

January 26, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, reconvened for a Joint Meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the Franklin County Board of Education in the Board of Education Meeting Room located at 53 West River Road in Louisburg with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Harry L. Foy, Bob Winters, Jr., Donald C. Lancaster, Shane Mitchell and Sidney E. Dunston. Vice-Chairman Penny McGhee-Young Commissioner was absent. School Board members present included Chairman Paige Sayles, Vice-Chair Dannie Williams, John May, Mary Vollmer, Gilbert Johnson and Beverly Joseph.

Chairman Swanson called the meeting to order for the Board of Commissioners.

Chair Sayles called the meeting to order for the Board of Education.

Commissioner Young was absent due to a Mental Health Board meeting in which personnel discussions were on the agenda.

1. STATUS REPORT ON SCHOOL PROJECTS

John Thomas, MBAJ Architecture and Tommy Piper, Franklin County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, presented a status report on school projects. They stated that even as the Board of Commissioners contemplates whether or not to move forward immediately with school projects, work has continued with a goal of finalizing construction documents to prepare for bid proposals. It was stated that those documents should be complete before April, 2009.

Commissioner Lancaster stated he's received many phone calls from citizens who are concerned school projects will be eliminated. He stated he wants to make certain citizens understand the Board is not discussing whether or not to eliminate projects, but rather if the projects should be delayed six months or one year, in light of the current poor economic situation. Commissioner Lancaster said much depends on funding from the federal government.

Commissioner Mitchell agreed with the sentiment and stated commissioners are placed in their positions to be good stewards of the citizen's money. He said he finds it difficult to move ahead with the projects right now because of the state of the economy. He also stated if the school bond went back up before a vote of the citizens, he's not certain the result would remain the same. He said the Board may need to delay the projects for now and revisit them again next year.

Commissioner Lancaster stated the county could move forward with design and the cutting of timber, which according to School Board Attorney Boyd Sturges, would also be put out for bid.

School Board member Gilbert Johnson suggested that because funding from the state and federal government is uncertain, that the Boards agree to continue with preparing construction documents in order to be well prepared to move forward when funding options are more concrete.

It was mentioned that funding would be a topic of discussion when three county commissioners meet with Congressman Bob Etheridge on February 2, 2009.

2. FINANCIAL UPDATE

County Finance Director Chuck Murray provided a financial update and stated there is better news from the bond market. He said the bond market is beginning to stabilize and presented the following information in a PowerPoint presentation.

Debt Service Comparison on \$34 Million

Debt Service Schedule

Fiscal Year	Debt Service @ 5.3 Percent	Debt Service @ 4.75 Percent	Debt Service @ 4.11 Percent
FY 2008-2009	0	0	0
FY 2009-2010	2,602,000	2,415,000	2,197,400
FY 2010-2011	3,010,100	2,780,750	2,513,870
FY 2011-2012	4,018,200	3,746,500	3,430,340
FY 2012-2013	3,944,000	3,680,000	3,372,800
FY 2013-2014	3,869,800	3,613,500	3,315,260
FY 2014-2015	4,595,600	4,347,000	4,057,720
FY 2015-2016	4,479,000	4,242,500	3,967,300
FY 2016-2017	4,662,400	4,438,000	4,176,880
FY 2017-2018	4,729,900	4,519,250	4,274,130
FY 2018-2019	4,686,800	4,491,000	4,263,160
FY 2019-2030	42,610,300	41,592,250	40,407,610
Total	83,208,100	79,865,750	\$75,976,470

Mr. Murray projected a \$3.5 million savings from 45 days ago in relation to completion of school bond projects. He said he did not have projections for May, 2009 when the county had initially planned to go to the bond market. He said bonds are selling and that he will continue to watch interest rates and, but said it is hard to predict if they will improve further. Mr. Murray said rates are already about as low as they can go and doesn't think they will get worse. Mr. Murray stated the county would be looking at a 2.86 cents increase on the tax rate with the \$34 million issue planned for May, 2009. He commented that if the county moved forward with funding the projects today, the 2.86 cents would be reduced to 2.50 due to current rates.

Mr. Piper stated his concern was inflation and when it will occur and it's affect.

Commissioner Swanson stated no matter how much taxes are raised, the collection rate of those taxes is most important. He said if the citizens can't afford to pay the taxes, and the taxes aren't collected, then the money can't be spent.

Commissioner Dunston said examining the raw numbers we have today, he would like to know if the county could save money by moving forward with the projects now as opposed to waiting a year. He asked if staff suspected the rate would be worse and their prediction on how inflation would have an effect.

Mr. Murray stated he is of the opinion that 4.75% is going to be a good rate for while, but stated he did not know for how long. Again he stated the moving forward now, taking the current rate into consideration, would allow for a \$3 million savings. He said he does believe the rate will go down again in the next six months.

Doug Moore, Franklin County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, stated it takes money to save money but reminded the group that one must have the money to be able to spend it. He feels the interest rate is pretty good, but said he predicts the market won't improve much. Mr. Moore said it goes back to the Board of Commissioners and its choice. He said regardless of any savings that could be realized or market conditions, the Board must decide if the county can afford to move forward at this time.

Commissioner Foy referred to a recent budget work session where it was stated that a 13.25 cent tax increase would be needed before adding any additional projects. He was

reminded the school bond is included in that estimate, but Commissioner Foy remained firm that the Board may have to delay some projects.

Commissioner Winters asked about membership growth of the school system. In response, School Board member Gilbert Johnson stated the core facility at Franklinton High School is already overrun and at capacity with students. He justified the new high schools by stating the growth is already there.

When asked about whether alternative school calendars had been examined, Franklin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme stated there are no year-round programs for high schools.

Mr. Johnson then state he felt there was not enough concrete information to make a decision on whether to move forward or delay the projects at this time. He suggested the architects and staff continues with planning and looks to the Board of Commissioners for a decision at the time when more information is available.

County Manager Angela L. Harris said the county has submitted its infrastructure needs to its constituents and says it's been made known to the state and the federal government that the county needs assistance in terms of school construction and renovations.

The Boards made no definite decisions at this time and committed to meeting again in 30 to 45 days to reexamine the market situation when more information is available.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 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 Meeting Room located in the County Administration Building with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Robert L. Swanson, Bob Winters, Sidney E. Dunston, Donald C. Lancaster, Harry L. Foy, Jr. and E. Shane Mitchell. 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 Dunston made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The items approved are as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds and Tax Collection Report
- B. Declaration of Surplus Property and Disposition of a used reconditioned John Deere 2243 Triplex Riding Reel Mower (purchased in June, 2002) for \$1.00 to Louisburg College
- C. Resolution for renewal of Agrarian Zone

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.

Elmo Mullen, 376 Sykes Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Mullen stated his concern with deer hunters who use dogs to hunt. He stated his property is posted, however hunters ignore his wishes and trespass regardless without permission. He stated it is difficult to identify hunters in order to address the concern.

Michael Capps, 118 C.P. Sykes Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Capps also spoke against deer hunting with dogs and asked the Board to consider any appropriate steps to better control the activity. He stated the hunters that are causing problems are disrespectful, travelling on private land without permission, leaving trash and dumping deer carcasses in creeks. Mr. Capps stated he had already obtained a petition with approximately 350 signatures. He stated that he, as well as those who signed the petition, are not against hunting or the dogs, but rather against the way the hunters are hunting. He stated landowners have confronted hunters with their concerns, but said the concerns are ignored. Mr. Capps stated the NC Wildlife Commission had also been made aware of the problem.

Dave Welch, 510 Vick Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Welch stated he owns 12 acres of property and leases property as well. Mr. Welch also stated he has no problems with dogs other than the deer dogs cannot be controlled. He too has spoken with an officer of the NC Wildlife Commission but has been unable to resolve the issue based on the current laws. Mr. Welch suggested that hunters must have written permission from landowners on both sides of the road in the area in which they hunt. He then stated there are three dog clubs in the area, but said most of the people involved are not Franklin County citizens. Mr. Welch stated he has been threatened by hunters when he asked them to leave the property and said they have no rights to allow their dogs to run on private property without permission.

Cliff Edwards, 677 Phelps Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Edwards is a business owner who said he is not against hunting with dogs, but he said he would like to see hunters be required to obtain a written permission.

Dorothy Tyson, Moore and Perkerson Road, Louisburg, NC

- Ms. Tyson stated she owns three farms in the Seven Paths community that are posted against trespassing. She said hunters do not ask for permission to hunt and gave an account of a heated confrontation with a hunter. She encouraged the Board to look into any possibilities of dealing with her concern.

Doug Murray, 100 Julie Pearce Road, Louisburg, NC

- Mr. Murray stated he has hunted with dogs since 1966. He stated he was a member of the Four Bridges Hunting Club and said there are good and bad hunters everywhere. He sympathized with people who “still deer hunt,” but said it is hard to contain hunting dogs on one property and said there will be times when the dog will cross certain boundary lines. He stated it is unfair to punish everyone for other people’s actions. He said he would prefer that government not eliminate hunting with

dogs and reminded the Board that many Franklin County businesses benefit from selling items such as food for these animals. Mr. Murray said obtaining written permission would be a waste of time for people who will remain dishonest no matter what the rules are.

County Attorney Darnell Batton stated he didn't feel the Board could pass an ordinance in regards to hunting with dogs. Without any investigation of the matter, Mr. Batton suggested the Board would need to work through its Legislative delegation. Mr. Batton stated he would be glad to meet with the members of the NC Wildlife Commission and the County Manager to see how the issue can be addressed.

Chairman Swanson charged the County Attorney and Manager to meet with the NC Wildlife Commission to see how other counties manage similar situations. Then, he said the Board would have more information to make an informed decision if warranted.

Sheila Hanna, NC Highway 39 North, Louisburg, NC

- Mrs. Hanna mentioned her disappointment about the recent increase in recreation fees for the Town of Louisburg and said she understood that the County of Franklin had refused to give the town \$133,000 to help offset some of the costs associated with providing recreational programs for children who do not live in the Town of Louisburg. In response, County Manager Angela Harris stated the town's financial request would be considered during the budget process that has already begun, but said no action has been taken thus far. In advance of an article written in the Franklin Times, Mrs. Harris stated the county was unaware that a rate increase would be imposed. Mrs. Hanna ended her comments with a suggestion to schedule a town hall meeting in order for citizens to have a "question and answer" time with the Board of Commissioners. In reply, Mrs. Harris stated there would be some benefit to hold a town hall meeting especially during the budget process.

3. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

William L. Morrison, Library Technician III, Cataloging, Franklin County Library, was recognized and congratulated on his selection as the Employee of the Quarter ending December, 2008. Mr. Morrison has been employed with the county since October, 2007 and selected for this recognition by a committee of his peers. Mr. Morrison received a vacation day and a savings bond.

4. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Christy Shearin, Emergency Communications Director, was recognized and congratulated her on her selection as the Employee of the Year ending December, 2008. Mrs. Shearin has been employed with the county since June, 1999 and selected for this recognition by a committee of her peers. Mrs. Shearin was also recognized as Employee of the Quarter ending March, 2008. She will receive a plaque and a cash award.

5. LEASE AGREEMENT FOR VEHICLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

The Board was asked to consider entering into a lease agreement for the Economic Development Commission to lease a 2009 Toyota Prius from the Franklin County Committee of 100. The Executive Committee for the Committee of 100 agreed to enter into a contract with the County to provide a lease vehicle for the EDC.

Ronnie Goswick, EDC Director, stated the vehicle would offer better fuel mileage and stated the Chevrolet Tahoe currently used by EDC (also leased by the Committee of 100) would be given to the County and may be possibly be used at Triangle North Executive Airport.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to approve the lease agreement, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Swanson then asked the Board to consider adding three items to the evening's agenda including the following:

- December 8, 2008 minutes
- January 5, 2009 minutes
- Request for Project Endorsement (Town of Louisburg)

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to add the items to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2008 and January 5, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Winters. The motion carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Dunston then made the motion to approve the request for project endorsement (Town of Louisburg), seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

No financial assistance is associated with the project endorsement.

6. APPOINTMENTS

A. Airport Commission

An appointment was needed to the Airport Commission. (Commissioner Foy)

The appointment will be considered at a later date.

B. Economic Development Commission

On January 5, 2009, the Board approved an amendment to the Economic Development Commission bylaws to add a representative from the N.C. Cooperative Extension and a representative from Triangle North Executive Airport as ex-officio voting members appointed by position.

Commissioner Winters made the motion to appoint Cedric Jones (representative from the N.C. Cooperative Extension) and Robert Southerland (representative from Triangle North Executive Airport) as ex-officio voting members to the Economic Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

C. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Four appointments were needed to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

At-large representative (Commissioner Dunston)

At-large representative (Commissioner Lancaster)

At-large representative (Commissioner Swanson)

At-large representative (Commissioner Mitchell)

Commissioner Dunston reappointed Zollie Gill.
 Commissioner Lancaster reappointed Ryland Grissom.
 Commissioner Swanson reappointed Phyllis Rice.
 Commissioner Mitchell appointed Angie Callahan.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to approve the appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

D. Franklin County Animal Advisory Board

One appointment was needed to the Animal Advisory Board. (Commissioner Swanson)

Commissioner Swanson nominated Mark Speed. The nomination duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

E. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Four appointments were needed to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC).

Vacancy (Person under 18 years of age)

Vacancy (Person under 18 years of age)

Vacancy (representative from the faith community)

Vacancy (Public representative)

There are no recommendations by the JCPC Chair at this time and no appointments were made.

F. Library Board

Two appointments were needed to the Library Board. (Commissioners Dunston and Swanson)

Commissioner Dunston nominated Nanette Nicholson.
 Commissioner Swanson nominated Novette Bunn.

The nominations were approved with all present board members voting "AYE."

G. Tourism Development Authority

One appointment was needed to the Tourism Development Authority. (Commissioner Lancaster)

A representative of the hotel/lodging industry is needed, however no one has been identified to serve.

7. 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 its next meetings scheduled for February 2, 2009. The second budget work session of the year will begin at 12:30 P.M. and the Board's regular meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioner Mitchell: Commissioner Mitchell mentioned a recent meeting of the 401 Steering Committee. He stated North Carolina Department of Transportation representatives attended the meeting and explained the process of funding and construction.

Commissioner Dunston: Commissioner Dunston mentioned a recent Council of Governments meeting he attended. He stated Bill Kahoon is the new Executive Director for the Triangle North Project and said an access road to Triangle North would be included in the stimulus package.

Commissioner Winters: Commissioner Winters commented on the state of the commercial real estate market.

Commissioner Young: Commissioner Young was absent in order to attend an Area Mental Health Board meeting. Personnel discussions were expected as a search is on for a new Executive Director.

County Manager Angela Harris: Mrs. Harris stated she had selected Mr. Jimmy Tanner to serve as acting Tax Director. She said the county is currently advertising for the Tax Administrator position formerly held by Jim Wrenn. Mrs. Harris also mentioned that Universal Forest Products in Bunn will be closing their facility immediately, impacting nearly 50 employees and management. Mrs. Harris mentioned the reason for Commissioner Young's absence was to attend an Area Mental Health Board meeting and stated that staff is working on legislative goals and federal requests.

8. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was asked to consider going into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion carried 6 to 1 with Commissioner Foy voting "NO."

Following the closed session, Commissioner Dunston made the motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

No action was taken.

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

Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board