

Cleveland County Board of Commissioners
March 15, 2016:

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Office.

PRESENT: Jason Falls, Chairman
Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chairman
Susan Allen, Commissioner
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner
Jeff Richardson, County Manager
Tim Moore, County Attorney
Andrea Leslie-Fite, Assistant County Attorney
Henry Earle, Clerk
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director
Brian Epley, Finance Director
Chris Green, Tax Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Falls called the meeting to order and Community Services Director Kerri Melton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to adopt the agenda, with the addition of a closed session, per NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to protect attorney privilege, as presented by the Clerk. It was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously adopted by the Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

CERTIFIED ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY UPDATE: Steve Padgett, Director of the Small Business Center at Cleveland Community College, was called to the podium. Mr. Padgett thanked the Commissioners for the continued support of small businesses in Cleveland County. Mr. Padgett noted that the CEC program is launching a service provider network in Cleveland County because there are lots of businesses that don't know about each other in Cleveland County and it is essential to get them tied into each other. The first meeting of that will be May 18th at the Don Gibson Theater in Shelby from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The CEC program also plans to build a resource guide on how to launch a small business in Cleveland County and by the summer Cleveland County will receive its designation as a small business friendly community. This will help Cleveland County market itself to those small businesses that are thinking of coming to Cleveland County. Mr. Padgett also informed the Commissioners that the 3rd annual entrepreneur expo will be on April 26th. Mr. Padgett then thanked the Commissioners again for their continued support of small business.

BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION IN CLEVELAND COUNTY: Matt Blackwell, Assistant Director of Economic Development, was called to the podium. Mr. Blackwell thanked the Commissioners for letting him present on his area of economic development, business retention and expansion. Mr. Blackwell said that, much like the Commissioners, economic development has strategic goals for business retention and expansion:

- **Industry Visitation:** It is critical to develop relationships and opportunities with existing industry. Businesses have needs within the community and it is the job of economic development to help them find what they need. Mr. Blackwell said he has done 28 industry visits to this point. He said it is critical to visit these industries and talk with them about their struggles and growth potential. He said showing these industries that you care about their wellbeing is vital to ensuring their long term success in Cleveland County.
- **Business Development:** It is also critical to develop relationships with key stakeholders such as business developers and brokers. Building those relationships is key to keeping Cleveland County fresh in the minds of those stakeholders that are critical to getting businesses located in Cleveland County.
- **Site Preparation:** It is impossible to get an industry to locate in Cleveland County if there is nothing to offer them. Preparing sites is important because it lets industries know that Cleveland County is serious about getting them to locate their operation here.
- **Workforce Development:** Possibly the most important piece, workforce development is something every industry considering Cleveland County asks about. All new companies need workers so it is imperative that workforces are being developed. It is also important to educate individuals, particularly high school students, that advanced manufacturing jobs are not dirty and grimy work and that individuals can earn a nice living for themselves and their family via manufacturing.

Commissioner Hutchins asked about small business. He said all of this works for large industries but not for small businesses. Mr. Blackwell stated that his job was to connect businesses with resources and he will help a business that has 1-2 employees as well as one with 100-200

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

- No one signed up for citizen recognition.

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to approve the following items:

MINUTES: There being no corrections, additions or deletions, the Minutes of the March 1st, 2016 regular meeting were presented and approved as written.

TAX ADMINISTRATION: As of February 29th, 2016, 95.12% of taxes had been collected for fiscal year 2015-2016.

TAX ADMINISTRATION: For February 2016 abatements were \$6,268.38 and supplements were \$8,635.54 with no pending refunds or releases.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BNA #055

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.441.4.810.19	DONATION-CHRISTMAS	\$450.00	

010.441.5.790.19 DONATIONS-CHRISTMAS \$450.00

Explanation of Revisions: Budget donation to be used the Sheriff's annual Christmas project.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: BNA #056

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.612.4.800.00	MISC REVENUE	\$10,788.00	
012.538.5.211.00	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$10,788.00	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget funds to buy a John Deere Gator 925i for Broad River Greenway. The BRG will be repaying the county for it.

PLANNING: The Planning department requested that the Commissioner's set a public hearing to discuss the solar farm code amendment for the regular agenda meeting on Tuesday, April 5th.

REGULAR AGENDA

SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM: Chairman Falls called on Jeff Richardson, County Manager, to the podium. Mr. Richardson stated that at the most recent goal setting workshop a priority was set to create and incentivize a small business program, to fill in the gap. This program will mimic the current industrial incentive program. The threshold for this will be expansion that will be from 100k-500k and will be 1-3 year grants. Any expansion over 500k will be sent over to Economic Development for the industrial incentive program. Staff asked the Board that they pass it with an effective date of July 1st, 2016, with annual reports on its usage. Commissioner Hutchins thanked everyone for their work on putting it together. Commissioner Holbrook said that he hopes the Small Business Center will help promote the activity. Commissioner Hawkins asked why the staff suggested that it be instituted on July 1st and not the minute it's approved. Commissioner Falls echoed that statement and asked if it could be started immediately. Mr. Richardson, Mr. Epley and Mr. Green all said it could be started tomorrow if desired.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved that the program be adopted as written with a start date of March 16, 2016. It was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Henry Earle, Clerk to the Board, presented the need for an alternate to be moved into the regular Board of Adjustment and then to appoint an alternate.

ACTION: Commissioner Allen moved to appoint Bobby Watson to the Board of Adjustment. It was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved by the Board. Also, Commissioner Holbrook moved to appoint Byron Hendricks to be an alternate on the Board of Adjustment.

CARE BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Henry Earle, Clerk to the Board, presented the need for 8 members to be appointed to the CARE Block Grant Advisory Committee.

ACTION: Commissioner Holbrook moved to appoint Evangeline Jones, Bob Davis, Ursula Walls, and Kris Thompson to three (3) year appointments ending in December of 2018 and Brian Epley,

Glenda Childers, Curtis Pressley, and Freida Pauley to two (2) year appointments ending in December of 2017. Commissioner Hutchins seconded it and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:48 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Hutchins to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to confer with county attorney concerning administrative procedure matters and the legality of the same, specifically as to health care options and role of county manager versus commissioners in various administrative procedure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioners discussed the role of the County Manager and Commissioners in administrative procedures and the roles of each.

At 8:02 p.m. Chairman Falls entertained a motion to come back into open session. The motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously approved by the Board. No action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Falls entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Commissioner Holbrook, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will be on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Chamber.