

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2000

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a budget work session on May 23, 2000, which was recessed from May 15, 2000, at the Citizens Center, Commissioners Room, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 5:30 PM.

Commissioners Present:

James A. Hallman, Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton, Vice-Chairman
Beth H. Saine
W. J. Waters, Jr.
John R. Gamble, Jr.

Others Present:

Stan B. Kiser, County Manager
Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Hallman reconvened the May 15, 2000 meeting.

County Manager Stan Kiser stated that on page 41 of revenues, Department 4513 Home Health, there is a line item \$1,163,876 needs to be changed to \$1,166,841. He stated that under the general fund expense, page 24, which is Mapping, the line that says Salaries Temporary needs to go back to \$20,980. He stated that on page 40, salaries temporary needs to go back to \$30,000.

Mr. Kiser stated that on page 98 in the Engineering Department, \$3000 was allotted for a computer to run the hydraulic model once it is completed. This was changed to \$5000.

Mr. Kiser stated that on page 132 Cooperative Extension, there was an entry error under Social Security. Instead of \$2287, it should be \$2430. Mr. Kiser stated that he cut the copier charges to \$3000, but Kevin Starr has requested that \$4500 be reinstated. Under office furniture, Mr. Starr had asked for \$5000 office furniture, but could get by with \$1000. There was a request for \$1000 for capital outlay data processing for computer equipment.

In the Health Department's budget, line 5212, needs to go from \$300 to \$720. In the child day care, a figure was inputted wrong. Instead of \$1,1084,430 that needs to become \$1,451,464.

Mr. Kiser stated that there have been problems with the AS400 computer system. He stated that it is doubtful that they will get payroll out on time.

John Avery stated that several weeks ago, the Board authorized offering \$3000 per acre for the property adjoining the landfill. He stated that the gentleman has come down to \$3500 per acre, from his original asking price of \$4000. He stated that this is approximately 25 acres that joins the landfill on the eastern side. Mr. Avery stated that the property will be used as a buffer for the stream, adjacent property owners, sound, dust control, etc.

Chairman Hallman asked if the money is in the budget for this property.

Mr. Avery stated that there is \$200,000 in the budget for purchase of additional property.

Commissioner Saine stated that it seems that John Avery has done his homework on this, and the gentleman has tried to meet in the middle. She stated that the difference between what was offered, and what was brought back is only \$12,500. She stated that if they don't get control of this land and protect the other property owners, it could cost way more than \$12,500.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to purchase the 25 plus or minus acres for \$3500 per acre.

Commissioner Gamble asked what expense there would be after possession is taken.

Mr. Avery stated that the property will be planted in trees, which is about \$75 to \$100 per acre. He stated that this wood can be harvested at a later date.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that he is a visitor to the Webbs Chapel Convenience Site regularly, and the design is totally backwards. He stated that the proposal of making a horseshoe or loop entrance, and Crescent is making a turn-lane and these changes would definitely make it more convenient. Commissioner Brotherton stated that Car Farm is one of the more active facilities as far as usage. With Owl's Den, it was one of the first built, and was sort of a puzzle put together. He stated that it is a bad state of repair. He stated that as the County continues to grow, people want everything more convenient to them. He suggested that the Board look at the possibility of constructing a site in the Cat Square and Pumpkin Center areas of the County. He stated that with land purchase and construction, these new sites would probably run about \$200,000 each. Commissioner Brotherton stated that he has looked over the maps, and these two areas are the ones without sites.

Commissioner Saine stated that this would be a one-time cost and will last for 20 to 30 years, without pouring more money into it.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that there may be additional staffing costs involved with handling 2 more convenience sites.

Chairman Hallman stated that with 2 more convenience sites, it will make it more convenient for citizens, but the community's growth will determine the trash.

Commissioner Gamble stated that the staff at the Convenience Sites do an extremely good job.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that the 2 convenience sites in east Lincoln County get a tremendous amount of trash from Catawba County, because Catawba County's closest one is at Terrell and they charge a fee for trash. He stated that a tremendous amount of people come to Lincoln County instead of Catawba County. He stated that this was looked at last year.

Chairman Hallman stated that he went to a meeting last week concerning Solid Waste. He stated there was the concern of having some way of controlling who dumps trash in Lincoln County. He stated that there have been all kinds of ideas thrown out concerning the best way to handle this.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Brotherton, the Board voted unanimously voted that in next fiscal year's budget, funding be included for Car Farm, Webbs Chapel, reconstructing Owl's Den site at \$150,000, and for new sites at Pumpkin Center and Cat Square for a total of \$702,000.

Stan Kiser stated that Car Farm Road and Webbs Chapel Convenience sites are in the budget at \$152,000.

Commissioner Brotherton removed Webbs Chapel and Car Farm Road Convenience Sites from his motion, with his motion having a new total of \$550,000.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Chairman Hallman called for a brief recess.

Chairman Hallman called the meeting back to order.

Commissioner Saine stated that she has been approached by the Fire Marshal about the time he puts in. He requested that the Deputy Fire Marshal position be reinstated.

Commissioner Waters stated that he feels the Fire Marshal needs clerical help worse than a Deputy Fire Marshal, because when the Fire Marshal is out of the office, there is nobody there.

Stan Kiser stated that the Fire Marshal requested a Deputy Fire Marshal, Secretarial help, or just a fairly large salary increase for himself.

A MOTION by Commissioner Gamble to hire clerical help.

Commissioner Gamble withdrew his motion.

A MOTION by Commissioner Saine to hire clerical personnel for the Fire Marshal's Department in the 2000-2001 budget and let Stan Kiser talk with the Fire Marshal about this.

**Vote: 3 – 2 AYES: Saine, Gamble, Waters
NOES: Hallman, Brotherton**

Mr. Kiser stated that the Board can just specify clerical tonight, and the Board can have copies of the various degrees or he can talk with the Fire Marshall. Mr. Kiser estimated the salary at between \$18,000 to \$20,000.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that several months ago, there was a discussion concerning the recommended salary increase for Rick McSwain in the Soil and Water, of 10%. He stated that he opposed this at the time. He stated that he has been looking at the Department Head's salaries compared to some other salaries. He stated that you can go to the Personnel Department, and you have an office clerk making \$5,000 to \$6,000 more than Department Heads. He stated that there is something wrong with this.

A MOTION by Commissioner Brotherton to approve a 10% increase for Rick McSwain and the Veteran's Service Officer.

Commissioner Gamble stated that the Veteran's Service Officer has always been a political animal and a political job. He stated that unless the motion has political implications, he is not favorably inclined to support it.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that the Soil and Water situation is a political animal also, depending on the Governor. He stated that the Veteran's Officer is political from the aspect that the Board of Commissioners have some input into the hiring of that individual, but from that point on, he is a regular County employee.

Chairman Hallman stated that Commissioner Brotherton has some validity to the increase based on how much they make relative to a high level secretary.

Commissioner Gamble made an **amendment to the motion** that both salaries be raised 2.5%.

Commissioner Brotherton stated that he still goes back to the office personnel, secretary, he stated that if you compare that salary to what these Department Heads are making, 10% won't even get them to that level.

Vote on Amendment to Motion: 1 – 4 AYES: Gamble
NOES: Hallman, Brotherton, Saine, Waters

Vote on Commissioner Brotherton's motion: 4 – 1

AYES: Hallman, Brotherton, Saine, Waters
NOES: Gamble

A MOTION by Commissioner Gamble to raise the County Commissioners' salary 10%, based on the precedence set before.

Commissioner Waters stated that he has a problem voting for his own pay increase.

Chairman Hallman stated that it is an approved procedure for the Board to set it's own salary.

Stan Kiser stated that the salaries are \$4800 per member and the Chairman receives \$6000. He stated that \$2700 would cover the increase.

Vote: 1 – 4 AYES: Gamble
NOES: Hallman, Brotherton, Saine, Waters

Commissioner Brotherton stated that the Library in town is in desperate need of carpet, which would be \$35,000 to \$40,000. He stated that the bookmobile has had 3 or 4 new engines put in it. He stated that the research he has done, it would cost around \$200,000 for a new one.

Chairman Hallman stated that he would like to be excused from discussing this, since his wife drives the bookmobile.

Commissioner Saine stated that she believes the carpet needs to upgraded.

Commissioner Gamble stated that since he paid to furnish the entrance at the back of the Library in memory of his mother, and someone else's picture is in there, he thinks someone ought to make a motion to refund his money.

Commissioner Brotherton asked if there is a plaque recognizing his mother. He stated that he would make a motion to place a plaque recognizing his mother.

A MOTION by Commissioner Brotherton to move the Jonas Portrait into the foyer facing Main Street or inside the main Library, and that the County, at the County's

expense, provide a plaque as a memorial to Dr. Gamble's mother, and for someone to get with him concerning the wording, or a likeness of Dr. Gamble's mother.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to look into the cost of carpet and if it meets judgement of the County Manager as to what a reasonable fee for the carpet is, the Board adopt that and move on, setting a dollar amount of \$40,000.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Chairman Hallman stated that he is not going to be voting on the bookmobile.

Commissioner Waters stated that the only way he could vote on the bookmobile is negatively, because he has no information on this.

Commissioner Brotherton asked if the Bookmobile is handicapped accessible.

Chairman Hallman stated that the new one would probably have to be.

Commissioner Brotherton requested that the County Manager obtain some information from the Library Director on the existing bookmobile.

Commissioner Saine stated that she serves on the Airport Authority as the Commissioner member. She stated that in recent discussion, it has been brought up that they would like the get water and sewer line to the Airport. She stated that they are currently on a well and septic tank.

Chairman Hallman stated that he feels that water is probably more important to them than sewer is.

Stan Kiser stated that he met with the County Engineer and an estimate to get water there would be around \$100,000.

Chairman Hallman requested that the County Manager get with Jeff Emory and see if the City would be willing to do their part.

Appointments:

Commissioner Saine presented the following appointments.

Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (IRB)

Hollis Henderson
Jim Warren
John Lockman
Danny Richard
Joe Avery

Reappoint

Dyra Eaker
John Black, Jr.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Saine, the Board voted unanimously to appoint and reappoint the members to the Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (IRB) Board.

Recess: **UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Waters, the Board recessed the meeting to May 24, 2000 at 5:30 PM.