

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 3, 2013

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: Ronnie Hawkins, Chairman
Jason Falls, Vice-Chairman
Susan Allen, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Eddie Holbrook, Commissioner
Jeff Richardson, County Manager
Bob Yelton, County Attorney
Kerri Melton, County Clerk
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Debra Blanton, Elections Director
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director
Mark Dellinger, Electronic Maintenance Director
Jessica Pickens, *The Shelby Star*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins called the meeting to order. Jason Falls led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" and provided the invocation.

NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR

County Manager Jeff Richardson opened the floor to accept nominations for Commission Chair.

NOMINATIONS: Johnny Hutchins made a motion that Jason Falls be nominated for Chair (*Susan Allen seconded the motion*). Ronnie Hawkins made a motion that nominations be closed and Jason Falls be elected by acclamation (*Johnny Hutchins seconded the motion*). ***Jason Falls was elected Chairman by a unanimous vote.***

NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION OF COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR

Chairman Falls opened the floor to accept nominations for Commission Vice-Chair.

NOMINATIONS: Ronnie Hawkins made a motion that Eddie Holbrook be nominated for Vice-Chair (*Johnny Hutchins seconded the motion*). Ronnie Hawkins made a motion that nominations be closed and Eddie Holbrook be elected by acclamation (*Johnny Hutchins seconded the motion*). ***Eddie Holbrook was elected Vice-Chairman by a unanimous vote.***

Chairman Falls and Commissioners took a moment to thank former Chairman Hawkins for his service over the last year and presented him with a plaque.

Commissioners then took a two-minute recess to allow the public an opportunity to congratulate Chairman Falls and Vice-Chair Holbrook.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the agenda as presented by the Clerk with the following addition:*

- 6A. CELL TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT
Mark Dellinger, Electronic Maintenance Director

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Robert Williams, 814 E. Stagecoach Trail Fallston, congratulated Commissioners for continuing to begin each meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of *November 5, 2013*, motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, seconded by Eddie Holbrook and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the minutes as written.*

ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #027)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, 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>
010.449.5.790.20	Electronic Maintenance/Donations-Equip	\$ 375.	
010.449.4.810.20	Electronic Maintenance/Donations-Equip		375.

Explanation of Revisions: To record remaining value of HDBL camera system that is being bought out from Secure Electronics that was originally being rented. This is to record the full value of the asset on the books.

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

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, 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>
010.441.4.810.00	Sheriff’s Office/Donations/Contributions	\$ 250.	
010.441.5.790.00	Sheriff’s Office/Donations/Contributions		250.

Explanation of Revisions: Budget donations for United Way Campaign Incentives.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #029)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, 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>
012.535.4.310.00/93991-5503	Health Promotion/Fed Govt Grants	\$ 3,994.	
012.535.5.311.00	Health Promotion/Education Expense	2,000.	
012.535.5.370.00	Health Promotion/Advertising/Promotions	1,500.	
012.535.5.581.00	Health Promotion/Awards/Incentives	494.	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget additional DHHS Health Communities funds for operating expenses.

REGULAR AGENDA

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING ELECTIONS DIRECTOR DEBRA BLANTON

Commissioners thanked Elections Director Debra Blanton for her years of service to Cleveland County.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adopt the following resolution:*

Number 23-2013

**A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
ELECTIONS DIRECTOR DEBRA BLANTON**

WHEREAS, effective December 31, 2013, Debra Blanton will retire from Cleveland County; and

WHEREAS, Debra has been an employee of the Cleveland County Board of Elections since August 1986; and

WHEREAS, believing in the importance of continuing education and with ever changing election laws, Debra has worked to become a Certified North Carolina Elections Administrator and has received her National CERA (Certified Elections/Registration Administrator) Certification; and

WHEREAS, Debra is active in professional Elections organizations on the State and National level and as a subject matter expert, she has served as a presenter at several conferences; and

WHEREAS, during election season, Debra is organized and professional and helps bring balance to what can be a stressful environment; and

WHEREAS, throughout her years, Debra has earned the admiration, respect and friendship of those with whom she has worked and come into contact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners that Debra Blanton be commended for her years of service to the County and the citizens and we extend to Debra, best wishes for many years of good health and happiness during her retirement and her future endeavors.

This the 3rd day of December, 2013.

CELL TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT

Mark Dellinger, Electronic Maintenance Director presented a lease agreement to Commissioners. The lease agreement is between Cleveland County and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T Mobility Corporation) for space on the county owned cell tower located in Polkville. Mr. Dellinger negotiated a lease rate of \$2,000 per month for five years. In year one of each extension term, the monthly rent will increase by ten percent over the rent paid during the previous term. Twenty-Five percent of the rent will be paid to Jack Shytle who owns the property where the cell tower is located. Mr. Dellinger made note there is plenty of room for expansion on the tower. He thanked Attorney Yelton for his hard work in preparing the lease documents.

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen and unanimously adopted by the board to, *approve the lease agreement presented by Mark Dellinger (copy of Deed found on Page ____ of Minute Book ____).*

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS DIRECTOR VACANCY

Chairman Falls introduced Wayne King, Chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Elections. In preparation for the retirement of Debra Blanton, the Board of Elections has interviewed three candidates for the Director of Elections position. Mr. King explained this was an extensive interview process. The Board of Elections top candidate is Dayna Causby. Ms. Causby has been a full-time employee of the Board of Elections since May 1st but has worked part-time since October, 2012. Her current salary is \$32,950. The Board of Elections is recommending a salary of \$50,000. The Elections Director salary, per NCGS, must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Causby is working on her National and State Elections certifications. She will achieve her National certification in late 2014 or early 2015 but cannot receive her State certification until after a Presidential election.

Mr. King noted that \$50,000 is a very low end salary for a Board of Elections Director in North Carolina. He said that the hiring of Ms. Causby was a unanimous decision by the Board of Elections.

County Attorney Bob Yelton suggested Commissioners go into Closed Session to discuss this further.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to conduct a closed session to discuss a personnel matter under North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5).*

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to reconvene in open session.*

ACTION: Eddie Holbrook made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen and adopted by a majority of the board to (Commissioner Hawkins voted in opposition) to, *according to State Statute, accept the \$50,000 salary of Dana Causby as recommended by the Board of Elections.*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Commissioners Hawkins and Falls leadership over the last year.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn the meeting. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, in the Commission Chamber.*

Jason Falls, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

Kerri Melton, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners