

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 21, 2014

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: Jason Falls, Chairman
Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chairman
Susan Allen, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner
Jeff Richardson, County Manager
Andrea Leslie-Fite, County Attorney
Kerri Melton, County Clerk
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Joe Lord, EMS Director
Jessica Pickens, *The Shelby Star*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Falls called the meeting to order. Chairman Jason Falls led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America and led the invocation.

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 County Clerk.*

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

Robert Williams, 814 E. Stagecoach Trail Fallston, spoke in reference to the use of credit cards by Cleveland County Schools. Mr. Williams has gathered some information which he found to be very disturbing. Mr. Williams has asked the schools for information on credit card purchases over the past several years to which they responded the volume of information would be approximately 500,000 pages. Mr. Williams asked Commissioners to partner with him to get this information from the school system.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of *December 17, 2013 and January 7, 2014*, motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, seconded by Johnny Hutchins 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 *December 2013* (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 *December 2013*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$102,853.99); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$17,709.12.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #035)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Johnny Hutchins, 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>
011.442.4.991.00	Sheriff's Office/Fund Balance Approp	\$10,400.	
011.442.5.910.00/USICE-P442	Sheriff's Office/Capital Equipment	10,400.	

Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget federal forfeiture funds for painting white doors and roofs on new patrol fleet vehicles.

REGULAR AGENDA

BOILING SPRINGS RESCUE SQUAD

Cleveland County EMS Director Joe Lord discussed the Boiling Springs Rescue Squad stating it the Rescue Squad dissolved on December 31, 2013. In their charter, it states that should the Rescue Squad dissolve; the building and contents will be turned over to Cleveland County.

Commissioner Hutchins expressed his concern with rescue squads in the County having problems getting volunteers due to the amount of training and certifications required.

Commissioners were presented with the pros and cons of accepting the building and the property as shown below:

Pros:

- Deed search reveals no existing liens on building and land in question.
- Building is of a block construction. Inspection by Paul Ezell, Chief Building Inspector, reveals building is structurally sound.
- Current tax value of land and building is \$133,000.
- Building is in a good physical location for EMS related services.
- Current building design is highly compatible for County EMS operation to include:
 - Very large bays that can handle larger ambulance-like vehicles.
 - Electrical wiring necessary for generator usage.
- Additional small capital equipment included in the building with an estimated value of \$60,000.
- Acceptance of property provides option for future EMS location, which may avoid need for costly land purchase and new building.

Cons:

- Estimated necessary renovation and building repairs of \$45,000. Necessary renovations could occur in 2014/2015 budget year.
- Additional lending debt (outstanding bills) \$28,000.

Commissioners were also presented the fiscal impacts of acceptance of the building and property including:

- No current or future year operational change or budgetary increase necessary in EMS to provide continued level of uninterrupted service to the Boiling Springs community.
- Approximate \$171,000 capital property and equipment increase Cleveland County assets, minus outstanding local lending debt.

Chairman Falls re-iterated to the public that, EMS availability in the Boiling Springs area has not changed. County EMS has been covering this area for some time. Chairman Falls took a moment to thank Chief Robbie Mullinax for his hard work.

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to accept the property (Parcel 2171) and its contents from the dissolution of the Boiling Springs Rescue Squad.*

CITY OF SHELBY PROPERTY SWAP

County Manager Jeff Richardson presented a request from the City of Shelby for the County to consider the donation of parcels of property to the City in exchange for a portion of a city owned parcel.

The City of Shelby is asking the county to donate Parcel 59657, a piece of property adjacent to the West Water Tank near KSM Castings and Parcels 18816, 18937, 20228 which are tax foreclosure properties the county acquired in 2010. In exchange, the City is proposing to donate 0.75 acres of parcel 41343 which is currently used for overflow parking at the Board of Elections.

Parcel 59657- In 2008, the county donated a small tract of land to the City of Shelby for construction of the West Water Tank. The West Water Tank was built to serve the water needs of Clearwater Paper and a future ED client. The entire parcel was not donated at the time because it had the only access into what will now be home to KSM Castings. A temporary road has been built to allow KSM Castings access to the site and a permanent road is currently under construction.

Parcels 18816, 18937, 20228- In the original letter from the City of Shelby, the tax values totaled approximately \$66,000. In preparation for the next county wide revaluation, these properties were reassessed. Structures on these parcels are considered to add little or no value. Reassessed values total \$14,000.

Parcel 41343- During early voting, this parcel is being used as overflow parking for the Board of Elections. The property is not paved and there is no safe crossing from the parking lot to the Board of Elections.

Mr. Richardson addressed why it would be in the county's best interested to approve the property swap as well as the fiscal impact of the transaction.

- Parcel 59657 includes a large Railroad ROW which determines approximately three of the five acres of this property to be unbuildable.
- The three tax foreclosure properties are currently a liability for Cleveland County.
- The County Maintenance staff is required to maintain the grass on these parcels every other week during the warmer months.
- Solidifies overflow parking needs for Board of Elections During heavy voting periods.
- Per Gary Spangler, a mid-block crossing can be installed to ensure a safer crossing from the parking lot to the BOE.
- Modest one-time capital expense to prepare Parcel 41343 for voter parking.
- Continued working partnership with the City of Shelby.
- Estimated \$25,000 capital expense for paving of the parking lot.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve donating Parcels 59657, 18816, 18937, 20228 in exchange, for 0.75 acres of parcel 4134, owned by the City of Shelby, which is currently used for overflow parking at the Board of Elections.*

BETHLEHEM AND OAK GROVE RURAL FIRE RELIEF FUND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Due to deaths of members, Chairman Falls asked that Commissioners appoint a replacement to the Oak Grove and Bethlehem Fireman Relief Fund Board. The local relief fund board has entire control of the funds obtained by one half of one percent of the fire and lightning insurance premiums collected in a rated fire district. These appointments have no expiration so it is the responsibility of the Fire Department to inform Commissioners when a member is no longer able to serve.

Bethlehem Fire Department has requested Jeff Cloninger be appointed to the Bethlehem Local Firemans Relief Fund. Oak Grove Fire Department has requested Moffet Scism be appointed to the Oak Grove Local Fireman's Relief Fund.

ACTION: Eddie Holbrook made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to appoint Jeff Cloninger to the Bethlehem Local Firemans Relief Fund and to appoint Moffet Scism to the Oak Grove Local Fireman's Relief Fund.*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Holbrook announced that Dr. Steve Thornburg was named the NC Community College System President of the Year.

Commissioner Allen reminded everyone of the press release regarding the Coast2Coast Rx Program which will be held on January 29th at 11:00am at Turning Point Academy.

Chairman Falls gave credit to Destination Cleveland County for the grand opening of the Scruggs Center noting the event received National Recognition.

RECESS TO RECONVENE

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, ***to recess to reconvene to Tuesday, January 28th at 5:00pm in the Lane Alexander Conference Room for a work session.*** The next regular meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.*** in this Commission Chamber.

*Jason Falls, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Kerri Melton, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*