

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 17, 2011

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at Casar Volunteer Fire Department.

PRESENT: Johnny Hutchins, Chairman
Ronnie Hawkins, Vice-Chairman
Jason Falls, Commissioner
Eddie Holbrook, Commissioner
David C. Dear, County Manager
Bob Yelton, Attorney
Kerri Melton, County Clerk
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Alan Norman, Sheriff
Rebecca Clark, *The Star*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnny Hutchins called the meeting to order. Dewey Cook, Chief of Casar Volunteer Fire Department led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America. Keith Fulbright of St. Paul's Baptist church provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk with the following additions:*

CONSENT AGENDA

G. Health Department: Reduction in Force

REGULAR AGENDA

7. COPS GRANT
Alan Norman, Sheriff

CONSENT AGENDA

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during ***April 2011*** (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book _____*).

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during ***April 2011***. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$9,880.29); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$7647.04.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #063)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendment:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.418.5.790.20	Board of Elections/Donations-Equipment	\$ 534.	
010.418.4.810.44	Board of Elections/Donations-Real Prop	534.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget for a Dell Optiplex 740(serial #CHQFTJ1) PC that Board of Elections received on March 8, 2009. These accounts need to have budget in order to post donated entries for audit work.

DESTINATION CLEVELAND COUNTY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #064)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendment:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
040.614.4.310.00/11300-6334	CP/DCC/Federal Grants	\$1,543,000.	
040.614.5.991.00/11300-6334	CP/DCC/Const. in Progress	1,543,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget grant award from US Department of Commerce to assist Destination Cleveland County with Construction Process on the Earl Scruggs Center.

NUMBER 7 VFD 2011/2012 BUDGET

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following Number 7 Volunteer Fire Department 2011/2012 budget as presented (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book _____).*

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – DIXON DAIRY ROAD, LLC, DIXON DAIRY ROAD (Case 11-03)(Schedule public hearing for June 7, 2011)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board to *approve scheduling the public hearing as requested.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: REDUCTION IN FORCE

Due to the resignation of the Dentist in the Health Department Dental Clinic and the unavailability of contract dentists or dentists pursuing a career in public health dentistry, it was unanimously approved by the Cleveland County Board of Health to abolish The Dental Assistant position (Position #12.544.4171).

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the abolishment of the following position.*

Position # 12.544.4171 Dental Assistant

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EINSTEIN CLUB

On Tuesday, May 10th, students from Washington Elementary School presented a program to citizens and local elected officials sharing the “scoop” on their school. Commissioners invited those students who participated to attend the meeting where they were presented with a Certificate of Recognition. The following students and teachers were in attendance: Hunter Lail, Chloe Clary, Aleenih Carter-Kee, Caitlyn Montgomery, Bree Silvers, Niyya Green, Cameron Hopper, Xavier Henderson, Jontay Mitchell, Destiny Whitted, Zachary

Hyder, Nicole Fields, Timone Jefferies, Jacob Kale, Daulton Isreal, Jeannie Brittain -4th Grade Teacher, Jennifer Blanton - 4th Grade Teacher, Becky Bailey - Assistant Principal.

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
FROM THE
CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

PRESENTED TO

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S
EINSTEIN CLUB**

**FOR WANTING TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT A GREAT SCHOOL WASHINGTON
ELEMENTARY IS ~ FOR BEING ONE OF THE GROUPS THAT MAKES WASHINGTON
ELEMENTARY THE GREAT SCHOOL THAT IT IS ~ FOR BEING AT THE TOP OF YOUR
CLASS AND LEADING YOUR PEERS BY EXAMPLE ~ YOUR CLUB TRULY MAKES A
DIFFERENCE!**

Presented this the 17th day of May 2011.

REGULAR AGENDA

MOTOROCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Commissioner Falls received a request from the Cleveland County Concerned Bikers Association (CBA) that the month of May be proclaimed Motorcycle Awareness Month. Several members of CBA were in attendance. The group has been working to spread awareness of Motorcycle Safety to high school students. To date, they have made their presentation to Crest High School but have not had a positive response from the other high schools in the county. Commissioners recommended they contact the Board of Education to see if they could be of assistance. Commissioner Falls presented the following proclamation on behalf of the Commissioners.

NUMBER 02-2011

**PROCLAIMING MAY, 2011
MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH
IN CLEVELAND COUNTY**

WHEREAS, motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation; and,

WHEREAS, motorcycle associations are actively trying to promote motorcycle safety through a community support and education promotion known as **Look Twice Save a Life, Motorcycles are Everywhere**; and,

WHEREAS, it is important that citizens be aware of motorcycles on our roadways and recognize the importance of motorcycle safety; and,

WHEREAS, because 72% of accidents are caused by the other drivers, Cleveland County's local Concerned Bikers Association offers to local school driver's education classes, at no charge, a Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program which makes student drivers aware of motorcycles and of sharing the roadways, and,

WHEREAS, with the warm weather approaching, more motorcycles will be on the highways; and,

WHEREAS, Cleveland County Commissioners encourage operators of motorcycles, trucks and automobiles to be conscious of their respective responsibilities on the public roads in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, proclaim May 2011 as **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH**.

PRESENTED THIS THE 17th DAY OF MAY 2011.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: COPS GRANT

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has announced an application period for Fiscal Year 2011 for the COPS hiring program. The hiring program will provide 100% funding for approved entry level salaries and benefits for (3) years for new-hire, full time sworn officers. There is no local match requirement. Should Cleveland County be awarded this grant, at the end of the (3) year grant period, the county will be required to retain all sworn positions for a minimum of twelve (12) months. The grant allows for one officer for every twenty sworn officer. Currently, the Sheriff's office totals approximately eighty sworn officers making the request for four new officers. The closing date for the application is May 25, 2011. It may be up to one year before the Sheriff will receive notification on the grant award.

Sheriff Norman presented the Clerk with the following information that he asked be recorded in the minutes.

Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight concerning manpower issues.

I currently have nine deputies per shift. It is very rare, due to vacation, holiday and sick leave that a shift is fully staffed. When I was campaigning for Sheriff and even today, the biggest concern I have from citizens is response time. An example of this could be: We respond to a domestic on the north end of the county and both north end cars are tied up on that call. If another call comes in for the north end during this time, the closest available car may be in Shelby or even further away and response time could be 20 minutes or longer.

As you are aware, I have asked for four new deputy positions in this year's budget. If I am able to get these four officers and get the four officers from the COPS grant, I believe I would be in a better position to supply the professional services that the citizens of this county are requesting and deserve.

The COPS grant will provide salaries for four deputies (\$30,144 plus benefits \$11,265 each for three years for a total of \$496,908 at no expense to Cleveland County taxpayers. The fourth year is to be funded by local government for a total estimated expense of \$165,636.

Some interesting facts: Calendar year 2010 deputies fielded 40,622 calls for service. When the shift is full and all are working, each patrol deputy is responsible for fifty-one square miles and approximately 7,500 citizens each. The average response time for calls in 2010 was 15.41 minutes. As Sheriff, I believe the citizens of Cleveland County deserve a better than 16 minutes response time to their emergency.

Thank you for allowing me time to speak to you.

Chairman Hutchins commented, "With more companies bringing tax base to the county over the next few years, should we be awarded the grant, we should be able to handle the additional expense of retaining the officers for up to one year."

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to authorize Sheriff Alan Norman to apply for the grant and accept the grant should it be awarded.*

2011/2012 CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET

County Manager David Dear presented Commissioners with a PowerPoint highlighting key aspects of the 2011/2012 budget (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book _____*).

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the County Manager foresees any budget problems from the state budget that may affect us.

“The county is not out of the woods”, he said. Based on the House budget which has already been approved, counties will not see a major impact of the budget. However, the Senate has not approved their budget. The original budget submitted by the Governor would have hurt county budgets, but to date, the General Assembly has not been in support of the Governor’s proposed budget. He felt the only thing that may hurt counties is the requirement that county jails house misdemeanants with less than six months jail time. Should this become a county requirement, some funding may be provided by the state.

Commissioner Holbrook commended the County Manager as well as past Commissioners on “the course they have charted” noting that it is “paying dividends”. Cleveland County is not a “shopping” county which means that the low sales tax revenue needs to be offset in the recruitment of businesses. The Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership and the Commissioners with the help of the County Manager are working diligently to recruit new businesses to Cleveland County.

In the proposed budget, County Manger David Dear is recommending an increase of \$10 in the annual base household fee to operate the convenience centers. This would be the first time that this fee has increased since being instituted over twenty years ago. Recently, a study was completed by an outside consultant who recommended raising the fee \$20, however, Mr. Dear felt that increase would be too high during these economic times and recommended the \$10 increase instead.

Chairman Hutchins asked the County Manager and the Finance Director to revisit the increase in the household fee.

Commissioner Falls asked that Mr. Dear look for an alternative rather than increase the household fee to operate the convenience centers.

Commissioner Falls expressed concern with meth-lab clean-ups and the possibility that counties may be forced to incur that expense which is now paid for with federal dollars. Sheriff Norman explained that the average clean-up for a meth-lab is approximately \$2,500. Only two meth-labs have been discovered in Cleveland County this year. County Manager Dear said that state and local officials are concerned with this.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairman Hutchins thanked the Casar Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the meeting. He mentioned the possibility of meeting again out of the Commissioners Chamber some time in the fall.

Commissioners received a letter from a transport company regarding non-emergency transfers. Chairman Hutchins praised our rescue squads who are currently proving this service and recommended that this be discussed at a work session in the near future.

Commissioner Hawkins reminded everyone of the Kings Mountain Triathlon which will be held in Kings Mountain on May 21st and encouraged all to attend.

Commissioner Accor again praised the work of the DSS Staff. As the Commissioner Representative on the DSS Board, "I can't say enough about the services rendered by DSS."

Commissioner Accor got invited, along with 75 county officials, to visit the White House where she met with the President, Vice-President and his cabinet. Topics such as Education, Sustainable Growth, Transportation and Healthcare Reform were discussed.

Commissioner Holbrook, in conjunction with the CCEDP is working on several Economic Development projects. He made note that there was an article in the Charlotte Business Journal about Cleveland County. "Cleveland County is getting noticed", he said.

Commissioner Falls, as a member of the Pathways Board, was very excited about the dedication of the Crisis & Recovery Center. "This will free up law enforcement and provide a much needed service for the community." At the last meeting, Commissioners adopted a resolution regarding the merger of Pathways with two other LME's. The merger applications will be delivered to Raleigh on Friday.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the board at this time, Eddie Holbrook made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for ***Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.*** in the Commission Chamber.

Johnny Hutchins, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

Kerri Melton, CMC
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners