

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 13, 2005

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners reconvened their recessed meeting of September 6, 2005, on this date at the hour of 4:00 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 (*entered at 5:00 p.m.*)
David C. Dear, County Manager
Robert Yelton, County Attorney
Wanda Crotts, CMC, County Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Human Resources Director
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
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, stating the purpose of this meeting is to conduct a planning session for Commissioners. He declared the meeting will be moved to the Conference Room adjacent to the Commission Chamber.

LITERACY FUNDS FOR CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS

Janet Walker, Cleveland County Schools, reviewed statistical data for third grade students throughout the county, assessing their reading skills. Commissioner Accor stated she will bring a formal recommendation to the Commission regarding the disbursement of the \$12,000 at a later date. The funds will be used for tutoring students who are not proficient in reading.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY PLAN

Sheriff Raymond Hamrick provided history as to the status of the COPS Technology grant to implement courthouse/law enforcement center security systems. He stated that in August 2004, Linda Thrift, then Clerk of Court, found herself in a threatened situation, which emphasized the need for security enhancements at the law enforcement center/courthouse.

In June 2004, a COPS grant was received to fund a camera arraignment system. The Sheriff requested and received approval to modify the grant in order to use the remaining monies for additional security upgrades. By the end of September, it is anticipated that 64 cameras will digitally monitor all doors and hallways, recording 24-hours per day. A "proxy card" system of entry is also being developed.

Sheriff Hamrick advised that funding has not been set aside for the proxy card system, which is projected to cost \$48,000. Mr. Dear noted that the rear parking lot for the Charles Harry Administrative Building, scheduled for completion in January 2006, is estimated to cost \$110,000, opening up more parking for the Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse.

ACTION: Jerry Self made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve both expenditures (proxy cards and parking lot) from reserve funds.*

TOBACCO FREE COUNTY BUILDINGS

There was discussion regarding complaints received by Commissioners as to the gathering of smokers just outside the main entrance to the Courthouse. Commissioners requested the Sheriff study this situation and suggest, more appropriate designated smoking area.

NATIONAL SHERIFF ASSOCIATION – HURRICANE RELIEF

As a matter of information, Sheriff Hamrick advised the NSA has requested assistance in Louisiana. Should someone be sent from Cleveland County, he stated reimbursement guidelines are in place.

RETIREES – HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES

Sheriff Hamrick reported he has received questions about county retirees being allowed to take advantage of the savings provided by using the county wellness clinic and pharmacy.

Commissioners directed the County Manager to check with the Health Department regarding providing these services.

ISOTHERMAL PLANNING: A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE ISOTHERMAL PLANNING REGION

Jim Edwards, Isothermal PDC, reviewed the draft plan, which he reported has been approved by Polk and McDowell counties, and will also need to be approved by Cleveland and Rutherford (*copy found on Pages _____ of Minute Book 28*).

There were questions from Commissioners as to the feasibility of developing a water and sewer authority. Mr. Edwards said this is the “trend that the State and Federal governments are pushing” a type of “basin wide approach” encouraging “folks to take a larger view,” a “market driven” approach and viewpoint.

Mr. Edwards noted that three of the Department of Transportation Board members are from “our four-county area.” He advised the plan addresses support to existing industry, which he said is “one of the reasons (*the plan*) encourages the use of NC State.”

There was also discussion regarding the ongoing review and update process for the plan. Mr. Edwards assured Commissioners that “indicators of success, or monitoring provisions, are built into the plan.”

The plan will be formally presented to Commissioners as an item on their September 20, 2005 agenda.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Greg Traywick, Cooperative Extension Director, reviewed that Commissioners have previously expressed their desire to be kept “abreast of what exactly” Extension is doing. He provided Commissioners with several educational handouts that are available to the public, discussed televised interviews with staff on Channel 33, working with The Star on weekly gardening articles and in the process of developing a weekly column on food; discussed information given to citizens on fire ants, which has become more a problem in Cleveland County; discussed fair booth plans; pesticide education programs and offering safety training; efforts toward safe food handling, especially in the wake of Adam’s Law. He advised Adam’s Law came after the outbreak of e-coli at the State Fair and stated that 125 high school students are working as “ambassadors” to help educate fairgoers regarding the new policies” noting the fair will reimburse 4-H for this public service.

Mr. Traywick reported he is developing a “Case Farms tour” for Commissioners, which will take them from the hatchery to the processing plant, including feed processing.

Commissioners requested that Mr. Traywick continues to provide them with periodical updates.

PROCLAMATION: MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH DAY

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the following proclamation*, which will be presented by Commissioner Accor.

NUMBER 06-2005
PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 6, 2005
AS MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH DAY
IN CLEVELAND COUNTY

WHEREAS, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church was formed in Kings Mountain, North Carolina in 1880;

WHEREAS, the membership of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church has always believed that the church and community should be mutually supportive, having faithfully served this community in various capacities too numerous to list, supporting programs to benefit people of all ages and walks of life;

WHEREAS, the work of this congregation has touched our lives and we are immeasurably better for having Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church as a part of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, hereby proclaim November 6, 2005 as “*MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH DAY*” in Cleveland County; and,

FURTHER, ask all our citizens to join us in congratulating Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

ADOPTED THIS THE 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2005.

(Original signed by each Commissioner)

EMERGENCY SERVICES: SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAMS

Joe Lord, Emergency Medical Services Director, accompanied by Dewey Cook, Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshal, reviewed a detailed report (*a copy was given to each Commissioner*) outlining each specialty team operating within Cleveland County and their history (*copy found on Pages _____ of Minute Book 28*).

There was lengthy discussion regarding the fact that Joe Lord, Dewey Cook, and Roland Hamrick (*Shelby Fire Chief*) have all been deployed to Bertie County due to a hurricane threatening the North Carolina coast. Commissioners Hutchins and McIntosh both expressed concerns that “our top people” will all be “deployed at the same time.” Vice-Chairman Self noted this would serve as “valuable training.” Mr. Cook discussed North Carolina Mutual Aid agreements. Mr. Lord explained the State “makes random appointments to deploy from State applications” selecting the people who are considered to be the most needed at the disaster scene.

There was discussion regarding other topics, such as “evacuation routes for Cleveland County”; “are we really ready – training with all players for different situations.” It was determined that this topic would be continued for further discussion at another work session.

There was discussion as to paid versus volunteer search and rescue teams and the “need to look at policy”; “what happened in Louisiana has been a wake-up call to everyone”; Vice-Chairman Self recommended that Commissioners take the IMT (*Incident Management Training*) classes; “need to educate public as to training and personnel and teams we have here in Cleveland County”; diversity efforts within Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management; response to non-English speaking citizens; the need for workforce to “mirror” the make up of the county; discussed methods of diversification and “climate.” Commissioners instructed the Human Resources Director to “check into this.”

Dewey Cook discussed structure and operation of HazMat, as well as one of the major concerns facing HazMat at the present time – meth labs and the decontamination process. He said HazMat team members are: Emergency Management Staff (*Director, Deputy Fire Marshal, Inspector*); Fire Departments (*firefighters, officers, chiefs*); Emergency Medical Services (*EMT’s, EMT-I’S, Paramedics, Director*); Rescue (*EMT’s and ERT’s*); Industry (*Safety and Environmental professionals, industrial hygienists, chemists and chemical engineers, nurses*). He noted that “most team members are volunteers.”

He said funding for HazMat comes from: county budget (*under Emergency Management*), business and industry, State and Federal governments, grants, and cost recovery.

He reviewed the response history for the past twelve months as:

- Most common response is hydrocarbon spills, average of four.
- Product identification / air-monitoring: 12
- Industrial accidents: 1
- Meth Labs: 8

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Perry Davis, Deputy Fire Marshal, reported the event is planned for October 22, 2005 at the Fairground, Goforth Hall.

LAND USE PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Bill McCarter, Planning Director, reviewed the priority action list (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 28*). He said, “one stop permitting” for building inspections and environmental health is “still under development.”

CONSENSUS: *Instructed Mr. McCarter to inform the Planning Board that Commissioners want priority item #6 switched to #3.*

CONSENSUS: *Instructed Mr. McCarter to talk with the Sanitary District about the possibility of having a permitting office included in the one-stop permitting efforts.*

EMPLOYEE MILEAGE

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to increase county mileage reimbursement amount to \$0.38 per mile, retroactive to September 1, 2005.*

REVIEW OF GOALS FROM FEBRUARY WORK SESSION

TOP PRIORITY GOALS

1. Stable Tax Rate
 - Noted there was no increase in this Fiscal Year budget.
 - Tell department heads to start looking at possible cuts now for the FY 2006-07 budget.
 - Energy conservation – look at planning better for vehicle usage and mileage.
 - Building energy conservation – awareness and education.
 - Consider another “energy audit” such as was conducted several years ago in an effort to identify ways to conserve.
2. Economic Development Funding
 - Increased funding to Economic Development \$30,000 in FY 2005-06 budget.
3. Land Use Plan
 - 5-Year Plan – “keep chipping away” and “keep revising priority list.”
4. Litter Control
 - Solid Waste Enforcement Officer issuing tickets to violators.
 - TV ads and interviews are being conducted.
 - Civic organizations programs being conducted.
 - Have made a “good faith effort” to control problems.
5. Zoning Ordinance: Video Poker
(*Copy found on Pages _____ of Minute Book 28.*)

6. Rewarding School Literacy
 - Addressed earlier in this meeting.
 - Grants will be awarded.
 - Keep up with literacy in an effort to determine impact.

OTHER GOALS

1. Overtime funding for Sheriff's Office
 - Included an additional \$20,000 in FY 2005-06 budget.
 - Sheriff's Office is to furnish quarterly report.
2. Volunteer Appreciation Day
 - Addressed
3. Support for Community Efforts
 - Addressed
4. Employee ID Badges
 - Accomplished
5. Volunteer Board Member Training
 - Accomplished
6. County/School Relations
 - Meetings and lunch discussions regarding budget.
 - Discussed Charter Schools.
7. Consolidating Tax Offices
 - Accomplished
8. Employee Recognition
 - Celebration scheduled for January 2006.
 - Malcolm Brown Auditorium.
 - Program: service awards, productivity awards, employee of the year award, recognize retirees.
9. State of the County Address
 - Suggested scheduling "address" in Upper Cleveland "this year."
 - Commissioner Accor suggested holding "address" at the "beginning of the school year for teachers."
 - Consensus was to continue.
10. Water Park
 - Commissioner Accor noted a water park has been built in Gaston County, where training is being held for Olympic swimmers and kayak races.

NEW GOALS

1. Continue literacy initiatives.
2. Go back to discussions with Sports Council.
3. Discussion of a kids water park.

NACo PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

NACo has launched a discount card program to "help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs." The NACo press release states, "The free prescription drug discount cards are available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties that offers average savings of 20% off the retail price commonly prescribed drugs." The company administering this program is AdvancePCS, a division of Caremark Rx, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee.

Eddie Bailes advised this is a “marketing process” and there is a need to “get the information out to the community.” It was suggested to the press that they could be of assistance in this process.

Vice-Chairman Self advised, “Basically, what you’re agreeing to do is marketing for them . . . and NACo gets a kick-back.” He expressed his concerns that if Commissioners endorse a particular agency, then if a citizen fails to receive the expected service, they would blame Commissioners, as we would be “tied to this company’s performance.” He stated that “other options are available” and he would “like to see the contract.” Commissioner Hutchins stated he feels “this would serve all citizens with no exclusions.”

Before implementation, Commissioners requested Mr. Bailes to call other counties to see how they are handling this situation and report back to Commissioners at a regular meeting.

COMMISSIONERS CHRISTMAS CARD

CONSENSUS: *To have Eddie Bailes schedule an appointment to have photographs made for both note cards and Christmas cards.*

MINOR SUBDIVISIONS

Vice-Chairman Self discussed a “loop-hole” in the current ordinance which leaves open the possibility for developers to maneuver around the ordinance and put in a road that is gravel, not paved.

CONSENSUS: *Requested Mr. McCarter ask the Planning Board to address how to keep this from happening and to bring recommendation to Commissioners on a future agenda.*

COMMUNICATIONS TOWER GROUNDBREAKING

CONSENSUS: *Instructed Commissioner McIntosh and Mr. Dear to arrange a groundbreaking ceremony for the Kings Mountain tower site.*

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION: DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION – JUDICIAL DISTRICT 27-B ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the report was given to each Commissioner.

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 10:15 p.m.*).

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

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