

**CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**April 15, 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  
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
Jeff Richardson, County Manager  
Bob Yelton, County Attorney  
Kerri Melton, County Clerk  
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk  
Chris Green, Tax Administrator  
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director  
Lorie Poston, Communications 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. County Clerk Kerri Melton 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:** Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Hawkins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk.*

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

*Pastor Scott Whitney, 504 Crescent Hill Road*, spoke in opposition to the proposed casino. He described himself as an advocate for the already oppressed addicted and children of poverty who he feels will be negatively affected by the casino. "As a pastor, I have seen the dark side of gambling." In closing, Pastor Whitney invited Commissioners to an event on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

*Adam Forcade, Serenity Lane, Bessemer City*- I would like to thank Commissioners for both their service and the opportunity to speak here tonight.

I sat in these chambers two weeks ago and listened as the Commission rightly lauded the county's DSS Department for doing an incredible job with not much in the way of resources. The accolades and awards you gave them were richly deserved and our group is glad the county has such a dedicated and caring DSS Department. However, we wonder if you realize that by enthusiastically welcoming a casino in Cleveland County, you will likely double or triple that agency's workload with little or no corresponding increase in funding or staffing.

As we pointed out two weeks ago, the gambling addiction rate will double within 50 miles of the casino and within 10 miles, the odds of becoming addicted increase by 90%. Using these figures we could have 1800 new gambling addicts in the feeder areas. That is a scary thought if you only considered the effects on those newly addicted gamblers but unfortunately I have not gotten to the bad news yet.

The consequences of such gambling lead to financial swings, separations, actual physical moves, etc. Compulsive or pathological gambling takes over a family, and the effect on the children is great, as it is in other addictive families. Focus is on the gambling, perhaps not just for the gambler, but also for the spouse. The children may thus live in a world without attention, emotional validation, stability, or parental predictability. It will be a world of lies, deceptions and illusions. It will be a world where the value of work and achievement will not be taught, exhibited nor valued.

Domestic violence happens most often when families are in crisis and gambling problems frequently lead to the physical or emotional abuse of a partner, parent or child. Problem gamblers are six times more likely to be divorced than non problem gamblers. Children with parents who are problem gamblers are up to 10 times more likely to become problem gamblers themselves than children with non gambling parents. Children of compulsive gamblers are likely to suffer abuse, as well as neglect, as a result of parental, pathological gambling. The gamblers dealing with criminals may make the family actually unsafe; there may not be enough money for the essentials. These children don't trust teachers or other supportive adult figures, they are raised with lies and deceit. Fifty percent of spouses and seventeen percent of children in addicted households experience physical abuse from the pathological gambler.

You are probably thinking numbers, numbers, blah, blah, blah but these are real, live children and women living in Cleveland County today who will suffer needlessly as a direct result of a casino being located here.

In summary, a casino's effect on our DSS department would be little different than you throwing that department to the wolves, because no amount of public funds will solve the additional problems the department will face and the children that will suffer. You've shown compassion, now please show some thoroughness to your studies."

*Beauford Burton, 322 Margrace Road Kings Mountain-* "My name is Beauford Burton and I reside at 322 Margrace Road in Kings Mountain. I am here this evening to try and persuade you to study the downside evidence of a casino that the Awareness Group has put much effort into. They have asked you numerous times to review it but I haven't seen any willingness on your part to do so.

Recently, an article was in the Charlotte Observer that quoted Mr. Hutchins as saying he's talked to many people and the majority of the county supports the casino. I find that to be a point of disbelief for me because I have seen nothing of a public poll by Mr. Hutchins or others on the Commission. If speaking to a handful of people is representation of the county, then the majority of the many people I've talked to are overwhelmingly against a casino.

But why must we make this a fight of uneducated opinion? All that is being asked is that you agree to a public forum where any interested citizens and all of you can be presented facts and sources in one meeting for the betterment of our county.

Your board and the Kings Mountain Mayor and City Council (leave one councilman) signed separate letters supporting the casino. The wording was very similar especially because they indicated the support was from the citizens of the county in your letter and the citizens of Kings Mountain in their letter. I'm here to point out that may be a grave error. It seems that you have reached conclusions about the amount of citizens support the same way the conclusion was reached to sign a letter of support, by lack of due diligence.

All of us make mistakes in judgment occasionally but our responsibilities should be to make sure our decisions are made weighing all sides of an issue. Once again, I ask you to hear all the evidence and ultimately withdraw your letter of support and issue another letter against a casino that will be based on true study. Most of the work has been done for you, all you have to do is look at the information and verify its sources. It will probably be mentioned by someone else tonight but I wanted to let you know there will be another community meeting in Kings Mountain on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the East Gold Wesleyan Church, 701 East Gold Street, Kings Mountain and you are all invited. I, and those I've talked to believe that a show of dislike for a casino by county and city, along with our NC Congress and Governor will make a difference to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of ***March 18, 2014 regular meeting***, motion was made by Ronnie Hawkins, seconded by Susan Allen, 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 ***March 2014*** (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 *March 2013*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$2,871.04) monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$5,127.09.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #051)**

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, 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>
010.446.4.810.00	EMS/Contributions/Donations	\$218.	
010.446.5.790.00	EMS/Contributions/Donations	218.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget donations received in FY14 to be used in May for EMS Breakfast at CRMC.

**CONTINGENCY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #052)**

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, 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>
010.998.4.840.00/10998-3401	Contingency/Insurance Settlement	\$113,047.	
010.998.5.586.00/10998-3401	Contingency/Insurance Settlement	113,047.	

Explanation of Revisions: To record revenue and expense for insurance claim at the Ollie Harris Building resulting from water damage.

**LIBRARY: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #053)**

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, 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>
010.611.4.810.07	Library/Contributions/Donations	\$5,300.	
010.611.5.790.07	Library/Contributions/Donations	5,300.	

Explanation of Revisions: To record additional donations received but not budgeted.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #054)**

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, 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>
010.442.4.991.00	Sheriff's Office/Fund Bal Approp	\$19,484.	
010.442.5.910.00/USICE-P442	Sheriff's Office/Capital Equip	19,484.	
010.442.5.210.00/USICE-P442	Sheriff's Office /Dept. Supplies	6.	

Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget federal forfeiture funds for the purchase of vehicle for Narcotics Unit.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #055)**

**ACTION:** Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Susan Allen, 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>
010.444.4.357.02	Sheriff's Office/St. Grant-Inmate SSA \$	2,485.	
010.444.5.211.00	Sheriff's Office/Controlled Equip	2,485.	

*Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget SSA Funds for purchase of four courier boxes to be used as prescription drug drop boxes. These boxes will be placed in various spots for citizens to use to properly discard any old or unused prescription drugs.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK**

Chairman Falls began by introducing County Manager Jeff Richardson to say a few words. Mr. Richardson formally introduced Lorie Poston as the Cleveland County Communications Director. Ms. Poston has been serving as the interim director for the past four and a half months and has done an outstanding job.

Commissioners had County Clerk Kerri Melton read a proclamation naming April 13-19 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week in Cleveland County.

***Number: 02-2014***

**PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK  
APRIL 13-19, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, each day, more than half a million Public Safety Telecommunicators answer desperate calls for help, responding with services that save the lives and property of American citizens in need of assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, professional Telecommunicators perform a critical function when an emergency occurs requiring police, fire or ambulance; and

**WHEREAS**, Cleveland County Telecommunicators are critical to our county's emergency response, daily serving the citizens by answering their calls for police, fire and emergency medical services and by dispatching the appropriate assistance as quickly as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, professional Telecommunicators are not visible as the men and women who arrive on the scene of an emergency, but provide a vital link to public safety services as part of the first responder team; and

**WHEREAS**, Cleveland County Dispatchers have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of our public safety personnel is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone Cleveland County Communications; and

**WHEREAS**, day in and day out, Cleveland County Dispatchers exhibit compassion, understanding and professionalism.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 13-19 as "***National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week***" in Cleveland County in honor and recognition of our Telecommunicators and the vital contributions they make to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 15th DAY OF APRIL 2014.**

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Hawkins mentioned the Debbie Clary Highway dedication which was a great event. Commissioners are continuing to address the animal control issue and he asked that Commissioners consider supporting the dissolution of puppy mills.

Commissioner Allen met with the Travel and Tourism Division who are promoting events throughout Cleveland County almost every weekend. She congratulated Commissioner Holbrook on a gate at Keeter Stadium being named the “Eddie Holbrook Gate” in honor of his hard work with the American Legion World Series.

Commissioner Hutchins reminded citizens that the Earl Scruggs Center is open to county residents for free on Wednesdays.

**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 next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.* in the Commission Chamber.

---

*Jason Falls, Chairman  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

---

*Kerri Melton, Clerk  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*