

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JUNE 5, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Administration Building, Bakersville, NC. Those present for the meeting were Keith Masters, Chairman; Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman; Phil Byrd, Member; Mike Hensley, Member; Jim Saylor, Member; Ryan Whitson, County Manager and Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board. Also present were Lloyd Hise, County Attorney; Mavis Parsley, Finance Officer; Nathan Hall, Reporter with the Mitchell News-Journal; Michael Hall, Reporter with the Mitchell News-Journal; Steve Murphy, Reporter with WKYK/WTOE Radio Station; Carl Braswell, Lisa Sparks, Darlene Burleson, Janie Cook, Ed Reid, Jana Reid, Jean Saylor, Dr. Carroll, James Pitman, David Woody, Danny Young, Mike Young, Doug Sudduth, Stephanie Wiseman and Bud McKinney.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Masters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Commissioner Hollifield gave the invocation.
3. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to add the sale of Lot B-214 of Shootout Mountain, Certificates of Deposits and the Board of Education to the agenda. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Byrd asked that the approval of the minutes be postponed until the meeting on June 20th to allow him the opportunity to finish reading them. By consensus the Board agreed to postpone the approval of the minutes for May 8, 2006 until June 5, 2006.
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - A. **Update on Request from the Town of Bakersville** – County Manager Whitson – That is on that property, Sir, from the flood that we are trying to get FEMA approval. The Board had already approved that it be transferred to Bakersville. We are waiting on FEMA approval. We thought we were going to have it tonight, but we don't. We are still working on that.

Chairman Masters – So we don't have anything to do on that?

County Manager Whitson – Well, just like I said I just wanted to make the Board aware – I thought I was going to be able to tell you that we are ready to transfer it. But we are not. We have not got the approval back from FEMA, but we expect it shortly.

Chairman Masters – You don't see any stumbling blocks in the way.

County Manager Whitson – No, Sr.

Chairman Masters – How you all heard anything, Lisa?

Lisa Sparks – My understanding was it was to be transferred during this meeting.

Clerk to the Board Young – I talked with James Pflaum from NCEM on Thursday of last week. From that discussion we felt that we have the approval for the this meeting.

Chairman Masters – The Town has not heard anything from FEMA?

Lisa Sparks – No.

County Manager Whitson – They say they do not see any problems just paperwork.

- B. Status of Revaluation Fund** – County Manager Whitson – I had asked that Finance Officer Parsley give us a status on the monies that are put away for revaluation. I had asked the Tax Assessor to talk with everyone just to give everyone just a little oversight on the upcoming evaluation for 2009.

Commissioner Saylor – It would be good if Patrick was here when we do that, since he is going to be involved deeply in this. Would it be all right to put this off until our next meeting?

Chairman Masters – Seems like it to be logical.

Commissioner Byrd – He is on vacation this week.

Commissioner Saylor – I heard that he was gone and that was the reason he was not here tonight.

Chairman Masters – So you want to just table those two items right there. The status of the revaluation fund and the revaluation presentation until the next meeting. Can someone get word to Patrick?

County Manager Whitson – Do you want to do that on 20 June or would it be better the 26th? Probably the 26th would be better.

Clerk to the Board Young – The July meeting.

Chairman Masters – Let' s set it up for the July meeting. It is more a regular meeting.

- C. Revaluation** - Postponed until the July meeting.

- D. Sale of Lot B-214 on Shootout Mountain to Charles and Darlene Crawford** – County Manager Whitson – It is just a piece of property that was advertised on February 16, 2005 that the county owns as a result of taxes not being paid on it. I think this is the first interest that anybody has shown it. I spoke with Brian Garland and Terry Jones. Terry Jones went out and looked at it.

Commissioner Byrd – If this has been advertised since February of 05, lets get it back on the tax rolls.

Commissioner Byrd moved to sale Lot B-214 on Shootout Mountain to Charles and Darlene Crawford. Commissioner Hollifield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- E. Certificates of Deposit** – Finance Officer Parsley – If you will remember last time we talked about when these came due at the end of May to renew them for a short period of time to get us through the end of the fiscal year and the reports that have to go the Local Government Commission. But to have these funds available because some of this money will be needed for the new budget. So I have renewed them to come due July 14th. I think the restriction was have them come due the end of June or by July 15th. The 14th on Friday was a good day, I went out and shopped rates and you will see that the best rate I got was at Carolina First. We were able to get a rate of 5.37% with a yield of 5.52%. So they will earn about \$31,000.00 between now and July 14th. I would like to request on July 14th, if the Board will pull that restriction on the short term. Now that we have the new budget in place, I can do the cash flow and see what we are going to need for July and then could probably reinvest part of this money to come due in December when we are going to make the schools payment. We could go ahead and invest that money until then. If it is ok with the Board I would like to go ahead in July go ahead and reinvest part of this money for four or six months.

County Manager Whitson – I agree with her on that. We need to be able to do it for longer than thirty days.

Commissioner Saylor moved to allow Finance Officer Parsley to reinvest the money for a longer period of time. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- F. Mitchell County Board of Education** – Danny Young – The Carpentry Department at the Career Technical Educational Program at Mitchell High has built a house. The Board of Education would like to sell the house with the proceeds going back into the CTE Program as required by law. It also requires the Board of Education to give the County the first offer to purchase any real property that it sells. The house is a single family dwelling with thirteen hundred square feet. I am here to see if you guys are interested at all in purchasing the house. If so I will give you additional information or gather additional information for you. If not the Board of Education will go through the proper procedures to sell the property.

Chairman Masters – How much land does this sit on?

Danny Young – To tell you the truth, I don' t know.

Chairman Masters – Anybody on the Board interested in purchasing the property.

Commissioner Byrd – I don' t see why we would need it.

Commissioner Hollifield – I don' t think so either.

Commissioner Saylor moved to inform the Board of Education that the Board of Commissioners was not interested in purchasing the property. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS - None

7. RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ORDINANCES - None

8. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS - None

9. **APPOINTMENTS** – Chairman Masters – The only thing I have is that Lester Jenkins has resigned from the High County Workforce Development Board. He is pretty heavily involved in the addition that is going on at Unimin.

10. **RELEASES/REFUNDS**

A. **Releases/Refunds for Board Approval** – Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the Releases/Refunds for Board Approval (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. **Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval** – A copy of the Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes.

11. **COUNTY MANAGER' S REPORT**– County Manager Whitson - I only have two items, Sir. Each of you should have a copy of a letter I just received today about lunch time or a little after from Toe River Health District just asking again to be funded in the amount of \$275,000 for the fiscal year. I had heard I would be getting such a letter but I thought it was going to talk more about what the other two counties were putting in, but there is no mention of that in here.

Chairman Masters – We' ve got them scheduled for \$170,000 plus \$32,000 for a 3% raise.

County Manager – Contingent upon a 3% raise. It is my understand from Yancey County' s Manager they were going to keep them at the same as last year and Avery County was not sure the last time I talked with them.

Chairman Masters – Do you know what Yancey' s is?

County Manager Whitson – 2.25, but I want to say some of that is space and not all funds.

Chairman Masters – I believe some of it may pertain to a safety officer.

County Manager Whitson – The other item is I received a letter from Patti Bowers of the Regional Library today saying that the Mitchell County Library Board was withdrawing participation in the proposed partnership with Mayland Community College on the old courthouse.

Chairman Masters – Phil you are on that Board do you have any comments about that?

Commissioner Byrd – I went on that Board very recently. This has went on so long that the Library Board can' t possibly do anything with it. Everybody is very regretful no one wants to see it happen that way. The Library Board will be more than happy to help and wish the best to who ever else wishes to participate.

County Manager Whitson – Some of the members of the committee who worked on that have been in touch with me. I am trying to set up a meeting with Dr. Owens at Mayland. I have been unsuccessful in getting a time set up for those members and her, but I am working on that. I have spoke Vinny Bonimano, Hazel Yelton and Reid Duncan and I think all three of them are very upset about this.

Chairman Masters – I am too.

12. **BOARD COMMENTS** – Commissioner Saylor – Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one thing before we go into public comment. Apparently, I have been chopped up pretty bad on some website for not paying taxes. Apparently

who ever had done that is – knew about it before I did and I would like for Darlene if she would to explain that for the record and for the people.

Tax Assessor Burleson – He was put incorrectly in present use value in agriculture instead of horticulture. So I did a discovery bill on him and he is paying his taxes now. It was the Tax Office' s fault. It wasn' t Jim' s.

Commissioner Saylor – It was listed as horticulture and I was billed as agriculture.

Tax Assessor Burleson – That is right.

Commissioner Saylor – And by the way, I went this morning and paid what I owed. If anybody – whoever is doing that website if they' ve got an ounce of decency about them will correct that on the website. Thank you Darlene.

Chairman Masters – We will want that entered into the minutes that it there was no the fault there and the situation has been taken care of.

Commissioner Byrd – I have been reading that website – Is that all that is on that? Or is there commercial property with it also?

Tax Assessor Burleson – We talked about the RV hookups and I looked at the 2001 reval and they did not pick that up. There is a zero value on it. We have that cleared up too.

Chairman Masters – I don' t know because I have not been reading the website.

Commissioner Saylor – I' ve not been on it neither. I don' t even know what it is I have just heard about it.

13. CLOSED SESSION - None

14. CITIZEN & AUDIENCE COMMENTS

A. Matters on the Printed Agenda

B. Matters not on the Printed Agenda

Janie Cook – Discussed her concerns about the Glen Ayre Community and their need for a community building.

Chairman Masters recommended that Ms. Cook meet with County Manager Whitson and Clerk to the Board Young to discuss this issue.

James Pittman – Discussed his concerns on the \$1.50 surcharge on the telephone bills for E-911.

County Manager Whitson is to research this and make a report back to the Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Keith Masters, Chairman

Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman

Phil Byrd, Member

Mike Hensley, Member

Jim Saylor, Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board