

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 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
Sam Craig, Deputy County Attorney
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Pat Spangler, Deputy Clerk
Sherry Evans, County Manager's Office
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Chris Green, Tax Assessor
Alex Caban, Cleveland Headline News
Joy Scott, The Star
M. A. Andrews, The Shelby Shopper
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order, led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America and 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.*

CITIZENS RECOGNITION

Jan Mahannah spoke on behalf of the Mediation Center, reiterating their request for the county to provide office space for their organization. Chairman Hawkins told Ms. Mahannah that decisions regarding this request have been assigned to the County Manager and she should discuss this issue with him.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION: CLEVELAND COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE,
SWIFTWATER DIVISION – NATIONAL AWARD**

Chief Roland Hamrick, Shelby Fire Department, advised the Swiftwater Rescue Team was nominated for the Higgins & Langley Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Swiftwater Rescue by Governor Mike Easley and is the highest international award in this field.

Bryan Beatty, secretary of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, was quoted as saying, "This award recognizes the preparedness, teamwork, and dedication of our swiftwater rescue teams under extreme conditions during the seven storms in 2004." Cleveland County's team took part in

the rescue of five people stranded by rising water along a remote stretch of river below the Cedar Cliff Dam in Jackson County in September, 2004.

Commissioners and Ted Alexander, Mayor of Shelby, presented each of the following members - Jimmy Lackey, Jason Beck, Richard Carroll, Joe Lord, Nelson Dellinger, J. R. Lowe, Kenny Fox, James Potts, Brian Hollifield, Barry Hughes, Joel Elam, Keith Lowery – with a certificate which read:

2005 Higgins and Langley Memorial Award
For Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Swiftwater Rescue
Is hereby presented to –
Cleveland County Urban Search and Rescue, Swiftwater Division
In honor of the extraordinary statewide deployment and coordination of swiftwater and flood rescue teams, including the management of hundreds of successful flood rescue missions during the 2004 hurricane season when North Carolina was impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.
Presented by the Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards Committee
In cooperation with the
National Association for Search and Rescue
May 27, 2005
Paul McMinn, Chairman, Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards Committee
Nancy Rigg
Karen Langley

SOCIAL SERVICES: ATTORNEY

Sam Craig announced that Chuck Wilson, Social Services attorney, has been elected to serve a two-year term as President of the North Carolina Association of Social Services Attorneys. Mr. Wilson has previously served as Secretary/Vice-President. This position will provide Mr. Wilson the opportunity to work with other county and DSS attorneys from across the State, the Attorney General's Office, and the UNC School of Government on policy formation and legislative input, as well as work with the School of Government and other Associations on the CLE curriculum for Association sponsored conferences.

Commissioners and John Wasson, Social Services Director, commended Mr. Wilson for his outstanding work at Social Services.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of *April 11, 2005* and *May 17, 2005*, motion was made by Johnny Hutchins, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the minutes as written*.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EQUIPMENT TRANSFER

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the transfer of ownership of a 1952 Willys Jeep from the county to Casar Volunteer Fire Department. The jeep is to remain in Cleveland County and can continue to be available for use by the Civil Air Patrol as needed.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #062)

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, 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>
012.533.4.350.00	Adult Health/State Gov't Grants	\$ 1,550.	
012.533.5.490.00	Adult Health/Professional Services	1,500.	
012.539.4.350.00	Family Planning/State Gov't Grants	2,063.	
012.539.5.230.00	Family Planning/Medicine & Supplies	1,063.	
012.539.5.230.01	Family Planning/Prescription Drugs	1,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: 533) Budget NC DHHS CVD Wisewoman funds for professional services (pap smears, mammograms, biopsies, etc.); 539) Budget NC DHHS Family Planning for medical supplies and prescription drugs.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #063)

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, 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>
013.660.4.980.65	Health & Wellness/Contributions from H/Plan	\$50,000.	
013.660.5.230.03	Health & Wellness/Tier 2 Prescription Drugs	50,000.	
065.981.4.991.00	Health Plan/Fund Balance Appropriated	50,000.	
065.981.5.890.00	Health Plan/Interfund Transfers	50,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: To cover additional anticipated Tier 2 Prescription drugs for Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy.

CAPITAL PROJECTS GENERAL: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #64)

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, 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>
040.210.4.350.00/10904-5210	Capital Projects General/State Govt Grants	\$29,800.	
040.210.5.420.00/10904-5210	Capital Projects General/Contracted Services	29,800.	

Explanation of Revisions: To approve consulting services for McGill and Associates for assistance with implementation of the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) for Beaver Dam Creek and Brushy Creek. The EWP was approved in January for debris cleanup and removal for the two creeks listed above. This expense will be fully funded by the State.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve scheduling a public hearing for July 5, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the petition submitted by Alltel Communications, Inc. to amend the zoning map for property located at 2738 South Post Road from Residential Corridor Protection (RCP) to Neighborhood Business (NB).*

CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 – PUBLIC HEARING

David C. Dear, County Manager, advised that it is the County Manager's responsibility to present each year to the Board of Commissioners a balanced budget. He briefly reviewed the budget process,

stating that in February during their work session, Commissioners “gave guidance to the County Manager that there was to be no tax increase and no reduction in services, if possible.” During another work session, Commissioners heard department heads present their budget requests and “reiterated the no tax rate increase theme.” Other work sessions were also held, including a joint meeting with the Shelby City Council members to negotiate an agreement to secure the long-term viability of the Cleveland Memorial Library, as it will now become a county department.

Mr. Dear noted that a full-page color advertisement was published in all the local print media seeking public input to the budget process with the hope of raising public awareness.

Mr. Dear stated, “I want to thank the County Commissioners for their unwavering guidance and support through the budget process, and I want to thank all of our department heads for their spirit of cooperation and their willingness to compromise on some tough issues. This budget was truly a team effort and I appreciate everyone who helped with the process.”

Financial hardships were listed by Mr. Dear as:

- \$414,000 increase in public assistance costs (Medicaid)
- \$100,000 plus increase in fuel cost for county vehicles
- Rising utility rates (water, sewer, gas and electric)
- Increasing rates for property and liability insurance

Mr. Dear stated, “After taking into consideration all the hardships and added expenses previously discussed, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners has fashioned a budget that includes an increase of \$1,242,625 (*or 2.43%*) in general fund expenditures. This is a very conservative budget and fits within the parameters of no tax rate increase and no reductions in services to the public.”

He reviewed other budget highlights as follows, stating the budget has provided for the following items:

- A children’s’ literacy initiative in conjunction with Cleveland County Schools.
- A volunteer appreciation event for the fall of 2005.
- An anti-litter campaign in conjunction with local law enforcement.
- A limited overtime program for the Sheriff’s Department.
- A \$30,000 increase in funds for economic development.
- Upgrades to the 911 telephone answering equipment.
- Replacements for eight patrol cars, one ambulance and one quick response vehicle.
- Two new full-time clerical positions – one in the Sheriff’s Department and one at public health. We also added a 50% shared position at Social Services to determine Medicaid eligibility.
- 2% cost of living allowance for all county employees.
- 6% increase in health insurance costs for employees.
- Increased mileage reimbursements for vehicles usage from 30 cents to 32 cents per mile due to the soaring gas prices.
- Added approximately 12,000 square feet of space for the Health Department to alleviate over crowding, which added expenses for utilities and maintenance.
- Additional funding for books and materials at the Cleveland County Memorial Library.

Chairman Hawkins declared the public hearing open at 6:35

p.m. (*Public notice of this hearing was accomplished in accordance with NCGS 159-11 and NCGS 159-12, with legal advertisements published in The Star on May 13, 2005 and May 27, 2005. The proposed budget has been available for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk since May 25, 2005.*)

M. A. Andrews spoke regarding the City of Shelby's decision to use "rolling carts" for trash pick up, stating he was against this method of trash collection and that city residents are also county residents.

John Cline, Cleveland County Sanitary District Chairman, thanked Commissioners for their budget explanation ad in the newspaper, stating it had "enlightened" him greatly about the budget.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Hawkins closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioners commended Mr. Dear for a "job well done" and stated this is a budget of which citizens should be proud. Commissioners also thanked department heads and staff for their cooperation and support during this budget process.

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Willie McIntosh, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 as presented by the County Manager (a copy of the Manager's Budget Message and a copy of the Budget Ordinance are found on Pages _____ of Minute Book 28).*

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Accor invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming annual Distinguished Image Awards on Friday at 6:00 p.m. at Malcolm Brown Auditorium. She stated this is a part of the Closing the Gap initiative and 42 students will be recognized.

Vice-Chairman Self reported he attended the NCDOT public hearing to "plead our case for the 74 bypass." He said, "It looks like under the present plan, it will be 2008 before they start acquiring right-of-ways and it will be fiscal year 2011 before they start construction."

Vice-Chairman Self also stated that today he and his wife, Carolyn Wray Self, are celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary, which drew a round of applause!

Chairman Hawkins reminded Commissioners of an upcoming ribbon cutting on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Oriental Avenue groundbreaking for retirement apartments.

Chairman Hawkins stated, "Also, Friday night, the Republicans had what is called a Reagan Day . . . and Ruth Wilson has had an award named after her because of her spirit, so we have the Spirit of Ruth Wilson Award now, with the first recipient being Ruth Wilson." Commissioners congratulated Mrs. Wilson, who was present.

Mr. Dear reminded Commissioners he would be in Raleigh tomorrow, "with a delegation from Cleveland County Chamber pleading our case for Medicaid relief in the legislature and would like to encourage you to call our legislators tomorrow regarding Medicaid relief."

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting (at 6:45 p.m.). The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for ***Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.*** in this Commission Chamber.

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

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