

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 18, 2004

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: Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
Ronald J. Hawkins, Vice-Chair
Tom Bridges, Commissioner
Jerry L. Self, Commissioner
R. L. Alexander, County Manager
David Dear, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director
Bob Yelton, County Attorney
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Patricia D. Spangler, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Denese Stallings, Health Director
Sam Lockridge, Health Department
Joy Scott, The Star
Jennipher Hammerstein, Cleveland Headline News
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

ABSENT: Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner

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. Chairwoman Accor provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board, to ***adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk, with the***

following additions:

- (1) **Town of Polkville Sewer Grant** (Jerry Self)
- (2) **Courtsquare/Museum Lawn Improvements** (R. L. Alexander)
- (3) **Head Start** (Ronnie Hawkins)

CITIZENS RECOGNITION

IN-HOME CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Robert Williams referred to a complaint he had made at an earlier Commission meeting (reference Minutes of April 20, 2004). He stated he felt the response he had received from Social Services regarding his complaint was "insufficient" and advised he had written two letters to Social Services requesting a meeting but has received no response. He advised his interest is in finding a contact person to help this citizen.

DANGEROUS DOGS

Amy Norris (111 Springwood Road, Grover) requested help with Pit Bull dogs that are being housed next door to her home, which she said had attacked and killed her pets. She stated her and her neighbors are fearful of these dogs. Ms. Norris also stated these dogs are left unattended and the house is currently unoccupied, that someone comes by to feed and water them occasionally. She wanted to know what could be done to "make their neighborhood safe."

Denese Stallings, Health Director, said if the animals were abandoned, then they could be seized under animal cruelty laws. However, she said the day Animal Control officers visited the home the owner was there. Mrs. Stallings said several of the dogs had been euthanized and the remaining dogs have no violations, as they are confined to the property and have made no "aggressive acts." She

advised she would send the on-call officer out tonight to check the allegation that the dogs are abandoned.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes of **May 4, 2004**, motion was made by Tom Bridges, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve** the minutes as written.

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during **April 2004**. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$25,940.19); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$19,306.04.

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during **April 2004** (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 28*).

CLEVELAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director, stated, "The purpose of the Cleveland County Employee Productivity Award program is to encourage employees to identify more efficient methods of conducting county business. Applications are submitted to a Review Committee and judged based on the following criteria: the application must offer new or improved services to county residents, improve or enhance the cost efficiency of an existing county government program, enhance the level of participation in or understanding of government programs, or promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems." The winners are awarded a day off with pay, a \$250 cash award, and a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Bailes presented this year's winners, who were present to accept their awards.

Linda Wiggins, Tax Collection
Mark Deese, IT Department

Cleveland County participates in a debt offset clearinghouse through which local governments may submit any outstanding delinquent debt (*totaling \$50 or more*) through the clearinghouse to the NC Department of Revenue to attempt to offset delinquent debts against individual income tax refunds. From January 1, 2003, when the county began participating in this program to May 3, 2004, the county has collected a total of \$3,218,114 in delinquent taxes. In the past, the Clearinghouse files would take approximately 20 minutes each to post a payment in our files. Linda and Mark work to create a program to update an entire batch in 20 minutes which resulted in a cost savings of almost \$17,000.

In order to track individuals that are responsible for delinquent taxes the county participates in a skip tracing process. With a previous company, this process costs \$1.95 per name whether the individual was located or not. After investigating other companies that offer this service, the county now pays approximately 25 cents per name. We do not pay if the individual is not in their system. The process is now completed much quicker and has resulted in a total cost savings of \$62,350.

Kim Panther, Social Services

In May 2003, Social Services purchased and began using a digital photo ID system on site. With a growing client population served daily, DSS employees as well as their clients are provided with extra security by having ID badges readily available and easily identifiable. Previously, new employees or employees needing a replacement ID would have to schedule an appointment with Human Resources and travel to the Emergency Management Office for their ID. The new ID system is a cost savings as well as a time savings benefit. Each ID with the old system costs \$3.14, while with the new system each digital ID costs only 73 cents.

This ID system will also be used to issue badges to foster parents ensuring that only authorized persons are allowed to pick up children from school, take them to doctors' appointments, etc.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to these employees for their dedication.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: PROPOSED SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005

Joe Lamb, NCDOT, presented information regarding the plan, stating this program is based on the allocation of secondary funds for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. In the event that revenue collections are more or less than anticipated on June 30, 2004, Mr. Lamb explained the final allocation for the 2004-2005 could be adjusted accordingly.

Public notice of this plan was accomplished in accordance with the mandates of NCGS 136-44.8 (legal ads published in the Star on April 19, 2004 and April 26, 2004).

ACTION: Tom Bridges made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to **approve the plan as presented** (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 28).
CLEVELAND COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL: INTERVENTION - PREVENTION SERVICES ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2004-2005

Phil Weathers, JCPC member, reviewed the following information regarding this year's plan. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council is completing the final phases of Cleveland County's Intervention/Prevention Services Annual Plan for 2004-2005. This plan represents many hours of data collection, interpretation, dialogue, and decision-making among council members and the juvenile service community.

The council identified three priority risk factors impacting our community:

- *Family management problems
- *Community drug and alcohol use
- *Community crime and violence

These risk factors guided us in making our recommendations to you regarding the allocations of \$292,043 provided to Cleveland County by the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (subject to approval by the General Assembly). Our recommendations for funding are as follows:

- \$81,712 DSS Alpha House: Provides high management residential services to court-involved youth or who are at significant risk for becoming court-involved. Alpha House's ultimate goal is to help youth develop a sense of accountability and responsibility that will enable them to be more successful and productive upon returning to their families.
- \$5,700 Man II Man: Provides guided growth mentoring for young adolescent males in fourth and fifth grades who lack role models that help them learn healthy beliefs and clear standards. The goal is to provide students with skills that enable them to function pro-socially in community and school settings and to allow them to better relate to administrators, teachers and peers by encouraging them to develop better impulse control and positive peer interaction.
- \$72,623 Cleveland Early Intervention Initiative: Will serve short term suspended juveniles ages 11-18 (grades 6 through 12) with priority being placed on juveniles who are under supervision of the Juvenile Division of the District Court, referred by Court Counselor or Law Enforcement Officer in the county. Goals are to appropriate and successfully re-enter and re-integrate each student to their assigned school and to decrease the cumulative number of out of school suspension days by students in the system. This year, the program will be expanded to include the Phoenix program which is geared to the specific needs of juveniles age 11 to 18 (grades 6 through 12) who are long term suspended out of school.
- \$13,195 Juvenile Mediation: Will serve youth referred by Juvenile Court and school resource officers. Through mediation and conflict resolution education, the program teaches juveniles how to deal with conflict in a positive manner, encourages young offenders to take responsibility for their actions, and helps victims develop a sense of justice being served.
- \$79,567 PAYS (Parents and Youth Skills): Administered by the Youth Assistance Program, PAYS provides parents and youth with new skills for communication, confrontation, and discipline via participation in a 12-week series of classes. Substance abuse education will be provided via collaboration with CODAP.
- \$35,876 PAYOFF (Parent & Youth Options for Families): Court referred youth will be impacted by this two-part program, which provides substance abuse assessment and a family program designed to clarify and strengthen family roles and relationships. Youth receive a

substance abuse assessment and evaluation, and then may receive substance abuse education or be referred for treatment or other services.

These allocations, which require a 20% local match in the form of local cash and in-kind services. There will be no direct cost to Cleveland County.

In addition, each JCPC may allocate up to \$15,000 for administrative costs with no match required. We are requesting an allocation of \$3,370. Of this amount, \$2,500 will be utilized to contract for a portion of the services of a planner assigned to serve the counties in the Isothermal Planning Region. The planner's primary role will be to assist those counties in building collaborative initiatives and securing funds to address our region's problems with juvenile crime. The remaining funds will provide for necessary postage and office supplies for day-to-day operations of the JCPC.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve the plan as presented*** (reference Page _____ of Minute Book 28).
HEALTH DEPARTMENT: SOLID WASTE AND ANIMAL CONTROL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES

Denese Stallings, Health Director, accompanied by Sam Lockridge, advised the Cleveland County Board of Health has unanimously approved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve interlocal agreements between Cleveland County and the municipalities located in Cleveland County. This would legalize and allow the enforcement of the solid waste and animal control ordinances within their jurisdiction.

Mrs. Stallings reviewed the following list of municipalities participating:

Solid Waste

<u>Municipalities</u>	<u>Ordinance</u>	<u>Interlocal Agreement</u>
Belwood	Adopted	Signed
Boiling Springs	Adopted	Signed
Casar	Adopted	Signed
Earl	Adopted	Signed
Fallston	Adopted	Signed
Grover	Adopted	Under Contract (11-4-2002)
Kingstown	Adopted	Signed
Lattimore	Adopted	Signed
Lawndale	Adopted	Signed
Mooresboro	Adopted	Signed
Patterson Springs	Adopted	Signed
Polkville	Adopted	Signed
Waco	Adopted	Signed
Kings Mountain	(Not interested/zoning)	
Shelby	(Not interested/zoning)	

Animal Control

<u>Municipalities</u>	<u>Ordinance</u>	<u>Interlocal Agreement</u>
Belwood	Adopted	Signed
Boiling Springs	Adopted	Under contract (lease law & ordinance)
Earl	Adopted	Signed
Fallston	Adopted	Signed
Grover	Adopted	Under contract (lease law & ordinance)
Kings Mountain	Adopted	Under contract (lease law & ordinance)
Kingstown	Adopted	Signed
Lattimore	Adopted	Signed
Lawndale	Adopted	Signed
Mooresboro	Adopted	Signed
Patterson Springs	Adopted	Signed
Polkville	Adopted	Signed
Waco	Adopted	Signed
Shelby	Under contract (leash law only)	
Casar	no response	

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Tom Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***approve the Interlocal Agreements as presented*** (copies found on Pages _____ of Minute Book 28).

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: CONTINUATION (FROM MAY 4, 2004) OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PAVING ASSESSMENT OF RIDGEFIELD ROAD

Bill McCarter, Planning Director, stated, "At your last meeting, a public hearing was held to confirm the amount to be assessed against each lot for the paving of Ridgefield Road. Several property owners spoke at the hearing requesting the corner lots be included in the assessment. The Board may cancel, increase, or reduce the assessment of each property as may be needed to comply with the basis of assessment, which is 'equal rate per lot' according to NCGS 153A-195."

Mr. McCarter reviewed that in 1999, Julian Wray, the County Attorney at that time, was asked to develop a policy to deal with the issue of corner lots. He recommended that each petition be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Mr. McCarter stated, "In reviewing past assessments, I found that if the owners of the corner lots signed the petition they were assessed at 100%, but if they did not support the petition they were assessed at 50%." He advised the two corner lots on Ridgefield Drive are both vacant and neither property owner signed the petition in support of the assessment.

Mr. McCarter advised he discussed this case with David Lawrence at the Institute of Government, stating, "At this point in time, we would not be able to add any additional lots to the assessment process since initially the assessment resolution identified only 19 lots that are shown on Plat Book 18, Pages 50 and 51, which are Phase 3 of that subdivision."

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Tom Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***reopen the public hearing***.

Roger Hullsey told Commissioners his recollection of the initial public hearing was 21 lots. R. L. Alexander told Mr. Hullsey a verbatim transcript of that portion of the hearing had been completed which indicated the plat had been adopted as the assessment description, there was discussion regarding 21 lots, but the motion was to adopt the plat which consisted of 19 lots.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self and unanimously adopted by the Board ***to close the public hearing***.

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***adopt the Assessment Roll as found on Page _____ of Minute Book 28 (19 lots)***.

POLKVILLE SEWER GRANT

Commissioner Jerry Self advised that Polkville Mayor Jack Shytle contacted him regarding a \$400,000 Sewer Capacity Building Grant from the Rural Center which the Town of Polkville received this year. Mayor Shytle has advised the grant requires a 10% match from other sources. The Mayor is requesting the county consider helping with the matching funds, as has been the practice when other municipalities have received similar grants. The grant funds will allow the sewer line to be extended from the school to the center of town.

It was the unanimous consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Commission and to instruct the County Manager to meet with the Mayor to work out the details of the grant funding and the matching fund requirements.

OLD COURT SQUARE - HISTORICAL MUSEUM GROUNDS RENOVATIONS

Mr. Alexander stated he wished to "publicly recognize" Representative Tim Moore for his assistance by obtaining funding in the amount of \$50,000 to assist with the renovation project.

HEAD START

Vice-Chairman Ronnie Hawkins reported that the former Kings Mountain District Schools was the grantor for the Head Start program in Cleveland County. He advised the newly formed Cleveland

County Schools will need to make application to be considered for continuation of the Head Start program in Cleveland County, since the federal government has a “bid process” by which the programs are placed, it does not “automatically” move with the schools. He requested a letter of support be written from Commissioners to request the Head Start program be kept in Cleveland County.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to ***allow the Chairwoman to write a letter on behalf of the Commission requesting that the Head Start administration allow the program to remain in Cleveland County.***

COUNTY BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005

Mr. Alexander reminded Commissioners that the public hearing for the budget has been scheduled for their regular meeting of June 1, 2004.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Chairwoman Accor reviewed the Commissioners calendar for ribbon cuttings and dinners for which they have received invitations. She reminded Commissioners of the land use plan update meeting scheduled for May 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Accor also reviewed that Commissioners had discussed previously a “county wide crime taskforce” and requested each develop a list of possible appointees so they could compare names at a later date.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time (6:50 p.m.), Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for ***Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.***

Mary S. Accor, Chairwoman
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

