgrade to the Hunter Place Pump Station. J.W. Wilkerson was the apparent low bidder for the project. Enclosed in the agenda packet was a recommendation from the county's engineers to award the contract as presented in the amount of \$761,170.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to approve the formal award of Phase 1 in the amount of \$761,170. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

5. APPOINTMENTS

A. Airport Commission

One appointment was needed to the Airport Commission.

Commissioner Foy nominated Steve Trubilla. The nomination duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

6. 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.

Clerk to the Board Kristen King: Mrs. King thanked the Board for the floral arrangement given in honor of Clerk's Week and for allowing her to serve.

Commissioner Foy: No comment.

Commissioner Winters: Commissioner Winters reported on a recent recommendation by the Animal Control Advisory Committee. In the midst of some controversy, he said the committee decided to allow Animal Control to administer rabies vaccinations at the shelter before animals are released to the general populous. He said doing so will cover the County so that a rabid animal is not released. County Attorney Darnell Batton stated that Graham Stallings (Animal Control Director) should come before the Board and ask for a policy change to the Animal Control Ordinance to allow employees of Animal Control to administer rabies vaccinations if properly trained. He said the Board of Health would also address the recommendation. Commissioner Young stated she would like for Mr. Stallings to address the Board at a future meeting concerning his opinion and the Animal Control Advisory Committee's opinion on adding a veterinarian to the advisory committee.

Commissioner Young: Commissioner Young stated she attended a Mental Health forum on April 28, 2008 for elected officials in the five-county area. She said issues discussed involved concerns with mental health and the provision of mental health in the counties and why it's not working the way counties want it to. Commissioner Young stated her concern that companies contracted for mental health services are unable to keep staff long enough to keep a continuum of care for any one patient. She understood that the local Five County Mental Health Authority doesn't have much control in the matter as pay rates are set by the state. She also mentioned the Mercer report and where local LME's (Local Management Entities) stand and said it is uncertain how services will be provided in the future. She expects the topic to be discussed in the short session of the State Legislature and in the long session next year as well. Commissioner Young also attended a recent High Speed Rail meeting in Youngsville

and stated it appears the project will have widespread impacts on the Franklinton and Youngsville areas. She said although there will be improvements and upgrades, communities will also lose crossovers to travel over the railroad tracks. She stated two plans have been designed for Franklin County and said a decision on plans is expected in 2009 or 2010. She expects that land owners will be approached regarding right-of-way negotiations by 2011. Commissioner Lancaster added that homes may have to be purchased as well and said one of the plans goes through Northbrook Industrial Park where million dollar buildings are located. He said the rail would then move east through residential areas. Commissioner Young then mentioned the diligent work of NACo (National Association of Counties) in getting the *Second Chance Act* through Congress. She stated the act is a jail diversion act that would offer support to people in jail who have no support when they are released. The intent of the legislation is to offer services to assist non-violent offenders with mental illnesses that have not been treated. She said the President has already signed the act and stated funding should be received soon.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston also offered comments on the High Speed Rail meeting and said he understood there would be coordination of rail and road traffic. He understood that with the aid of overpasses and underpasses, the train would not impede road traffic. He stated the community should not only be mindful of the plans, but it should also be open to opportunities associated with the rail system. Commissioner Dunston then referenced the State's action of turning down the Certificate of Need (CON) for Franklin Regional Medical Center. He said the CON was turned down because the hospital was unable to show its consideration for the indigent and the poor of the county. With the apparent need for a new hospital, Commissioner Dunston suggested the Board come together with the hospital and decide on a resolution that would be beneficial for everyone involved.

Commissioner Buffaloe: Commissioner Buffaloe stated he had been out of town and had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Lancaster: Commissioner Lancaster stated he attended the High Speed Rail meeting and stated he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new industrial park in Granville County.

Commissioner Swanson: No comment.

County Manager Angela Harris: Mrs. Harris reported on the following topics:

- Mrs. Harris stated as of Saturday, May 3, 2008, 1,982 people had cast their ballot utilizing the one-stop early voting process.
- She also mentioned that out of five applications received, three students were awarded scholarships through the State Veteran's Scholarship Program.
- Mrs. Harris mentioned a training opportunity for staff that will soon be held pertaining to "harassment training."
- She mentioned meetings held with the Finance Director and department heads and said good cooperation had been had in cutting budgets and trying to analyze each department's workload to see if staff in place justified programs. She said substantial cuts had been made and that it is probable that some reduction in force would be suggested in order to present a budget without a tax increase. Mrs. Harris stated she hoped to have a budget recommendation to the Board on May 24, 2008. She asked the Board to consider budget work sessions during the first or second week of June.

Commissioner Young stated she did not like the process utilized last year and asked that the Board not be given each department budget at the requested level and then also receive the final budget recommendation, not knowing what had been cut. Commissioner Young stated the former process was hard to understand.

Mrs. Harris stated the budget has been cut to the “core” and commented that out of 38 or 39 positions requested, only three to five will be considered because they are self funded. She also stated that a freeze on hiring had been put in place and stated that any position filled must be approved by the Manager based on need. She explained that once again the County is dipping into fund balance and making some cuts that may not be popular. She also stated the issue may not go away for next year.

Commissioner Lancaster stated the Board and staff needs to be sensitive to people’s jobs and to look for opportunities not to fill positions. Mrs. Harris agreed and said that was the approach being used in creating the budget. She stated that some vacant positions were already being absorbed within departments and said through attrition, as people leave employment with the County, those positions will be absorbed as well. Mrs. Harris said staff has looked into transferring positions as well as job sharing. She stated rate increases are also being considered to help offset some of the costs the County has historically absorbed with various programs.

Chairman Swanson then suggested the Board determine dates for work sessions at its next meeting May 19, 2008.

Commissioner Dunston then commented on the federally funded medical clinic being created by Wake Health Services. He said he was under the impression that space for the clinic would be shared at the Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Louisburg. He said he has since learned the clinic would be located in Youngsville. Today he learned the clinic would actually be located in Franklinton on a temporary basis. Chairman Swanson said he is concerned about the length of time that it has taken to establish the clinic. Commissioner Dunston stated his opinion that part of the resistance may have come from Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine. Commissioner Young commented on a map she has that shows the number of people considered to be indigent that live in Franklin County and said she would bring the map to the next meeting.

Bryce Mendenhall, Public Utilities Director, asked Commissioners Buffaloe, Lancaster and Young to consider the first meeting of the Public Utilities Advisory Committee on May 15, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. in the Economic Development Office Conference Room.

7. CLOSED SESSION

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

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

It was announced that no action was taken.

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion duly carried with all present voting “AYE.”

(blank)