

**May 3, 2010**

The Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met at 5:00 P.M. at the Cooperative Extension Office with the following Commissioners present: Chair Penny McGhee, Robert L. Swanson, and David T. Bunn. Vice-Chairman Sidney E. Dunston and Commissioners Donald C. Lancaster, Harry L. Foy, Jr. and E. Shane Mitchell were absent.

The purpose of the meeting was an annual report/dinner offered by Cooperative Extension.

This was an informal meeting and no action was taken.

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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, Robert L. Swanson, Donald C. Lancaster, David T. Bunn and Harry L. Foy, Jr. Vice-Chairman Sidney E. Dunston and Commissioner E. Shane Mitchell were not present at the start of the meeting. Commissioner Dunston arrived at 7:03 P.M. Commissioner Mitchell arrived at 7:08 P.M.

Chair McGhee asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Lancaster 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. 2010 County Clerk's Week Proclamation
- B. Resolution of the County of Franklin regarding designation of an official to make recommendations to the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission on ABC permit applications

**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 made.

**3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION: THE HONORABLE LUCY T. ALLEN**

The Board was asked to consider approval of a resolution honoring former North Carolina House Representative Lucy T. Allen for her service to the citizens of Franklin County and District 49.

Commissioner Swanson read and presented the resolution to Ms. Allen.

Commissioner Dunston arrived at 7:03 P.M.

#### **4. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST**

The Board was asked to consider a request for cost share reimbursement for EMS equipment purchased by Youngsville EMS and Louisburg EMS from the EMS Incentive Fund.

Commissioner Mitchell arrived at 7:08 P.M.

Randy Likens, Director of Emergency Services, summarized the request and asked for the Board's consideration. He stated the request was approved by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Commissioner Foy made a motion to approve the cost share reimbursement request, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

#### **5. EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Board continued discussions regarding the Early College High School Program as it pertains to facility needs. Mr. Randy Parker, Vance Granville Community College (VGCC) President and Dr. Ed Ingram, Franklin County Schools Superintendent were present.

Dr. Ingram began the discussion with a brief historical summary of how the Early College High School program came to fruition. He stated the idea was first explored in 2005 by Franklin County Schools. As the threshold for grant opportunities neared an end in 2008, he said a grant was applied for and \$350,000 was received. He stated space for students involved in the program was an issue from the start with Mr. Parker promising one year of space on the campus of VGCC until a solution was reached. A proposal offering an alternative approach utilizing a classroom at each high school that would eventually funnel into VGCC was rejected. At that time, the program wasn't expected to continue further.

A short time later, Dr. Ingram was invited by North Carolina Senator Doug Berger to join him in a meeting with Faye Agar of the Early Schools Project and Commissioner Sidney Dunston to reexamine what steps could be taken to keep the program alive. In August 2009, Dr. Ingram stated the Board of Commissioners signed a letter of support for the program and the New Schools Project allowed the Early College program to move forward. Early College opened in January, 2010 in Franklin County with 46 students including 17 from Franklinton High, 15 from Bunn High and 14 from Louisburg High School. Dr. Ingram stated space continues to be an issue. He said three additional classrooms are available for next year.

Mr. Parker said VGCC's Franklin campus has the largest percentage of growth compared to its other locations. He said there is a drastic need for space already, not including the needs for Early College students. He said the college would have been in the same situation in a couple of years with the need for space, but commented Early College has allowed the need to occur sooner. He also stated that assistance from State bonds would be off the table for a while.

Regarding a planning grant, Commissioner Mitchell asked when it would expire. Mr. Parker stated that unless programming changed, he expected it would be available from two to three years.

Commissioner Foy asked if rooms are built now for Early College, would the space be preserved for the program as enrollment grows at VGCC. Mr. Parker stated, "I think we would be committed." He said if a facility is designed, VGCC would be partners with Franklin County Schools and enrollment would be examined.

In reference to the Early College program in Nash County, Commissioner Lancaster asked if the program was functioning properly. Dr. Ingram said it appears to function well with the exception of timing for lunch.

Regarding modular units, Commissioner Mitchell stated he has heard two definitions of what a modular unit would entail. He commented one type of modular unit was used in Nash County and said another type of modular unit was currently used at Franklinton High School. Commissioner Mitchell wanted to know if pricing had been examined regarding both types. Dr. Ingram stated inquiries had been made and estimated that an eight-classroom structure would cost approximately \$300,000, therefore an estimate for Franklin County would be \$400,000 to \$500,000. For a structure similar to that used at Franklinton High School, he estimated \$1.2 to \$1.3 million. That structure houses 10 classrooms that will later be converted into a gymnasium.

Mr. Parker reemphasized that VGCC needs space for Early College students and for those same (Early College) students who will eventually enter college classrooms.

Regarding the college's strategic plan, Commissioner Swanson stated his understanding that the amount of growth being discussed wasn't expected until 2015. Mr. Parker stated growth was projected at nineteen percent for ten years out, but at this time the college has already exceeded projected growth.

Commissioner McGhee inquired about the circumstances of not being able to house the students within three years. Dr. Ingram stated the only way would be to cap the program at a reduced number of students. He said the school could have 100 students, but it wouldn't be able to grow. Commissioner McGhee asked if there is a contingency plan if for some reason Early College moved forward in Franklin County and adequate facilities weren't available in 2011. Mr. Parker stated there is no contingency plan.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired about "innovative scheduling." Mr. Parker stated that had been discussed. He said the challenge would be the commitment from Franklin County Schools regarding transportation. He said innovative scheduling is a possibility.

Commissioner McGhee commented the Board of Commissioners wasn't aware that more space was needed at VGCC's Franklin Campus until space needs were being discussed for Early College. Mr. Parker said Vance Granville's master facilities plan was approved in February, 2008 and that at the time, the college had already worked with Vance and Warren Early College in considering the program for Franklin in the future. Mr. Parker said a copy of the master plan was shared with the County Manager. Shortly thereafter, he said the Early College grant began to circulate. He said the college had projected 19% growth over a ten-year period when the study was completed and that it was not anticipated that the campus would grow so quickly. He said the fast pace of growth brought on the request sooner than anticipated as opposed to the original projection of 2015. He said additional space is needed now to provide ample classroom space for both Early College students and VGCC students. Following a comment by Commissioner McGhee that it unlikely the need will be fulfilled right away, Mr. Parker stated that in the Fall of 2011, the college will not have space for the Early College High School freshman class to be housed on the VGCC campus. He said space must be

provided by the Fall of 2012 or the number of Early College students would have to be reduced.

Commissioner McGhee asked if modular units were provided now, would they provide adequate space until 2015. Dr. Ingram stated it would serve the Early College High Schools needs, but Mr. Parker stated it wouldn't solve any needs for those students taking Vance Granville's college courses.

Commissioner Swanson stated financing is the problem that needs to be discussed by the Board. Commissioner McGhee stated she didn't feel comfortable making any decision until the Board is aware how much modular units or permanent buildings would cost. Commissioner Mitchell reminded the group that there are other projects and needs that are to be considered by the Board as well such as the Emergency Communications project. Commissioner Foy commented that budget discussions begin soon. Commissioner Lancaster stated he wanted to see innovative scheduling numbers. He also stated he would like to better understand transportation needs.

Commissioner McGhee stated the item would continue to be discussed under "other business" in order for ongoing discussions to be held. Restating information requested, she said the Board would like to know the occupancy rate, more information about innovative scheduling solutions and transportation planning. More information is also needed concerning the cost of modular units as well as buildings similar to those used on the campus of Franklinton High School.

Commissioner Dunston added he would like statistical data as to the graduation rate of students in the Early College program, including any discipline issues or any statistic that would support the benefit of the Early College High School program.

No action was taken.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Old Franklin County Jail – Commissioner McGhee said staff does not yet have all the data needed to make a presentation on the property which is located on East Nash Street in Louisburg. She stated the topic will be addressed at the May 17, 2010 Board meeting. County Manager Angela L. Harris stated she was aware of an agreement with the Historical Society made in the late 1980's to transform the former jail into a museum. To date, a museum has not been created. She said rough cost estimates for a museum provided in 2008 were substantial.
- Solid Waste – Solid Waste Director John Faulkner was in attendance. He addressed a letter of response from the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the County's concern over traffic safety solutions at convenience centers in Pilot and Youngsville. The County proposed turn lanes, however DOT's response indicated the cost would be the burden of the County. The letter addressed recommendations for improvements at the site. One suggestion included increasing the size of the site in Youngsville as well as moving the compactor to create more room. Mr. Faulkner stated there is land available in Youngsville, but said it is expensive. Mr. Faulkner was directed to come up with a proposal for remedying the concerns along with the cost of adding an additional convenience site.

## **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 mentioned that County Assembly Day will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 in Raleigh. Registration begins on-site at 9:00 A.M. The session starts at 9:30 A.M. Deadline to pre-register is Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

**Commissioner Foy:** Commissioner Foy attended a fundraiser for injured Deputy James Williamson. He stated the event was successful. He also attended the update provided earlier in the day by Cooperative Extension as well as a recent event at the Franklinton Senior Center that offered tips on preventing fraud and avoiding scams.

**Commissioner Bunn:** No report.

**Commissioner McGhee-Young:** Commissioner McGhee-Young provided a brief update regarding billing for mental health. She said the state will choose a group to conduct billing if the area mental health group fails to move forward. Commissioner McGhee-Young also thanked staff for the recent picnic lunch provided to Franklin County Employees as part of County Government Month festivities. Lastly, she commented on her attendance at the annual update meeting by Cooperative Extension.

**Commissioner Lancaster:** Commissioner Lancaster asked when the budget process will start. County Manager Angela L. Harris stated she hopes to begin scheduling budget work sessions at the next regular Board meeting scheduled for May 17, 2010.

**Commissioner Mitchell:** Commissioner Mitchell stated the Emergency 911 Committee is working with staff and a consultant on the 911 Communication project. He said a recommendation should soon come before the Board of Commissioners.

**Commissioner Dunston:** Commissioner Dunston said he recently attended the Elected Officials Reception hosted by the Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce. He said the Chamber is excited and focused on regional growth and said a desire to work with Franklin County has been expressed. Commissioner Dunston commented that the Wake Weekly newspaper has started a new edition that focuses on Franklin County news.

**Commissioner Swanson:** Commissioner Swanson commented he attended the annual update offered earlier in the evening by Cooperative Extension. He said applicants are currently being reviewed for Extension Director.

**County Manager Angela Harris:** No report.

Commissioner Swanson made the motion to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunston and carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting "NO."

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

Chair McGhee announced that no action was taken.

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

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Penny McGhee, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board