

October 20, 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, Bob Winters, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Donald C. Lancaster, Lynwood D. Buffaloe and Sidney E. Dunston. Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young was absent.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order and asked the board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

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

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. October 6, 2008 minutes
- B. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds and Tax Collection Report
- C. Woodfield North Subdivision Allocation Request

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

James Privette, 85 Callie Way, Franklinton, NC

- Mr. Privette expressed concern about a gas pipeline that will be placed on his property by Public Service North Carolina (PSNC). He stated his concern that the line would be too close to his well and that it would be placed in the middle of his property. He stated his future plans for renovations would be directly affected by the gas line.

Mary Privette, 85 Callie Way, Franklinton, NC

- Mrs. Privette also stated her concerns about the gas line expected to be located on her property. She had questions about rezoning and wanted to know if any public meetings had been held relative to this project. If so, she stated she was not notified. She stated that when she purchased the property approximately 15 years ago she was not made aware of plans for the gas line project. Mrs. Privette was informed that if there was an easement on her property, the information should be on file with the Register of Deeds office. County Attorney Darnell Batton stated the matter would be a private matter between PSNC and property owners. He stated PSNC may be looking at prospective routes and may consider utilizing their condemnation rights for this project.

Willy R. Nixon, III, 1055 Gordon Moore Road, Franklinton, NC

- Mr. Nixon is pastor of a church on Gordon Moore Road that would also be affected by the gas line. He read from a letter he received from PSNC. He stated the church had owned the property since 1865 and felt that if someone had a right-of-way or easement on the property that members of the church would have been aware. He said he understood the matter might be outside of the board's concern, but asked that commissioners keep the project in mind as it would be a serious impediment on the church property. He expressed safety concerns and concerns about interference of enhancement projects on church property.

3. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

H.M. Edwards, Franklin County Jail Administrator, was recognized for his selection as the Employee of the Quarter ending September, 2008. Mr. Edwards has been employed with the county since December, 2006 and selected for this recognition by a committee of his peers. Mr. Edwards received a vacation day and a savings bond.

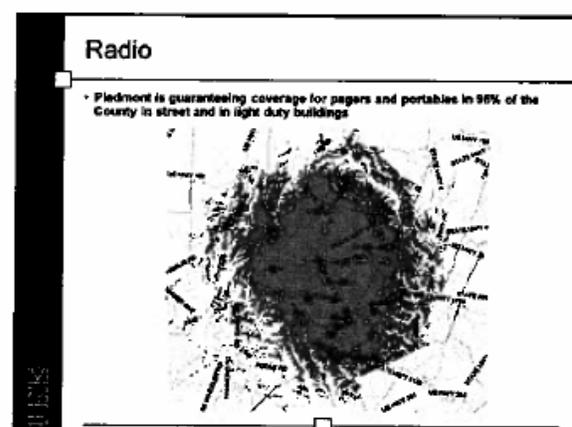
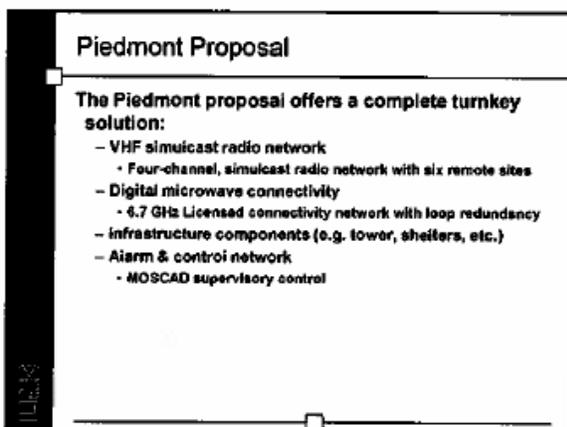
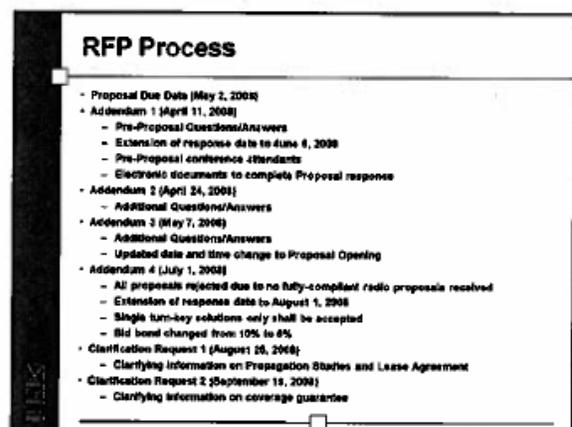
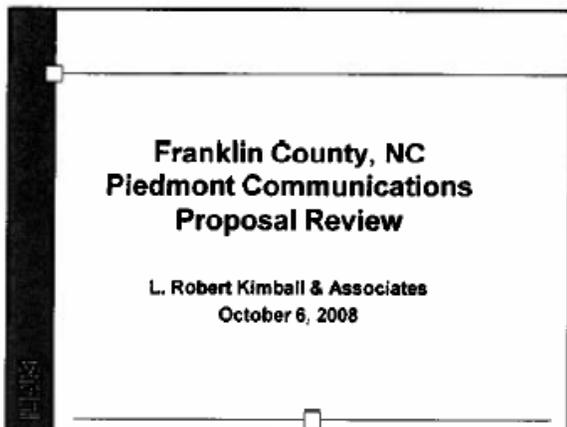
4. WORK FIRST PLAN 2010-2011

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners voted on September 8, 2008 to operate as a Standard County for the 2010-2011 Biennium. The Work First Planning Committee was appointed at that meeting. The Work First Plan was written and available for public review and comment both at DSS and the Office of the County Manager October 6-14, 2008. Notice of the public comment period was posted in the October 4, 2008 edition of The Franklin Times. The Planning Committee will vote on the Work First Plan at its meeting on October 16, 2008 and a final recommendation will be made. The Work First Plan is due October 31, 2008.

Chairman Swanson asked the board to consider removing Item 4 from the agenda at the request of the Department of Social Services Director. Commissioner Winters made the motion to delete Item 4 from the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

5. VHF PUBLIC SAFETY SIMULCAST RADIO NETWORK RFP AWARD

The County's consultant, L. Robert Kimball & Associates, has finished reviewing proposals received for the VHF Public Safety Simulcast Radio Network. Director Christy Shearin presented their findings in the following PowerPoint presentation.



Microwave

- The proposal includes a 6.7 GHz microwave connectivity network provided by Harris Stratax utilizing their TRuePoint 6200 Series radio

Site Infrastructure

- Louisburg 911
 - Existing tower upgrade
- White Level Site
 - Shelter
 - 12'x16'
 - Pre-fabricated
 - VFP, Inc.
 - Back-up Power
 - Kohler 60RZG propane generator
 - Kohler Automatic Transfer Switch
 - 500 gallon propane tank
 - Tower
 - 300' Self-Supporting
 - Sabre S3TL
 - FAA Lighting system Included

Timeline – Project Milestones

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of all County required documentation and final design acceptance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 12 weeks Start: week #1 End: week #13 Obtain all necessary permissions and permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 8 weeks Start: week #1 End: week #9 FCC Licensing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 18 weeks Start: week #1 End: week #19 Tower site preparations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 12 weeks Start: week #1 End: week #13 Radio and microwave staging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 8 weeks Start: week #1 End: week #9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tower staging, construction and modifications to Louisburg 911 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 12 weeks Start: week #10 End: week #22 Radio and microwave installation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 4 weeks Start: week #22 End: week #26 Final Acceptance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration: 100 Start: week #26 End: week #126
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Proposal Costs

- Radio
 - Equipment - \$1,246,923.00
 - Installation - \$390,059.00
 - TOTAL - \$1,635,982.00
- Microwave
 - Equipment - \$611,696.00
 - Installation - \$231,196.00
 - TOTAL - \$842,892.00
- Site Infrastructure
 - Equipment - \$268,808.00
 - Installation - \$190,560.00
 - TOTAL - \$459,368.00
- TOTAL \$2,938,232.00**

Recommendations

- Kimball recommends that Franklin County enter into negotiations with Piedmont Communications and pursue a contract award.
- The system design is not final until County's acceptance of specific changes prior to contract signing.
- Summary of points for negotiation:
 - Training
 - UPS Batteries
 - Alternate Microwave Option

Questions??

Mrs. Shearin reminded the board the original RFP was due May 2, 2008. At that time, several proposals were submitted, none of which were fully compliant. The Board rejected all proposals received and opted to rebid the project with the only changes being turn-key solutions and the bid bond was changed from ten percent to five percent. The bids were due August 1, 2008 and only one proposal was received from Piedmont Communications. Piedmont's proposal included a VHF simulcast radio network; digital microwave connectivity; infrastructure components; and an alarm and control network.

Mrs. Shearin stated Piedmont guarantees coverage for pagers and portables in 95% of the County in street and in light duty buildings. Commissioner Lancaster then asked her to define 95% coverage. Mrs. Shearin stated the county is divided into grids and said 95% coverage is expected from each grid. If the board allows Mrs. Shearin to move forward with negotiations, she stated coverage would be a major component of a contract.

She then mentioned site infrastructure including an existing tower upgrade for Louisburg 911. The proposed White Level site would include a shelter, back-up power, and a 300 foot self-supporting tower. She added that the project was expected to be completed within 19 months and gave a timeline or project milestones and stated the entire cost of the project is \$2,938,232, not including the cost of land for the White Level tower site. A lease option was distributed to the board for its review. Mrs. Shearin stated some furniture could be purchased with E911 funds. She stated consoles could not be purchased with E911 money.

She stated that Kimball & Associates recommends that Franklin County enter into negotiations with Piedmont Communications and pursue a contract award. She stated the system design would not be final until the county's acceptance of specific changes prior to contract signing.

Commissioner Dunston then asked why there were so few proposals submitted. Mrs. Shearin stated Piedmont Communications was the only vendor with a complete proposal. She said one other company submitted a proposal during the second bid process, however the bid was not complete. She feels that the reason so few bids were submitted was based on the coverage requirement desired by the county. Commissioner Dunston asked if Piedmont would guarantee 95% coverage. Mrs. Shearin confirmed that would be a part of negotiations.

Commissioner Lancaster then asked if the project had buy-in from all parties concerned. He stated he was aware that representatives from EMS, local fire departments and the Sheriff's Department were involved in developing the RFP and requirements for the project. Mrs. Shearin confirmed the buy-in.

Curt Andrich, Senior Consultant, Kimball Consulting, stated the way coverage is typically tested on a system includes grids that are approximately a half-mile each. A drive test through the grids is completed with the vendor that installs the infrastructure, as well as a public safety representative and a representative from the project team. He stated the team would drive through every grid in the county and make sure that the radio system works in each grid to the level of satisfaction. He said according to the coverage map submitted by Piedmont, he felt the coverage would be strong. In negotiations, he stated that Piedmont would be required to provide the requested coverage. If the requested coverage area included in negotiations was not provided, he said Piedmont would be legally responsible for fixing the coverage at no cost to the county.

Commissioner Lancaster asked if payment could be withheld until satisfaction is reached. Mr. Andrich responded by saying that typically the company would expect payment within specific set milestones of progress. He assured that Kimball would assist in negotiations to obtain the best contract available to the county.

Commissioner Winters stated he wanted to ensure proper coverage was available and tested inside buildings. Mr. Andrich stated that would be a part of the testing process.

Commissioner Dunston asked Chuck Murray, Finance Director, if the consoles and furniture were included in the amount of money that will be borrowed. Mr. Murray and Mrs. Shearin stated that it would not be a part of the \$2.9 million cost. Mr. Murray stated existing E911 money could be used for furniture and said funding for the radio consoles were covered, but not in this financing.

Commissioner Swanson asked if the acre of land needed in White Level had been budgeted for and included in the \$2,938,232. Mrs. Shearin stated she did not budget for the land. Mr. Murray the \$700,000 (un-earmarked E911 fund balance) could be used for that purpose if the board so chooses. Commissioner Winters then asked how site specific the land needed to be. Mrs. Shearin stated there are several individuals in that area who have expressed interest in working with the county in reference to the sale of land.

Commissioner Buffaloe made the motion to direct the Communications Director along with L. Robert Kimball & Associates, to begin negotiations with Piedmont Communications and pursue a contract award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Dunston then stated that during the negotiation process he'd like to make certain a portion of money can be withheld until desired coverage is met and full satisfaction with the project is reached.

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.

County Clerk Kristen King: Mrs. King mentioned the following items:

- Town of Franklinton reception on October 21, 2008
- Safe Space 10th Annual Candlelight Vigil scheduled for October 23, 2008 at Louisburg College
- Mrs. King attended the Piedmont Regional Clerk's Workshop in Chatham County. Topics discussed included a legislative update, leadership, ethics and personal safety.
- Mrs. King also mentioned several programs currently underway by the Wellness Committee including the walking program, a lunch and learn session on stress management scheduled for November 7, 2008. She mentioned that a web page is being created to keep county employees informed of wellness events.
- Mrs. King also thanked staff for assistance in preparing the room for the evening's board meeting. Early voting activity has been conducted in the board room and cooperation from various departments was needed to prepare for the meeting. She thanked staff for their assistance.

Commissioner Lancaster: No report.

Commissioner Buffaloe: No report.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston stated he recently met with Rob Southerland, Airport Director, to discuss new ideas for the Airport. He complimented Mr. Southerland on work done since his employment began in September. Commissioner Dunston also mentioned the YMCA is considering locating in Franklin County. He mentioned a mentor program sponsored by the YMCA in Franklinton.

Commissioner Foy: No report.

Commissioner Winters: Commissioner Winters also commented on recent activity at the Franklin County Airport since the Director Robert Southerland joined the team. He expressed satisfaction about work completed thus far and stated he feels the Airport is moving in the right direction. He stated that discussions have been held in reference to increasing marketing of the airport. He said other efficiencies are being examined and stated his hope that progress would continue.

Commissioner Young: Absent.

Commissioner Swanson: Commissioner Swanson echoed similar comments to those of Commissioner Dunston and Winters and stated he was pleased with work being completed at the airport.

County Manager Angela Harris: Mrs. Harris mentioned the following items:

- The Health Department is applying for grants for dental services.
- Franklin County was featured in the Carolina Business Journal. Copies of the publication were distributed to the board.
- Finance was recognized for receiving the CAFR (comprehensive annual financial report) for the ninth consecutive year.

- Mrs. Harris stated the board will be asked to consider material on identity theft legislation at its November 3, 2008 meeting.
- Mrs. Harris distributed copies of the annual report by Franklin Regional Medical Center.
- Mrs. Harris distributed information that provided a snapshot of recent activity by the Board of Elections. The document provided a snapshot of the number of registered voters and the number of those who had taken advantage of the early voting process. She stated as of 4:00 P.M., 1700 have already voted in the county.

At approximately 8:00 P.M., Chairman Swanson adjourned the meeting.

Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board