

**June 1, 2009**

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, Sidney E. Dunston, Donald C. Lancaster, E. Shane Mitchell and Harry L. Foy, Jr.

Chairman 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 Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Swanson then asked the Board to consider adding a Closed Session to the agenda regarding a personnel matter. Commissioner Dunston made the motion to add the closed session, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The items approved on the consent agenda are as follows:

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. April 20, 2009 Minutes
- B. May 4, 2009 Minutes
- C. Home and Community Care Block Grant funding plan
- D. Budget Ordinance Amendment #7 (Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Officer is requesting a budget ordinance amendment in the amount of \$79,702 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 to reflect grants received by various departments and to add additional dollars to departments who need additional funds before year end.
- E. Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a financing agreement and deed of trust and related documents in connection with the refinancing of certain outstanding indebtedness of the county

Chairman Swanson then offered congratulations to Franklin County's Senior Centers for receiving recertification. Both centers in Louisburg and Franklinton have been certified as "Centers of Excellence." He thanked staff and volunteers for their contributions.

**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. No comments were offered.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. 2009-2010 Proposed Budget

This was the time scheduled to hear public comments on the proposed 2009-2010 budget. At 7:04 P.M., Chairman Swanson opened the public hearing.

**James T. Anderson, 1305 East River Road, Louisburg, NC**

- Mr. Anderson encouraged the Board not to approve any projects unless the County already possessed the money to pay for them. He said people are

hurting financially in the County and said currently many can't afford to pay rent or buy groceries. He asked the Board not to raise property taxes.

**Sheila Hanna, 2905 NC Highway 39 North, Louisburg, NC**

- Mrs. Hanna stated she has monitored the progress of the budget for some time and thanked County Manager Angela Harris and Finance Director Chuck Murray for being helpful and explaining the budget process. She stated she is aware of how much time and effort has been put into streamlining the budget this year during a time of “dire straits.” She complimented the Board for being cognizant of the fact that many people have lost their jobs and their homes. Mrs. Hanna stated her concern was that citizens not be burdened with any expenses. She asked that the Board take a closer look at the Jail Expansion project and amortization as she understood it would take approximately 20 years for the jail to show a return. She feels the County's focus should be on maintaining levels of service to those who are already stressed financially. She also expressed a concern regarding attorney's fees (\$275,000) and asked the Board to look again at hiring a full time attorney. She said Mrs. Harris stated the County has had a difficult time finding someone who would accept the attorney position for what the County was prepared to offer. Mrs. Harris responded and said the county attorney's fees are just a small fraction of the \$275,000 figure that also includes external legal expertise that would be required even if the County employed a full-time attorney. She also stated that support staff would have to be hired to assist the full-time attorney. Regarding jail expansion, Mrs. Harris stated she would be glad to provide more detail to Ms. Hanna on the project. Mrs. Harris also offered to place information on the County's website regarding jail expansion.

**Tony Efird, Sam Horton Road, Louisburg, NC**

- Mr. Efird spoke about his concerns with the proposed budget. He stated his concerns with the Local Government Commission, the actions of the Board of Commissioners and the Economic Development Commission. He encouraged the Board to try new ideas on how to save money beginning with non-mandated services. Among a number of concerns he listed, Mr. Efird also expressed concerns regarding legal fees and suggested the Board hire a full-time County Attorney.

At 7:24 P.M., Chairman Swanson closed the public hearing with no action taken.

The Board decided that it will hold another budget work session on June 15, 2009 at 5:30 P.M. prior to its next regular Board meeting.

**B. Bunn Fire Department – Approval for non-profit loan**

Bunn Fire Department requested a public hearing and Board approval for a non-profit loan. The loan will be with First Citizens Bank in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of purchasing equipment and a fire truck.

**Ken Pearce, P.O. Box 130, Bunn, NC**

- Mr. Pearce is a member of the Bunn Fire Department. He asked the Board to consider its approval for a non-profit loan and said the funds would be used for equipment that has been needed for several years.

Commissioner Foy made the motion to approve the loan, seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

#### **4. 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.

No reports were received from the Clerk or Board Members.

**County Manager Angela L. Harris:** Mrs. Harris commented on the following:

- The City of Raleigh has requested a meeting with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to discuss the Neuse River intake. The EMC has been asked to notify the County if a meeting is scheduled. Franklin County would be represented by its Public Utilities Director Bryce Mendenhall.
- Mrs. Harris distributed a publication from the UNC School of Government highlighting recent changes in state law as they pertain to smoking in public places.
- Mrs. Harris distributed a letter from NC Representative Lucy Allen in support of a 911 grant applied for by Franklin County Emergency Communications to help maintain the operational services provided to the growing populace of rural Franklin County.
- Mrs. Harris also mentioned the "Early College Program." The Board has asked that an update on the program be provided at the Board's June 15, 2009 meeting at 5:30 P.M.
- She also mentioned that a rough draft of the sewer study should be distributed by the end of the week. A meeting will be scheduled on that topic.

#### **5. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Dunston made the motion to enter into a closed session pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6), in order for the board to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting "NO."

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

Chairman Swanson announced that no action was taken.

Commissioner Young made the Board aware of an email distributed to the Board earlier in the day regarding a proposal that would shift responsibility for some state inmates to counties.

Commissioner Winters then stated the 911 bill was "killed in committee." He applauded Senator Doug Berger for his attempts to include Franklin County on that bill.

Chairman Swanson then recessed the meeting until June 15, 2009 at 5:30pm for the purpose of a budget work session.

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Robert L. Swanson, Chairman

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board