

**CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**August 16, 2005**

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:** 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  
Robert Yelton, County Attorney  
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk  
Pat Spangler, Deputy Clerk  
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director  
Chris Crepps, Finance Director  
Bill McCarter, Planning Director  
Greg Traywick, Cooperative Extension Services Director  
Dewey Cook, Emergency Services Director/Fire Marshal  
Alex Caban, Cleveland Headline News  
Lindsey Allen, Cleveland Headline News  
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 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 Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of *August 2, 2005*, motion was made by Johnny Hutchins, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the minutes as written.*

**TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *July 2005* (copy found on Page \_\_\_\_\_ of Minute Book 28).

**SOCIAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #006)**

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the following budget amendments:*

<u>Account Number/Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
011.504.4.350.00/93659-2200	Title XX/State Government Grants	\$27,000.	
011.504.5.420.00	Title XX/Contract Services	27,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: To accept additional Special Children Adoption Funds to be used for 05/06 adoption recruitment contract with Children's Home of Cleveland County.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #007)**

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, **to approve the following budget amendments:**

<u>Account Number/Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.446.4.310.00/93996-1140	EMS/Federal Grants	\$24,435.	
010.446.5.210.00/93996-1140	EMS/Departmental Supply	8,426.	
010.446.5.211.00/93996-1140	EMS/Controlled Equipment	3,205.	
010.446.5.490.00/93996-1140	EMS/Professional Services	6,164.	
010.446.5.910.00/93996-1140	EMS/Capital Equipment	6,640.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget grant revenue awarded to Emergency Medical Services for the HRSA Grant for 2004/2005. These funds are being spent for educational and training purposes. All funds are to be spent on the grant by August 31, 2005.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #008)**

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, 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>
010.441.4.810.00	Sheriff/Contributions-Donations	\$ 500.	
010.441.5.790.00	Sheriff/Donations-Contributions	500.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget single donation given for the purpose of purchasing needed canine supplies for the K-9 Unit of Cleveland County Sheriff's Office.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #000)**

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, **to approve the following budget amendments:**

<u>Account Number/Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.438.4.991.00/16592-4438	LEG/Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 124.	
010.438.5.500.01/16592-4438	LEG/Miscellaneous Grant Expense		124.

Explanation of Revisions: To budget interest earned on funds for the 2004 Law Enforcement Block Grant.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT: PROPOSED CODE TEXT AMENDMENT (Case 05-16)**  
**(Request to schedule public hearing for September 6, 2005)**

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, **to schedule the public hearing as requested.**

**RECOGNITION: DONNA HUIE-BROOKS – CLEVELAND HEADLINE NEWS**

Commissioners presented Mrs. Brooks with a plaque which read:

Certificate of Recognition  
 From the  
 Cleveland County Board of Commissioners  
 Presented to  
 Donna Huie-Brooks  
 Honoring her ten years of service to the citizens of Cleveland County  
 As Reporter and News Director for Cleveland Headline News.  
 Donna has provided a unique perspective on news and events important to Cleveland County

*Citizens – recording history with the accuracy and compassion that only a Reporter  
Of her caliber, dedication and commitment can achieve.  
Given this the 16 day of August 2005.*

**RECOGNITION: JEFF MELTON – THE STAR**

Commissioner presented Mr. Melton with a plaque which read:

*Certificate of Recognition  
From the  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners  
Presented to  
Jeff Melton  
Honoring his twenty years of service to the citizens of Cleveland County  
as photographer for The Star – through the lenses of his camera, Jeff has provided  
a unique perspective on news and events important to Cleveland County  
citizens – but he has also recorded history with the accuracy and compassion that only a  
photographer of his caliber, dedication and commitment can achieve.  
Given this the 16 day of August 2005.*

**RECOGNITION: RAY THOMAS – THOMAS PETROLEUM**

Commissioners presented Mr. Thomas with a plaque which read:

*Certificate of Recognition  
From the  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners  
Presented to  
Ray Thomas  
Honoring Ray Thomas, owner of Thomas Petroleum,  
For pioneering North Carolina's alternative fuel market by operating North Carolina's  
First retail gas pump offering multiple grades of alternative fuel – decreasing  
Our dependence on foreign oil and providing an increased market for  
United States agricultural products.  
Given this the 16 day of August 2005.*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES: CLEVELAND COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Dewey Cook, Emergency Management Services Director/Fire Marshal, accompanied by Toni Plummer, North Carolina Emergency Management Services representative, stated the plan was funded by a \$35,000 grant and has now been forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) for their review and approval. Mr. Cook said the plan will also need to be adopted by the fifteen municipalities in Cleveland County, which will provide a cohesive plan throughout the county.

Ms. Plummer advised the mitigation plan “helps more after a disaster” by minimizing the affects of how a disaster may impact the county by identifying resources. She said there are 182 such plans on the State level. Mr. Cook listed some of the potential hazards in terms of economic impact for Cleveland County as ice storms, drought, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Cook and his staff, who were also present, for their dedication and readiness to assist the county.

**ACTION:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the plan by adopting the following resolution:*

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION  
Cleveland County Multi-Jurisdictional  
Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within Cleveland County are subject to the effects of natural hazards and man-made hazard events that pose threats to lives and cause damages to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas, i.e., flood hazard areas, are particularly susceptible to flood hazard events; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Part 6, Article 21 of Chapter 143; Article 6 of Chapter 153A and Article 18 of chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Section 1 Part 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes (adopted in Session Law 2001-214—Senate Bill 300 effective July 1, 2001), states in Item (a) (2) “For a state of disaster proclaimed pursuant to G.S. 166A-6(a) after November 1, 2004, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act”; and

WEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local government must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Cleveland County to fulfill this obligation in order that the County will be eligible for state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County;

NOW, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Cleveland County hereby:

1. Adopts the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
2. Vests the County Manager with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:
  - (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
  - (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map, and identify floodplain or flood-related erosion areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain and/or flood-related erosion areas in order to prevent aggravation of existing hazards.
  - (c) Adjust the boundaries of County and municipal planning jurisdictions whenever a municipal annexation or extraterritorial jurisdiction revision results in a change whereby a municipality assumes or relinquishes the authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for a particular area in order that all Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBMs) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) accurately represent the planning jurisdiction boundaries. Provide notification of boundary revisions along with a map suitable for reproduction, clearly delineating municipal corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction boundaries to all concerned parties.
3. Appoints the County Manager to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and in greater detail at least once every five years to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for consideration.
4. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted: August 16, 2005

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

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES REPORT**

Greg Traywick, Cooperative Extension Services Director, reviewed in detail the following written report:

### **NC Cooperative Extension Report to the Cleveland County Commissioners**

#### **Introduction of staff:**

**Gregory B. Traywick**, county extension director, with programming responsibilities in the areas of livestock, pesticide education, and community development, with 13 years of service to Cleveland County.

**Stephen G. Gibson**, agricultural extension agent with responsibility for field crops, forages, beekeeping, and waste management. Steve was employed in 1979, and has 26 years of continuous service to Cleveland County.

**Daniel L. Shires**, assistant agricultural agent with responsibility for commercial horticulture (fruits, vegetables, ornamentals) and consumer (home) horticulture. Daniel is one of our newest staff members, and has been working with Extension for 14 months.

**Lara Worden**, area agent who specializes in enterprise development, agritourism, and farm management. Lara joined Cooperative Extension in late 2004. She also provides her services to Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston Counties.

#### **Background:**

With a continuing loss of manufacturing jobs in our county and our state, it is easy to conclude that we are transitioning to a service economy. However, I would like to challenge you to think about something. Agriculture is arguably the oldest and most successful "manufacturing" industry in our economy, producing consumable goods from labor and our abundant natural resources.

The most recent Census of Agriculture found that Cleveland County farmers generated nearly \$36 million in cash receipts in 2002... certainly an impact on our local economy. The work that we do in Extension to sustain and enhance agriculture is vital to economic development.

I'd like to provide you with a few examples of what we do and how those activities impact the local economy.

#### **Pesticide Education**

To farmers, the presence of insects, weeds, and disease often spell the difference between success and total failure. The safe use of reliable pesticides is key profitable farming. Farmers are required by law to secure and maintain a private applicators certificate in order to purchase and apply many of the pesticides needed on their farms. Currently, 157 Cleveland County farmers hold these certificates. Extension assists farmers in securing their certificates the first time, and provides ongoing education required to keep their certificates current. This ongoing education helps farmers determine when the use of pesticides is necessary, helps them select the right product for the job, and prepares them to apply the products safely. This translates not only into more profitable farming, but also a cleaner environment and a healthier farm workforce.

Research demonstrates that well-landscaped and well-maintained lawns increase private property values by 29%. During recent years, an increasing number of Cleveland County homeowners have turned over the care of their lawns to landscape professionals. In order to apply pesticides as a part of their service package, these small business owners are required to hold a current pesticide applicators license. Currently, 129 lawn care professionals hold such a license. Extension helps the entrepreneurs obtain and maintain their licenses by providing ongoing education and training. Ninety-one (91) landscape professionals have participated in training this year.

#### **Commodity Marketing**

To maximize income, farmers must work to find the best prices for the products they produce. Extension works directly with individual farmers and farmer groups to explore and develop new marketing venues. For example, we work with the NC Department of Agriculture and Shelby Livestock Yard to organize a graded feeder calf sale each year. When cattle are sorted by sex, weight, and grade, and are in uniform lots, buyers typically pay \$.05 to \$.08 more per pound. Our sixth annual sale is set for September 15, and expected to generate more than \$15,000 in extra income for local beef producers.

In spite of urban sprawl in the surrounding region, Cleveland County is home to a growing number of small-scale vegetable and fruit growers who are finding it necessary to sell everything they produce during a very brief window of opportunity. Extension is working with these growers to develop new and innovative direct marketing strategies. On August 2 we offered a workshop that taught these farmers: how to build a farm stand that stands out and attracts customers; marketing farm products successfully by creating attractive flyers and brochures; taking advantage of free advertising on the world wide web, and; finding niche markets (e.g., subscription sales, direct marketing to restaurants). Two more workshops will be offered later this year, helping producers explore other ways to market their produce more successfully.

#### **Enterprise Development**

Farmers often find they can be successful by diversifying their operations to include specialty high-value crops and alternative enterprises. Extension works with farmers to evaluate various commodities and to select options that match their interests, resources, abilities, and local market conditions. Locally, Extension has helped farmers explore and implement the production of broilers, meat goats, angora goats, rabbits, honey bees, asparagus, strawberries, sweet

potatoes, cut flowers, container-grown nursery stock, and wine grapes. It is anticipated that these enterprises will continue to flourish and contribute to the local economy. Additional opportunities still exist.

Beekeeping provides an excellent example. Steve has recently increased Extension's level of support to local beekeepers by helping them form the Cleveland County Beekeepers Association and providing members with monthly newsletters and educational programs. These activities are aimed at helping beekeepers monitor and successfully treat serious bee pests (e.g., mites) and implement husbandry practices that ensure that the bee colonies not only survive, but thrive. As a result of these efforts, the number of honey producers increased from 65 to 100 from 2003 to 2004. During the same period, honey production increased from 24,000 lbs. to 49,500 pounds, and sales rose from \$48,000 to \$99,000. As an added benefit, the value of honeybees to agriculture as pollinators is usually calculated at 20 times the value of the honey produced, making them worth an additional \$1.98 million to the local agricultural economy.

Another example is wine grapes. Daniel has been providing ongoing technical assistance to Charles Edwards, who started a 4-acre vineyard in the Waco community just over two years ago. This assistance has included the development of a comprehensive best management program that includes pest management, soil fertility, pruning, and harvest management. His first harvest of Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, Concord, and Frye grapes is scheduled begin soon. Mr. Edwards is currently locating equipment and plans to start the bulk production of wine as early as next year, with the goal of increasing the size of his vineyard to 12-14 acres as time and resources permit. After comparing the condition of his vines to those growers who employ private consultants, Mr. Edwards is sold on the value of Cooperative Extension.

#### Farm Financial Management

Farmers seldom know their cost of production or think about tax planning until after the end of the year, when it is often too late to do anything to reduce their tax burden. Our financial record-keeping and business management program teaches farmers to improve their financial planning. They may attend workshops or request private consultation. Many of the farmers who participate in the program become more comfortable and proficient in the use of computers to track income and expenses. By catching mistakes prior to sending information to their accountants, these farmers save money on the preparation of their returns and avoid unnecessary tax audits.

#### Successful Farming Techniques

Extension supports economic development by helping existing farmers remain profitable and stay in business. We engage local farmers in on-farm tests and demonstrations to evaluate new crop varieties, management practices, and production techniques. We utilize field days, production meetings, workshops, and newsletters to keep the farming community abreast of new and emerging technologies... issues important to their continued success.

#### **Emerging Opportunities**

Extension is currently in the process of exploring new avenues that offer promise in relation to economic development in the county. These include:

- Helping the county develop an agritourism industry
- Exploring possibilities for growing produce for the Dole Foods processing facility
- Supporting the proposed biotechnology research & development center at the old Pillowtex location
- Supporting the Case Farms expansion of the feed milling and broiler production industries
- Aiding the expansion of the local meat goat industry.

We pledge to keep you informed on our progress, and value your insight on ways that we can continue to have an impact on the local economy and our fantastic quality of life here at home in Cleveland County.

There was discussion regarding the assistance provided to Case Farms by Extension and

Mr. Traywick advised Cooperative Extension is "limited in what we can do" explaining that Case Farms is a "vertical" company in that they have specific criteria for all aspects regarding management of their facilities; however, some work has been done assisting growers with waste management plans.

There was discussion regarding the potential of a "local Farmer's Market"; innovative ideas for soy products considering Cleveland County's high production of soybeans; the use of "natural pest control" efforts; the possibility of a newsletter or more newspaper articles to inform citizens of opportunities available to them through the Cooperative Extension Services; "tailgate auctions" for farmers to sell excess produce; "aqua-agriculture" which includes alligator farms, one of which is located in Richmond County; advertising to help people know "where to come for help" and services provided by Extension; the number one field crop by acreage and economic-wise in Cleveland County is soybeans; the top production crop is yellow squash; top livestock production is beef cattle, followed by poultry; and that there are an estimated 200,000 acres in "production" in Cleveland County.

Chairman Hawkins requested Mr. Traywick provide Commissioners with ideas of how Commissioners can help promote Cooperative Extension during their upcoming work session on September 13, 2005.

Mr. Traywick advised he will arrange for Commissioners to tour Case Farms production – beginning with the “layers” through the “processing plant.”

Commissioners thanked Mr. Traywick and his staff, who were also present, for their efforts with promoting economic development in Cleveland County, as well as their efforts in many other areas in which Extension provides services, such as 4-H Clubs.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

#### **CLEVELAND HEADLINE NEWS**

Commissioners welcomed Lindsey Allen, who will be covering Commission meetings, and thanked Alex Caban for his help in assisting Commissioners while serving in the same capacity.

Mr. Caban will move from the evening news to covering the “daytime shift” since Donna Huie-Brooks has resigned to work as a teacher with Cleveland County Schools.

#### **CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Commissioner Accor reported that “school is ready to start” for the second year of the newly formed school system. She advised she feels the “transition has gone smoothly.” She invited Commissioners to attend the “opening convocation” service on Thursday, August 18, at 9:00 a.m. at Gardner-Webb University gym.

#### **RURAL FIRE COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Hutchins advised he attended the Rural Fire Commission meeting, reporting the meeting was well attended with “good discussion.” He described the meeting as being “real productive.”

#### **ELECTIONS**

Commissioner Hutchins asked Debra Blanton, Director of Elections, to give a status report on upcoming elections. Ms. Blanton advised the legislature did pass the bill which mandates a “paper trail” be created for all voting machines. She advised the machines currently used by Cleveland County will produce the mandated reports and feels Cleveland County is well covered through the presidential election.

#### **PATHWAYS**

Commissioner McIntosh reminded Commissioners of the meeting with Lincoln, Cleveland, and Gaston commissioners, legislative representative, consumers and clients on Thursday, August 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at Pathways.

**QUARTERLY FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Self advised Lt. Joel Shores, with the Sheriff's Office, "gave an excellent talk to the firefighters on "meth" production – how to spot potential labs and proper steps to protect themselves and citizens.

**GROVER TOWN MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Self said he attended the Grover town meeting, stating, "One of the things they are having to deal with is they picked up their own police officer down there down and they were trying to find \$3,700.00 more dollars that they had not planned on for that." He said, "My personal feeling is that if we ever get offered a chance to do that again, let's never do it, cause it goes for about a year or two years and then it quits and we wind up with an extra employee over in the Sheriff's Department because they never seem to go away, even though the job goes away."

**POLKVILLE TOWN MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Self reported that the town council is "looking at zoning."

**LAWNDALE TOWN MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Self said the town council is considering a 10-year lease for the library building to the county.

**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN: 2005 DISTINGUISHED WOMEN OF CLEVELAND COUNTY**

Chairman Hawkins reminded Commissioners of the upcoming event sponsored by the Commission for Women, which will be held August 25, 2005 at North Lake Country Club at 6:30 p.m. This year's honorees are Betty Jean Mauney, Annie Farley Dawkins, and Chairman Hawkins' mother, Aloyse Jones. By consensus, Commissioners elected to present each recipient with a resolution of appreciation.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting (*at 7:35 p.m.*). The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for ***Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.*** in this Commission Chamber.

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

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