

## **September 2, 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, Sidney E. Dunston and Harry L. Foy, Jr. Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young and Commissioner Lynwood D. Buffaloe were absent.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order and asked the Board to consider the consent agenda. Commissioner Winters 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. August 18, 2008 minutes
- B. Budget Ordinance Amendment #2 (Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Officer is requesting a budget ordinance amendment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 to amend the General Fund to allocate \$50,000 to the Youngsville Park and Recreation Advisory Board as approved by the Board of Commissioners in September, 2007 and to grant tax relief to Faith Missionary Baptist Church in the amount of \$3,304.80)
- C. TDA (Tourism Development Authority) request to fund a \$1,500 grant for the Youngsville Fall Festival and \$2,500 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Antique Tractor, Car and Engine Show
- D. Fall Litter Sweep 2008 Proclamation
- E. Boys & Girls Clubs Day for Kids Proclamation
- F. Citizens Voter Registration Awareness Month Proclamation

### **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. There were no individuals signed up to speak.

### **3. BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATE**

Amy Southerland, Board of Elections Director, stated she is requesting approval of grant application for additional funding to cover the expenses for the One-Stop Voting at the Youngsville and Franklinton Library sites. She stated the Elections Office had received a letter from Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) identifying specific problems with accessibility. Mrs. Southerland went over the following non-compliance issues:

- Office lacks handicapped accessible parking spaces.

- Office lacks accessible entrance to building.
- Office lacks ramp incline at front of building.
- Office lacks push button door for handicapped accessibility.
- Offices' paths of travel do not meet 5x5 feet mobility device requirement.
- According to NC Election Laws, office has no dedicated public viewing area for campaign finance reports.
- Office has no privacy of voting enclosure.
- Office has no curbside designated area/bell call system.
- Office has no designated area for registration of voters.
- According to Open Meeting Law, office has no public space for board meetings.
- All equipment, storage and staff should be in one central facility.
- One accident that occurred because of a person transporting equipment from the basement of the County Administration Building to the Board of Elections office at the Courthouse Annex Building.
- Existing one-stop site does not meet handicapped accessible requirements.
- Existing one-stop site does not meet curbside voting requirements.
- Offices' sidewalks and walkways are not free of objects and obstructions.
- Office has no space for check-in table.
- Office has no secured file storage space.

Mrs. Southerland stated she was told at the State meeting that there would be no more waivers for Franklin County and the Elections office must be in compliance. She stated she had spoken with Randy Likens, Director of Emergency Services, in reference to the matter. She stated he agreed with the letter from DRNC.

Larry Tetterton, Chairman for Board of Elections, stated the issues are beyond their control and has been an issue since 1995. He stated there are currently 34,104 voters registered and has more than doubled since 1995. He stated the registration records have to be kept in the Board of Elections office. He stated the Board of Elections needs help from the Commissioners. He stated they had looked at the old BB&T building but he has recently learned that the building is under contract. He stated the old CVS building located at Shannon Village is available and would be adequate to house the Board of Elections and their needs.

Chairman Swanson stated he feels it's time for the Commissioners to take action on this matter. He stated he would like to have Angela Harris, County Manager, to proceed with looking into the possibility of leasing the CVS property to accommodate the Board of Elections. Commissioner Lancaster questioned the square footage of the building. Mr. Tetterton stated the building is over 8,000 square feet, which made the facility large enough that One-Stop voting could be conducted at the property. Commissioner Winters questioned if there would be any complications with having three facilities conducting One-Stop voting since the Board had approved the grant application for Youngsville and Franklinton. Mr. Tetterton stated having multiple One-Stop voting is convenient and lessens long lines.

Commissioner Dunston questioned if curbside voting would have to be installed. Mr. Tetterton stated the CVS property has glass windows where someone could watch the voters. Chairman Swanson questioned the length of time needed by the Elections office to move to another facility. Mr. Tetterton stated the office could move within a five day notice. Commissioner Lancaster questioned the lease rate. Angela Harris stated she thinks the rate is \$3.75 per square foot.

#### **4. PILOT WELL PROPERTY – PROPOSED OFFER TO PURCHASE**

Christy Shearin, Communications Director, gave a presentation on a proposal from Piedmont Communications to acquire 0.75 acre on the Pilot Well property for the purpose of locating a telecommunications tower to be utilized pursuant to a lease agreement by the County to enhance its public safety communications capabilities in the southern portion of the County. Mrs. Shearin stated Piedmont Communications would allow the County to place equipment on the tower free of charge. She stated by locating on the proposed tower, it would enhance the paging system in the southern part of Franklin County. She stated the total value of the tower space would be \$420,000 (30 years @ \$14,000 per year). She explained that the benefits to the County of the proposal would be a return to the tax base of \$2,139, improvement of the property (2 abandoned structures currently located would be removed) and tower space for the Radio Paging Project. She stated the cost benefit to the County would be \$484,170 (30 years of tax revenue \$64,170 & 30 years of free tower space \$420,000).

Commissioner Dunston questioned the total acreage of the property. Darnell Batton stated 3.9 acres. Mrs. Shearin stated Piedmont Communications is only asking for 0.75 acre.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to accept the proposal and direct Communications Director to proceed with upset bid process and execution of lease agreement with Piedmont Communications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

Darnell Batton informed the Board that representatives from the Boys & Girls Club were present. The Board recognized the representatives and some of the children from the Boys & Girls Club and thanked them for all they do in the County. A representative reminded everyone in attendance that National Kids Day would be held on September 20, 2008 at Joyner Park.

#### **5. WORK FIRST PROGRAM**

Nicki Griffin, Social Services Director, stated she has begun the planning process for the 2009-2011 Work First Biennium and she is asking the Board to vote on the operating status. She stated it's the agency's recommendation that the County continue to operate as a Standard County for the upcoming biennium. She also asked the Board to appoint the list of members that was provided to them in their agenda packets to serve on the Work First Planning Committee.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to approve the designation of Standard Operating Status and the appointment of Planning Team Members. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winters and duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

## **6. PILOT LION COMMUNITY PARK – NC PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF)**

Angela Harris presented the Board with a background update on the project. She stated on January 29, 2008, the Board took action following the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with a grant application on behalf of the County. She stated the County has been notified that it's been awarded the grant. She stated the Board is being asked to consider acceptance of the grant and make a commitment to match the grant in the amount of \$500,000. She stated the cost would be spread over into the next fiscal year. She presented the Board with revised project numbers which cut costs approximately \$200,000. She stated that with the proposed timeline, the project could be complete by next fall. She stated members from the community would like to propose a baseball field instead of the initial soccer field. She stated the baseball field would stay if approved and within the budget; it would just be a trade off.

Commissioner Winters questioned the status of the \$100,000 from Louisburg Parks and Recreation. Mrs. Harris stated she met with the Town of Louisburg in reference to the Town declining the PARTF grant for land acquisition. She stated she would send a letter requesting the money be returned. Commissioner Winters questioned if the Pilot Park would be open to anyone in the County. Johnny Alford (Pilot Lions Club) stated the park would be open to everyone and Bunn has expressed an interest in holding events. Darnell Batton stated it is a County park and open to everyone in Franklin County. Commissioner Winters questioned if the money would be paid over a two year period of time. Mrs. Harris stated it was originally thought that the County would borrow the money, but the cost for the project could be spread over this fiscal year and next and came from the General Fund.

Commissioner Winters made the motion to accept the grant and commit to provide the local match in the amount of \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Don Lancaster and duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

## **7. APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

The Board was asked to consider the reappointment of Dawn Stallings (Public Representative); Anita Mason (Director of Mental Health, Designee); Tamara Wheeler (Public Representative); Larry Pritchett (Chief of Police); Cynthia Yancey (Chief Court Counselor, Designee); and Monty Riggs (Public Representative) to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Each term would expire in two years.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to reappoint Ms. Stallings, Ms. Mason, Ms. Wheeler, Mr. Pritchett, Ms. Yancey and Mr. Riggs to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Association

The Board was asked to consider an appointment for the Upper Neuse River Basin Association. It was decided by the Board to have this item brought back at a later date for consideration.

C. Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board

Vincent Gilreath, Workforce Development Director, requested the Board consider appointing Chris Roark (organized labor position) and reappoint Peggie Simpson (private industry position) to serve on the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board for two-year terms.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to appoint Chris Roark and reappoint Peggie Simpson to serve on the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board. The motion was seconded by Chairman Swanson and duly carried with all present voting "AYE".

## 8. 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.

**Temporary Clerk Tammy Davis:** Mrs. Davis reminded the Board of the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. at the Franklin County Schools Central Office. Congressman Bob Etheridge will be present to discuss the impact of fuel prices on school budgets and the steps he's taking in Congress to promote a new energy policy.

**Commissioner Winters:** Commissioner Winters expressed concern with the Recreation Board and suggested a meeting with the Recreation Board to see where they are going and the status of recreation. He stated his appointee to the Recreation Board expressed to him concern regarding several meetings being cancelled. Chairman Swanson suggested a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners and the Recreation Board.

Commissioner Winters expressed concern over the Resolution regarding Department of Transportation taking over roads in Huntsburg Subdivision. He stated he has understood that the Department of Transportation declined and all the burden of the

road repairs went to the first 40 homes in the subdivision. Commissioner Lancaster stated the roads in Huntsburg feed into two other subdivisions. The Board instructed the County Manager to contact a Department of Transportation representative and inquire on the status of the proclamation. Mrs. Harris stated she would ask for an inventory on all the proclamation's regarding Department of Transportation taking over roads in Franklin County.

Commissioner Winters brought attention to the First Responder Radio Program, which has funding coming out of this year's 911-Budget and this was the last year for providing this funding. He stated he thought this was Federal regulation and has recently learned it is a State regulation. He stated he has spoken with Senator Doug Berger and Representative Lucy Allen in reference to a local bill releasing money in the future since our landline 911 requirements have been met but feels we need to go over the airways to get to First Responders as well. He stated he was asked to send an email to make a request in reference to a local bill. He stated he feels the request needs to come from the Board of Commissioners instead of just one individual. Chairman Swanson asked the County Manager to bring a resolution in reference to this matter at the next meeting.

**Commissioner Dunston:** Commissioner Dunston stated he attended the monthly Council of Governments (COG) meeting. He stated there was a presentation made by the NC Bio Fuels Research Center which is located in Oxford. He stated Bio Fuels System has been working with Novozymes closely and they discussed the future growth in this industry.

Commissioner Dunston stated he attended the Board of Director's Meeting of the John Vance Kerr YMCA in Wake Forest. A possible interest was expressed in locating a YMCA in Franklin County.

**County Manager Angela Harris:** Mrs. Harris stated she appointed Eric Ireland as the County Coordinator for the Franklin County United Way. She stated Mr. Ireland is off to a good start and the Board will be given updates at later dates. She stated Robby Southerland has started employment with Franklin County as the Airport Director. She stated he is currently working an adjusted schedule and will begin full-time on September 15, 2008. She stated the County received a total of 35 applicants total for the position. She stated it was a difficult decision since many of the applications were very good.

Chairman Swanson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

