

Cleveland County Board of Commissioners
June 2nd, 2015:

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015 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
Ronnie Hawkins, Commissioner
Jeff Richardson, County Manager
Bob Yelton, County Attorney
Henry Earle, County Clerk
Kerri Melton, Community Services Director
Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director
Bill McCarter, Planning Director
Brian Epley, Finance Director
Chris Green, Tax Administrator
Karen Ellis, DSS Director
Dorothea Wyant, Health Director
Paul Ezell, Planning Director
Perry Davis, Emergency Management Director
Marty Gold, IT Director
Greg Traywick, Cooperative Extension Director
Joe Lord, EMS Director
Lori Poston, Communication/911 Director
Scott Bowman, Maintenance Director
Carol Wilson, Library Director
Millie Holbrook, LeGrand Center Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Falls called the meeting to order and called on County Clerk Henry Earle to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation for the meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: Chairman Falls asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and requested the addition of item 7, a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Hutchins moved that the agenda be adopted with the addition of the closed session, seconded by Commissioner Allen, and unanimously adopted by the Board.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

DARE PRESENTATION FROM PINNACLE STUDENTS: Chairman Falls turned the meeting over to Commissioner Hutchins to introduce the DARE program and to introduce Deputy James Brooks. Deputy Brooks came to the podium and discussed the DARE program and its impact at Clinical Classical Academy in Shelby. Deputy Brooks read two winning essays from Pinnacle students. The Commissioners took pictures with Deputy Brooks and presented him with certificates for the students.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

LIBERTY MOUNTAIN UPDATE: Commissioner Allen introduced Jim Champion from the Joy Performance Center to give an update on the Liberty Mountain Performance. Mr. Champion said that the Liberty Mountain performance was scheduled to begin on Friday, June 26th, 2015. He thanked the commissioners for their support of the program and looked forward to a meaningful relationship with the county as the production moved into the future.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

- Buford Burton: 322 Margrace Road, Kings Mountain- Mr. Burton spoke in opposition to the casino, asking the commissioners to rescind their support of it.

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 May 19th, 2015 regular meeting was presented and approved as written.

REGION C: A new workplace consortium agreement between Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford Counties and Isothermal was presented.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT #066

| <i>Account Number</i> | <i>Department/Account Name</i> | <i>Increase</i> | <i>Decrease</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 010.445.4.350.00 | Emergency Management | \$ 1,105.00 | |
| 010.445.5.910.30 | Emergency Management | \$ 1,105.00 | |

Explanation of Revisions: Budget grant funds received from NC Department of Public Safety for 2015 Tier II award to be used by the local emergency planning committee for a tablet.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT #067

| <i>Account Number</i> | <i>Department/Account Name</i> | <i>Increase</i> | <i>Decrease</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 010.444.4.357.02 | SHERIFF'S OFFICE | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| 010.444.5.357.00 | SHERIFF'S OFFICE | \$ 1,000.00 | |

Explanation of Revisions: Request to budget inmate social security funds for the Sheriff's Office employee appreciation cookout.

PUBLIC HEARING

2015/2016 COUNTY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Falls

turned the meeting over to the county manager, Jeff Richardson. Mr.

Richardson highlighted various points about the 2015/2016 budget, such as no tax rate increases, 15 cent funding for the schools, full 5 cent funding to fire departments and a balanced budget. The budget was based on priorities put forth by the Commissioners. Mr. Richardson highlighted county employees and department directors for their contribution.

Commissioner Hutchins asked if the 15 cents to the school could be explained for citizens. Mr. Richardson called on Brian Epley, Finance Director, who shared that the 15 cent was a pass-through tax that was collected by the county and given to the school system. Prior to the school

merger every school system had their own amount but when they consolidated it was agreed that the tax would be 15 cents.

The public hearing was opened at 6:37 p.m.

- Robert Williams: Mr. Williams stated that the sale of the hospital that resulted in 100 million dollars of tax payer money has not been returned to the citizens of this county. It has been used on pet projects like the Legrand Center, the Shooting Range, and the Earl Scruggs Center. \$750,000 in savings from DSS is not new revenue but merely a shifting of tax responsibility from the county to the state. 20% of citizens of the county are on Medicaid yet no prosecutions were being made for those who are selling foodstamps. Mr. Williams said he opposes the new budget.
- JT Scruggs: Mr. Scruggs said he supported the budget and the Commissioners and the work they are doing.
- Steve Thornburg: Dr. Thornburg is the chair of the economic development commission as well as the president of the community college. He thanked the commissioners for their continued support of the college and for investing in workforce development and economic development efforts.

The public hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins made the motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook, and unanimously approved by the Board.

REGULAR AGENDA

CLOSED SESSION: Commissioner Holbrook moved that the Commissioners go into closed session per NC general statute 143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioners then went into closed session and discussed the assistant county attorney position, with respect to

interviews, and to make the Board aware of intent to hire a candidate. **No action was taken.**

ACTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board to come back into open session.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

Commissioners chose not to give any updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Falls entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Hutchins, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved by the Board. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers.