

July 7, 2003

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, County Office Building, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC. Commissioners Kemp, Frye, Davis, Holmes, and Mason were present. Pastor Rebecca Brewer, Agape Outreach Ministries, gave the invocation, and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Special Guest

Chairman Kemp recognized and welcomed Sam Thomas from Boy Scout Troop #513, who was attending the meeting to fulfill a badge requirement.

Consent Agenda

On motion of Frye, seconded by Holmes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- *approve regular minutes of June 2, 2003, and special meeting minutes of June 3, 9, 12, 24, 2003;*
- *approve resolution adding Dean View Drive to state roads system, as follows:*
 - WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has investigated Dean View Drive in the Cedar View development; and*
 - WHEREAS, the subject street has been found to meet minimum requirements for addition.*
 - NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners that Dean View Drive in the Cedar View development be added to the Division of Highways' Secondary Road System.;*
- and*
- *reappoint Dr. Cindy Schroder, Rev. Harold Williams, Greg Patton, Pam Hill, Jonathan Sermon, Talmadge Baker, Clark Bell, Bill McCaskill, Joe Goldston, Robbie Mason, Sandy Key, Sheriff Litchard Hurley, and Sherry Tate to Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (2-yr. terms);*
- *reappoint Martha Cleek to Adult Care Home Advisory Council (3-yr. term).*

Annual Report on Adult Care and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committees

Don Heermans, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman (RLTCO)—Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, gave a report on the Randolph County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committees. Currently the Nursing Home Committee consists of 9 volunteer members and the Adult Care Home Committee consists of 12 volunteer members. These committees are responsible for working to maintain the Residents' Bill of Rights, serving as the nucleus for increased community interaction with facilities, promoting communication, education and awareness of issues affecting institutionalized elderly and assisting persons who have grievances with the home and facilitate the resolution of grievances at the local level whenever appropriate. The committees make official quarterly/annual visits to facilities in order to establish rapport with residents, families, staff and administrators, prepare quarterly reports, attend training sessions, hold regular committee meetings, forward information and accurate documentation to the RLTCO about complaints, and negotiate resolution of complaints with facility administrators. Last year the volunteers averaged 65 hours of service and traveled 300 miles per quarter.

Mr. Heermans thanked Alice Dawson, Adult Care Home Committee member, for her work, and especially for her help in replacing vacancies on the committees. He also invited the Board to a September 23rd Elder Rights Conference.

Announcement of Digital Government Award to Randolph County

Annette Crotts, Computer Services Director, announced that Randolph County has been named one of the top ten counties in the less than 150,000 population category of the nation as best practice models for showing how county leaders are using technology to transform government. The Center for Digital Government, NACo, and *Government Technology* magazine recently surveyed the nation's 3,066 counties to determine how governments are evolving in their use of Information technology to improve the overall delivery of services to their citizens. They were most impressed with our web presence and its ease of use. Randolph County will be recognized, along with the other recipients, at NACo's annual conference on July 13 in Milwaukee. Ms. Crotts recognized members of her staff as well as other department staff who take part in the County's website development. She stated that we received 1,852,356 hits on our website during the month of June.

Announcement of Ketner Award Winner

Ms. Crotts announced that Tom Wassack, Programmer/Analyst for Randolph County Computer Services, has won a \$1,000 Ralph W. Ketner Employee Productivity Award for his Mobile Mug Shot System. Mr. Wassack saw the need to provide other avenues for law enforcement to access data as they worked out in the field. His very cost effective solution was the development of a database that could be used to download information from our Linked Information for Emergencies (L.I.F.E.) files onto laptops. The laptops are then used mainly in public safety vehicles to assist officers in identifying suspects or serving warrants. The system was implemented in January 2002 and has been freely shared with other law enforcement agencies within Randolph County. An estimated 23,000 man-hours have been saved across all the agencies over a 12-month period by using this system.

Technology Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Crotts said that after the Commissioners' approval in January 2003, Randolph County began its first Technology Strategic Plan. A policy team, consisting mainly of department heads, will be providing overall management of the plan. The functional team, made up of key employees who understand their department's role in service delivery, will be identifying areas that need attention. Not only are we looking at services like tax billing, tax collections, land records management, payroll and finance, but also at document imaging, hardware standards, staff training and communications between departments and with the public. Currently, over 100 employees are working on identifying needs and possible solutions and are compiling a list of recommendations for further review by the department heads. Final recommendations will be rolled into the plan for presentation to the Board of Commissioners at the end of the calendar year.

Annual Settlement Report

Ben Chavis, Tax Administrator, submitted the collection settlement reports (real and personal property, motor vehicles, and ambulance) for FY 2002-2003, as required by G.S. 105-373. Mr. Chavis gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted specific collection criteria. The collection rate for 2002-2003 was 98.94% and he commended his collection staff for their outstanding efforts, especially during this economically challenging year. He said Medicaid and Medicare regulations are making it more difficult to collect on ambulance bills, and our collection rates are down in that area.

Mr. Chavis discussed the discount that the County offers to citizens who pay their property tax bills prior to a certain date each year and said that discontinuing this discount would save the County hundreds of thousands of dollars. He also stated that tax bills would be mailed on Friday, July 11. He mentioned that the appeal period for personal property would expire 8/11/03.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Davis, the Board unanimously accepted the following collection settlement reports for FY 2002-2003, as presented by Mr. Chavis.

Real and Personal Property Settlement Report:

Beginning Balances:		
Current Levy	52,544,032.77	
Delinquent Secured	304,561.54	
Delinquent Unsecured	641,981.56	
Total Beginning Receivables		53,490,575.87
Additions:		
Manual Discoveries, Public Utilities	1,908,837.66	
Supplemental Billing (second billing)	762,429.02	
Credits:		
Collections	53,838,155.85	
Releases	751,837.47	
Discounts	543,943.67	
Adjustments:		-52,462,670.31
Ending Balances:		
Current Secured Levy	340,340.51	
Current Unsecured Levy	237,947.59	
Delinquent Secured	58,228.45	
Delinquent Unsecured	391,389.01	
Total Ending Receivables		1,027,905.56

Motor Vehicle Settlement Report:

Billing Month	G01 ONLY	ALL DISTRICTS
Outstanding Balance:	941,871.57	1,452,211.25
Original Billing:	5,092,472.95	8,254,411.99
Interest Charged:	67,891.66	101,612.02
Total:	6,102,236.18	9,808,235.26
Taxes Collected:	4,998,639.17	7,721,485.41
Interest Collected:	67,891.66	101,612.02
Taxes Released:	115,459.51	196,188.05
Unpaid Taxes:	920,245.84	1,788,949.78
Total:	6,102,236.18	9,808,235.26

MONTH		MONTH	
JULY	97.40%	JULY	97.16%
AUGUST	96.94%	AUGUST	96.69%
SEPTEMBER	96.82%	SEPTEMBER	96.54%
OCTOBER	95.62%	OCTOBER	95.35%
NOVEMBER	94.77%	NOVEMBER	94.47%
DECEMBER	93.45%	DECEMBER	92.89%
JANUARY	93.79%	JANUARY	93.27%
FEBRUARY	91.77%	FEBRUARY	91.42%
MARCH	91.16%	MARCH	90.78%
APRIL	89.33%	APRIL	89.45%
MAY	78.02%	MAY	78.17%

Ambulance Settlement Report:

UNCOLLECTED AMBULANCE FEES		
JULY 1,2002		2,494,606.78
AMBULANCE FEES CHARGED TO TAX DEPARTMENT FOR COLLECTION		
JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30,2003	171,694.00	2,516,714.16
LEGAL FEES (GARNISHMENTS, JUDGEMENTS, ETC.)		
	285.00	2,840.00
DEBITS		
	0.00	127.84
OVERPAYMENTS & REFUNDS		
	5,429.21	16,558.34
TOTAL:	177,408.21	5,030,847.12

ALL SUMS DEPOSITED WHICH REPRESENT		
AMBULANCE FEES AND LEGAL FEES	177,493.66	1,443,111.52
RELEASES (MEDICARE, MEDICAID)	68,799.00	693,868.40
UNCOLLECTED AMBULANCE FEES	-68,884.45	2,736,321.05
CREDIT	0.00	0.00
STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS	0.00	157,546.15
TOTAL:	177,408.21	5,030,847.12

Charge to Tax Collector

Chairman Kemp read the charge to collect taxes to Ben Chavis, as follows: You are hereby authorized, empowered and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the County Assessor and in the tax receipts delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Randolph and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real and personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Animal Control Ordinance Amendments

MiMi Cooper, Public Health Director, told the Board that due to recent problems with communicable disease transmission from exotic animals to people in the Midwest United States, she is suggesting that the Randolph County Animal Control Ordinance be amended to prohibit the possession, sell or harboring of exotic mammals. Also, she would like to strengthen the ordinance to make it clear that all officers can investigate cruelty to animals and to clarify that the withholding of necessary veterinary care constitutes cruelty.

On motion of Mason, seconded by Holmes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following additions (shaded areas only) to the Randolph County Animal Control Ordinance:

Section 1. DEFINITIONS

Animal – Domestic or wild mammals capable of transmitting rabies or other communicable diseases to other animals or humans

Exotic Mammals – All mammals not native to North Carolina. No reference or regulations in this ordinance apply to exotic mammals under the control of the North Carolina Zoological Park.

Owner, Harborer, Possessor – Any person owning, keeping, having charge of, sheltering, feeding, harboring or taking care of any animal or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied or controlled by such person for more than ten days.

Person – Any individual or parent/guardian of a minor, corporation, partnership, organization, or institution recognized as a legal entity

Section 2. AGENCY AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- investigate cruelty or abuse with regards to animals

Section 3. ANIMAL CONTROL

7. Exotic Mammals

- It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell or harbor an exotic mammal or their hybrids.*
- Exotic mammals privately owned on August 4, 2003 may remain in the county, but must be registered with the Animal Control section of the Health Department.*
- Breeding or allowing the reproduction of exotic mammals as defined in this chapter is prohibited.*

Section 4. RABIES CONTROL

C. Cruelty to Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to molest, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance and shelter, cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon, deprive of

needed veterinary care or subject to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare any animal, or to aid and abet in such action.

Section 6. PENALTIES

3-C(6) Exotic Reptiles/Mammals.

Granting of Extension of Leave Without Pay

Frank Willis told the Board that on June 26, 2002, Robert Danny Keye, one of our building inspectors, was injured on the job while conducting an inspection of a residential facility and has been on Worker's Compensation leave since the accident. He has been undergoing physical and rehabilitative therapy in order to return to work. Recently, he was informed that there is a need for vision therapy in order to eliminate a problem with his equilibrium. Our personnel policy authorizes that the County Manager, upon the recommendation and request of the supervising department head, may grant a County employee leave without pay for a period not to exceed one year for several permitted reasons, one being personal injury. Approximately one year ago, Mr. Willis authorized such a request for Mr. Keye. Now, the department head has requested that Randolph County extend leave without pay for up to six months to allow Mr. Keye the opportunity to complete the vision therapy with expectation that he will be able to return to his normal duties as a building inspector. Since the one-year period that Mr. Willis authorized a year ago will soon expire, he requested that the Board approve an extension of Mr. Keye's leave without pay through December 31, 2003.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Holmes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the extension of leave without pay for Robert Danny Keye through December 31, 2003.

Easement to Progress Energy Across Sir Robert Motel Property

Aimee Scotton, County Attorney, said that she had been contacted by Progress Energy regarding the need for a utility easement on the Sir Robert Motel property that is currently being renovated for use as an expansion of Asheboro High School. Since the County took title to this property in order to secure the funding for the expansion, it is the County that must grant this easement to Progress Energy.

On motion of Mason, seconded by Davis, the Board voted unanimously to grant an easement across the Sir Robert Motel property to Progress Energy and authorized the Chairman to sign the easement.

Increase County Travel Mileage Reimbursement

On motion of Holmes, seconded by Frye, the Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Randolph County Travel Policy to state that travel by privately-owned vehicles will be reimbursed at 364 per mile, effective July 1, 2003.

Set September Meeting Date

The Board set Tuesday, September 2, 2003, as the date for their regular September meeting.

Tower Components Economic Development Project Allocation

Melissa Foust, Existing Industry Coordinator with Randolph County Economic Development Corporation, told the Board that Tower Components, Inc. has leased their current facility on US 311 north of Randleman since 1999. They have grown from 2 to 19 employees and have outgrown their current location. The company will expand to a new 45,000 sq. ft. facility on an 11-acre site on Hwy 64 East in Ramseur by fall of 2003. They will invest \$2.5 million in the new facility and new equipment and will relocate existing equipment valued at \$1 million, thereby creating 20 new jobs. The site does not have access to public water or sewer and the Town of Ramseur has applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund water and sewer extension to the new facility

at a cost of \$160,000. Based on estimated project costs, the grant will provide \$120,000 to be matched by \$40,000 in local match funding. The Town of Ramseur has voted to allocate \$28,000 of the local match and has requested that the County provide the remaining \$12,000. In addition to the stated project costs, the cost to prepare and administer the grant is estimated at \$16,000. David Townsend, III, Randolph County Public Works Director, has agreed to perform this service for the grant allowing all state and local funding to be used for infrastructure construction, design, and engineering. He is advising the Town of Ramseur throughout the project to insure best use of resources as project manager.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Holmes, the Board voted unanimously to allocate \$12,000 from fund balance towards the requested local match for a CDBG for water and sewer infrastructure for Tower Components, Inc. and to provide \$16,000 in in-kind services for grant administration.

Note: See related Budget Amendment #2 below.

Public Hearing Date Set On the Expenditure of Public Funds on the Randleman Economic Development Property

Bonnie Renfro stated that in April 2000, the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) purchased a 48-acre site in Randleman for development as either an industrial park or as an industrial site. This purchase was financed by the EDC through a bank loan for \$762,500, with a credit line of up to \$1 million for additional development costs. At that time, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted to support this purchase by making the debt service payments on the above-referenced loan. While Randolph County is not purchasing this property outright, it is assisting the EDC in this purchase through the expenditure of County funds. The first and third debt service payments of \$25,797.90 and \$34,571.96, respectively, were made by the EDC. The second payment of \$60,189.85 was made by the County on 9/1/01. The next scheduled payment of \$29,419.79 will be made by the County on 9/1/03. NCGS158-7.1(c) states that whenever County funds are to be expended for the purposes outlined in NCGS158-7.1(b), a public hearing must first be held.

On motion of Mason, seconded by Davis, the Board voted unanimously to set a public hearing for 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2003 for the expenditure of public funds on the Randleman Economic Development Property.

Budget Amendment – Emergency Services

Jane Leonard, Deputy Finance Officer, said that Emergency Services has received a \$1,262 grant to upgrade technology in the Emergency Operations Center. This will allow the County to replace the computer operating the EM2000 software. There is no local match required.

On motion of Holmes, seconded by Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #1, as follows:

GENERAL FUND - # 1	
Revenues	Increase
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$ 1,262</i>
Appropriations	Increase
<i>Emergency Services</i>	<i>\$1,262</i>

Budget Amendment – Economic Development

See **Tower Components Economic Development Project Allocation**, above.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Mason, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #2, as follows:

GENERAL FUND - # 2	
Revenues	Increase
<i>Fund Balance Appropriated</i>	<i>\$ 12,000</i>
Appropriations	Increase
<i>Other Economic & Physical Development Appropriations</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>

At 5:45 p.m., Chairman Kemp recessed the meeting until 6:30 p.m.

Rezoning Public Hearing

At 6:30 p.m. the Board adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider rezoning requests. Hal Johnson, Planning & Zoning Director, presented the following requests, and Chairman Kemp opened the public hearing for comments on each request and closed it before taking action on each request.

1. WILLIAM B. FULTON, JR., Sophia, North Carolina, is requesting that 1 acre (out of 5.04 acres) located at 9060 Hillsville Road, Trinity Township, be rezoned from RA to HC-CU. The Conditional Use Zoning District would specifically allow the existing residence to be used for an accounting office. The Planning Board considered this request at public meeting on June 3, 2003 and recommended unanimously that this request be approved.

No one spoke during the public hearing.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of William Fulton, Jr.

2. JIMMY TROTTER, Thomasville, North Carolina, is requesting that 3.92 acres located on Carl Lee Drive, Tabernacle Township, be rezoned from RA to CVOM-CU. The Conditional Use Zoning District would specifically allow the re-division of a lot within an existing subdivision into 3 lots. The lots would allow a single-wide mobile home, double-wide mobile home, modular home, or a site-built home. A small portion of the property is located in Davidson County. The Planning Board considered this request at public meeting on June 3, 2003 and recommended unanimously that this request be denied because they were afraid that the manufactured housing would establish a pattern in this area and because no deed restrictions or covenants were included in the request.

Joe Groomes, 3252 Hannersville Rd., Lexington, spoke in opposition to the request, saying that he lives across from the site. He's afraid that if the rezoning on these lots is approved then other members of the Trotter family who own land surrounding the proposed site will eventually put mobile homes on that land as well.

Patsy Groomes, 3252 Hannersville Rd., Lexington, said that the applicant was given other options rather than single- and double-wides but wanted to keep these options. Therefore, it is obvious that he plans to put single- and double-wides there.

On motion of Davis, seconded by Mason, the Board voted unanimously to deny the request of Jimmy Trotter.

3. SDT DEVELOPMENT, LLC, Archdale, North Carolina, is requesting that 39.67 acres located on Fuller Mill Road North (just past Finch Farm Road), Tabernacle Township, be rezoned from RA to CLOE-CU. The Conditional Use Zoning District would specifically allow the development of a 40-lot cluster subdivision for site-built homes only. The Planning Board considered this request at public meeting on June 3, 2003 and recommended unanimously that this request be approved.

Stan Byrd, Stan Byrd Realtors, Archdale, spoke on behalf of the developers. He said that they are very proud of this subdivision design, especially the open space areas. He said that they were very fortunate that the lay of the land supports the design. They don't anticipate any problems with the septic systems due to very favorable soils testing.

Eric Black, 6651 Post Rd., said that he lives less than 50 yards away from the proposed subdivision. He is already having problems with run-off from the site and expects it to worsen if this land is developed. He's also concerned about the quality of the drinking water should this subdivision be approved. He said that Randolph County would see no positive impact from these new homes since the site is so close to Thomasville. The only impact Randolph County would see is a negative one due to more children in our school system.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Holmes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of SDT Development, LLC.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Phil Kemp, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye, Vice Chairman

J. Harold Holmes

Robert B. Davis

Robert O. Mason

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board