

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 26, 2005

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners ***reconvened their recessed meeting of January 24, 2005 on this date, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of conducting a planning and goal setting session,*** in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner
Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner
Jerry L. Self, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
David Dear, County Manager
Pat Spangler, Deputy Clerk
Joy Scott, The Star
Eddie Bailes, Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources
Raymond Hamrick, Sheriff
Danny Gordon, Chief Deputy
Scott Darnell, EDC Director
Stuart Gilbert, Chamber of Commerce, President

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins called the meeting to order.

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adopt the agenda as presented by the county clerk.

RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING STATE ASSUMPTION OF COUNTY SHARE OF MEDICAID

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***to adopt the following resolution.***

NUMBER 02-2005

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Cleveland County pays \$7,200,000 or 13.7% of its expenditures for services to Medicaid eligible citizens;

WHEREAS, the counties share of Medicaid reimbursement has increased over 67% in the last five-years and now totals approximately \$440 million;

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that require counties to pay a share of all Medicaid services costs;

WHEREAS, in Cleveland County 12.75 cents of tax rate goes to support Medicaid and 17.5% of the population is Medicaid eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to provide immediate Medicaid relief to Cleveland County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Cleveland County, Office of the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Office of the Senator Pro-Tem and North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this the 26 day of January 2005.

/S/ Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

CONFERENCE ROOM

Moved to conference room at 4:10 p.m.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Raymond Hamrick requested overtime pay instead of comp time. Other departments are getting

away from comp time because it is hurtful to the agency. The main concern is not having the manpower everyday. Paying overtime will also help to keep deputies in Cleveland County. He also requested a secretary to support office needs.

OTHER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

The following items were discussed in this planning session:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Topics discussed were:

- Annual Priorities
- Accountability measures
- Review from 2002 - 2005 "The ED Partnership"
- Chamber, ED, Tourism Budgets
- ED Survey Monkey
- ED Current Results
- Next Steps-Feb. 17, 2005 Public Meeting

HERITAGE MUSEUM

Jim Allen discussed plans for the Heritage Museum.

- Using the historic Cleveland County Courthouse for the Southern Music Heritage Center and Museum as part of a complex to include the Rogers Theater as a performance venue.
- Assume responsibility for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the value and visibility of local heritage exhibits and artifacts presently in the courthouse and such other heritage features as it might be prudent to add.

GOALS – 2005

The following is a list of goals discussed by Commissioners during this planning session.

TOP 6 GOALS

- Economic Development Funding
- Stable Tax Rate
- Land Use Plan (One stop permits, minimum housing, nuisance ordinance)
- Litter Control
- Zoning Ordinance (Video Poker)
- Reward school literacy

OTHERS

- Overtime funding for Sheriff Department
 - Volunteer Appreciation
 - Support for Community efforts
 - Employee ID Badges
 - Volunteer Board Member training
 - County School Relationship
 - Consolidating Tax Offices
 - Employee Recognition
 - State of County Address (in addition to the 3 scheduled)
 - Water Park
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- Follow-up with the State to request funds to supplement Judge Wilson's order for DSS to manage child support collection process.
 - During the budget process, explore combining the tax assessor and the tax collection offices under one central administrator.
 - Develop a plan to consolidate the permitting process.
 - Annual Budget – Place message in the newspaper similar to last year (perforated ad); invite public to public hearing for comments; prior to budget enactment place copies in all libraries and manager's office.
 - Workforce Diversity – Provide training for future leadership; ensure the promotion process is competitive; diversity on hiring panel; incorporate succession planning.
 - EMS – Explore an interlocal agreement with Gaston County to allow the entire City of Kings Mountain to be covered by Cleveland County EMS.
 - Volunteers Appreciation – Have an annual celebration at the Fair grounds in the Spring (near the end of May).

- Community Calendar – Manage through the Chamber of Commerce.
- Countywide Water/Sewer Authority – Discuss at future meetings with local municipalities (Chairman/Manager and Mayor meetings and City/County Manager meetings).
- Under Funded Programs – Meet with the Library Board Chair and their Finance staff to explore their request to become a county program.
- Overtime in Sheriff's Office – David Dear, Eddie Bailes, Raymond Hamrick and Danny Gordon to meet to discuss options.
- Senior Center – Request for funds to assist with Meals Program to be revisited when they report back to the county of their progress on receiving funds from municipalities.
- Sanitary District – David to talk to Butch to discuss having Sanitary District staff to come to county offices to meet with citizens at least once per week.
- Video machines – David to talk with the county attorney to investigate fees for video machines.
- Nuisance Ordinance – Bill to review Shelby's nuisance ordinance and report back to Commissioners with a recommendation.
- Volunteers Board Member Training – Bill to prepare a syllabus for training new volunteer board members (Planning and Board of Adjustment). Other volunteer board training to be conducted 1-2 times per year. Board members will be appointed once per year and not allowed to serve unless they have completed the class.
- ID Badges – Eddie to create a policy including enforcement for all non-uniform employees. Offer the option to participate to State and Federal employees in the LEC along with Cooperative Extension employees.
- Employee Recognition – Eddie to explore options to recognize employees including employee of the month (per large agency) with a plaque and picture in the Administration building, annual recognition banquet (breakfast or lunch, watch with county seal for 20+ years of service).
- County schools – Make sure that the steps leading up to the stages in county school auditoriums have handrails.
- Commissioners Work Session – Hold a one-day (4-8pm) work session in August to revisit progress in meeting January work session goals.

Land Use Plan

Residential Development

- No significant changes in housing density from current standards
- Protect the viability of existing neighborhoods
- Create the development standards for manufactured housing
- Encourage connectivity, sidewalks, and tree preservation
- Increased emphasis on minimum housing code enforcement

Commercial Development

- Eliminate "CP" overlay zone along numbered highways and substitute commercial "nodes" at major intersections
- Develop standards for lighting, parking, etc.
- Find ways to reduce the problem of abandoned commercial buildings
- Allow for mixed use development

Industrial Development

- Identification of some 12,800 acres if areas potentially suited for industrial development
- Light industrial located along highways
- Light/heavy located away from the highways but where supported by infrastructure
- Strengthen development standards for screening, etc.
- Encourage reuse of existing facilities/locations

Open Space

- Update the County Parks Master Plan
- Promote and expand farmland protection programs
- Create a network of scenic bikeways and greenways
- Protect scenic views and ridgelines

Transportation

- Promote connectivity
- Include access management in planning to ensure that roads stay functional longer after improvements are made
- When adding lanes to roads, include a landscaped median
- Widen shoulders for safety
- Promote safe bike and pedestrian movement

Utilities

- Coordinate utility planning and expansion among all utilities providers
- Coordinate utility planning with land use planning
- Support sewer expansion into areas targeted for commercial and industrial growth

Rural Character

- The northern and southeastern/southwestern portions of the county identified as “Rural/Scenic” areas
- Create development standards in “Rural/Scenic” areas to protect rural character and ensure “fit” with the area
- Create a network of Scenic Byways in “Rural/Scenic” areas (and on some additional roads) where billboards are not allowed and where development standards support uses/appearance

Cities/Towns/Villages

- Although the Plan has no effect in municipalities, the recommendations are passed along as information:
- Support development in municipalities first – to reduce rural sprawl
- Work with the towns to ensure that development promotes a “sense of arrival” in the community
- Support the concept of mixed use in towns

Coordination and Enforcement

- Support coordination in planning at the staff, and appointed/elected official levels
- Coordinate across disciplines – land use, utilities, public facilities, transportation
- Support stronger enforcement of county codes dealing with development/land use
- Provide streamlined access to users for permitting and other processes

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time (11:10 p.m.), Mary Accor made the motion and seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting.

Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pat Spangler, Deputy Clerk
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
(Transcribed by: Sherry Evans)