

**Cleveland County Board of Commissioners**  
**September 16th, 2014:**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Office.

**PRESENT:** Jason Falls, Chairman  
Eddie Holbrook, Vice-Chairman  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
Susan Allen, Commissioner  
Jeff Richardson, County Manager  
Bob Yelton, County Attorney  
Henry Earle, County Clerk  
April Crofts, Deputy Clerk  
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director  
Chris Greene, Tax Administrator  
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director  
Brian Epley, Finance Director  
Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director  
Greg Traywick, County Extension Director  
Stephen Bishop, Soil and Water Conservation Administrator  
Randy McDaniel, Soil Supervisor

**ABSENT:** Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Falls called the meeting to order. Henry Earle, County Clerk, 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:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Allen, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adopt the agenda as presented by the County Clerk.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

The following residents spoke in opposition to the proposed casino project:

Beuford Burton: 322 Margrace Road Kings Mountain  
Tim Stalcup: 145-1 Hicks Road, Grover  
Sheila Leonard: 46 Sangler Church Road Kings Mountain  
Steve Taylor: 2207 David Baptist Church Road Kings Mountain  
Adam Forcade: Casino-1005 Serenity Woods, Bessemer City  
Karen Clarke: Casino- 35 Dreary Lane Shelby

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins 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 July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 work session and September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 regular meeting were presented and approved as written.

**TAX ADMINISTRATION-**August Collection Reports-The Tax Collector provided Commissioners with the following detailed written report regarding taxes collected during August 2014. By the end of August the county had collected 52.99% of annual taxes to be collected.

**Tax Assessor- Abatements and Supplements:** The tax Assessor provided Commissioners with a detailed written report regarding tax abatements and supplements for the month of August 2014. The monthly grand total of abatements was listed as \$19,262.74 and the monthly grand total of tax supplements was listed as \$3,094.94.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT #008**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.444.4.357.02	Sheriff/Detention	\$ 2020.00	
010.444.5.581.00	Sheriff/Detention	\$ 2020.00	

*Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget social security administration funds received for the purchase of books to be given to fifth grade students in Cleveland County.*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: BUDGET AMENDMENT #009**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department/Account Name</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
010.442.4.991.00	Soil Conservation	\$ 18,200.00	
010.442.5.910.00	Soil Conservation	\$ 18,200.00	

*Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget Federal forfeiture funds to paint doors white on new fleet vehicles.*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

**Proclamation Honoring September as Cleveland County Preparedness Month:**

Chairman Falls asked the clerk to read the following proclamation:

## Cleveland County Preparedness Month

**WHEREAS**, last year North Carolina experienced 10 tornados, 81 hail storms, 150 flood events and 464 severe thunderstorms; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Hugo, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Floyd and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tropical Storms Frances and Ivan; and

**WHEREAS**, every community, business, family and individual in Cleveland County must be ready year-round for natural and man-made disasters that may disrupt normal daily activity; and

**WHEREAS**, all Cleveland County citizens can take a few simple steps-making a family disaster plan, creating an emergency supply kit and staying informed-to help make preparedness and personal responsibility a priority in their community; and

**WHEREAS**, residents are encouraged to help the elderly and those who cannot help themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, residents are encouraged to include the safety of their pets and/or livestock in their emergency plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC Department of Public Safety and the US Department of Homeland Security have agreed to recognize September as National Preparedness Month to raise awareness among residents about the importance of being equipped and prepared.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaims September 2014, as "**Cleveland County Preparedness Month**" and commend its observance by citizens in Cleveland County.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014.**

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Jason Falls, Chairman

Chairman Falls introduced Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director for Cleveland County. Mr. Davis spoke on the various disasters and emergencies that have befallen Cleveland County in the past and the need for being individually prepared, as well as being prepared on a county level, for such events. Mr. Davis showed a video from ReadyNC.gov on being

personally prepared for an emergency. After Mr. Davis finished the Commissioners praised the work of local Emergency Management staff and then took a photo with Mr. Davis.

**Proclamation Honoring October as Cleveland County Agriculture Month**

Chairman Falls asked the clerk to read the following proclamation:

Number 06-2014

**Cleveland County Agriculture Month**

**WHEREAS**, agriculture, the production of crops and livestock for food and fiber, contributes not only food for the table and clothes for the body, but over \$96 million to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Cleveland County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the state in production of fruits and berries, 14<sup>th</sup> in head of cattle, 17<sup>th</sup> in number of broilers produced, and 19<sup>th</sup> in tons of hay harvested; and

**WHEREAS**, Cleveland County, once the state's leaders in cotton production, continues to plant over 1,400 acres of cotton, 2,100 acres of corn, 6,600 acres of wheat, and 13,500 acres of soybeans; and

**WHEREAS**, land in farms totals 116,651 acres throughout the county and farmers are the stewards of our soil, water, air, and natural resources, upon which the livelihood of future generations depend; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of local farms and local farmer's markets not only keeps money within the county, but also fosters a sense of community pride; and

**WHEREAS**, like baseball and bluegrass, agriculture is part of our county's heritage and can and should be a celebrated part of its future; and

**WHEREAS**, though the work of farmers is absolutely essential to our everyday lives, it often goes unnoticed.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaims October 2014, as "**Cleveland County Agriculture Month**" and encourages all citizens to join them in recognizing the impact that agriculture has on the citizens of Cleveland County.

**ADOPTED THIS THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014.**

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Jason Falls, Chairman

Chairman Falls then recognized Greg Traywick, County Extension Director. Mr. Traywick thanked the board for their acknowledgement of agriculture and spoke to the commitment that farmers have and the work that they do. The Commissioners then spoke of the impact that agriculture has on our local economy and on the lives of Cleveland County citizens.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**PARTNERSHIP WITH KINGS MOUNTAIN FOR PLAYGROUND FOR**

**PERSON WITH DISABILITIES** Chairman Falls presented a partnership proposal with the City of Kings Mountain on an addition to the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park. Chairman Falls mentioned that Kings Mountain was the municipality that expressed interest in a partnership with the county. Cleveland County will be responsible for covering the cost of the equipment and its installation at \$80,998. Kings Mountain has agreed to provide the property, site preparation, provide fencing and maintenance.

**ACTION:** The motion to partner with Kings Mountain was made by Commissioner Hutchins, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook and unanimously approved.

**LOAN APPROVAL FOR THE WACO VOLUNTEER FIRE**

**DEPARTMENT** Chairman Falls called Brian Epley, Cleveland County Finance Director. Mr. Epley stated that Waco Volunteer Fire Department is asking for approval to get a tax exempt loan. The clerk, with the Board's

approval, needs to sign a form, acknowledging their tax-exempt status. Mr. Epley said he spoke with the bank and they said the county was in no way responsible for the loan if the fire department could not pay.

**ACTION:** The motion to have the clerk sign the form acknowledging the Waco Fire Department's tax exempt status was made by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Holbrook. The motion was then unanimously approved.

**LEGISLATIVE GOALS DISCUSSION** Chairman Falls opened up the discussion on annual legislative goals to be sent from the Commissioners to Raleigh. The commissioners agreed on the following legislative goals to be sent to the state:

1. Increased support of state and local Veteran's Service Offices
2. Restoring funding to State Aid to Public Libraries to the pre-2011 level of \$15.7 million.
3. Direct state Medicaid Office to adopt medical necessity rules at time of dispatch rather than after car is rendered and to use federal methodology.
4. Call a legislative session to reinstate, refund and remove caps on the Job Development Investment Grant.
5. Extend the film and historic preservation tax credits and the Renewable Energy Tax Credits.

6. Preserve the current model of public behavioral health (LME/MCO system).

Commissioner Holbrook asked that the importance of the department of commerce be added the list. He said that the state is getting crushed and is not competitive in economic development projects. Therefore,

Commissioner Holbrook asked that a strong first paragraph be added to Cleveland County's requests highlighting the important of doing something now within the department of commerce to aid in economic development.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Holbrook made the motion to send the six requests mentioned above along with a preface about the department of commerce. It was seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously approved.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

#### **WACO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Waco Volunteer Fire Department asked to have Susan Allen and Debbie Clary appointed to the Board of Trustees.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook. It was unanimously approved.



**NUMBER THREE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUSTEE** The

Number Three Volunteer Fire Department asked to have David (Sonny) Austin appointed as a trustee following the death of Max Long.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook. It was unanimously approved.

**VETERAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

Chairman Falls nominated Greg McClendon, from the Employment Securities Commission, to serve on the Veteran's Advisory Council.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Allen. It was unanimously approved.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Allen:** Commissioner Allen implored citizens in the room to be a volunteer. She mentioned various nonprofits that she volunteers with and encouraged people to do the same.

**Commissioner Hutchins:** Commissioner Hutchins spoke on his meeting with the Kings Mountain Advisory Council and their excitement about the new playground. He also spoke about the fair and how the fair board, of which he is a member, has worked diligently to put the blemishes of the past behind them and to press on this year.

**Commissioner Holbrook:** Commissioner Holbrook congratulated Mickie Padgett on ending her year as president of the Cleveland County Chamber. He also said he met with Bill Watson, new Chamber manager. He mentioned that Cleveland County was in negotiations with a major hotel that would be placed along 74. There is a good foundation and good possibilities. He also mentioned a large project coming through and Cleveland County is one of two national finalists to land this new project. He then mentioned that state of NC has done little to nothing to help because of the department of commerce is dropping the ball. The state legislature must act and it is up to them.

**Commissioner Falls:** Chairman Falls congratulated Commissioner Holbrook on his tireless work with economic development and invited everyone to the groundbreaking ceremony Friday for the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park addition.

**ADJOURN** Commissioner Holbrook made the motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Commissioner Hutchins and unanimously approved. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers.