

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 2, 2004

_____ The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a ***Special Called Meeting for the purpose of conducting a planning and goal setting session***, on this date at the hour of 1:00 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
David Dear, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Joy Scott, Star
Donna H. Brooks, Cleveland Headline News
Andie Brymer, Kings Mountain Herald
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. Ronnie Hawkins provided the invocation for the meeting.

CONFERENCE ROOM

ACTION: Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Tom Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to move to the County Manager's Conference Room, adjacent to the Commission Chamber, for the remainder of this meeting.

RESOLUTION: LANDFILL

David Dear explained proposed legislation that would prohibit Cleveland County from disposing construction and demolition waste on top of the

closed municipal solid waste landfill. If adopted, the proposed new Solid Waste Rules would become effective July 1, 2004 and would require Cleveland County to construct a new construction and demolition landfill by January 1, 2008. This would create additional expenses to citizens and businesses. Commissioners discussed the negative impact such legislation would bring to Cleveland County, possibly causing many businesses and industries, such as PPG, to close.

It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to direct the Clerk to incorporate the additional verbiage suggested by Commissioners into the draft resolution for Commissioners to consider at their regular meeting of January 6, 2004. Several Commissioners will personally deliver the resolution to legislators during a hearing on this subject on January 15, 2004 in Raleigh. (Reference Page _____ of this Minute Book [27] for a copy of the final resolution.)

GOALS - 2004

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

- * **To actively address areas for recruiting and retaining employment.**
- * **To study and make consideration for a defense industry.**
- * **To lobby at the regional/state/federal level for a 3-digit interstate (Highway 74 to Interstate 26) and seek assistance from our sister counties (Rutherfordton & Polk).**
- * **To address additional county-wide infrastructure needs.**
- * **To develop a new and improved Land Use Plan.**
- * **To develop an Airport Zoning Overlay Plan or Ordinance (possible Shelby City partnership).**
- * **To consider needs for an additional Industrial Park or expansion.**

- * **To continue to support the efforts of a very active EDC/Chamber.**
- * **To develop a partnership with Gardner-Webb University to provide a workforce bank/placements for business and other area graduates.**

Travel and Tourism and Sports Council

Discussed the following:

- * Historical aspects of Kings Mountain, Broad River Greenway.
- * Commissioner McIntosh stated the Council is “looking at what attractions are in Cleveland County that are marketable.”
- * Equestrian Center being built in Gaston County. Commissioner Self will contact Melissa Summer, Project Coordinator, to appear at an upcoming Commission meeting to provide information regarding this project.

Education

- * Vice-Chairman Hawkins noted that recent reports show Cleveland County schools are “doing great.”
- * Discussed Cleveland Community College building projects.
- * Discussed Gardner-Webb University’s outstanding educational programs and the tremendous benefit they are to our community.

Quality of Life

- * **To strive for a revenue-neutral tax reevaluation.**
 - Mr. Dear distributed information developed by Chris Green, Tax Assessor, addressing possible questions and concerns about which Commissioners may receive calls.
 - Tax revaluation notices are scheduled to be mailed January 12, 2004.
- * **To address health issues.**
 - Meet with the Health Director and identify issues of need.
 - Excited about new Pathways director.
 - Commissioner Self advised he is a member of the taskforce, through the Health Department, to study obesity in schools which has been meeting over the past six months. The findings of this taskforce will be reported soon.

- It was noted that Kings Mountain Hospital will begin their "\$8 million building project 2004.

* **To address strategies for improvement in homeland security.**

* **To place additional focus on the litter problems; support the efforts of Environmental Health to assist in developing a renewed "sense of pride" and ownership mentality.**

Litter Control: Commissioners requested Sam Lockridge, Coordinator of Health Services with the Health Department, be called to the meeting in order to report on litter control efforts within the county. Mr. Lockridge advised he has requested Cindy Pruett, Code Enforcement Officer, to "put together a group to identify local law enforcement to help control litter." He suggested a Commissioner serve as a member of this group. He discussed laws which pertain to loads being secured during transport. He explained that citations for unsecured loads can be written under State law or as a civil citation. The Code Enforcement Officer has the discretion to decide which citation is most appropriate to the circumstances of the violation. Commissioners instructed Mr. Lockridge to bring ideas to them as to how litter can be controlled more effectively and how they may be of assistance.

Recycling Centers: Commissioners commended the attendants for the helpful and courteous manner in which they assist citizens. Mr. Lockridge said the staff is doubled during holidays in order to move traffic in and out of the sites on a timely basis.

* **To encourage increased focus by Code Enforcement Officer and all citizens.**

Public Relations

* **To continue to recognize county-wide and county employees achievement.**

- **Year-end Reports:** Discussed the possibility of having "year end reports" from each department, similar to the practice of the hospital. It was a consensus of the Board that Chairwoman Accor would meet with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Dear to develop a year end report of the county for 2003 to share with citizens, a "state of the county" report.

- **Social Services and Health Department:** Commissioners noted the “excellent” job being done by John Wasson, Social Services Director. It was noted that policy for both Social Services and the Health Department are set by the Board of Health and the Social Services Board. They encouraged the media to publish an article giving this information.
 - **Employee Recognition:** Discussed possible implementation of an “employee of the month” recognition program.
 - **Recognition Bulletin Board:** Display pictures of recognition on bulletin board to be placed in the lobby of the Administrative Building.
 - **Citizen Recognition:** Chairwoman Accor told Commissioners they should clip articles of recognition and bring them, along with the address of the person to whom the note card is to be mailed to the Clerk’s office and she will see they are mailed.
 - **Applications for Board and Committees:** Applications for Board and Committees are to be made available during Commission meetings for interested citizens to pick up.
 - **Back drop for the Commission Chamber:** It was the consensus of the Board that a wooden carving of the county seal be placed on the wall behind Commissioners.
 - **Staff Seating Assignments During Commission Meetings:** Chairwoman Accor advised she has requested Mr. Dear sit to the left of Commissioners during meetings and that all staff sit on the front row of the audience seating.
 - **Agenda Format:** Chairwoman Accor reported she has advised the Clerk to change the agenda format to the one used by the Kings Mountain City Council and reviewed the agenda of the regular meeting of January 6, 2004.
 - **Resolution Format:** Commissioner Self shared a copy of a resolution format used by Gaston County. This format allows the Chair to sign, with information as to how each commissioner voted, background information on the resolution, staff contact, requested action, fiscal impact analysis, departmental fiscal review, budget director review, and manager’s recommendation.
 - **Office Staff Duties:** Chairwoman Accor reviewed the duties of the office staff. She also encouraged Commissioners to follow-up with citizens when they refer citizen questions and concerns to staff for assistance.
 - **Vote Display Machine:** Commissioner McIntosh stated he would prefer a “voting box” which records and displays votes after each motion. He advised that both Kings Mountain and
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Shelby use this type machine. Mr. Dear advised he would develop cost information on the installation of such a system.

- **Policies and Ordinances:** Discussed that Commissioners felt they should periodically review all county policies and ordinances to determine if such are being enforced or are still applicable.
- **Internal Affairs Investigator:** Commissioner McIntosh stated he feels the county should consider hiring an internal affairs investigator. He said a member of “our own in-house staff” could be trained to conduct such investigations or an off-duty law enforcement officer could be utilized on a contractual basis. Such investigations should be ordered at the direction of the County Manager or Commission Chair. Commissioner McIntosh was directed to develop information on this proposal and bring a recommendation to the Board for further discussion.
 - **Fiscal Budget:** Mr. Dear distributed a copy of the “Financial and Compliance Report” from the auditors McGladrey & Pullen for year ending June 30, 2003. Commissioners commended Mr. Dear and Mr. Alexander for their work, noting the auditors were extremely complementary of county management and fiscal status.
 - **Commission Work Sessions:** Chairman Hawkins suggested Commissioners hold work sessions such as this one on a quarterly basis.

* **To market the greatness of Cleveland County.**

* **To improve contractual agreements with local vendors and diversity in the workplace.**

* **To support the work of our municipalities and town government through increased visibility/assignments.**

Emergency Medical Services and Public Safety

There was discussion regarding the requirements now placed on volunteers for training. If the trend continues toward declining numbers in volunteers, Commissioner Hawkins stressed that the county needs to be prepared to “take over the load.” Commissioners noted how important the volunteers had been to the county, in saving money for the county as well as benefit to citizens.

Crime and Domestic Violence

Commissioners emphasized that “we must all work together to combat crime.” Chairwoman Accor reported that the Commission for Women, of which she is a member, has taken as a goal to address the needs of the homeless shelter and the battered women’s shelter in Cleveland County.

Closed Session Policy

Chairwoman Accor suggested taping all closed sessions. There was discussion regarding “sensitive issues” such as personnel and privacy rights pertaining to medical issues. It was the general consensus of the Board that “attention needs to be put on keeping things as open as possible.” Not to have closed sessions on “updates on issues not requiring a closed session whether it be an industrial client or whatever.” The Clerk and the County Attorney were reminded that “it is their job to keep the Board on track” in closed sessions.”

Transportation Issues

There was discussion regarding the Transportation Authority of Cleveland County (TACC), their policies, procedures and funding and other agencies who may wish to provide similar services within the county. Mr. Dear explained that TACC was formed as an effort to stop the duplication of services and mainly serves elderly and handicapped. In some areas, the Authority is a county department, but Mr. Dear explained Cleveland County elected not to do that. The State provides the vehicles for TACC. There was discussion regarding taxi costs and service within the county.

Planning and Zoning

- * Look at more greenways and trail areas, places that should not be developed.
- * Reassess terms used in zoning classifications, such as Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial, which usually have a “negative” connotation and suggested using other terms, such as “business.”
- * Discussed zoning public hearing procedures and Chairwoman Accor advised she has requested the Chair of the Planning Board be present at all zoning related public hearings.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time (4:45 p.m.), Willie McIntosh made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting.

Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF

COMMISSIONERS

Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk
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