

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2012

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: Johnny Hutchins, Chairman
Ronnie Hawkins, Vice-Chairman
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner
Jason Falls, Commissioner
Eddie Holbrook, Commissioner
Eddie Bailes, County Manager
Andrea Leslie-Fite, Attorney
Kerri Melton, Clerk to the Board
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Alan Norman, Sheriff
Debra Blanton, Elections Director
Jessica Pickens, *The Star*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnny Hutchins called the meeting to order. Commissioner Eddie Holbrook 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 Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk with the following addition:*

7. **SCHEDULE COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION**

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

No citizens signed up to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: There being no other corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of *November 6, 2012*, motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the minutes as written.*

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *October 2012* (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 *October 2012*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$364,820.09) and the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$4,246,861.61.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #028)

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/Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.442.4.311.00/USICE-P442	Fed. Forfeited Property/Fed Other Rev.	\$ 4,000.	
010.442.5.910.00/USICE-P442	Fed. Forfeited Property/Capital Equip		4,000.

Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget funding to be used toward the purchase of two new dual-purpose, pre-trained Narcotic Canines. Remaining \$14,000 will be paid for from K-9 Donations/Fundraiser accounts that K-9 officers have earned. Canines Reka and Zane will be retired due to medical problems.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #029)

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/Project Code</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.444.4.357.02	Detention Center/St. Grant/Inmate SSA	\$ 1,786.	
010.444.5.581.00	Detention Center/Awards/Apprec		1,786.

Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget funding to be used for the 2012 Annual Awards/Appreciation Banquet. Remainder of expenses will be paid for from the Sheriff's Donation Account.

REQUEST TO REMOVE CANINES REKA AND ZANE FROM COUNTY INVENTORY

Sheriff Alan Norman has requested to remove canine Reka (ID #200713) and Zane (ID #200746) from the K-9 program. Reka was purchased in 2005. Reka is showing severe signs of aging. Veterinarian Deanna Moseley has advised that given the age of the canine and her progression with hip dysplasia since 2010, her abilities to function effectively have diminished and it is in the best interest of the Sheriff's Office and the canine to retire her. The Sherriff has requested Reka's current handler, Deputy Jon Bradley, provide a good home for the remainder of her life.

Canine Zane was purchased in 2007. Canine Zane is five years old and has suffered chronic ear infections for approximately three years. Dr. Moseley advised that she could not guarantee success with further treatment and the canine may be restricted. Dr. Moseley is not certain Zane would ever be able to perform at 100 percent capacity. The Sherriff has requested Zane's current handler, Deputy Jody Seagle, provide a good home for the remainder of her life.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to remove canine Reka (ID #200713) and Zane (ID #200746) from the K-9 program.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER MARY ACCOR

In honor of Commissioner Accor's fifteen years of service as a Cleveland County Commissioner, Commissioners and staff members shared memories and stories about Commissioner Accor and her dedicated service to the community. Many described her as not only a Commissioner but a "friend" and a faithful servant to not only the community, but to God. Commissioner Accor was presented with a county shadow box in appreciation of her service to the County. She then took a moment to say a few words in parting and asked that they be recorded in the minutes.

"Tonight is the end of a chapter for me....Prayerfully, there are good times ahead for me but at the same time there are difficulties in tonight's "farewell". There will be relation in this final speech as your elected official to one of my favorite movies "Forrest Gump".

Since 1995, the citizens of this county have accepted me as an appointed commissioner or entrusted me to be their leader through elected terms. Through the prayers, encouragement and support of many I was set on a path to be a "servant" leader....There were instances for me like Forrest, only for me there was very little chase, but there were many followers.

During my years as an elected official there has been opportunity to shadow other elected officials and county employees, learn how county government works, and to grow into a leader that hopefully has been pleasing to God, which has always been the very essence of my service. Serving 5 years prior to becoming Vice-Chair and 6 years before becoming the first female chair in the history of our county, and during the tenure was elected to serve yet another year as chair. These were happy times for me, but wow this made mama and daddy (well there are no words to explain their excitement). Seeking ways to learn even more about county government, NCACC was embraced and there, yet another new era began. These paths lead to serving or chairing every steering committee of the NCACC. It was then that the state-elected status began....Through the reigns of 3rd, 2nd, and 1st vice-presidents, and President-Elect, and finally being sworn in as President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, being the only commissioner in the history of NCACC to serve two years in this office...and only the second Cleveland County Commissioner to serve as president....There was something about serving others that resonated joy in my life, so I kept running.

The path continued for two additional four year terms. Unlike Forrest, it was difficult for me to get to a stopping point because Cleveland County means that much to me... On Election Day, the citizens spoke, and just like that, my tenure ended as your commissioner. But just like me, there will be stopping points for every citizen. Since I believe "to everything there is a season", I also believe that this is just the beginning of another path in God's plan for me and because HE knows me so well,.....and Believe me when I say, in the past 15 years, the Lord and I have had quite a few conversations concerning

Cleveland County. There is a reason for everything and he used others to do what I wouldn't have been able to do on my own...to get me to this new place Regardless of the "whys" in politics and "the finger pointing", there is assurance in my faith that God alone closed one door in my life so that another could open.

So now please allow me to reminisce awhile, give thanks to some, testament or suggestions to others; and then close.

Remembering the excitement of being sworn in after the first election victory, and how eventually the excitement came in spurts, until excitement wasn't a factor at all, only difficult decisions that would impact the lives of our citizens. For me the difficult part about this separation tonight will be "the disconnectedness" from the day to day county-wide collaboration and partnerships. This is the second disconnect within three weeks, with the retirement from the Cleveland County Schools after 33 years..... To the board, county staff, and employees: You have been a great team...Your support is the reason why the county continues to move forward positively and I am grateful for you and thank you for your service. You serve with others in mind. How fortunate our citizens are to have you watching their backs on a daily basis. Congratulations to Ronnie and Johnny on your re-election. I ask God's blessings upon the board that decisions made will always be pleasing to the one to whom you pledged or will pledge your oath.

To the citizens: You are the best! Your kind words and actions have been appreciated, and the not so kind words were respected, because both made me a better person and leader. Thank you for your willingness to drive our county forward through many public and private partnerships. Continue to create and shape lives, while inspiring others to be all they can be. In doing so, you will be among "champions" creating a better Cleveland County.

To my family and especially my husband: Thank you for sharing me with Cleveland County for 15 of our 31 happy years together. I am also glad that my service to others (my comings and goings) did not create discord or division in our beautiful relationship and happy family. I am deeply grateful for your support, and thank you for your love and spirit of unselfishness.

A parting suggestion.....Personally, I respect indifference and the culture of others, (those are things that we cannot change). Hatred and evil speaking against one another are things that cause us not to walk in God's love (These are things that divide and we can change). Cleveland County is one family, we pledge our allegiance to one nation under God, regardless of race, origin, or political party, things that in too many instances create discord and divide in our communities. God commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Every person is our neighbor. So this is my plea or question to every citizen of Cleveland County: We may not agree with what a person does or supports, but "Can we, as a

community, respect others, and love one another as God commanded us fulfilling other parts of the pledge, “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”? Now wouldn’t this be a great question to have on the front page of the paper the day before an election?

My love for this county and mankind is unconditional, and not based on circumstances, conditions, or decisions. For any untrue remarks made, ungodly thoughts, or deception on anyone’s part during the campaign or my years in office....I forgive you! If I have offended anyone during the campaign or my tenure in office, please forgive me.YOU SEE, LIKE FOREST, LIFE FOR ME IS TRULY LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES! Each day is sweeter than the day before because of my daily walk with God.

Today is a gift and tomorrow is not promised for any of us....so my prayer is that we will walk in unity, that we will serve, not based on any personal agendas, but for the purpose of meeting the needs of ALL people. I know we cannot predict what tomorrow holds....but we can embrace a new day in our faith of knowing who holds tomorrow.

What’s next? Spending time with family and babysitting our new grandson, Sionè Joshua is at the top of the “to do” list... getting much needed rest is a close 2nd, and continuing to provide Servant leadership in the county will always be a part of my agenda....I will not be a stranger, on or off the ballot!

Yes, There are many thanks to God for all of you, and the 15 years you have allowed me to be your commissioner, the second longest tenure of any seated commissioner, having the pleasure of serving with three county managers (the late Lane Alexander, David Dear, and presently Eddie Bailes), and the honor of serving with 19 elected or appointed commissioners (come and gone)...We have all attributed to the “county government” marathon.....each one of us; with pictures affixed to the outside wall as a testament of finishing the race through the years. Another picture will soon be added in the person of Susan Allen...I congratulate her and pray that her tenure will be as fulfilling as mine.

Just know that as I leave this seat tonight, I am truly at peace, having lead with integrity and conviction, and leaving office with NO REGRETS (for which mama and daddy would be extremely proud), knowing that the best service I had was given to 99,000 of the best citizens in the nation, right here in a county I love calling home.....Cleveland County!

And so, like Forrest, when he finally stopped running, as I have stopped running the county marathon at this very moment I’ll simply say

“I believe I’ll go home now”- a step away from public office and a giant leap into my future path.... Thank you again Cleveland County- I love you and it has indeed been my pleasure and honor to serve you!”

REGULAR AGENDA

LAWNDALE MINIMUM HOUSING

Patti Grigg, Mayor Pro Tem for the Town of Lawndale, asked Commissioners to support them in their efforts to adopt a minimum housing ordinance. It is the intention of the Town to adopt the Cleveland County Minimum Housing Ordinance verbatim. Their ordinance will be complaint driven. The Town of Lawndale is requesting access to the County Building Inspectors for the purpose of inspecting those properties they receive complaints on. The Town of Lawndale will handle all of the paperwork. Ms. Grigg explained the Town would probably have between two and three minimum housing cases per year. The town currently has one pressing minimum housing issue.

Planning Director Bill McCarter has heard interest from Mooresboro and Earl on the same subject, however, no formal requests have been made. There would be no additional costs to the county. The Building Inspectors and Planning Department would inspect the properties during normal county operating hours.

County Attorney Bob Yelton suggested an interlocal agreement be adopted prior to County Building Inspectors visiting any properties in the Town.

Chairman Hutchins asked Ms. Grigg if the Town would be willing to pay for the services. Ms. Grigg said it is possible.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to authorize the County Manager and the Planning Director to conduct a survey to see how many other municipalities may be interested in the County's help with minimum housing.*

LATE APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION

Chris Green, Tax Assessor, presented a list of late applications. All applications have been reviewed and all meet the criteria for the exemption. Mr. Green made note that the board can approve late applications until the end of the calendar year.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the late applications as follows:*

APPLICANT	PROPERTY	TYPE
Deborah Biddix	M53953	Elderly
William Abraham Peeler	29527	Elderly
Jerry Dean Humphries	32800	DV
Robert Brady,Sr.	35728	Elderly
Carl D Watts	3136	Elderly
Steven D Devenney	7027	DV
Bruce Robert Ashe	34408	Elderly
Bobby R. Queen	32604	Elderly
Norma J. Chalk	54346	Elderly
Benton Welsh	12579	Elderly

Betty Bell	14002	Elderly
Burnette Hayes	3173	Elderly
Doris Lloyd	31814	Elderly
Flora Yarbro	56266	Elderly
Edward H. Bryant	73489	Elderly
Donald Blackburn	11244	Elderly
Andrew Vinson	35161	Elderly
Catherine Curry	30335	Elderly
Oscar Jones	10543	DV
Emanuel Meeks	26295	Elderly
William Stewart	16792	DV
Betty Howell	9429	Elderly
Emma Thurman	37036	Elderly
James C. Scruggs	672	Elderly
Jack Ridings	23191	Elderly
Madge Beam	23788	Elderly
Max Walker	29275	DV
Ruth F. Hill	19766	Elderly
Birt Maddox	36029	Elderly
	50237	
Richard Hammond	&M10015535	Elderly
Gary Borders	5869	DV
Freida Grayson	44808	Elderly
Miles Fred Hoyle III	37673	DV
Thomas Aikin	53189	DV
Gertrude Chaney	9954	Elderly
Dianna Miller	72565	Elderly
Evelene Thompson	60037	Elderly
Mary Terry	33192	Elderly
Tommy Pruett Jr	33757	Elderly
Crossway Baptist Church	31525	Religious
Second Baptist Church of KM	13491	Religious
Cleve Allan Elmore	#58608 #58609	PUV

SCHEDULE COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

Chairman Johnny Hutchins asked that Commissioners schedule a work session for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 4:00pm to discuss several funding requests which need to be reviewed before the year end.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Jason Falls, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to schedule a work session for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 4:00 pm in the Lane Alexander Conference Room.*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

No Commissioner Reports were given.

RECESS TO RECONVENE

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Ronnie Hawkins made a motion seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to recess to reconvene to Monday, December 3, 2012 in the Commissioners Chamber for the swearing in of Commissioners .*

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for ***Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.***
in this Commission Chamber.

Johnny Hutchins, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

Kerri Melton, County Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners