

September 20, 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, Vice-Chairman Sidney E. Dunston, Robert L. Swanson, Donald C. Lancaster, Harry L. Foy and David T. Bunn. Commissioner E. Shane Mitchell was absent.

Chair McGhee began the meeting by recognizing Neil Emory, Outreach Coordinator, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Emory presented a 20-year service plaque to Commissioner Harry Foy.

Chair McGhee asked the Board to consider an addition to the agenda regarding a request for repairs at the Franklin County Detention Facility. Commissioner Swanson made the motion to add the item, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." The item will be considered Item 5 on the agenda.

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 Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE." Items approved are as follows:

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. September 7, 2010 Minutes
- B. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- C. Certificate of Clerk regarding approval of tax-exempt loan to Franklinton Fire Department, Inc.
- D. Request for addition of Jackson Road, Westbourne Lane and Princeton Manor Drive (Princeton Manor Subdivision) to the State Maintained Secondary Road System

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.

Ty Miles, 470 Bunn Elementary School Road, Bunn

- Ms. Miles asked for direction on how to temporarily close a roadway (Bunn Elementary School Road) to assist with traffic from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. for an event planned in October. Ms. Miles stated Community Fun Day will be held on October 23, 2010. Ms. Miles was introduced to Scott Hammerbacher, Planning and Zoning Director, who will provide contact information in order to obtain assistance from the State.

3. DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT FOR JUDICIAL DISTRICT 9

Royster Washington, Judicial 9 District Manager, presented a copy of the 2009-2010 annual report to highlight activity of the Division of Community Corrections activity in Franklin County.

No action was requested or needed.

4. NEW FRANKLIN COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Steve Mitchell, Agriculture Board Chair, introduced the Board to Gerry Cohn, Consultant for the Franklin County Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan. Mr. Cohn briefly presented the plan utilizing the following PowerPoint presentation.



**Franklin County
Agricultural Development &
Farmland Preservation Plan**

September 2010

Consultants:
Gerry Cohn
Andrew Branan




Why do we need another plan?

- Authorized by state law as a role of the Ag Advisory Board
- Reduced cost-share requirements for NCD ADFP Trust Fund
- Bring together county land use planning and farm profitability issues
- Prioritize and coordinate public and private efforts
- Challenges and opportunities



Embracing Transition



Franklin County Agriculture

- \$48 million in farm products sold
- 25% tobacco, 17% poultry, 17% hogs
- 593 farms covering 113,000 acres
- 43% crops, 40% forest, 12% pasture
- Diversified crops, livestock, and forestry
- Average farmer age of 57





Key Issues

- Changing tobacco and the large acreage future
- Direct market opportunities
- The next generation
- Development pressure
- Government support for agriculture is strong




5TH ANNUAL EASTERN TRIANGLE FARM TOUR

PLEASE NOTE:
Locations are approximate.
See directions on page 4 – For more
the Google Tour Map at
www.ncrafsouthwest.org



AREA MAP



Gerry Cohn

336-260-6553

franklinfarmplan@gmail.com

Mr. Cohn mentioned that a number of public meetings and interviews with landowners and farmers were held in preparation for the plan. He said agriculture is alive and well in Franklin County and said he felt a sense of cooperation among citizens and ongoing support for agriculture. He found that Franklin County has moved forward in embracing transition as change continues to occur such as the end of the tobacco program. He said the County continues to look for new opportunities such as a growing interest in local foods and the different areas of support in this region for new farmers and transitioning farmers.

Mr. Cohn stated agriculture is a \$50 million dollar business in Franklin in terms of farm products sold. In talking with citizens he said he didn't find great controversy in terms of land use. He said a great opportunity lies in how agriculture can continue to be a driver of economic development and said the County's Economic Development Commission and local community college is eager to provide support for the effort as well. He said government and public support for agriculture is strong in Franklin.

Mr. Cohn said a series of recommendations were developed for the County and included in the plan. He said not all can be completed within a short period of time and with limited resources. He said the idea was for the County to prioritize its goals based on the recommendations and then follow through based on existing conditions and existing resources.

Mr. Cohn said Franklin is fortunate to be a part of the broader Triangle region with access to markets in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area. He also commented on more affordable land prices in Franklin compared to other areas of the triangle and said there is a chance to be a place where a number of beginning farmers can come to make Franklin their home for field crops and more extensive growing opportunities.

Commissioner Foy asked Mr. Cohn to explain the difference between what is currently practiced compared to the recommendations made in the plan. Mr. Cohn said no radically new recommendations were made but rather recommendations in support of actions already in place as well as some marketing outreach towards attracting a number of new farmers locating to the area. He said many new farmers are not considered "your average new farmer" but rather practicing farming as a second career.

Commissioner Lancaster offered thanks to those who prepared the plan including the Agriculture Board.

Attorney David Guin, provided comments from County Attorney Darnell Batton who was unable to be in attendance. He said overall Mr. Batton was satisfied with the plan, recognizing the document is more of an advisory document as opposed to a document that mandates items. Mr. Batton was concerned with the possibility of an increased level of bureaucracy with respect to condemnation and the possibility of more difficulty with respect to assessments such as suspending or holding assessments in abeyance.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to approve the plan, seconded by Commissioner Bunn.

Commissioner McGhee referenced pages 63 and 67 of the plan and stated the sections apply to local governments and would most affect future decisions made by the Board.

The Board voted and unanimously approved the motion previously made by Commissioner Lancaster.

Additional copies of the Franklin County Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan are available at the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office.

5. REQUEST FOR REPAIRS AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

Franklin County Sheriff Pat Green asked the Board to consider his request for an additional \$92,315 to repair and update showers, toilets, and plumbing at the Franklin County Jail.

Sheriff Green originally hoped to incorporate needed repairs into the jail expansion project. He said after thirteen years of use, many items were worn out and in some cases parts are obsolete and cannot be replaced. He said staff has identified one company in Wilson, North Carolina that provides the service strictly for jails.

Commissioner Foy asked if other companies were allowed to bid. Sheriff Green again stated only one company exists in North Carolina and only a few are located in the United States that work in jail environments.

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

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Old Franklin County Jail: Mrs. Harris provided a brief update after speaking with a representative of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. A future presentation on possible tax credits and other historical information pertaining to the former jail is in the planning stages.
- EMS Incentive Distribution Program: Mrs. Harris stated an administrative meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at Franklin County Emergency Medical Services pertaining to the EMS Incentive Distribution Program. Commissioners Don Lancaster, Sidney Dunston and David Bunn are expected to be in attendance. Chair McGhee asked if other commissioners wish to attend, sufficient notice is given in order to properly publicize the open meeting.
- Commissioner McGhee stated that Franklin County received an award from the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee recognizing its level of participation.

7. APPOINTMENTS

A. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

The Board was asked to appoint Travis Philbeck to fill the unexpired term of Elliott Pinnell on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The Board was also asked to consider the appointment of Mellissa Jennings to serve at large.

- Travis Philbeck (Sheriff or designee)
- Melissa Jennings (At Large)

Commissioner Swanson made a motion to appoint Travis Philbeck to fill the unexpired term of Elliott Pinnell on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and to appoint Mellissa Jennings to serve at large. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

The Board was also asked to reappoint the following members to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

- Joseph Olivieri (Juvenile Defense Attorney)
- Tamara Wheeler (At Large)
- Monty Riggs (At Large)
- Cynthia Yancey (Chief Court Counselor or designee)
- Lynette Fuller (Director of MH, DD and Substance Abuse Authority)
- Oliver Greene (Parks and Recreation representative)
- Kristin Peebles (District Attorney or designee)

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to reappoint Joseph Olivieri, Tamara Wheeler, Monty Riggs, Cynthia Yancey, Lynette Fuller, Oliver Green and Kristin Peebles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bunn and duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

B. Louisburg Board of Adjustment ETJ

The Board was asked to consider reappointment of the following:

- Ray Hodges
- Dr. Edward Brown

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to reappoint Ray Hodges and Dr. Edward Brown to the Louisburg Board of Adjustment ETJ. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bunn and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

C. Louisburg Planning Board ETJ

The Board was asked to consider reappointment of the following:

- Fannie Perry
- Erris Dunston

Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to reappoint Fannie Perry to the Louisburg Planning Board ETJ, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Dunston then asked to recuse from voting on the reappointment of his daughter Erris Dunston.

Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to reappoint Erris Dunston to the Louisburg Planning Board ETJ, seconded by Commissioner Swanson. The motion was approved.

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 G. King: No report offered.

Commissioner Lancaster: Commissioner Lancaster commented on a \$1,742,300 grant awarded by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to construct a two-lane access road from US 401 to the Triangle North Franklin site to establish the Triangle North Franklin Business Park. He said the grant was received with "no strings attached" and stated there were over 3,000 projects in competition for the grant. Commissioner Lancaster thanked the Board for standing behind the vision and said the project has the potential to create a number of jobs in an environment where people are losing jobs. Commissioner Lancaster said he believed this is the largest grant ever received by the County. He also mentioned the annual banquet of the Committee of 100 scheduled for September 30, 2010 at Hill Ridge Farms in Youngsville.

Commissioner Mitchell: Commissioner Mitchell was absent.

Commissioner Foy: No report offered.

Commissioner Bunn: Commissioner Bunn recently attended the Justice Tractor Show and Tar River Festival.

Commissioner Dunston: No report offered.

Commissioner Swanson: Commissioner Swanson offered thanks to those who assisted in obtaining the \$1,742,300 grant awarded recently by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Commissioner McGhee: Commissioner McGhee stated she recently provided opening remarks at the Tar River Festival. She announced the Franklin County Cancer Center was recently awarded a grant for a Cancer Resource Center to be housed within the Franklin County Cancer Center. She said this is the third such center in the state of North Carolina. An open house for the center is scheduled for October 12, 2010.

County Manager Angela L. Harris:

- Mrs. Harris mentioned that she attended the Youngsville Fall Festival.
- Mrs. Harris commented approximately 4,000 to 4,500 people attended the recently High Flight Community Event that took place recently at Triangle North Executive Airport. Over 200 children were able to fly during the two-day event.
- On September 22, 2010, Mrs. Harris and Finance Director Chuck Murray will participate in a conference call reviewing the County's official statement in terms of selling the next series of bonds.
- On September 23, 2010, a meeting will be held to kick off the redesign of the County's web site, a goal Commissioners supported at January, 2010 planning retreat. She commented a company was selected from approximately seven

proposals and said department heads would be heavily involved in redesign and maintenance of the site.

- Mrs. Harris reminded the Board of the annual banquet of the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments. The event is scheduled for September 23, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.
- Mrs. Harris stated on October 5, 2009, the Board charged John Faulkner, Solid Waste Director, to seek grant funds for motor oil and filter collection at all of the County's convenience sites. The County has now received a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to accomplish that goal. She also commented the Big Sweep Litter Event is scheduled for October 13, 2010.
- An event sponsored by NC Spin is scheduled for October 12, 2010 at the Brownstone Hotel. The topic of discussion is water.

Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dunston. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE" and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Penny McGhee, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

(blank page)