

**CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**June 2, 2004**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners reconvened their recessed meeting of June 1, 2004 on this date, at the hour of 5:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices for the purpose of conducting a work session.

**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  
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director  
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk  
Jennipher Hammerstein, Cleveland Headline News  
Joy Scott, The Star

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Accor called the meeting to order.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

There was discussion regarding the outstanding tax appeals and values. Mr. Alexander advised that the appeal process of private homeowners has been completed and about "50% had reductions, but some had minor increases" so the value is "about a wash." He reported there are approximately 75 commercial appeals outstanding and it "now looks like estimates are on target" according to his conversation with County Tax Assessor Chris Green yesterday. He explained the State appeal system and said that approximately 38.3% of all real property is in some type of exemption. There are a total of 17 exemption types.

There was discussion regarding the formula for calculating growth in the tax base over revaluation years and the fact that the formula is set by the legislature, Medicaid mandates and the continually increasing appropriations each year.

There was discussion regarding how to best make the public aware the taxes reflected in the tax bill from the different entities over which the Commissioners have no control. If a majority of the entities are not lowering their tax rate, then citizens still think the total is controlled by Commissioners, when they actually only control a small portion. The County Manager was instructed to develop a "marketing layout" for Commissioners to approve to be printed in the Star, the Shelby Shopper and the Kings Mountain Herald.

Other topics discussed were the Historical Museum; tax listing price value service and electronic valuation; hospital insurance; utility bills and fuel cost; coroner's salary; Pathways funding and possible new "maintenance of effort" formula.

**GOALS**

Chairwoman Accor stated she felt it is important for Commissioners to maintain a "presence in the community" and suggested having "town talks" in different sections of the county, rather than the "usual meeting places" throughout the county. Towns such as Casar, Grover, Lattimore and Holly Springs were suggested. She recommended a casual format, with no formal agenda, "just ask the citizens what do you feel the county is doing right, and what needs to be improved." Commissioner McIntosh advised he recently talked with Casar officials who had offered to sponsor such a meeting, including providing food for this "cook-out" type community gathering. Commissioner McIntosh volunteered to contact the Casar

representatives and take care of all the details for this first meeting and let Commissioners know when a date has been determined.

**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Chairwoman Accor stated she wants to start a Youth Advisory Council to “engage our young citizens” in helping Commissioners and other community leaders in developing programs that better addresses their needs. The Youth Task Force would allow them input toward community and governmental efforts to respond to what “they have to say” about what they feel are priorities.

**ACTION:** Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***establish a Youth Advisory Council*** (*students ranging from 7 - 12 grades and college students*). Chairwoman Accor advised she will develop bylaws for the Council and present them to Commissioners for their consideration and appointments at a later date.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time (6:10 p.m.), Jerry Self made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting.

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Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman  
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk  
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