

October 6, 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, Bob Winters, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Donald C. Lancaster and Lynwood D. Buffaloe. Commissioner Sidney E. Dunston was absent.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order and began the meeting by recognizing Commissioner Young and Economic Development Director Ronnie Goswick. At a recent meeting of the Kerr Tar Council of Governments, Commissioner Young was named "Outstanding County Elected Official." Mr. Goswick was named "Outstanding Economic Developer."

Commissioner Swanson then formally introduced Rob Southerland as the county's new Airport Manager.

Commissioner Swanson asked the board to consider the consent agenda.

Commissioner Winters then asked to remove Item 1-F (*Budget Ordinance Amendment #3 (Pursuant to General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Director is requesting a budget ordinance amendment in the amount of \$288,886 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 to reflect grants received by the Franklin County Health Department, transfer of dollars for a new van at the Jail, receive donations for Animal Control Shelter, and funding for the Pilot Recreational and Park Complex and Louisburg Park equipment and Project Budget Ordinance for Pilot Lions Community Park)*) from the consent agenda for clarification purposes.

Commissioner Foy asked to remove Item 1-E (*School Construction change orders (2) for Bunn High School Additions and Renovations changing the contract from \$9,426,264 to \$9,493,634, an increase in the amount of \$67,370*) for the purpose of discussion.

Commissioner Young made the motion to remove Item 1-F and Item 1-E, seconded by Commissioner Buffaloe. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Lancaster then made the motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The items approved are as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. September 2, 2008 minutes
- B. September 15, 2008 minutes
- C. Increased Medical Rates for Home Health
- D. New rates for Flu and pneumonia FY 2008-2009
- ~~E. School Construction change orders (2) for Bunn High School Additions and Renovations changing the contract from \$9,426,264 to \$9,493,634, an increase in the amount of \$67,370~~
- ~~F. Budget Ordinance Amendment #3 (Pursuant to General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Director is requesting a budget ordinance amendment in the amount of \$288,886 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 to reflect grants received by the Franklin County Health Department, transfer of dollars for a~~

- ~~new van at the Jail, receive donations for Animal Control Shelter, and funding for the Pilot Recreational and Park Complex and Louisburg Park equipment) and Project Budget Ordinance for Pilot Lions Community Park~~
- G. TDA (Tourism Development Authority) request to fund a \$4,000 grant from Occupancy Tax funds to the Town of Franklinton for their *Frankenfest on Main Street* Festival.
 - H. Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees Appointments
 - I. Disposition of surplus and discarded library material
 - J. Request for addition of Harrison Street and Yancey Road (Harrison Village Subdivision) to the State Maintained Secondary Road System
 - K. Resolution to Expand the Allowed Uses of Money in the 9-1-1 Fund for Communications Needs

In reference to Item 1-E, Commissioner Foy asked for an explanation of the change for the school construction change orders. Franklin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme was present. He stated he was not prepared to provide a full explanation as he was in attendance for the purpose of learning more about the Target Teen Safety program and stated his finance staff was not present. He followed up by stating the change orders were within the budget already allocated by the 2004 bond.

Commissioner Buffaloe then made the motion to approve Item 1-E, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

In reference to Item 1-F, Commissioner Winters asked if the funding request for Louisburg Park equipment was associated with the \$100,000 grant funds associated with the Joyner Park expansion between the county and the town. He also asked if this equipment would be available for use to all county citizens.

County Manager Angela L. Harris stated this request is for capital needs and stated it meets the criteria for funding as prescribed in the in lieu of recreation ordinance. She stated money is available. Mrs. Harris stated she spoke with Mark Warren (Louisburg Town Administrator) earlier today about the PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) grant and commented that the Louisburg Town Council will take up that issue at its October 20, 2008 meeting. Mr. Warren stated to her that his recommendation would be that the town return the \$100,000 contribution to the county toward the matching grant. According to the town's request, she stated recreation improvements are for all county citizens to enjoy. In reference to funding the Pilot Recreational and Park Complex, Commissioner Foy asked if proposed changes were within budget. Mrs. Harris stated at the previous board meeting, staff had indicated that overall costs had been reduced. She stated that in order to construct a baseball field, rather than the soccer field originally proposed, the total project would cost \$75,000 more than the last estimate. She stated the latest estimate to complete Phase One of the project is approximately \$1,130,000. She stated the actual cost would not be known until bids are received.

Commissioner Winters then made the motion to approve Item 1-F, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

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.

Elic Senter, P.O. Box 309, Franklinton, NC

- Mr. Senter is Mayor of Franklinton. He thanked the board for recognizing Commissioner Young and Mr. Goswick earlier in the evening and invited the public to Franklinton's regular board meeting on October 21, 2008, at which time a celebration will be held in honor of all award recipients honored at the recent Kerr Tar Council of Governments banquet. He stated Joe Cutchins was named "Outstanding Municipal Elected Official" and Kim Worley was named "Outstanding Town Clerk." He stated the meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. on October 21, 2008 and encouraged the public to attend.

Jeremy Neal, 2859 White Level Road, Castalia, NC

- Mr. Neal stated his disappointment in the explanation given earlier in the evening in reference to school change orders. He said it is disappointing to watch the board quickly approve the spending of \$67,000 without a full and accurate account made to the public.

Mrs. Harris responded by saying the entire agenda packet is available online which includes a breakdown of those changes. She stated the information is the same given to each commissioner prior to board meetings and encouraged the public to utilize that medium for detailed information. Mrs. Harris stated the change order was relative to items that could not easily be identified until construction is in progress such as the removal of asbestos.

Dr. L'Homme assured that when a change order is submitted to the Board of Commissioners, it is well documented and stated the school system does not spend money without examining all alternatives. He stated Franklin County schools is a good steward of county financial support.

3. TARGET TEEN SAFETY

Charles Benzing, founder and CEO of Target Teen Safety, LLC introduced a new initiative aimed at reducing the number of automobile fatalities involving teenage drivers. He stated the program was designed to be inexpensive, easy to implement and provide an opportunity for school systems to generate revenue. The program involves the sale of reflective stickers that are placed on vehicles driven by teenage drivers. The stickers are a means of identification that provide a way for parents, community leaders, law enforcement agencies and schools to influence teen drivers while driving in the absence of adult supervision. It will also assist law enforcement in enforcing the Graduated Driver License restrictions. The stickers can be purchased by the school system or purchased and donated to the school system at a cost of \$5 each. The school system could then resale the stickers to students up to \$25 each to generate revenue. Mr. Benzing said the revenue could then be used at the discretion of the school board.

School Board Chair Paige Sayles was in attendance and stated her understanding is the program offers a chance for the community to become involved in watching out for teenage drivers.

Commissioner Foy asked if there was any financial commitment being asked of the county. Mr. Benzing stated the purpose for tonight's presentation was to seek community support and then move forward to presenting the information to the school board.

Commissioner Winters asked if the program had been defended legally. Mr. Benzing stated it had been defended and said the program should assist with reducing the number of lawsuits involving the accusation of profiling teenage drivers.

No action was requested or taken.

4. RESOLUTION CALLING PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FINANCING PROPOSALS

The board was asked to consider a resolution calling a public hearing and authorizing the solicitation of bids in connection with an installment financing agreement for the acquisition, of emergency communications equipment and the acquisition, construction and equipping of improvements to the water and sewer system of the county. The hearing is scheduled for November 3, 2008.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to approve the resolution and call for a public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Winters. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

5. APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Foy was asked to consider an appointment to the Economic Development Commission. He stated he had received four applications from interested citizens but stated he is not yet ready to make a recommendation.

The board then discussed attendance problems with members of the CDPAC (Comprehensive Development Plan Advisory Committee) and the Planning Board. Suggestions to increase attendance included altering the meeting schedule. Both meetings are typically held the same day and involve many members who serve on both boards. Some members have reportedly stated the commitment of time is more than they are able to provide. A second suggestion included reducing the size of the Planning Board.

County Attorney Darnell Batton stated he would need time to research requirements based on North Carolina General Statutes.

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 reminded the board of the Novozymes' expansion celebration scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Foy: No report.

Commissioner Winters: Commissioner Winters stated he attended a legislative update at Novozymes recently hosted by Congressman Bob Etheridge. He then asked to clarify information regarding activity by the Airport Commission. He said it had been incorrectly editorialized that the commission had agreed to spend up to \$250,000 for an event at the airport. He said the commission had not voted to spend any amount of money on the event, but rather voted to further investigate multiple sponsorship opportunities and ways to fund the event in question. Without outside funding, he stated the event could cost up to \$250,000. He said no money had been spent.

Commissioner Young: Commissioner Young stated she attended the Franklinton High School open house. She stated the school "looks great" and said a decision has been made to replace windows on the weekend rather than waiting until the school year has ended. Commissioner Young also attended a Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting where discussions continue to be held relative to gang assessments. She also stated she is impressed with the work of the Health Department under the direction of Eric Ireland. She also commented that Mr. Ireland had taken the lead position in leading the county's United Way Campaign. Next, Commissioner Young stated she attended a recent mental health meeting. She stated Foster Norman is looking at alternate ways to

provide crisis training for officers and magistrates when dealing with mental health patients. Commissioner Young feels that training of this kind would likely reduce time and overtime funding spent by the Sheriff's Department in providing assistance to mental health patients. Commissioner Winters stated he would like to see a joint meeting with the local Chief's Association and the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Young stated she also attended a recent meeting of the Rural Center and said a program is available that would provide a municipality a manager for a two-year period. She stated the municipality would not have to fund the manager position and asked Economic Development staff to make certain the municipality of Centerville is aware of the program. Commissioner Young then asked Commissioner Lancaster if there was a bank in Franklin County that provides community development financing. Commissioner Lancaster stated he was unfamiliar with the program. Commissioner Young stated she would like to meet to discuss how the county can take advantage of the program or one similar.

Commissioner Swanson: Commissioner Swanson stated he attended the 14th annual Animal Ag Day which was also attended by 750 third grade students from Franklin. He also attended the Kerr Tar Council of Governments meeting and said he was pleased with the awards given to Franklin County public servants.

Commissioner Buffaloe: Commissioner Buffaloe attended the grand opening of Stephen Glen on Hicks Road recently.

Commissioner Lancaster: No report.

County Manager Angela Harris: Mrs. Harris mentioned the Health Department has plans to offer environmental health records online. She stated January 1, 2009 is the target date. She distributed a handout on the Transportation Improvement Plan update and stated a meeting has been scheduled to meet with John Rock, Larry Tetterton (Board of Elections Chair) and Amy Southerland (Board of Election Director) concerning the possible relocation of Board of Elections to the former CVS location at Shannon Village Shopping Center in Louisburg.

At approximately 8:00 P.M., Commissioner Young then made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

(blank)