

**January 4, 2010**

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: Chair Penny McGhee-Young, Vice-Chairman Sidney E. Dunston, Robert L. Swanson, Donald C. Lancaster, E. Shane Mitchell and Harry L. Foy, Jr.

Chair McGhee-Young asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Dunston made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The items approved are as follows:

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Certificate of Clerk re approval of tax-exempt loan to Centerville Volunteer Fire Department
- B. Resolution providing for the issuance of a \$3,600,000 General Obligation School Bond (Qualified School Construction Bond), Series 2010A

**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.

**Danny Pearce, 24 Lake Royale, Louisburg, NC**

- Mr. Pearce asked the Board to vote (this evening) for Mr. David Bunn to serve as a replacement for former Commissioner Bob Winters who resigned his position effective December 31, 2009. Mr. Pearce stated he felt the majority of the Board knew Mr. Bunn was the nominee prior to the meeting, however several Board members stated they did not know the candidate, nor where they prepared to vote on a replacement at this time.

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

- Mrs. Hanna offered her opinion on the County's general economic needs. She also commented on actions she felt would be desirable regarding economic development. Following her comments, Chair McGhee-Young asked that Mrs. Hanna provide her comments in writing in order that the Board may review them.

**Geraldine Manly, 203 Lumpkin Boulevard, Louisburg, NC**

- Ms. Manly stated a Martin Luther King, Jr. March would be held on January 18, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. beginning at the Hamilton Hobgood Courthouse Annex and ending at Saint Paul's Presbyterian Church in Louisburg.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM**

The County is preparing an application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The application will request approximately \$750,000 in CDBG-ED funds in the Building Reuse Program. Palziv, a 30-year-old company, wishes to establish its North American headquarters in the Hon Building in Louisburg. The project will consist of renovations to the 112,000 square foot building totaling approximately \$1.5 million. In addition to CDBG funding,

Palziv will invest at least \$750,000 into the project. In addition to the renovation project, Palziv will invest approximately \$7.8 million for acquisition and equipment. As a result, 72 new jobs will be created. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain citizens input into the identification of economic needs and desired economic development activities. The input from the hearing will be incorporated in the County's consideration and submission of a CDBG application to the Department of Commerce.

Chair McGhee-Young opened the public hearing at 7:16 P.M.

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

- Mrs. Hanna said she was pleased that Palziv planned to reutilize an existing facility in the County. She stated she had some concerns regarding cost benefit ratios and Palziv's desire for skilled versus unskilled workers. She also requested information regarding average monthly wages for workers as well as information regarding the operations environmental impact. Specifically, Mrs. Hanna asked about an ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14001 certificate she said was expired according to information she observed on Palziv's website.

With no further public comments, the hearing was closed at 7:21 P.M.

Economic Development Director Ronnie Goswick followed up by stating the average wage for Palziv employees was \$34,000. He also stated that a County match was not needed.

Greg Brooker, President and CEO of Palziv North America, was present. Regarding environmental concerns mentioned during the public hearing, Mr. Brooker stated there may be out of date information listed on the company's web site, but he stated he wants the record to reflect that all certifications are up-to-date. He said Palziv will be examining any air ordinances in the area. He also commented that OSHA will be examining compliance as well. Mr. Brooker stated the company plans to operate in Franklin County "as long as it possibly can." He then commented the company would have a robust Information Technology and Engineering platform. He also stated the company would employ logistics staff, corporate staff and process engineers.

Commissioner Swanson then made a motion to move forward with the Building Reuse Grant application, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

**4. DISCUSSION: REPLACEMENT OF BOARD MEMBER**

County Attorney Darnell Batton provided the Board with legal information regarding the replacement of Commissioner Winters, a representative of District Four.

Mr. Batton stated according to NCGS 153A-27, the Board is called upon to replace former Commissioner Bob Winters within 60 days of his resignation date of December 31, 2009. He commented that failure to find a replacement by March 1, 2010 would result in an appointment by the County's Clerk of Court. From the time the Clerk of Court is notified, he/she would then have ten days to appoint a replacement. Mr. Batton stated there is no legal requirement that states the Board must wait the full 60 days to make its appointment, but he said the Board is required by law to consult with the Republican Party's Executive Committee.

Mr. Batton commended the Republican Party's Executive Committee for being prepared to make its recommendation early in the process. However, he followed by stating the Board is obligated by statute to ensure the candidate is qualified. He also said the

Board is responsible for vetting out the qualifications and said each individual commissioner has a duty to evaluate the candidate and ensure he/she is the best candidate for the county as a whole. He commented the board is bound by statute to consider the suggestion of the Republican Party's Executive Committee, but said it is not legally bound to approve its suggestion, nor is the Clerk of Court bound to its suggestion. Mr. Batton stated the candidate must be a Republican from District Four.

Chair McGhee-Young then recognized Mr. Jeremy Neal, President of the Republican Party, for comments. During the process of making a recommendation, Mr. Neal stated his party had consulted with its own legal counsel and General Statutes. He stated the Executive Committee accepted recommendations from all citizens of the County with a goal to find someone to represent District Four who had a vested interest. He stated the Executive Committee's recommendation as a replacement for Commissioner Winters is David Bunn of the Pearces Community.

Mr. Bunn was in attendance and state he is a third generation resident of Franklin County. He said his family owns a business that operates in the County. He commented that he has strong Christian morals and stated he will make informed decisions and said he will represent all citizens of the County.

Chair McGhee-Young then reiterated it is the Board's responsibility to appoint a replacement and said it is important not to make a hasty decision. She stated she would ensure that the Republican Party's recommendation would be voted on at the next meeting on January 19, 2010. She then asked Mr. Bunn to provide his contact information to the Clerk in order that Board members may contact him with questions they may have.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he was acquainted with Mr. Bunn and said he would vote in favor of his appointment, but stated he felt it was only fair that the entire Board and the community have an opportunity to learn more about him.

Following additional questions by Commissioner Dunston, Mr. Bunn stated he had come before the Board of Commissioners recently with a special use request regarding the Norris Creek Outdoor Entertainment Complex.

No action was required nor taken.

## **5. APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Chair Appointments**

The Chair was expected to appoint individual commissioners to select county and regional boards and committees. Chair McGhee-Young stated she would postpone those appointments until the next Board meeting or until a replacement is selected for District Four Commissioner.

### **B. Board of Adjustment**

Two appointments/reappointments were needed on the Board of Adjustment. The positions are currently held by Tammy Ray (Commissioner Young's representative) and Stuart May (former Commissioner Winters' representative).

Chair McGhee-Young stated her potential appointment is no longer willing to serve due to health reasons. She stated appointments to the Board of Adjustment would also be postponed.

## 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:** No comments.

**Commissioner Foy:** No comments.

**Commissioner Winters:**

**Commissioner Young:** Commissioner Young commented that the Health Department had worked with Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine to secure a \$175,000 grant to assist citizens who cannot afford insurance. She applauded both organizations for their efforts.

**Commissioner Lancaster:** Commissioner Lancaster stated he hopes everyone has a good 2010.

**Commissioner Mitchell:** No comments.

**Commissioner Dunston:** No comments.

**Commissioner Swanson:** No comments.

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

- Mrs. Harris commented that a Board Retreat was planned for January 20-21, 2010 at the Louisburg College Blue Room. The sessions will begin at 9:00 A.M. each day. Louisburg College offered their facility at no cost to the County.
- She also commented that a salary increase (\$1,476) had been made for the benefit of an employee at Emergency Medical Services who serves as an Administrative Support Specialist Three.

## 7. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Swanson made the motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (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. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston and carried with a 5 to 1 vote, with Commissioner Foy voting "NO."

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

Emergency Communications Director Christy Shearin asked the Board to consider receiving bids for the radio project for 30 days when the project goes out for bid again. She stated the request was based on the fact that coverage requirements have now been altered and strengthened. Bids will be accepted beginning January 7, 2010.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to extend the bid period (for the radio project) for 30 days to include improvements in coverage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

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Penny McGhee-Young, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

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