

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 21, 2009

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
David C. Dear, County Manager
Robert Yelton, County Attorney
Kerri Melton, County Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Nicholas Bissette, 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 with the following changes:*

- (1) **Move Agenda Item 5 to Agenda Item 6:** FY 09/10 Budget Presentation
- (2) **Add Agenda Item 5:** Grant Proposal for Kings Mountain Gateway Trail

CONSENT AGENDA

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during **March 2009** (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 31).

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during **March 2009**. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$15,575.31) and the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$15,571.46.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of **April 7 2009** motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, seconded by Eddie Holbrook and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the minutes as written.*

SOCIAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #076)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendment:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
011.507.4.410.00	Outside Poor/Local & Other Grants	\$ 2,000.	
011.507.5.700.00	Outside Poor/Grants	2,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget amendment necessary to accept a United Way grant in the amount of \$2,000 for FY 2008/2009. This grant will assist with emergency food and shelter for adults.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #077)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendment:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.445.4.810.00	Emergency Mgt./Contributions/Donations	\$ 1,000.	
010.445.5.790.00	Emergency Mgt./Contributions/Donations	1,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: Estimated totals expected to be received for donations for Volunteer Appreciation Day.

REGULAR AGENDA

TAX FORECLOSURE PROPERTY SALES

Tax Administrator Chris Green presented four properties for approval of sale. Said properties were obtained through tax foreclosure several years ago. Bids were received through the sealed bid process and have met all of the Tax Foreclosure Property Guidelines approved by Commissioners at their December 2, 2008 meeting. Sale was properly advertised by the County Clerk. Mr. Green recommended the sale of the following properties:

Parcel ID #	High Bidder	Bid Amount
12736	Larry & Paulette McCorcle	\$ 1,201 .00
22486	Lorraine Poston	\$ 191.87
17966	Lavanda Hopper	\$ 535.00
11687	Raymond S. Good	\$ 1,125.00

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve sale of properties as recommended by the Tax Administrator.*

GRANT PROPOSAL FOR KINGS MOUNTAIN GATEWAY TRAILS

Cleveland County has received a grant from NCDENR in the amount of \$75,000 toward the construction of 5.8 miles of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail. The contract period runs from April 2009 until March 2011. Mr. McCarter explained that due to state budget shortfalls, if the grant is not accepted immediately, funds may be in jeopardy.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to accept the grant funds in the amount of \$75,000.*

FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Commissioners were presented with a draft copy of the FY 09/10 budget along with a draft-copy of the budget message, budget ordinance and revenue and expenditure item spreadsheets. David Dear, County Manager explained that there will be an opportunity for Commissioners to discuss the budget individually. If Commissioners would like to meet as a group, a work-session will be scheduled. He said, "Due to the economic conditions right now, the budget is pretty straight forward." Mr. Dear highlighted the following:

- * All salaries will be frozen for FY 09/10.
- * Health Insurance premiums up 9%.
- * Cleveland County will continue to replace equipment on regular intervals as to not get behind.
- * Cleveland County will continue to support the Jail Expansion Project and the Conference Center Project.
- * Set aside approximately \$1M for future capital projects.
- * All outside agencies will be funded at the same level as last fiscal year.
- * An additional \$25K will be budgeted to Cleveland Community College for utilities at the newly constructed Bailey Building.
- * The only increases to the budget are for mandated services in the Department of Social Services.
- * No tax increase.

Counties will receive complete Medicaid Relief on July 1, 2009. In exchange for Medicaid Relief, the State of North Carolina will be taking the Article 44 sales tax. Cleveland County will come out a little bit ahead in the exchange. Medicaid Relief is expected to save the county approximately \$2.8M.

Commissioner Hawkins addressed the decrease in school enrollment. Mr. Dear explained that there has been a decrease in enrollment, however, the amount per pupil has increased from \$1,649 to \$1,661. The County Manager and the County Finance Director are preparing a spreadsheet that will compare Cleveland County's per pupil funding with surrounding counties.

Commissioner Hawkins also addressed the issue of sales tax. Mr. Dear expected sales tax revenues to be down by approximately \$2.5 Million. These funds will be offset by Medicaid Relief.

Commissioner Holbrook thanked the County Manager and Finance Director for their hard work on the budget. He wanted to go on record supporting an increase in the Cleveland Community College local allocation noting that Cleveland County is still in the bottom 10%.

He further said that Cleveland Community College has seen a 16% increase in enrollment since last year.

Commissioner Accor added that although the county is not funding the Community College the way that they would like in per pupil giving, Commissioners are supporting the college in other ways like the conference center.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Holbrook:

Dave Hart has retired from Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership. The 20/20 Executive Committee will meet next week to determine how they will handle filling his position. In the meantime, Assistant County Manager Eddie Bailes will be assisting with Economic Development twenty hours per week.

John Young, Chairman of the 20/20 Economic Development Partnership, has taken a new position with Carolinas Medical Center and has resigned as Chairman of 20/20. Scoot Dixon will replace him.

Commissioner Holbrook encouraged every citizen to lobby for the construction of Hwy 74 Bypass. Last year, a \$300 Million Highway construction project was completed in the eastern part of North Carolina. The traffic count in that area was 9,000 cars per day. The traffic county along Highway 74 is 33,000-38,000. "With the help of all citizens contacting local legislators, this project could move faster."

Chairwoman Boggs:

Chairwoman Boggs reminded Commissioners that they will be appointing citizens to 36 boards at their second June Meeting. A board training will be held on May 4th from 6-8:30 p.m for anyone who may be interested in serving on a county appointed board.

Commissioner Accor:

Commissioner Accor attended that Hwy 74 bypass public hearing where she read the resolution adopted by Commissioners at their April 7th meeting. County Assembly Day will be held on April 29th. The first meeting of the Cleveland County Youth Commission will be held on Thursday, April 23rd. Commissioner Accor attended the Cleveland Regional Medical Center Board meeting where they introduced Bryan Gwynn as the new President and CEO of Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

Commissioner Hawkins:

Commissioner Hawkins also attended the Hwy 74 bypass public hearing where he said there were many "unhappy campers." He discussed the Shelby/Cleveland Regional Airport and explained that the design for the new terminal is in its final phase. This will be a great addition to Cleveland County. The taxiway at the airport should be completed in May. This airport will be a showcase for Cleveland County.

County Manager David Dear:

Bids have been received for a renovation project at the Department of Social Services (DSS). The State Department of Social Services found Cleveland County to be out of compliance when it came to

office space. This project will include the construction of twelve new offices within the existing space at DSS. The architect estimated the project to cost \$300,000. The low bid was \$164,000.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, 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 5, 2009 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 5, 2009, prior to the regular meeting.

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

*Kerri Melton, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*