

**Cleveland County Board of Commissioners**  
**March 1, 2016:**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Office.

**PRESENT:** Jason Falls, Chairman  
Susan Allen, Commissioner  
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
Ronnie King, Farm Service Agency Board Member  
Jeff Richardson, County Manager  
Tim Moore, County Attorney  
Andrea Leslie-Fite, Assistant County Attorney  
Henry Earle, Clerk  
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director  
Brian Epley, Finance Director  
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director  
Chris Green, Tax Administrator  
Stephen Bishop, Soil and Water Conservation Director

**ABSENT:** Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chairman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jason Falls called the meeting to order and Tax Administrator Chris Green led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen made the motion to adopt the agenda, as presented by the Clerk. It was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously adopted by the Board.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

- Allison Still: Pinedale Road, Waco – Ms. Still was representing the Association of Animals in Waco, NC. Ms. Still, and the others of that group who were present, were there in support of the Animal Control Ordinance as it was approved in July 2015. Ms. Still said that the intention of this ordinance was not to appease the public but to keep the pet population under control, and stripping down the ordinance will not help with the pet population.
- Margarete Mevin: 902 Elizabeth Road, Shelby – Ms. Mevin is the director of the humane society of Cleveland County and was also on the task force that created the ordinance amendments. She sees every day the devastating effects of animal overpopulation and asked the Commissioners to keep the animal control ordinance in its current form and not to amend it.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to approve the following items:

**MINUTES:** There being no corrections, additions or deletions, the Minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Special Called Meeting and the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 regular meeting were presented and approved as written.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** BNA #053

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
054.474.4.350.00	STATE GOV. GRANTS	\$31,000.00	
012.538.5.211.00	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$31,000.00	

*Explanation of Revisions: Budget Convenience Center Comingled Recycling Collection Grant awarded by NC Department of Environmental Quality to buy 2 stationary compactors.*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE:** BNA #054

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.441.4.310.00	FED GOV. GRANTS	\$50,947.38	
010.441.4.991.00	FD. BALANCE APPROP	\$16,982.46	
010.441.5.121.00	SALARIES/WAGES FT	\$35,256.00	
010.441.5.122.00	SALARIES/WAGES PT	\$8,681.40	
010.441.5.131.00	SOCIAL SECURITY TAX	\$538.20	
010.441.5.132.00	RETIREMENT	\$2,566.56	
010.441.5.133.00	HOSPITAL INSURANCE	\$7,116.00	
010.441.5.134.00	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$180.00	
010.441.5.135.00	EMPLOYER 401K	\$1,762.80	
010.441.5.136.00	MEDICARE TAXES	\$125.88	
010.441.5.210.00	DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES	\$1,201.00	
010.441.5.211.00	CONTROLLED EQUIP.	\$10,502.00	

*Explanation of Revisions: Budget 2015 Prescribed Epidemic Grant money from the Governor's Crime Commission. This is a 75%/25% local match fund. Funds will be used to continue to cover the salary of one full time investigator and one part time investigator.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**SOLAR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (SOLAR FARMS) CODE AMENDMENT:**

Commissioner Falls called Chris Martin, Zoning Administrator, to the podium. Mr. Martin showed the proposed ordinance on the screen, detailing the site plan specifics, screening and fencing needs setbacks from property lines and Decommission plans. Commissioner Hutchins asked Mr. Martin what Opaque Screening Type A was and Mr. Martin showed the current ordinance that listed Opaque Type A screening as Trees between 20 and 40 feet high at maturity with either a 6 foot fence or evergreen shrubs, or staggered evergreen tree planting. The public hearing was opened at 6:21.

- Roland Allen: Mr. Allen spoke about the need for several modifications to the proposed amendment including screening standards. Mr. Allen said that screening needed to be at least 15 feet to keep line of sight clear. He said noise standards needed to be strengthened to reduce noise level and that the bond that was originally proposed in the amendment needed to be reinstated. Mr. Allen also asked who would be responsible for decommissioning costs if they exceeded the value of the land. His fear was that the county would be stuck with a great deal of land and cost when the solar farms started coming offline.
- Robert Williams: Mr. Williams stated that solar farms will never pay for themselves and are not economically competitive with coal, natural gas and nuclear power. He asked that Commissioners vote against the ordinance and discourage future building of solar farms. He fears they will be all abandoned.

The public hearing was closed at 6:32. Commissioner Hutchins expressed his interest in seeing more work done on strengthening Class A screening. Commissioner Hawkins said he wanted to see it tabled and let the planning board look at what can be done. Tax breaks have been the driver here and this is not something we want to gamble with.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved that the ordinance be tabled to a future date and allow the planning board to review screening needs and to come back with recommendations. It was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board.**

**CELL TOWER CODE AMENDMENT:** Chairman Falls called Mr. Martin back to the podium. Mr. Martin said that in light of new technology that was brought to the attention of the planning department, they were requesting to table the cell tower code amendment.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins moved to postpone ordinance discussion until staff can come back and give the Board more information. It was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved by the Board.**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**MINIMUM HOUSING CODE VIOLATION-3380 BRIDGES LAKE ROAD:** County Planning

Director Bill McCarter presented a petition to demolish the property at 3380 Bridges Lake Road. Pictures were shown on screen to the Commissioners showcasing the dilapidated property. Mr. McCarter said the owner had passed away and that the family was not local and were ok with it being demolished. Mr. McCarter said the tax value was \$10,381.00 in land and buildings.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the order to demolish. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.**

**FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN:** Stephen Bishop, Soil and Water Conservation Director, came to the podium. Mr. Bishop presented the farmland protection plan and said its enactment would help farms in this county get state and federal grant funding. He stated that Cleveland County generated \$127 million in agricultural income, which was more than twice any surrounding county. The big 3 were poultry, grain and cattle. The bad news was that farmland labor is at an all-time low, as well as weak education and weak agricultural infrastructure. Mr. Bishop highlighted Polk County and their creation of an economic development position with agriculture and the agricultural center. Mr. Bishop hoped that the endorsement of the plan will be a catalyst moving forward and asked Commissioners to consider putting this in their strategic plan moving forward. Commissioner Hawkins asked what the Commissioners could do to help and Mr. Bishop said he would like to be able to partner with Economic Development to try to make Cleveland County more economically competitive for agriculture. Commissioner Hutchins stated that the county could do more to help with grant writing. County Manager Richardson said that, with the Board's permission,

staff will take a look at various options and report back to the Board coinciding with the budget presentation in May.

**ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved to approve the Farm Protection Plan. It was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board.**

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Hawkins:** Thanked the Board for allowing the County Manger do his job of running the county and thanked Mr. Moore for speaking at schools recently about state government.

**Commissioner Allen:** Thanked the animal advocates for being in attendance.

**Commissioner Hutchins:** Said he had been busy with multiple meetings, just set new strategic goals which was exciting. He said the health department would be moving over the next week into their new building.

**RECESS TO RECONVENE**

Chairman Falls entertained a motion to recess. The motion was made by Commissioner Hutchins, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved by the Board. The Commissioners will reconvene next Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:45 a.m. at the Legrand Center in Shelby, NC to hold a public hearing for an economic development incentive agreement on Project Goldknuckle.