

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2004

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: Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
Ronald J. Hawkins, Vice-Chair
Tom Bridges, Commissioner
Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner
Jerry L. Self, Commissioner
R. L. Alexander, County Manager
David Dear, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director
Bob Yelton, County Attorney
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Patricia D. Spangler, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Joy Scott, Star
Jennipher Hammerstein, Cleveland Headline News
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board, to ***adopt the agenda as***

presented by the County Clerk, with the following additions:

(1) Add to the Agenda as Item 12: Revaluation - Discussion
(McIntosh)

(2) Add to the Consent Agenda: Resolution - Supplemental
Grant Award MRA Industries Utilities (Alexander)

(3) Add to the Consent Agenda: Resolution: Project Tahoe - Department of Commerce Grant (*Alexander*)

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes of **January 6, 2004**, motion was made by Tom Bridges, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve the minutes as written.**

CONTINGENCY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #018)

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve the following budget amendments.**

| <u>Account Number</u> | <u>Department/Account Name</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| | <u>Decrease</u> | |
| 010.998.4.840.00 | CONTINGENCY/Insurance Settlement | \$52,009. |
| 010.998.5.586.00 | CONTINGENCY/Insurance-Legal Settlement | \$52,009. |

Explanation: To budget revenues received from insurance companies for insurance claims from July-December 2003.

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS CLINIC: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #019)

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve the following budget amendments.**

| <u>Account Number</u> | <u>Department/Account Name</u> | <u>Increase</u> | <u>Decrease</u> |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| 065.660.4510.65 | Employee Wellness Clinic/Wellness Clinician Fees | \$20,000. | |
| 065.660.4.510.70 | Employee Wellness Clinic/Wellness Tier 1 Pharm Fees | | 3,000. |
| 065.66-.4.510.72 | Employee Wellness Clinic/Wellness Tier 2 Pharm Fees | | 12,000. |

065.660.4.991.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Fund Balance Appropriated
101,818.

065.660.5.121.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Salaries/Wages-Reg
36,092.

065.660.5.131.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/FICA
2,238.

065.660.5.133.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Hospital Insurance
2,466.

065.660.5.134.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Dental Insurance 117.

065.660.5.136.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Medicare Insurance
524.

065.660.5.210.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Departmental Supply
11,295.

065.660.5.211.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Controlled Property Exp
9,241.

065.660.5.213.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Office Supplies
2,000.

065.660.5.230.01 Employee Wellness Clinic/Medicine & Supplies
10,000.

065.660.5.230.03 Employee Wellness Clinic/Tier 2 Prescription Drugs
27,000.

065.660.5.231.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Pharmacy Fees
5,000.

065.660.5.310.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Travel/Training
1,800.

065.660.5.321.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Telecommunications
1,500

065.660.5.322.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Postage
200.

065.660.5.420.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Contracted Services
2,745.

065.660.5.421.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Maint. Contracts-Equip
1,500.

065.660.5.421.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Insurance/Bonding
1,000.

065.660.5.461.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/License/Permit/Certification
200.

065.660.5.490.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Professional Services
10,800.

065.660.5.513.00 Employee Wellness Clinic/Hospital/Doctor Fees
8,100.

*Explanation of Revisions: To set up budget for new Employee Wellness Clinic.
This clinic will allow employees and their covered family members to obtain*

medical care and pharmacy services that will result in overall savings for county of health care insurance. Budget for clinic is for March-June of 03/04 fiscal year.

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during **December 2003**. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$33,002.68); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$15,074.17.

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding taxes collected during **December 2003** (*summary of collections found on Page _____ of this Minute Book 27*).

FINANCE: ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUED AT LESS THAN \$5,000.00 (GovDeals)

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve the Ordinance found on Pages _____ of this Minute Book (27)**.

**RESOLUTION: SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT AWARD: MRA
INDUSTRIES UTILITIES**

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve the following (1) resolution; and, (2) conflict of interest statement.***

NUMBER 03-2004

**SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT AWARD
MRA INDUSTRIES UTILITIES**

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2003, the Executive Board of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development awarded Cleveland County the sum of \$74,815 to help fund a sewer line extension from the Kings Mountain wastewater treatment system to a 50,000 square foot facility that will house a new tool and dye manufacturing company, MRA Industries; and,

WHEREAS, MRA Industries will provide a total of thirty (30) new jobs in the next two years; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kings Mountain has committed to treat the 1.0 MGD flow expected from the MRA Industries plant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners hereby provides this resolution of commitment dedicating the matching 10.1% (*or \$8,385.00*) funds to this project as required for local match funds.

ADOPTED THIS THE 20 DAY OF JANUARY 2004.

Chairwoman
Commissioners

/S/ Mary S. Accor,
Cleveland County Board of

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The County of Cleveland, North Carolina, is a municipal corporation and chartered under the laws of North Carolina. All county officials and employees are aware of, and in full compliance with, NCGS 14-234,

“Director of public trust contracting for his own benefit, participation in business transaction involving public funds; exemptions.”

January 20, 2004.

Chairwoman

Commissioners

/S/ Mary S. Accor,

Cleveland County Board of

**RESOLUTION: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANT -
PROJECT TAHOE (\$17,500)**

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve the following resolution.***

NUMBER 02-

2004

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant from the Department of Commerce through the County of Cleveland be made to Project Tahoe, Cleveland County, North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cleveland County will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will administer this grant through the County Finance Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the grant will be monitored quarterly to assure compliance with this proposal and the Department of Commerce regulations. Also, creation of new jobs will be monitored in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Commerce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Project Tahoe will create four (4) new jobs in a period of two years from 2004 to 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with creation of four (4) jobs, the amount of the grant application will be \$17,500.

ADOPTED this the 20 day of January 2004.

Chairwoman

/S/ Mary S. Accor,

Commissioners

Cleveland County Board of

CLEVELAND COUNTY EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Commissioners presented a certificate of appreciation to the following employees:

5-Years of Service

James C. Spargo (*Sheriff's Office*)
Jamie Y. Camp (*Health Department*)
Julia D. Brooks (*Social Services*)
Joyce T. Greene (*Social Services*)
Sharon L. Cherpak (*Social Services*)
Timothy D. Henderson (*Social Services*)
Christopher R. Hamrick (*EMS*)
Thomas E. Wilson, III (*EMS*)
Lisa C. Philbeck (*EMS*)

10-Years of Service

Sherrie P. Geer (*Finance*)
John P. Stearns (*Sheriff's Office*)
Marilyn D. Hamrick (*Sheriff's Office*)
Judy P. Hamrick-Canipe (*Health Department*)
Tommy Hayes (*Health Department*)
Lynn W. Bridges (*Health Department*)

15-Years of Service

Brenda C. Gardner (*Tax Collections*)
Christopher L. Green (*Tax Listing*)
William E. McCarter, Jr. (*Planning*)
Dianne O. Stanley (*Social Services*)
Linda C. Kiser (*Health Department*)

Commissioners presented the following employees with a plaque in appreciation for their years

of service.

20-Years of Service

Jamie G. Willis (*Building Inspections*)

Cheryl F. Barnett (*Social Services*)

25-Years of Service

Andrea D. Moss (*Social Services*)

Wanda S. Porter (*Social Services*)

30-Years of Service

Ginger J. Poteat (*Finance*)

CLEVELAND COUNTY EMPLOYEES UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director, reported that for the past seven years, the Board of Commissioners has authorized, in support of the Cleveland County United Way Campaign, an incentive of a day off with pay for county employees contributing their fair share of .6% or greater of their yearly salary to the United Way. He said in the most recent campaign, county employees pledged \$47,317 or 20% more than the previous year. He said, "Our fair share givers has risen to 30.4% of our total contributions. Overall, from 1996 to 2003, our fair share percentage givers have more than tripled in addition to the 250% increase in our employee pledges from \$13,578 to \$47,314.

Commissioners extended their appreciation to employees for making such a significant contribution to the United Way efforts.

EQUESTRIAN PARK

Melissa Summer, Project Coordinator, advised the Piedmont Equestrian Park Authority hopes to attract not only equestrian events, but other "travel and tourism industry." She said the park was the "brainstorm" of approximately fifteen people who say industry closing in their area, retail

stores and restaurants closing, and wanted to try to come up with ideas of what they could do to make a difference in their community. Ms. Summer said the equestrian “industry” was already there, so they decided to develop this project in the hope of enhancing that “industry.”

Ms. Summer provided Commissioners with the following summary of the Park, which she reviewed.

The City of Cherryville, Gaston County, and Waco formed the Piedmont Equestrian Park Authority in July 2003. The Authority was formed to plan, design, finance, construct and operate the Piedmont Equestrian Park and Conference Center, a non-traditional economic development project for the northwest corner of the county. Research by the Piedmont Equestrian Park Authority has shown that the horse industry in the region, state, and nation continues to grow. The Authority has acquired 312 acres on Baxter Road between Cherryville and Waco.

The Piedmont Equestrian Park and Conference Center will be a multi-use facility that can host a variety of events such as concerts, tractor pulls, dog shows, conferences, and trade shows. The facility will include an 86,000 square foot enclosed main arena with permanent seating for 800 with the capacity for temporary seating for 4,600; and attached covered warm-up arena, show office, restrooms, concession space, vendor space, administrative offices, and community meeting space for 140. The adjacent grounds will include barns with 400 stalls, hot and cold wash pits, shower and restroom facilities, and office space. There will be covered walkways to the main arena. Several practice rings will be available; one practice ring has already been donated by a local fence company. Two hundred campsites with RV hook-ups are planned for the site as well as trails and picnic facilities. There will be festival grounds for outdoor events.

The Cherryville Chamber has spent \$28,000 on this project to date. The City has spent \$300,000 for site acquisition and committed \$300,000 for infrastructure costs. The Gaston County Board of Commissioners has committed 1/3 of the Travel and Tourism budget for eight years (*\$120,000/year in 2001 dollars*). The Town of Waco committed \$20,000 over a three-year period for the project. The Authority applied for and received a North

Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grand of \$250,000 in May 2003 for the project. The project received a Community Foundation grant in September 2002 of \$75,000.

The Authority continues to seek and apply for grants to complete the facility. Private donations, corporate sponsorship and naming rights, federal funding and capital campaigns are several sources of money the Authority will pursue to complete the project.

There have been requests for fifty-one weekends for the facility from motocross, rodeo, concert, dog show, and carnival promoters. The equestrian community has also requested a number of weekends.

The Park will be open and available to the general public seven days a week and will have hiking trails, picnic facilities, ball fields, and a multi-use field for soccer and football. There are plans for a baseball stadium on site also.

The Piedmont Equestrian Park and Conference Center is a regional economic development project designed to attract events and visitors to the area. Gaston, Cleveland and Lincoln counties will benefit from this regional project in hotel, restaurant, and other purchases made by the visitors attracted to the facility.

The City of Cherryville, the Town of Waco, and Gaston County hope that other local governments will be partners in this regional project.

Ms. Summer advised the first event for the Park will be a “fox hunt” and dinner on February 3, 2004 and invited everyone to attend. She stated she was not “asking for money now” but requested Cleveland

County Commissioners to support the project “politically.”

KINGS MOUNTAIN: EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ)
APPOINTMENTS TO THE KINGS MOUNTAIN BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT AND PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

R. L. Alexander reviewed that the Kings Mountain City Council has requested that Commissioners appoint Bob Myers to serve as ETJ

representative on the Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment; and, Tony Ruppe to serve as ETJ representative on the Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board.

Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to open the public hearing regarding these appointments. (*Public notice of this hearing was conducted in accordance with the mandates of NCGS 160A-362, with a legal advertisement published in the Star on January 9 and January 16, 2004.*) Hearing no further nominations or comments, Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to closed the public hearing.

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve the appointments of Bob Myers and Tony Ruppe as requested by the Kings Mountain City Council.*** Both appointments are scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2006.

BROAD RIVER GREENWAY: 2004 PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT (\$250,000)

Clyde Buckner, Chair of the Broad River Council, told Commissioners about a potential \$250,000 grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (*PARTF Grant*) for which the Broad River Council would like to apply. Mr. Buckner explained that the value of the 1,000 acres recently donated as an extension to the Greenway, appraised at \$1.4 million, would serve as the required “matching funds.” He explained that since Cleveland County and the Town of Boiling Springs own the Greenway, it is necessary for them to approve the grant application.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve allowing the Broad River Council to submit the application.***

REVALUATION: TOWN MEETINGS

Commissioner McIntosh stated he felt it would benefit citizens if Commissioners continued their practice of “going the extra mile” and hold town meetings to provide information on the revaluation procedures.

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***schedule four informational town meetings throughout the county for citizen discussion regarding the revaluation process.***

CLOSED SESSION

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, which was seconded by Tom Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***conduct a closed session regarding and an personnel and real estate matters,*** as allowed under North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1)(5)(6).

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

Chairwoman Accor reconvened the meeting and announced the Board did conduct a closed session for the stated purposes. No action was taken, but directions were given to the County Attorney and the County Manager.

COMMISSIONER'S INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Hawkins reported that Dr. Joel Spragins was elected to serve another term as Chair of the Board of Health. He also reported that Dr. Gene Moore was appointed Superintendent of the new Cleveland County Schools system and that the School Board will “meet

tomorrow night.” He stated, “Remember the article about obesity in the schools, Dr. Self I believe is a part of that taskforce, and I think that it is important to keep abreast of that information.”

Commissioner Self stated, “The Lattimore Town Board met and they were mainly discussing beautification . . . and the Casar Town Council met last night and they are working on recreation items in their city park.”

Commissioner McIntosh stated, “I had a meeting last week and Gardner-Webb University has agreed to do the research in trying to find out what type facilities we have, what type of events we have in the county for the sports council. So, they’re going to do that needs assessment for the facilities for us and then I will get back with the rest of the sports council and let them know what’s going on. Once they do that, then we’ll have another meeting with the sports council to see where we need to go after that, but right now Gardner-Webb has agreed so we’re waiting on them to tell us when they’re going to get started on that . . . at a savings to the county of several thousand dollars.”

Commissioner Bridges reported he attended the Mooresboro Town Council meeting, the Sanitary District meeting and the Earl Town Council meeting. He stated that Earl has adopted the county’s animal control ordinance, to be enforced by County officers within the municipal limits of Earl.

Chairwoman Accor reported she attended the last meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, stating “We are now a merged system and are working to be united as one.” She advised she also attended yesterday and over the weekend several of the functions

celebrating the Martin Luther King holiday. She reviewed part of the information one presenter shared regarding “gang” activities and advised she will provide Commissioners with a copy of the written information distributed by the speaker at the youth rally. She also distributed copies of the goals adopted by Commissioners during their work session on January 2, 2004 (reference Page _____ of this Minute Book [27]).

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time (7:25 p.m.), Jerry Self made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.**

Mary S. Accor,
Chairwoman
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

