

**Cleveland County Board of Commissioners**  
**July 19, 2016**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Office.

**PRESENT:** Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chair  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
Susan Allen, Commissioner  
Jeff Richardson, County Manager  
Justin Brackett, Associate County Attorney  
Andrea Leslie-Fite, Assistant County Attorney  
Henry Earle, Clerk to the Board  
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director  
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director  
Chris Green, Tax Administrator  
Debi Harrill, Interim Register of Deeds  
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director  
Kristin Reese, CCEDP Executive Director  
Sam Lockridge, Foothills Shooting Complex Director  
Dayna Causby, Board of Elections Director

**ABSENT:** Jason Falls, Chairman  
Ronald Hawkins, Commissioner  
Tim Moore, County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Eddie Holbrook called the meeting to order and Tax Administrator Chris Green led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to postpone agenda item 8, Minimum Housing Code Violation at 116 Highfield Court, until the August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 Regular Agenda Meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously adopted by the Board.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve the amended agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

**RECOGNITION OF SOUTHERN POWER AS A COMMUNITY PARTNER:** Commissioner Hutchins stated that Southern Power was a tremendous community partner and had been instrumental in helping get the Foothills Shooting Complex off the ground. He then introduced Chris Pierce, Operations Manager for Southern Power, and asked him if he would come to the front. Mr. Pierce then introduced Tessa Ferguson, Budget Analyst, and Elizabeth Wash, External Affairs Manager. Mr. Pierce thanked the Commissioners for the honor and really appreciated being a part of such an engaged community, and one that wants to get things done. Commissioners presented Mr. Pierce and Southern Power with a Cleveland County shadowbox and then took photographs with representatives from Southern Power.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**CLEVELAND COUNTY FOREST RANGER ANNUAL REPORT:** Vice-Chairman Holbrook called Travis Shidal, Cleveland County Forest Ranger, to the podium. Mr. Shidal thanked Commissioners for their continued support of Forest Rangers and of the work that his office was trying to do throughout the year. Mr. Shidal mentioned the activities his office had been a part of through the year, including controlled burns, insect infestation maintenance, and teaching fire safety to first graders as well as chainsaw safety to high school students. Mr. Shidal stated that Cleveland County had been presented the Golden Nut Award for collecting more poundage of seed than any other county in the state. Each Commissioner thanked Mr. Shidal for his continued efforts in keeping Cleveland County safe.

### **CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

- Deb Hardin: Ms. Hardin is the founder of Clifford's Army Rescue (CARE). Ms. Hardin stated that her group has worked diligently to partner with rescue agencies. Yet, over the last year, numbers of animals being pulled from Cleveland County Animal Control (CCAC) has gone down and she believed it to be because CCAC is not allowing them to do temperament tests on the animals. Ms. Hardin also requested that the spay/neuter program in Cleveland County needs a system to ensure that adopted animals are being altered.
- Annette Pendergraft: Ms. Pendergraft attended a meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> with CCAC and submitted notes from that meeting to the Clerk. Ms. Pendergraft stated that she, and CARE, were requesting the following:
  - CARE members to be allowed to temperament test animals.
  - A policy to be put into place that secures a hold on a pet that a rescue has committed to taking.
  - Rescue pulls to be done by email date/time stamp as it has been done in the past.
  - Reducing euthanasia rates and eliminating the heart stick method of euthanasia.
  - Pets to be photographed, documented and shared on Facebook, CCAC website, and Petango.com.
  - Willingness from CCAC staff to work with CARE on animal issues.

Vice-Chairman Holbrook stated that he would ensure things would continue to get better. Commissioner Hutchins asked if the County Manager and Health Director could get together with the CARE group and see what could be done to meet the requests of this group. Commissioners agreed and gave direction to the County Manager to meet with the Health Director and to begin working on ways to address CARE's concerns.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MINUTES:** There being no corrections, additions or deletions, the Minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 regular meeting were presented.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to adopt the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously adopted by the Board.

**TAX ADMINISTRATION:** As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 98.23% of taxes had been collected by the Tax Collector's Office, setting a record for the second consecutive year.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**TAX ADMINISTRATION:** For June 2016 Abatements were \$1,638.16 and Supplements were \$3,720.34. Documentation on pending refunds and releases for July 2016 was also presented.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to approve the Tax Administration's Abatement and Supplement report. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously adopted by the Board.

**JUNE MANAGER'S REPORT:** The June Manager's Report was presented. Of note was that 92% of budgeted revenue had been collected by the end of June with anticipation of collecting 100% by the closeout of the fiscal year.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to approve the Manager's Report as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**KENTUCKY CUMBERLAND COAL COMPANY:** Kentucky Cumberland Coal Company is currently leasing a piece of county owned property and requested to sublease the property to a third party. Their agreement states that Kentucky Cumberland Coal Company is able to do so as long as the third party's use is not detrimental to the County's future interest.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion to approve the sub-lease for Kentucky Cumberland Coal Company. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**PARTNERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** The County and Partners Behavioral Health created a lease agreement for the approximately 20,000 square foot wing of the public health center that Partners is currently occupying. The lease is competitive and is set to expire on June 30, 2026, with the ability to renegotiate rates on an annual basis.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve the lease agreement for Partners Behavioral Health for rental of a portion of the Public Health Center. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**SHELBY RESCUE SQUAD:** Shelby Rescue Squad, in December 2014, conducted a renovation project which included paving their driveway. Per NC General Statute 136-18, Volunteer Fire Departments are allowed to request up to \$25,000 in reimbursement from the NC Department of Transportation for paving

projects that adjoin to state maintained roads but it must be done by resolution from the Board of County Commissioners. Shelby Rescue Squad's paving project was \$57,528.



**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve the resolution from Shelby Rescue Squad requesting \$25,000.00 reimbursement from NC DOT. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS, LLC:** Vice-Chairman Holbrook called on Cleveland County Economic Development Executive Director Kristin Reese to give the Board a review on the proposed incentive agreement for Plastic Products. Mrs. Reese stated that Plastic Products was a local manufacturer of various plastic products that was moving their base of operation from Gaston County to Cleveland County and had moved into a building at 1051 York Road in Kings Mountain that had been vacant for a long time. The company plans to keep its 43 current employees and to create seven (7) new jobs at an average wage of \$49,000.00 annually. The company will be investing \$2,317,236 in 2016. The county proposed a 50% grant of the county property tax rate of 0.72 on new taxable investment over three (3) years for a total grant incentive of \$19,812.37. Mrs. Reese stated that this company has very little turnover, showcasing an outstanding work culture, as evidenced by their employee retention.

The public hearing was opened at 6:42 p.m.

- Bill Watson: Mr. Watson said he was in support of the business coming and the incentive agreement. Mr. Watson stated that minimal investment was being made and he believed this will continue to help Cleveland County become an entrepreneurial friendly community.

Hearing no one else, the public hearing was closed at 6:44 p.m. Commissioner Hutchins said this was a sound company and although not many jobs were being created, this company will be a good corporate citizen and we will see something good here.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen moved to approve the incentive agreement for Plastic Products. It was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board.

**INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR MACO, INC.:** Vice-Chairman Holbrook called Matt Blackwell, Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership Business Services Director, to the podium to review the incentive agreement for MACO, INC. Mr. Blackwell stated that this project was an expansion project for an existing business in Cleveland County. MACO is located at 521 Plato Lee Road in Shelby and has been in business since 1979. Phase one expansion will be a 24,000 square foot facility, equaling a \$1.5 million investment. The company plans to create 17 new jobs with an average wage of \$36,000.00. The incentive grant is for three (3) years at 50% of the county property tax rate of 0.57 on new taxable investment for a total grant incentive of \$16,200.00.

The public hearing was opened at 6:49 p.m.

- Bill Watson: Mr. Watson stated that MACO had been a strong corporate citizen and a top employer in Cleveland County. He knows the importance of bringing new companies into Cleveland County but also stressed the importance of retaining the companies that are already present. He was in support of this incentive agreement.

Hearing no one else, the public hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m. Commissioner Hutchins stated that this was another win for the Community and he enjoyed seeing success in our local businesses.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Allen moved to approve the incentive agreement for MACO, INC. It was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved by the Board.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**GATEWAY TRAIL PHASE 5 CORRIDOR DESIGN GRANT:** Vice-Chairman Holbrook called Bill McCarter, Planning Director, to the podium to discuss the Gateway Trail Phase 5 Design Grant. Mr. McCarter stated that Cleveland County had recently been awarded a grant for \$32,500 from the Carolina Thread Trail and that the cost to design the 1.5 mile phase 5 corridor would be approximately \$36,500. Mr. McCarter asked the Commissioners to match \$4,000 to help implement the phase 5 corridor design that would connect the gateway trail to Crowder's Mountain State Park. Mr. McCarter stated that there is about 3 miles to go to the terminus inside of Crowder's Mountain.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve acceptance of the Carolina Thread Trail Grant and to provide a \$4,000 match for design of Phase 5. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved by the Board.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**Shooting Range Advisory Board**

Applicant	Address	Occupation	Currently Serving On
Chris Pierce	240 Battleground Rd-KM		Shooting Range Advisory
Alan Norman	100 Justice Place-Shelby		Shooting Range Advisory
David Hoyle	PO Box 708-Dallas		Shooting Range Advisory
Suzanne Amos	516 Alex D. Owens Drive-KM		Shooting Range Advisory
Jim Morgan	1225 Brookwood Drive-Shelby		Shooting Range Advisory
Eric Dixon	PO Box 1142-KM		Shooting Range Advisory
Don Costner	814 East Marion Street-Shelby		Shooting Range Advisory
Ed Yarboro	2140 McBrayer Springs Rd-Shelby		Shooting Range Advisory
*Todd Tongel	PO Box 2324-Shelby	Norris Merchandise	
*Dale Ramsey	1392 Luckadoo Mountain Rd-Bostic	Owner-Ramsey's Flooring	
*Adam Queen	2104 Taylor Road-Shelby	Manager-American Tactical	
Jason Eaker	1915 Rucker Road-Shelby	Workforce Solutions	
Gordon Spencer	1554 Timberlake Drive-Shelby	South Co. Industries	
Bill Turpish	439 Neisler Street-Shelby	Engineer	
Frank Kopenec	213 John Cline Road-Cherryville	Lab Manager	

**Terms:**

Appoint 6 Members	Appoint 5 Members
Three year term	Two year term
Term expires 6/30/2019	Term expires 6/30/2018

\*Appointing 11 total members

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins moved to reappoint Chris Pierce, Alan Norman, David Hoyle, Suzanne Amos, Jim Morgan, and Eric Dixon to three (3) year terms on the Shooting Range Advisory Board, to reappoint Don Costner and Ed Yarboro to two (2) year terms on the Shooting Range Advisory Board and to appoint Todd Tongel, Dale Ramsey, and Adam Queen to two (2) year terms on the Shooting Range Advisory board. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously adopted by the Board.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Allen:** Commissioner Allen asked for prayer for Commissioner Hawkins as he undergoes surgery and for safe travels for Commissioners that are going to NACo. Commissioner Allen also expressed her happiness because the County was being recognized at the NACo Annual Conference for the Cleveland Strong Program.

**Commissioner Hutchins:** Commissioner Hutchins stated that the Foothills Shooting Complex is going to do some advertising for law enforcement and that on August 10<sup>th</sup> the Shooting Complex will have a free day for all public safety officers and then on the 15<sup>th</sup> there will be an event with the ALWS Commanders.

**Commissioner Holbrook:** The Sunday games at the ALWS (August 14<sup>th</sup>) will be military appreciation days and this year the CEO of USAA will be present. Also, the County is allowed 4 spots per game on ESPN to promote Cleveland County and those spots are currently being produced.

**ADJOURN**

Vice-Chairman Holbrook entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Commissioner Hutchins, seconded by Commissioner Allen, and unanimously approved by the Board. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will be Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 in the Commissioner's Chamber.