

August 17, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for a work session at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Conference Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young, Donald C. Lancaster, Bob Winters, Sidney E. Dunston, E. Shane Mitchell and Harry L. Foy, Jr. The purpose of the work session included a meeting with Architect Surapon Sujjavanich regarding the expansion and renovation of the Franklin County Detention Center. Mr. Sujjavanich was introduced as the original architect of the Franklin County Detention Center which was built in the early 1990's.

Sheriff Pat Green stated under the direction and supervision of the Board of Commissioners and the Manager, he was asked to look at another option regarding jail expansion. He stated that candid discussions had been conducted relative to prior construction and commented on the importance of not "cutting corners" on security for the sake of staff as well as inmates. He stated a plan has been developed that includes an addition to the current jail designed to accommodate 220 inmates. The Sheriff also stated a medical facility must be included. He said the current facility is occupied on a constant basis. He said the plan also includes a training facility that would be beneficial for use by other county departments as well as the Sheriff's Department. Currently the Sheriff's Office does not have a training facility for its officers. Sheriff Green stated after working with Mr. Sujjavanich, he has no reservations about moving forward with the project with Mr. Sujjavanich as the architect.

Mr. Sujjavanich presented his design and stated security was considered as well as needs, function and the present economy. He stated his design is not the cheapest, but the most economical according to law. He also commented on his goal to maximize energy savings and mentioned the steps he would take to achieve the goal. He said the cost of a "green building" is roughly 15-20% but said payback would be realized within seven years. Mr. Sujjavanich's design includes the addition of a facility to the right side of the present jail to include 220 inmate beds, a separate area to house juveniles, a medical isolation area, and a training facility. The facility would also include an exercise yard with a roof cover for inmate use year round. It was also mentioned that some additional space could be provided for the Emergency Communications Center. After questions regarding costs of simply bringing the present site to code, Mr. Sujjavanich stated \$1.2 million.

The Board then discussed potential issues with the Local Government Commission (LGC) and the ability of receiving approval for moving forward. Commissioner Lancaster reminded the Board that the LGC did not like the original design because it felt the County could not justify moving forward with such a broad project based on future local needs rather than that of a growing federal inmate population. Commissioner Young stated she wanted to make certain the County goes about the project in the proper manner. It was stated that the LGC would now need to be presented with the new plans to make certain it is on board with cost estimates.

Commissioner Young made the motion to present Mr. Sujjavanich's plan to the LGC, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The work session ended at 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for its Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Conference Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young, Donald C. Lancaster, Bob Winters, Sidney E. Dunston, E. Shane Mitchell and Harry L. Foy, Jr.

Commissioner Swanson called the meeting to order and asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Winters. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The items approved are as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. August 3, 2009 Minutes
- B. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- C. Dental Rates
- D. Behavioral Health Rates
- E. Grant from U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Division in the amount of \$430,863 over a three-year period

2. EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

Dr. Ed Ingram, Interim Superintendent for Franklin County Schools, was in attendance to update the Board on the Early College High School program. Dr. Ingram discussed the possible implementation of the initiative and requested board consideration.

Dr. Ingram commented that the challenge presented in implementing the Early College High School program in Franklin County was based on space needs. The purpose of the program is to educate participating students on a college campus and said the previous plan presented by Franklin defeated the purpose. A one-year commitment for space was made by Vance Granville Community College (VGCC), but based on projected enrollment growth, the college would not commit beyond one year. Dr. Ingram said if a written commitment for space for the year 2010 is obtained, \$300,000 is available to Franklin for the program. If the money is not used, it will be lost. Dr. Ingram suggested that four mobile units be purchased at a cost of \$160,000 to get the program started in 2010. The \$160,000 is above and beyond the \$300,000 offered by the News Schools Project. Dr. Ingram stated \$300,000 covers three positions including a college liaison, a counselor and a clerical position. He said funding would be recurring for five years, but then the program must be self sustained. He said the goal is to begin with 60 students with a future maximum of 200 students. The County's current budgeted amount for VGCC is \$115,000 which covers operational costs only.

Commissioner Lancaster then commented that he would like the students to be able to use available space at VGCC rather than purchase mobile units if space becomes available in 2010.

Commissioner Dunston stated his priority is to get the program started. He said the County cannot afford not to invest in the program.

Commissioner Lancaster then made the motion to commit to finding space for 2010-2011 for the Early College High School program, seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

County Manager Angela Harris ended the discussion by stating the likelihood of being able to use space on the VGCC campus is slim.

3. 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.

Sylvia Bailey, 212 Fox Park, Louisburg, NC

- Ms. Bailey spoke in reference to the Perry Alumni School in Centerville and plans for a rehabilitation center for boys and men. She stated plans for the facility included job training, counseling and coaching, GED classes, carpentry, masonry and money management. She stated members would also go out into the community to assist local senior citizens with projects around their homes. Ms. Bailey said the group home setting would offer participants a chance for enhancing their lives. She invited the public to visit the center to learn more about its mission in the community.

Tommy Perry, 100 William Perry Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Perry also discussed plans for a rehabilitation center in Centerville. He said a recent ad in the local newspaper frightened citizens. He said participants are not inmates, but rather men and boys in need of various forms of assistance. Mr. Perry said work will be done to educate the community on this project and said it can be a great asset to the County.

4. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Senate Bill 202 as adopted by the NC General Assembly requires all state administered child support programs shift to local county government administered programs effective July 1, 2010. In order to prepare for and implement the transition, each county must designate a lead contact at the county level for the NC Division of Social Services. The lead contact will receive detailed administrative, programmatic, and operational information that is specific to the county. The lead contact will also participate in conference calls, group meetings, individual meetings, and training opportunities which will aid the county in developing its plan for operation. Options for program administration and operation include but are not limited to consolidation into an existing county agency such as DSS, establishment of a stand-alone county agency, privatization, or regionalized offices. The transition plan must be submitted to the NC Division of Social Services by January 14, 2010 outlining the proposed operation of the Child Support Enforcement Program. The action requested of the Board is that the Board designate a lead contact person for the transition period.

County Manager Angela Harris asked that Nicki Griffin, Department of Social Services Director, serve as lead contact for the transition of the Child Support Enforcement Program from a State Administered Program to a County Administered Program.

Commissioner Winters made the motion to accept the Manager's recommendation designating Nicki Griffin to serve as lead contact, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

5. HANGAR CONSTRUCTION BID

Upon recommendation by the LPA Group and concurrence from the Airport Commission at their monthly meeting on July 14, 2009, the Board was asked to award a bid to Vance Construction Company for \$408,650.67 as well as approval of the total budget for construction of corporate hangars.

Rob Southerland, Airport Director, stated money is already available to build two hangars.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to approve the bid award to Vance Construction Company, the lowest responsible bidder, for \$408,650.67 and approve total budget for construction of corporate hangars. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

6. RAY'S CREEK SEWER OUTFALL

On August 11, 2009, 17 separate sealed bids were received and opened regarding the Ray's Creek Sewer Outfall project. The apparent low bidder was Triangle Grading and Paving in the amount of \$1,153,157.50. The bids ranged from a high of \$2.4 million to \$1.1 million. Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates has certified all bids and is recommending formal award to Triangle.

Bryce Mendenhall, Public Utilities Director, stated the low bid was well below what was expected and he asked the Board to consider formal award of the bid as presented.

Commissioner Young made the motion to award the bid to Triangle Grading and Paving in the amount of \$1,153,157.50. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Mr. Mendenhall then stated he had a second item to bring before the Board. He stated the original project extended beyond Hill Road and up to Berkley Hills Subdivision. He said Berkley Hills has expired its term through Planning and said what he would like to do to get relief to the Youngsville line and in anticipation of some upgrades we're going to do there and we've already done there, is rotate a 12-inch line from the intersection of Hill Road at the creek and extend the line to Cedar Creek Road. Doing so would relieve the line currently being taxed on Cedar Creek Road. Mr. Mendenhall said the engineer's estimate on construction, engineering and design is \$465,000. Based on a good bid market, he requested permission from the Board to allow Hobbs & Upchurch to proceed with the design of the line while Ray's Creek is being put in the ground and to go out for bid sometime later while the bid market is still favorable. With the addition, he said the County is still under the engineer's original estimate for Ray's Creek itself. Mr. Mendenhall once again stated he is asking the Board to allow Hobbs & Upchurch to begin formal engineering and design on the Hill Road extension as a supplement to the original Ray's Creek project. The Manager stated she and the Public Utilities Director had confirmed with the Finance Director that the bond resolution allowed for sewer improvements (outside of the original project).

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to allow Hobbs & Upchurch to begin formal engineering and design on the Hill Road extension as a supplement to the original Ray's Creek project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

7. APPLICATION FOR TIGER (TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM)

Bobbie Jo May, Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Commission and Gary Cunard and Gary Faulkner, Co-Chairs of the U.S. 401 Citizens Action Committee were in attendance to provide an update on committee activities. Rick Seekins, Kerr-Tar Council of Governments Community and Economic Development Director, was also in attendance. Mr. Seekins is assisting the group with writing grants. The committee requested that Franklin County serve as the applicant for funding to expand U.S. Route

401 into a four-lane multi-purpose, multi-modal transportation corridor. Funding is being sought from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and particularly from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program. The Committee also requested a resolution and letters of support from each commissioner be prepared for inclusion in the application.

Mr. Cunard and Mr. Faulkner highlighted the dangers of the highway and state if Committee is unable to find funding it could be another 15 to 20 years before the 401 project can move forward. Mr. Cunard stated the Committee has run the gamut of every potential funding source it could find. Mr. Seekins stated if the group is able to secure TIGER funds, the funding would be provided on a non-STIP basis and would be routed directly to Franklin from the Federal Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Mitchell then made a motion to allow Franklin County to serve as a grant applicant for this process and to offer a resolution from the Board of Commissioners in support of this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foy and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to add a discussion to the agenda regarding the Franklin County Detention Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

A financial update on the project was then offered by Chuck Murray, Finance Director. Mr. Murray explained that the project is estimated to take 12 to 18 months to complete construction. During that time, Mr. Murray said the County would have to pay debt service before building is occupied. He stated the County is looking at \$7 million with no additional revenue coming in during that time and said a small loss of revenue would be realized until the new facility is online. Mr. Murray stated \$3.4 million would be needed out of fund balance or a tax increase would be needed. He then said the County would later be able to reimburse itself in the next year. He said debt service is approximately \$1.9 million. However, Mr. Murray said once fully operational, he said the County would be building an \$18 million facility for approximately \$950,000 based on 250 federal inmates per day.

After having heard the presentation by the Sheriff and Architect Surapon Sujjavanich, Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to reconfirm its support of the jail project financing by the Local Government Commission and enter into a contract with the Architect to provide the design/engineering consistent with the presentation tonight during the Board's workshop. The motion was seconded by Commissioner 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.

County Clerk Kristen King: No report.

Commissioner Foy: No report.

Commissioner Winters: No report.

Commissioner Young: No report.

Commissioner Lancaster: No report.

Commissioner Mitchell: No report.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston expressed his sympathy to the family of County Attorney Darnell Batton following the recent death of his mother-in-law.

Commissioner Swanson: Commissioner Swanson thanked those in attendance for prayers offered during his recent surgery.

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

- Mrs. Harris stated she appreciated Darnell Batton, County Attorney, for coming in and amending a contract with Kimball & Associates in order for the County to move forward its communications project. Mr. Batton did the work despite the death of a family member.
- She mentioned meeting she attended regarding the Early College High School program, a recent event at the Boys & Girls Club as well as the groundbreaking of the new Franklinton High School and a reading club event held at local libraries.
- Mrs. Harris mentioned a meeting with Architect Harold Annis regarding concept drawings for space at the Health & Human Services Building for the Board of Elections.
- She mentioned a successful grand opening held recently at Franklin Community Health Services.
- Mrs. Harris then stated she moved forward, as directed by the Board, with a contract with Kimball Engineering to amend their contract working towards a goal of getting out an RFP (Request for Proposals) in a couple of weeks. She expects a recommendation within six weeks.

Commissioner Young made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board