

**CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**April 20, 2010**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

**PRESENT:** Jo Boggs, Chairwoman  
Johnny Hutchins, Vice-Chairman  
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner  
Ronald J. Hawkins, Commissioner  
Eddie Holbrook, Commissioner (arrived at 6:05 pm)  
David C. Dear, County Manager  
Robert Yelton, County Attorney  
Kerri Melton, County Clerk  
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk  
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager  
Chris Green, Tax Administrator  
Bill McCarter, Planning Director  
Alexis Pearson, Human Resources Director  
Danielle Anzelone, Cleveland Headline News  
David Allen, The Star  
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Jo Boggs called the meeting to order and led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America. Commissioner Mary Accor provided the invocation for the meeting.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

**ACTION:** Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *March 2010* (copy found on Page \_\_\_\_ of Minute Book\_\_\_\_) .

**TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS**

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during *March 2010*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$5,630.54) monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$114,123.98.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR SALARY REQUEST**

On Monday, April 5, 2010, the Cleveland County Board of Health voted unanimously to appoint Dorothea J. Wyant as the Local Public Health Director. The Cleveland County Board of Health is recommending an annual salary of \$109,224, salary grade 85, step 8a for Ms. Wyant.

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve a salary of \$109,224 (Salary Grade 85, step 8a) for County Health Director Dorothea J. Wyant.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**NCDOT COMPREHENSIVE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The NCDOT has been working with local planning staff and citizens on a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for all of Cleveland County. The plan analyzes transportation needs through 2035 and makes recommendations for all modes: highway, pedestrian, bicycle, public transportation and rail. Funding provisions for the recommendations are not addressed by the CTP, however, the CTP is an important step in the funding process for major improvements.

David Keilson with the NC Department of Transportation presented four maps (copies of maps found on Page \_\_\_\_\_ of Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_). Mr. Keilson explained that data was collected for the CTP by traffic counts, accidents, a survey of approximately 500 participants and recommendations from the old plan were considered. Mr. Keilson has visited many local governments throughout Cleveland County. The NCDOT will advertise a 30-day public comment period. Following this, they will request a public hearing where the plan will be adopted. Prior to the adoption of the CTP, all local governments are required to have a current Land Use Plan.

Mr. Keilson emphasized the fact that the NCDOT is looking for feedback and comments from communities before the plan is finalized.

Commissioner Hawkins asked, "I know that funding is limited, should we be excited about this plan?" Mr. Keilson responded, "While funding is limited and has dropped some, funding has not gone away all together." Commissioner Holbrook asked if there is an established priority on projects included in the CTP. Mr. Keilson noted that the Rural Planning Organization puts together the priority with help from the Division Office. "With help from the Governor's office, the process is being re-vamped to make it more quantitative rather than objective."

**RESOLUTION HONORING LORENE RICHARDS- BELWOOD TOWN CLERK**

After 32 years as Town Clerk for the Town of Belwood, Ms. Lorene Richards announced her retirement effective June 30, 2010. Commissioners found it appropriate to recognize Ms. Richards for her years of dedicated service to Belwood. Many residents of Belwood as well as all three mayors who have served the Town since its incorporation in 1978 were in attendance to celebrate with Ms. Richards.

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the following resolution:*

**IN APPRECIATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN OF BELWOOD  
AND CLEVELAND COUNTY  
LORENE RICHARDS**

**WHEREAS**, Lorene Richards has served as Town Clerk of Belwood since Belwood's incorporation in 1978, having been appointed at the town's first meeting place, Flay Willis' store, located in the Town Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene has given selflessly of her time and talents for 32 years and served under 20 council members; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene developed and implemented an excellent record keeping system for the Town of Belwood; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene keeps meticulous financial records and sees to it that all bills are paid on time and all reports filed in a timely manner; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene keeps all records of the Town of Belwood in such order that her successor need only continue her excellent example; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene is available to answer questions and serves in many respects as a liaison between the council and community members; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene donated her time for many years, and in later years served for a token salary, exemplifying love for the Town of Belwood, dedication to its citizens, and concern for its future; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lorene has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2010,

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, hereby express our sincere appreciation and deep gratitude for the dedication, distinguished service and example of Lorene Richards, to us, and the citizens of Belwood and Cleveland County.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL 2010.**

**REVISED CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR LEASE AGREEMENT**

At their March 25, 2010 Worksession, Commissioners approved a lease between Cleveland County and the Cleveland County Fair Association. A copy of the approved lease was sent to the Fair Association for review. County Attorney Bob Yelton explained that the Fair Association had several modifications that they would like to see included in the final signed agreement. County Manager David Dear and Commissioner Accor both attended the Fair Association meeting where the lease was discussed. They described the atmosphere as "very amiable and cooperative" and described the modifications as "not really changes, more clarifications".

Commissioner Hutchins asked that Item 4 be changed to require 60 days notice to County Commissioners before demolition of any buildings.

**ACTION**: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***approve the fair lease to include a requirement of 60-day notice to County Commissioners before demolition of any building (copy found on Pages \_\_\_\_\_ of Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_).***

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT: CODE TEXT AMENDMENT – POLITICAL SIGNS**

In December, the Cleveland County Planning Board developed a code text amendment allowing larger political signs to be exempt from zoning regulations and permits. The recommended code text amendment read as follows:

**Sec. 12-281. Permit required for signs.**

- (c) The following signs are exempt from regulation under this section.
  - (5) Signs erected in connection with elections or political campaigns. Such signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) ~~sixteen (16)~~ square feet in surface area and shall be removed within three (3) days following the election or conclusion of the campaign.

At their March 25, 2010 Worksession, Commissioners scheduled a public hearing to look at this code text amendment and take action to approve or deny said amendment.

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins and unanimously adopted by the board, ***to open the public hearing.*** (Notice of this hearing was accomplished in accordance with NCGS 153A-343, with legal ads published in the Star.)

David Morrow 223 Mt. Sinai Church Road believes that changing the code would put those running for political office on the same playing field. “Some candidates can’t afford bill boards.”

Commissioner Accor asked Planning Director Bill McCarter if he had ever heard of any safety issues regarding these larger signs as this was a concern of hers. Mr. McCarter has not gotten any feedback from the Sheriff’s Office.

Chairwoman Boggs asked if there were any other comments or if Commissioners had questions of anyone in the audience or staff. Hearing no other comments, she called for the public hearing to be closed.

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook and unanimously adopted by the board, ***to close the public hearing.***

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and adopted by a majority vote ***to deny changing the code regarding political signs.*** (Votes were recorded as Commissioner Hutchins voting to approve and all other Commissioners voting to deny)

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Hawkins attended the Airport Advisory Meeting prior to the meeting in Belwood. A solar farm has been constructed on the airport property and construction of the new terminal is going well.

There are exciting things happening in Kings Mountain including the opening of two new restaurants, the Gateway Trail is being greatly utilized. An employee of the Kings Mountain Life

Enrichment Center recently won a national award. Commissioner Hawkins is a strong supporter of the Life Enrichment Center.

Commissioner Holbrook recently had dinner with several members of the NC Parks and Recreation Board. Several of them had the opportunity to visit the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail (partly funded by a PartF grant) and were very impressed with the facilities.

Commissioner Holbrook once again thanked the financial management and decision of past Commissioners and staff. "So many counties are laying people off. We haven't had to do that." He also made note that Duke Energy and Southern Power coming online will help our county.

Cleveland County stands to be the recipient of approximately \$2 Million from the Golden Leaf Foundation. Presentations to the Golden Leaf Board will be given on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Cary, North Carolina. Projects which will possibly receive funding include: a job readiness facility, technology at the LeGrande Conference Center/Early College High School, funding for marketing of Travel/Tourism and Harvestworks.

Two busloads as well as several carloads of people will be leaving for Indianapolis on April 30<sup>th</sup> to make a final presentation to the American Legion Board for the American Legion World Series- 4 year bid.

Commissioner Accor congratulated Brandon Ruppe of Cleveland Early College High School for winning the NCACC Essay Contest. This is a statewide contest. The winner (Brandon Ruppe) received a check for \$500. Mr. Ruppes teacher, Colonel Joel Rountree also received a check for \$500. Colonel Rountree turned his check over to Early College High School principal Anita Ware to serve a need at the school.

Vice-Chair Hutchins has been working with Travel and Tourism on the Between the Rivers Wine Tour. Wineries are becoming very popular in Cleveland County. Cleveland County needs to take advantage of the wineries as a tourist destination.

Cleveland County will host its first Gun & Knife show in the old Walmart Building at the end of July. Over 150 vendors will be in attendance which means hotel rooms will be rented.

Chairwoman Boggs attended the Senior Games where John Carter of WBTV was a guest speaker.

County Assembly Day is scheduled for May 19, 2010. Registration begins at 9am. Following their regular schedule, Commissioners are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 18, 2010. Chairwoman Boggs asked Commissioners their consensus to do one of the following: 1. Conduct regular meeting and leave directly after the meeting. 2. Get up early and go to Raleigh 3. Re-schedule the regular meeting to Monday, May 17, 2010.

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor and unanimously adopted by the board, *to reschedule the meeting to Monday, May 17, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Chamber.*

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn the meeting (at 7:00 p.m.).* The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.* in the Commission Chamber. The Board of Equalization and review will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, prior to the regular meeting.

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*Rebecca Jo Powell Boggs, Chairwoman  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

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*Kerri Melton, Clerk  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*