

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 31, 2005

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners reconvened their recessed session of May 19, 2005 on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Jerry L. Self, Vice-Chairman
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner
David C. Dear, County Manager
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director
Joy Scott, The Star
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order and announced the meeting would move to the Commission Conference Room, adjacent to the Commission Chamber.

PUBLIC SAFETY TOWER – 800 MHZ

Joe Cherry, Engineer, reviewed the status of proposed tower locations, noting additional information will be presented during their regular meeting of June 7.

Kings Mountain Site:

- Appeals from balloon test deadline is June 5.
- Approval expected regarding environmental protection expected by June 15 and will then be able to file with FCC.
- Interlocal agreement with City of Kings Mountain forthcoming.
- FAA has approved.

Shelby Primary Site:

- Law Enforcement Center site denied by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Talked with attorney in attempt to determine cost of appeal.
- FAA has approved.

Shelby Alternative Site:

- Approved by SHPO.
- FAA approval pending for 350'.
- Highway Patrol in agreement with 350'.
- Environmental assessments pending.
- Possibility of Highway Patrol acquiring grant money to purchase microwave link and generator that would be necessary at this site (*estimated \$330,000*).

Boiling Springs Site:

- SHPO approved.
- FAA approved.
- Public hearing on zoning map amendment scheduled for June 7 due to site being in the Boiling Springs ETJ area.

General Discussion:

- While safety is the first concern, getting most coverage for the money is also an important factor.
- Meeting with Congressman Patrick McHenry scheduled for next week regarding possibility of obtaining funding.

- Mr. Cherry has talked with grant administrator who states he will support grant extension if necessary.
- August 15 is target date for decisions in order to be able to meet criteria outlined in grant, although that is not a fixed date.

LIBRARY

David Dear advised that he and Vice-Chairman Self had recently met with the Library Board to discuss their request that the library become a county department and placed under the “umbrella” of county government. Mr. Dear advised the draft budget does reflect this move, but he would like specific direction as to the wishes of the Commission.

Carol Wood and Yvonne Boggs, Library Board members, accompanied by Carol Wilson, Library Director, and other library staff, discussed their reasoning for making this request as significant savings realized in such areas as human resources, building and grounds maintenance, insurance – all savings that could be converted to books. They also reviewed the library funding sources and emphasized they would continue to recruit grant and donations through the Friends of the Library group.

Ms. Wood and Mrs. Boggs stated the volunteer board members spend many hours dealing with the approximately \$1 million budget, adding they felt that a budget this size warrants professional supervision.

Concerns regarding a commitment from the City of Shelby of their continued financial support were discussed, with Commissioner McIntosh stating he is uncomfortable with “a hope and a promise” deal and suggested Commissioners discuss the possibility of developing an interlocal agreement for future funding. It was determined that Commissioners would recess this meeting to reconvene in a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss this matter on Thursday, June 2, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. In the meantime, Mr. Dear was directed to communicate with the Mayor and the Institute of Government regarding development of such an interlocal agreement.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Joe Lord discussed information regarding purchasing a new EMS/ambulance vehicle, specifically a “remount” verses new. It was the consensus of the Board to “look at the remount.”

There was also discussion regarding other equipment needed on a truck, with the question being if a 4-door truck should be purchased to carry all the extrication equipment. Commissioner Hutchins stated he felt “someone needs to open dialogue between rescue squads and fire departments” to coordinate response efforts to avoid duplication of services. He also expressed concern stating he felt he had not been appropriately informed regarding the plans for the Kings Mountain base station (*reference Commission Minutes of January 24, 2005*). Chairman Hawkins noted the reduced volunteer hours and how that affects a coordinated effort. Commissioner Hutchins also questioned “overtime for heavy cleaning” and stated he felt it was the responsibility of the crew to clean.

CONSENSUS: It was a consensus that “someone” attend the next fireman’s association and rescue association meetings to determine if there is interest in “opening dialogue”; and, to allow the County Manager and Mr. Lord to work out the details on which truck to purchase.

CITY OF SHELBY RECREATION FUNDS

Mr. Dear advised he had met with Mayor Alexander, who expressed interest in the county assisting with funding recreation efforts within the city. Mr. Dear stated the county had basically two choices if funds were contributed to this effort – raise taxes or cut funds from another area of the budget, neither of which were acceptable at this point in time.

AIRPORT

The county paying half of the match for state funds for the current year was also discussed and Mr. Dear stated the amount would be \$8,333 (*half of \$16,557*), and next year would be \$15,225 (*half of \$30,450*).

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***instruct the County Manager to include airport funding in this year's budget (\$8,333).***

SHELBY EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ)

Bill McCarter advised that, in an effort to address Commissioner McIntosh's concerns regarding the lack of services to citizens in the Shelby ETJ area, discussions have been held with City officials regarding the county taking in their building inspections department. He said we anticipated the transfer of \$9,000 to cover expenses. However, Vice-Chairman Self reported that he recently attended a meeting where the Shelby City Manager said no funds would be transferred or released to the county for this purpose, which is significantly different from the original agreement.

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***not to pursue this issue further, "no deal without funds to support."***

LITERACY

Commissioner Accor advised that she met with school administration and discussed areas critical for education and what Commissioners could do to help with literacy. She said they identified three areas: early intervention; \$300 per elementary school to fund mini-library; and, front line. The idea of "one-on-one reading tutors" was also discussed, with this being the final idea selected for her to bring to the full Board for funding consideration. Targeting elementary schools (*grades 3 and 4*) identified as having difficulty, she recommended that growth factor and end-of-grade scores be analyzed and that an end of year report be presented to Commissioners from the schools regarding student progress. Mr. Dear advised \$12,000 has been included in the budget for this project.

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve funding this project as described, noting this is not a concurrent budget request, future funding must be considered each year after scores are analyzed for success. Commissioner Accor is to develop a logo for the project.***

NO EXCUSE VOTING

Vice-Chairman Self expressed concern that one location has already been designated and was well used, but the Board of Elections is requesting another. He raised the question if this expense is justified in an election that has historically had a low turnout, unless the municipality is willing to fund the extra expense.

ACTION: It was a unanimous consensus of the Board, ***that there be no second no excuse voting site unless the municipality is willing to fund 100% of the expense.***

SECOND PRIMARY

Commissioner Accor described a pilot project sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners called "instant primary" and asked if Commissioners would like to "volunteer Cleveland County." Commissioner McIntosh expressed concern and it was determined that the county manager would ask the Board of Elections to discuss this and bring back a recommendation to the Commission, as well as provide a report to the County Association of Governmental Officials (CAGO) at their next quarterly meeting scheduled for June 16, 2005.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Commissioner McIntosh asked the status of hiring a code enforcement officer. Mr. Dear advised he and Mr. McCarter are working toward combining departments and cross training the building inspections staff to serve as code enforcement officers. Since the building inspectors are assigned to "districts", they are familiar with the area they serve and can be alert to changes or violations, making this no longer a "complaint driven process." Mr. McCarter stated Paul Ezell, Chief Building Inspector, sat in on a minimum housing code hearing today to become more familiar with the process. This plan will, hopefully, be more finalized in time for next year's budget process.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Hawkins reported discussions are “progressing positively.”

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Hawkins reminded Commissioners of the luncheon scheduled for June 7, 2005 at the Fairground for the kick-off of the litter clean up campaign, sponsored by the Health Department.

RECESS TO RECONVENE AT A TIME AND PLACE CERTAIN

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to recess this meeting (*at 5:30 p.m.*) to reconvene at the time and place certain of ***June 2, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. George W. Clay, Jr. Utility Operations Center, 824 West Grover Street, Shelby***, to conduct a joint meeting with the Shelby City Council to discuss the Library.

*Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*