

Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2009

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 Holmes, Frye, Kemp, Haywood and Lanier were present. Capt. Dwight Ayers, Randolph County Sheriff's Department Chaplain, gave the invocation, and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Retirees

Chairman Holmes presented each of the following employees with an engraved clock in recognition of their retirement: Capt. Bobbi McDowell for 33 years of service to the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Gerri Britt for 32 years of service to the Department of Social Services, and Pamela Mattson for 25 years of service to the Public Library.

Public Comment Period

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-52.1, Chairman Holmes opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- *approve minutes of May 4, 2009 regular & special meetings, closed session minutes from May 4, 2009 special meeting and two sets closed session minutes from May 4, 2009 regular meeting;*
- *reappoint Greg Patton, Todd Henderson, Heather Ritter, Lisa Royal, Clark Bell, Talmadge Baker, Pam Hill, Jonathan Sermon and Wendy Kennon to the Randolph County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council;*
- *reappoint James Hardegree & Elbert Lassiter to Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board;*
- *appoint Mazie Fleetwood to Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee;*
- *appoint Cheryl Ivey to the PTCOG EMS Advisory Council;*
- *approve amendments to Tax Dept. Records Retention Schedule, as recommended by the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources, Archives & Records Section and the Randolph County Tax Collector;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #41 for Tax Dept. (TMA Fees and Refunds) , as follows:*

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 41		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Ad Valorem Property Taxes</i>	<i>\$133,000</i>	
<i>Sales and Services</i>	<i>\$ 57,000</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Tax</i>	<i>\$190,000</i>	

- *approve Budget Amendment #40 for General Fund Merit Expenditures, as follows:*

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 40		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Administration</i>		\$104,734
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Administration</i>	\$ 6,285	
<i>Computer Services</i>	\$ 1,735	
<i>Tax</i>	\$ 7,439	
<i>Register of Deeds</i>	\$ 2,822	
<i>Public Building</i>	\$ 1,427	
<i>Sheriff & Jail</i>	\$ 28,189	
<i>Emergency Services</i>	\$12,553	
<i>Building Inspections</i>	\$ 5,032	
<i>Planning & Zoning</i>	\$ 3,902	
<i>Public Health</i>	\$11,667	
<i>Social Services</i>	\$15,619	
<i>Public Library</i>	\$ 4,375	
<i>Soil & Water</i>	\$ 1,329	
<i>Elections</i>	\$ 1,221	
<i>Veteran Services</i>	\$ 1,031	
<i>Cooperative Extension Services</i>	\$ 108	

- approve Budget Amendment #42 for Emergency Telephone System Fund (Reimburse General Fund '07-'08), as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 42		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Appropriated Fund Balance</i>	\$60,000	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Transfer to Emergency Telephone System Fund</i>	\$60,000	

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
Emergency Telephone System Fund- Amendment # 42		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Transfer from General Fund</i>	\$60,000	
<i>Appropriated Fund Balance</i>		\$60,000

- approve Budget Amendment #43 for Emergency Telephone System Fund (Reclassify Costs to General Fund '08-'09), as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 43		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Sales and Service</i>	\$30,000	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Information Technology</i>	\$14,000	
<i>Emergency Services</i>	\$ 8,000	
<i>Planning and Zoning</i>	\$ 8,000	

- approve Budget Amendment #8 for County Schools Capital Project Ordinance, as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
Capital Project- Randolph County Schools- Amendment # 8		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
Providence Grove High School		
<i>Profession Services - Architect</i>		\$ 106,452
<i>Other Services – Testing & Surveying</i>		\$ 92,367
<i>Land Acquisition</i>	\$ 9,295	
<i>General Construction</i>	\$ 254,960	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$ 83,084	
<i>Furniture and Equipment</i>	\$589,661	
<i>Utility Construction</i>		\$ 210,060
<i>Contingency</i>		\$ 525,458
<i>Administrative Costs</i>		\$ 2,663
Wheatmore High School		
<i>Profession Services - Architect</i>	\$ 159,685	
<i>Other Services – Testing & Surveying</i>	\$ 100,000	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$50,000	
<i>General Construction</i>	\$ 300,590	
<i>Contingency</i>		\$ 610,275

- approve Budget Amendment #7 for City Schools Capital Project Ordinance, as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
Capital Project- Asheboro City Schools- Amendment # 7		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 27	
<i>Other Services</i>		\$ 128
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$125,555	
<i>Construction</i>		\$125,454

Recognition

County Manager Richard Wells introduced Judy Rhyne, Chief Information Officer, with the NC Association of County Commissioners. Ms. Rhyne has been assisting Personnel with a project recently.

Addition to Agenda

Chairman Holmes announced that *Item K. Election of Voting Delegates for NACo Annual Conference* had been added to the New Business Agenda.

Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board Annual Report

Vickie Cox, Workforce Development Board member, reviewed the July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 annual report of the Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board's Local Workforce Development Area. She highlighted the following programs: RCC JobLink Career Center, Prison Reentry Fellowship Program, Local Rapid Response Program, Dislocated Workers Program, and Building Futures Youth Center Programs.

Report on Friends of the Library Bookstore

Ms. Janet Jones, Friends of the Library Book Committee Chair, said that the Friends of the Library moved its bookstore to its new location on May 27, 2008. She said the new location is working well

and thanked Board members for their support and the County Maintenance staff for assistance with the move.

Approval of Aging Services Matters

Candie Rudzinski, Aging Services Planning Committee (ASPC) Chair, reported that the ASPC met on April 14, 2009 and approved a recommendation for the HCCBG agency allocations for FY 09-10 totaling \$724,743. However, the ASPC met again on May 19th to learn that the HCCBG allocation for Randolph County had been reduced by \$12,599. The Allocation Subcommittee of the ASPC had met previously and made a recommendation on how to dispense the reduction between the aging service providers. Their recommendation was presented and approved for the distribution of the revised HCCBG allocation totaling \$712,144. As a result, the ASPC recommends that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners approve the HCCBG County Services Summary as indicated on the Revised Form DOA-731, requesting a total of \$712,144 for FY 09-10 for Randolph County aging service providers.

Ms. Rudzinski also asked that the Board accept additional/supplemental funding, should it become available, and to allow the Aging Services Planning Committee to decide how to allocate these funds, as appropriate, according to the existing "Policy for Distribution of Aging Services Funding."

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board unanimously 1) approved the HCCBG Funding Plan, as indicated on Form DOA-731, requesting a total of \$ \$712,144 for fiscal year 2009-2010; 2) appointed the Randolph County Senior Adults Association, Inc. as the Lead Agency for fiscal year 2009-2010, as indicated on Form DOA-730; and 3) agreed to accept additional/supplemental funding, should it become available, and to allow the Aging Services Planning Committee to decide how to allocate these funds, as appropriate, according to the existing "Policy for Distribution of Aging Services Funding."

Approval of Extension of Current Solid Waste Contract with BFI

David Townsend, III, Public Works Director, stated that Randolph County is at the end of a three-year contract with BFI Waste Inc. for the operation of our transfer station, operation of the solid waste facility properties and the disposal of our solid waste received at Randolph County. This contract was originally awarded in 2006; it was a three-year contract with an option for a three-year renewal. Prior to going into the full three-year renewal, Mr. Townsend requested a three-month extension on the current contract at current prices. The reason for this three-month extension is that BFI Waste has recently merged with Republic Waste to form one large solid waste company. This merger took place within the last several months and getting a contract approved in a new corporate structure has been tedious. The three-month contract will allow the County to finalize all negotiations in order to get a firm deal that will mirror the previous contract. The one major difference would be that the solid waste will be disposed of in Troy as opposed to Charlotte, and all fees would be kept at the current rates.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Kemp, the Board unanimously voted to extend by three months the current solid waste contract with BFI with all current prices, and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract extension.

2009 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant and Future CDBG Economic Development Grant Public Hearing; Action to Set Second Scattered Site Housing Grant Public Hearing

David Townsend, III, Public Works Director, stated that Randolph County is eligible to receive \$400,000 from the State of North Carolina under the 2009 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Project, and a public hearing is required. In addition, the Department of Commerce, Community Development

Block Grant Programs, has changed the rules by allowing a County to use this public hearing as the first of two required for any possible future economic development grants and any other possible grant funding from the Commerce Department. The law requires two public hearings for every grant program, but this public hearing will serve as the first required public hearing for the entire twelve-month cycle from this date to June 2010. Mr. Townsend also requested that the Board set a second public hearing date for the 2009 Scattered Site Housing Grant.

Mr. Townsend also stated that he had just learned that the County may be eligible for as much as \$500,000 in Federal Stimulus funds for housing projects.

At 4:37 p.m., the Board adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing. Chairman Holmes asked for comments on the 2009 CDBG Scattered Site Housing project and for any future CDBG economic development projects that may be considered in the next 12 months.

Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to set the second of two required public hearings on the 2009 Scattered Site Housing Grant for July 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolution Approving 10-year Solid Waste Plan

David Townsend, III, Public Works Director, stated that the State of North Carolina has a requirement that every County in the solid waste business must update its 10-Year Solid Waste Plan every three years. Aaron Carter and Mr. Townsend have attended town meetings throughout the county presenting the proposed changes; all municipalities have approved the changes via resolution. The final step needed is County Commissioner approval.

Mr. Townsend said that the overall intent of the 10-Year Plan is to continue operations as normal. The only change in our operations will be to switch our disposal site from the Charlotte area to Uwharrie Environmental Facility in Montgomery County at Troy. We will continue to provide the same services at the transfer station that we have provided for the past twelve years to our towns and all county residents. Mr. Townsend stated the new addition of the Liberty Convenience Site, which will open in the middle of July 2009, will not significantly change operations. The tipping fees will remain the same for the fourth year in a row, and normal recycling operations will continue, as will the operations of convenience sites scattered throughout the county.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving the 10-Year Solid Waste Plan, as follows:

Whereas, better planning for solid waste will help protect public health and the environment, provide for an improved solid waste management system, better utilize resources, and control the cost of solid waste management; and

Whereas, NC General Statute 130A-309.09A (b) requires each unit of local government, either individually or in cooperation with other units of local government, to develop a 10-year comprehensive solid waste management plan; and

Whereas, NC General Statute 130A-309.09A (b) also requires this plan to be revised every three years, so the plan be a continuous 10-year comprehensive solid waste management plan; and

Whereas, the County of Randolph was represented on the original Randolph County Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee and has been involved in the new planning process.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Randolph County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Approval to Apply for Federal Stimulus Energy Funds

David Townsend, III, Public Works Director, stated that Randolph County has been notified that it is eligible for a \$578,200 grant based on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The Public Works Department attended a workshop on the grant and can file an application prior to June 25, 2009 to make the County eligible for these funds. The intent of the Public Works Department would be to review the energy effectiveness of our multiple County buildings as well as the possibility of using these funds to mine the methane gas at the Randolph County Solid Waste Facility at the closed landfill site, and to consider using solar energy on multiple buildings and/or a large solar project at the landfill.

The County's submission of the June 25 application would signify our consent to receive these funds. The County has approximately four months to detail the exact use of the federal funds. Mr. Townsend requested permission from the Board of Commissioners to apply for the grant prior to June 25, 2009.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Public Works Dept. to apply for an EPA grant via Federal Stimulus funding and to authorize the County Manager to sign the application for this and other Federal Stimulus grants.

Chairman Holmes recognized Pembroke University student Hayley Burgess, who is from Ramseur and is doing her internship with the Randolph Guide.

Approval to Accept Offer to Purchase County Property

Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney, reminded the Board that she had received a letter from Russell Lineberry on February 20, 2009 offering to buy a lot owned by the County. The lot is located adjacent to his property on Ward Street in Staley (Parcel ID# 8734824267). At its March 2009 meeting, the Board proposed to accept Mr. Lineberry's offer of \$580 for the Ward Street property.

Pursuant to NCGS 160-A-269, a notice of offer was advertised in the Courier-Tribune newspaper. No upset bids were received during the ten-day period following said advertisement.

Ms. Scotton said that if the Board votes to accept Mr. Lineberry's offer of \$580, it can authorize Ms. Scotton to draw up a deed effecting the transfer of the property, and can authorize Chairman Holmes to sign the deed. Or, the Board may vote to reject the offer, which would allow the parcel to remain the property of the County.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to accept the offer of \$580 from Russell Lineberry to purchase County property located on Ward Street in Staley (Parcel ID# 8734824267).

Election of Voting Delegates for NACo Annual Conference

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to elect Harold Holmes and Darrell Frye as voting delegates for the NACo annual conference in July, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Economic Development Project (Stickley Furniture) Public Hearing and Approval of Incentive Grant

Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County Economic Development Corporation President, said that Stickley Fine Furniture Company proposes to add a second manufacturing facility for a recently acquired line: Nichols and Stone. The project includes the purchase and retrofit of a currently leased facility at 701 Eden Terrace in Archdale. The requested assistance is for the cost of natural gas extension to the property at a cost of \$11,250. Ms. Renfro proposed that the County and the City of Archdale each offer a performance-based grant of \$5,625. The incentive specifies the creation of twenty new jobs, beginning in 2010, and that the company remains in operation in Archdale for two years following the grant payment.

At 5:05 p.m., the Board adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider an economic development incentive grant for Stickley Furniture. No one spoke.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to approve a performance-based incentive grant in the amount of \$5,625 to be used for infrastructure gas extension for Stickley Furniture Company in Archdale and to approve budget amendment #44, as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 44		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Transfer from Economic Development Reserve Development</i>	\$ 5,625	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Other Economic Development Appropriations</i>	\$ 5,625	

Presentation of Proposed FY 2009-10 Budget

Will Massie, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer, presented the proposed FY 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Massie stated that this was not really a proposed budget, since there were many issues for the Board to resolve, especially the appropriation of fund balance. He reviewed some specific problems the County faces with the 2009-10 Budget: 1) School Current Expense increased due to the new Wheatmore High School; 2) need to replace use of reserves included in 2008-09 budget for school debt service; 3) repercussions of State budget crisis passed on to Counties by actions of NC General Assembly; and 4) County revenue loss due to recession, compounded by existing appropriated fund balance. Unfortunately, due to the bad economy, we saw no growth in our property tax base from last year; new construction is very limited; personal property valuation is declining \$100 million per year due to depreciation; and some tax districts saw a decrease in valuation. Mr. Massie noted that one cent on the current property tax rate brings \$981,720. Sales tax revenues are down substantially in the current budget, and Mr. Massie has projected a 10% decrease in sales tax revenues in the proposed budget. Building Inspections fees are down 25% and Register of Deeds fees are down 29%. The tipping fee at the solid waste facility remains at \$44 per ton, but volume continues to decrease. Interest income has decreased by 44% (\$400,000) and will continue to decrease should fund balance continue to be depleted. More Medicaid swap changes are effective 10/1/09 with the loss of the last quarter-cent (Article 44) to be replaced with Article 42 point of sale tax, which will further reduce the County’s sales tax revenues.

Mr. Massie stated that the proposed budget contains no new positions, a 3% reduction in operating costs, and a 7% increase in medical costs. He said that the departments absorbed any changes to personnel costs.

Mr. Massie presented the following table on 2009-10 Debt Service obligations:

	Principal	Interest	Total
Randolph County Schools	\$ 7,703,229	\$ 4,659,786	\$ 12,363,015
Asheboro City Schools	1,249,448	481,245	1,730,693
RCC	176,412	103,536	279,948
County Buildings	837,305	408,185	1,245,490
Water Projects	<u>519,226</u>	<u>222,572</u>	<u>741,798</u>
	\$ 10,485,620	\$ 5,875,324	\$ 16,360,944

Regarding education, Mr. Massie said that County funding for public school current and capital expenses increased an average of 6.4% since 2000. A total of \$1,242,987 more is proposed for 2010, mainly due to current expense needed to open Wheatmore High School and the requirement to equalize funding between the City and County school systems. No additional funding (from FY 08-09) is proposed for RCC.

Mr. Massie reiterated funding issues to resolve for 2010: 1) Fund the increase in school current expense—\$1,242,987; 2) Substitute a recurring revenue to replace reserve funds that were used to pay for 08-09 debt service—\$981,720; 3) Replace the ADM grant eliminated by NC General Assembly—\$1,340,669; and 4) Fund State programs passed on to Counties due to State budget crisis—cost unknown at this point. Regarding Appropriated Fund Balance, \$2,489,308 was budgeted in 08-09; \$1,356,506 was added to balance the 09-10 budget; and the above new items not yet funded total \$3,565,376 for a grand total of \$7,402,279. Available fund balance as of 6/30/08 was 27% of the County budget; estimated fund balance as of 6/30/09 would be 22%; and estimated fund balance as of 6/3/10 would be 15%. Mr. Massie warned that it is recommended by the Local Government Commission and credit rating agencies that a County reserve (keep in fund balance) at least two months of operating costs at all times, about 16%.

Current Capital Improvement projects underway are 1) completion of high school projects; 2) Hwy 64 (east) water line; 3) Sheriff's Dept. Special Units building; and 4) Historic Courthouse renovation. RCC's request to renovate the building purchased from Klaussner Furniture is still pending due to funding source identification.

The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget, as presented, totals \$111,662,221, but Mr. Massie said that many tough decisions by the Board would need to be made during this budget process. He also added that since the State is proposing many changes that would affect Counties, the Board might wish to adopt an interim budget if the State has not adopted its budget by the end of June.

Recess

At 5:35 p.m. the Board recessed.

Rezoning Public Hearing

At 6:30 p.m., the Board returned to regular session and immediately adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider rezoning requests. Hal Johnson, Planning and Zoning Director, presented the following request.

1. RICHARD WILLIAMS, Asheboro, North Carolina, is requesting that 58.71 acres located on Pisgah Road (across from Pisgah Covered Bridge Road), Union Township, be rezoned from RLOE-CU to RA. Rural Growth Area. Tax ID#'s 7645264144, 7645151445, and 7645163141. The

applicant is specifically requesting the property revert to its original zoning. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on May 5, 2009 and recommended unanimously that this request be approved.

The Planning Board found the following policies within the Growth Management Plan that support determination of consistency with the adopted plan with this recommendation:

Board of Commissioner Resolution Adopting the Growth Management Plan, Policy #4. Recognize that growth management policies should afford flexibility to County boards and agencies that will enable them to adapt to the practical requirements often necessary for rural development.

Board of Commissioner Resolution Adopting the Growth Management Plan, Policy #9. Consider the costs as well as the benefits of growth management policies in order to preserve affordability for citizens' real estate and housing needs.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing for comments on the request. No one spoke.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of Richard Williams, as determined consistent with policies contained within the adopted Growth Management Plan and as outlined in the Planning Board recommendations.

Adjournment

At 6:35 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board