

MINUTES
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met for a work session on December 7, 2000, which was recessed from December 4, 2000, at the Citizens Center, Auditorium, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present:

Jerry W. Cochrane
Beth H. Saine
Thomas R. Anderson, PE
Larry S. Craig
Dr. John R. Gamble, Jr.

Others Present:

Stan B. Kiser, County Manager
Jeffrey A. Taylor, County Attorney
Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board
Leon Harmon, Finance Director

Call to Order: Chairman Cochrane called the meeting to order.

Appointment of Board of Adjustment: Chairman Cochrane opened the floor for nominations for the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Craig presented the following recommendations to the Board of Adjustment and reviewed the qualifications of each candidate.

Harold Redmon
Dean Lutz
Harold Howard, Jr.
Robert Nixon
Larry Craig

Commissioner Craig recommended Buddy Funderburk as an Alternate, who is a member of the Planning Board and has a lot of experience.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Harold Redmon to the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Gamble stated that he does not think the Board should stack the Board of Adjustment with real estate people and he thinks a woman should be on the Board.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Dean Lutz to the Board of Adjustment.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Harold Howard, Jr. to the Board of Adjustment.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Robert Nixon to the Board of Adjustment.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Larry Craig to the Board of Adjustment.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Commissioner Craig to appoint Buddy Funderburk to the Board of Adjustment as an Alternate.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

County Attorney Jeff Taylor stated that the Board will need to give some consideration to the terms. He stated that the Board will have to specify who is being appointed to which seat. He stated that there are three terms that will expire 12/31/02 and two terms that expire 12/31/01.

Commissioner Craig asked if the Board could establish new time limits.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Board could establish new time limits, but would need to stagger those so they don't all expire at one time.

A MOTION by Commissioner Saine that Harold Redmon, Dean Lutz, Harold Howard, Jr., and Buddy Funderburk serve three year terms, and Robert Nixon and Larry Craig serve two year terms.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Anderson requested that the Clerk write letters to those not appointed to the board thanking them for being willing to serve.

Commissioner Craig stated that the Board should keep their names alive for future use as well.

Budget Work Session: The Board conducted a budget work session with Finance Director Leon Harmon.

The session included a discussion concerning the fund balance, in which Mr. Harmon stated that the auditors are almost finished and have given him a number for current year

of 10%, which is down from 16% the previous year. He stated that the big thing that affected the fund balance was when the Board designated \$3.4 million to balance the current budget. He stated that without this, it would have probably been 17% or 18% had the \$3.4 million not been budgeted. Mr. Harmon stated that the county is in good shape with some revenues for the current year, but the problem with the current year is that \$6.1 million has been budgeted from the fund balance to balance the budget. He stated that the county will be lucky to be at 8%. The Local Government Commission, in their written information, say that 8% is a good number, but last year the county was at 16.5%, and they wrote the county a letter saying the average for a county our size was roughly 20%.

County Manager Stan Kiser and Mr. Harmon reviewed the expenditures that make up the \$6.1 million.

Chairman Cochrane stated that the way he sees the fund balance is sort of like your personal savings account, you can't be spending out of it for very long or it will go away. He stated that \$6 million is a pretty big hit, and won't be available next year. He stated that the Board will not be able to spend out of the fund balance next year and will probably have to start replenishing.

Mr. Kiser reviewed the projects in the Solid Waste budget, including the upgrading to the Car Farm Convenience Site, which John Avery estimated at \$77,000, and upgrading of the Webbs Chapel at \$75,000. He stated that when the bids came in for Car Farm, there was only one bid, which was \$121,000. This is \$44,000 over what was budgeted. The Webbs Chapel Site was estimated at \$75,000, bids came in today and only one bid was received, so it will be bid again. Mr. Kiser stated that the Owl's Den Site was estimated at \$150,000, and Cat Square and Pumpkin Center at \$200,000 each. He stated that with the construction costs rising and the bids that have been received already, those will probably come in higher than estimated. He stated that the Cat Square and Pumpkin Center projects could easily be delayed until future years, and may consider delaying or changing plans for the Owl's Den Site.

Mr. Kiser stated that there was \$150,000 in the CIP for the East Lincoln Library, and he is hearing figures from \$950,000 to over a million dollars. Mr. Kiser commented that this money certainly does not have to come out of the fund balance and could be financed.

Commissioner Craig asked about the priority of the Solid Waste projects.

Mr. Kiser stated that Mr. Avery is concerned about the deterioration that is occurring at Owl's Den, and there are problems there that need to be addressed.

The Board discussed Solid Waste projects that could be delayed. Chairman Cochrane stated that he thought the feeling of the Board was that Cat Square and Pumpkin Center should definitely be postponed. He requested that John Avery look at the costs involved at the Webbs Site, if it could be deferred, and if maybe the project could be changed.

A MOTION by Commissioner Saine to delay the projects for the new facilities at Cat Square and Pumpkin Center, and to get a report and recommendation from the Solid Waste Supervisor concerning the Webbs Chapel facility. (A report will be heard before a decision will be made on the Webbs Chapel facility.)

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Brad Jewell, County Engineer, updated the Board on projects underway, including the Timken Sewer project, the East Lincoln Recreation Building, the Sludge Dewatering Facility, the Industrial Park, and the Forney Creek Wastewater Generator project.

Mr. Kiser updated the Board on the East Lincoln Library project and the EMS base project.

Commissioner Gamble asked for a list of settlements from personnel claims for the past six or eight years.

Jack Chandler, gave an update concerning the needs of the Public Works Department.

Adjourn: **UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Amy S. Long, Clerk
Board of Commissioners

Jerry W. Cochrane, Chairman
Board of Commissioners