

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 17, 2009

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: Jo Boggs, Chairwoman
Johnny Hutchins, Vice-Chairman
Mary Accor, Commissioner
Ronald J. Hawkins, Commissioner
Eddie Holbrook, Commissioner
David C. Dear, County Manager
Bob Yelton, County Attorney
Kerri Melton, County Clerk
April Crotts, Deputy Clerk
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Chris Crepps, Finance Director
Alexis Pearson, Human Resources Director
David Allen, *The Star*
Kathryn Larson, *Cleveland Headline News*
Other individual names on file in the Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Jo Boggs called the meeting to order and led the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America. Tax Administrator, Chris Green provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

(F) Planning Department: Zoning Map Amendment – Case 09-04; Jack & Hilda Borders, Poplar Springs Church Road (Schedule public hearing for April 7, 2009)

CONSENT AGENDA

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during *February 2009* (copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 31).

TAX ABATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The Tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements during *February 2009*. The monthly grand total of tax abatements was listed as (\$31,907.07); and, the monthly grand total for tax supplements was listed as \$27,239.64.

WORKERS COMPENSATION: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #067)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to *approve the following budget amendments:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
060.650.4.991.00	WORKERS COMP/FUND BAL APPROP	\$200,000.	
060.650.5.586.00	WORKERS COMP/UNINSURED SETTLE	200,000.	

Explanation of Revisions: To budget unforeseen claim expenditures from insurance company.

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: BUDGET AMENDMENTS (BNA #066)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the following budget amendments:*

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.495.4.510.96	NC Coop Ext/Summer Fun Activ.	\$3,073.	
010.495.5.530.96	NC Coop Ext/Summer Fun Activ.	3,073.	
010.495.4.350.00/DCGAS-9495	NC Coop Ext/Corn Grant	500.	
010.495.5.700.00/DCGAS-9495	NC Coop Ext/Corn Grant	500.	

Explanation of Revisions: Budget funds received for Summer Fun to cover expenses for program and to accept NC Corn Growers Association Grant Funds.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: CODE AMENDMENT –CORRIDOR PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT(Case 09-03) (Schedule a public hearing for April 7, 2009)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board to *approve scheduling the public hearing as requested.*

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – JACK & HILDA BORDERS, POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH ROAD (Case 09-04)(Schedule public hearing for April 7, 2009)

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board to *approve scheduling the public hearing as requested.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

INDUSTRIAL PARK PROPERTY SALE- DELTA PARTNERS

Commissioners were presented with an Offer to Purchase from Delta Partners, LLC for a piece of property located in the Cleveland County Business Park. Delta Partners offered \$35,000 for the approximately two acre property. Chris Green, Tax Administrator completed an assessment of the property and valued it at \$32,000.

County Attorney Robert Yelton referenced NCGS 158-7.1(d) which requires a public hearing to be held in order for the county to convey or lease property for economic development. The public notice shall describe the interest to be conveyed or leased, the value of the interest, the proposed consideration for the conveyance or lease and the governing body’s intention to approve the conveyance or lease (Public notice of this hearing was accomplished in accordance with the mandates of NCGS 158-7.1(d), with a legal advertisement published in the Star on March 6, 2009.)

Chairwoman Boggs opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comments, Chairwoman Boggs declared the public hearing closed.

Commissioner Hutchins explained that he had visited the site and felt that this was a fair price due to the fact that a lot of site preparation will need to be completed before building on this property. This project will create five new jobs.

ACTION: Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve the sale of approximately two acres to Delta Partners for \$35,000 (copy of map found on page _____ of Minute Book 31).*

REGULAR AGENDA

CLEVELAND COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM

Ms. Sibley explained that, in 2008, Cleveland County generated a total of \$28 M in tourism revenues. She felt that much of that could be contributed to the successful American Legion World Series games. In 2008, Cleveland County generated over \$6 Million in lodging only. Jackie Sibley, Travel & Tourism Director shared statistics regarding total revenues generated by Tourism in Cleveland County

Requests for brochures and visitors guides are coming in daily in response to recent advertising in national media such as Southern Living and Parents Magazines. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Travel and Tourism report which outlines brochure distribution and new projects (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 31*). Several AAU tournaments will be held in Cleveland County this summer, Ms. Sibley explained that they have been sending out lots of travel information in preparation for these events.

A new website is being developed for Cleveland County Travel and Tourism. Ms. Sibley suggested that everyone visit the site at www.tourclevelandcounty.com.

Commissioner Holbrook asked Ms. Sibley if there has been a decrease in occupancy numbers for January and February, 2009, due to the economy. She explained that Travel & Tourism experts have told her to prepare for a 5% decrease, but expect 10%. In Cleveland County, occupancy numbers are down approximately 5%.

Commissioner Hawkins informed Ms. Sibley that the Cleveland County Scouts Organization is planning on hosting a fifteen county regional jamboree in the fall. He is expecting approximately 2,000 kids to attend.

DESTINATION CLEVELAND COUNTY UPDATE

Chairwoman Boggs introduced Emily Epley, Executive Director of Destination Cleveland County (DCC). Ms. Epley presented Commissioners with a handout titled "Destination Cleveland County Update to County Commissioners March 17, 2009" (*copy found on Page _____ of Minute Book 30*) and a draft copy of "Cleveland County- A 2008 Cultural Inventory". She then introduced JT Scruggs

who outlined the documents given to Commissioners by Ms. Epley adding that the Theatre Director search has been narrowed down to three candidates who will visit Cleveland County for face-to-face interviews. Mr. Scruggs also stressed the importance of ensuring that the cost estimate on the Scruggs Center is accurate and that nothing is left out of the design prior to construction.

RECOGNITION OF BROWNIE PLASTER

Following the report by Destination Cleveland County, Commissioners surprised Destination Cleveland County Chairwoman Brownie Plaster with a framed Shadow Box for the work that she has done for the citizens of Cleveland County. The plaque was inscribed as follows:

*In Appreciation
of*

Brownie Plaster

*For your dedicated commitment to making a difference
in Cleveland County ~ Through your work with the expansion
of the Cleveland Memorial Library, Broad River Greenway,
Historic Preservation and most recently
Destination Cleveland County, to name a few,
your contributions have made Cleveland County
a better place to live, work and play.
We commend you!*

*Presented by: The Cleveland County
Board of Commissioners*

March 17, 2009

TAX FORECLOSURE PROPERTY SALES

Tax Administrator Chris Green presented four properties for approval of sale. Said properties were obtained through tax foreclosure several years ago. Bids were received through the sealed bid process and have met all of the Tax Foreclosure Property Guidelines approved by Commissioners at their December 2, 2008 meeting. Mr. Green recommended the sale of the following properties:

Parcel ID #	High Bidder	Bid Amount
17422	Jason Leonce	\$ 846.
26524	William Haddox	\$2,500.
36981	William Haddox	\$3,500.
2305	Harry Washburn	\$1,002.

ACTION: Ronnie Hawkins made the motion, seconded by Eddie Holbrook, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to approve sale of properties as recommended by the Tax Administrator.*

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Ronnie Hawkins spent the day at the Belwood Camperoo and reminded Commissioners that the Cleveland County Boy Scouts is working on hosting a 15 county Jamboree in the fall.

Eddie Holbrook informed Commissioners that Governor Purdue's budget did not contain the closing of the Cleveland Correctional Center. He thanked Commissioners for their hard work noting that sometimes Commissioners do not get the credit that they deserve. Commissioners adopted a resolution in support of keeping the Correctional Center open and Commissioner Accor had a discussion with the Governor regarding the effects of the closure. A joint letter was sent from local business owners and past House Representatives. "This shows a tremendous outpouring of community support."

Commissioner Boggs received a call from an employee at the Cleveland Correctional Center not long after they received word that the Center would not be closing. This employee thanked Commissioners for their support.

Mary Accor has been working on the development of the Cleveland County Youth Commission. A logo has been designed and a meeting will be held on April 23rd.

Johnny Hutchins attended the Kings Mountain Business Showcase. "Even with the economic conditions the way they are, some small businesses are still thriving." Commissioner Hutchins also introduced Jason Falls as the new Chair of the Cleveland County Republican Party.

David Dear has began working on the 2009-2010 Budget. Budgets were due from Department Heads last week. A budget work session will need to be scheduled for some time in April. He also informed Commissioners that Cleveland County conducted a foreclosure sale on the Doran Property. Cleveland County now owns the property since there were not bids received.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Johnny Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Mary Accor, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to adjourn the meeting*. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for *Tuesday, April 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.* in this Commission Chamber.

*Rebecca Jo Powell Boggs, Chairwoman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

*Kerri Melton, Clerk
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*