

Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2008

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, Haywood, Kemp and Lanier were present. Rev. John Auler of Spoons Chapel Christian Church, Asheboro, gave the invocation and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition

Chairman Holmes recognized George Kivett, who is retiring with 25 years of service with Randolph County Emergency Services.

Public Comment Period

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- *approve minutes of regular meeting of August 4, 2008, two special meetings on August 12, 2008 and unseal closed session minutes of 5/5/08, 6/2/08, 6/9/08, 6/16/08, and 7/7/08 I & II;*
- *adopt 2008 Proclamation designating “Family Day—A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children” on Monday, September 22, 2008;*
- *reappoint Will Massie, Cheryl Ivey and Jane Leonard to the Randolph County Public Facilities Corporation;*
- *reappoint Mary Joan Pugh and David Caughron to the Tourism Development Authority;*
- *reappoint Carolyn Harris to the Randolph County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee;*
- *reappoint Gloria Terry to the Randolph County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee;*
- *appoint Blakely Bell to the Randolph County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council;*
- *approve Budget Amendment # 4 for Health Department, as follows:*

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND- Amendment # 4		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$ 48,500</i>	
<i>Permits & Fees</i>	<i>\$ 700</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Public Health</i>	<i>\$ 49,200</i>	

Changes to Agenda

Chairman Holmes announced that *Item J. Discussion of NC Pottery Center* would be added to the agenda.

Action on Resolution of Support of Establishment of a Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Asheboro

George Gussler, President, Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce, asked the Board to approve a resolution requesting that NCDOT allow full movement use (left turns allowed) driveway connections on US Hwy 64 (East Dixie Drive). He said that Cracker Barrel Restaurant wishes to locate a new facility at 1304 US Hwy 64, just east of the Walmart shopping center, but will do so only if left turns are allowed at the proposed location, but NCDOT will not approve the request for safety reasons.

Reuben Blakley, NCDOT Division 8 District 1 Engineer, spoke, saying that NCDOT's decision to deny the request for full movement use is based solely on safety issues and cited statistics about the high number of traffic accidents and heavy traffic volume on Dixie Drive.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to deny the resolution of support of establishment of a Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Asheboro for safety reasons.

Adoption of Proclamation Honoring Randolph County Post 45 American Legion Baseball Team as State Champions and Special Presentation

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a proclamation honoring Randolph County Post 45 American Legion Baseball Team as State champions, which follows below.

Chairman Holmes read the following proclamation and then presented the framed proclamation to Head Coach Ronnie Pugh:

***WHEREAS**, the Randolph County American Legion Post 45 Baseball Team, on Saturday, August 9, 2008, earned the title of American Legion North Carolina State Champions with a 7-4 victory over Cherryville Post 100; and*

***WHEREAS**, Post 45's players and coaches, led by Head Coach Ronnie Pugh, have demonstrated the teamwork and dedication necessary to produce a successful and winning season with an impressive record of 43-14 this year; and*

***WHEREAS**, Post 45's players and coaches have created a positive image for their peers and the citizens of Randolph County and surrounding areas; and*

***WHEREAS**, Post 45 was led by Ethan Marsh, who was named Most Valuable Player in the American Legion North Carolina State Tournament; and*

***WHEREAS**, Post 45 has exhibited athletic ability and great sportsmanship, both on and off the field, thereby bringing pride and recognition not only to the team itself, but also to Randolph County and its citizens.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners officially acknowledges the talents, skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and successes of the 2008 American Legion Post 45 Baseball Team, the 2008 American Legion North Carolina State Champions, and, on behalf of our citizens, does hereby extend this expression of our pride in this prestigious milestone.*

This 2nd day of September, 2008.

Update on Hwy. 64 Water Line Project

David Townsend, III, Public Works Director, and Bill Lester, Consulting Engineer with Hobbs Upchurch and Associates, gave an update on the Hwy. 64 water line project. Cost estimate for running a 12-inch line from the Asheboro city limits to Loflin Pond Rd. is \$2,150,000. Running the line to the same location from Ramseur would cost \$3,575,000. Mr. Townsend said that once the Board decides on the route, the County will begin negotiating with the municipality involved and an interlocal agreement will be drafted and signed. No decision was made at this meeting.

Tourism Development Authority Annual Report

Tammy O'Kelley, Director of Tourism--Tourism Development Authority (TDA), said that 2007 marked Randolph County TDA's 10-year anniversary and reported that visitor spending increased 4.1%, with \$102.7 million being spent in Randolph County. Ms. O'Kelley also reported on accomplishments and highlights from 2007, saying that the TDA began its first industry accreditation process. Key goals include the development of a five-year strategic plan that identifies and outlines specific strategies in growing, promoting, and protecting Randolph County's tourism industry. Specifically, the plan will study the impact of the new visitor centers being built in the Seagrove area, the newly passed alcohol referendum in

Asheboro, the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, and the current divided marketing and festival groups in Seagrove (pottery).

Annual Report of the Child Fatality Prevention/Community Child Protection Team (CFPT/CCPT)

MiMi Cooper, Public Health Director, gave an annual report of the combined Child Fatality Prevention Team and Community Child Protection Team in accordance with NCGS 143-576.1(a)(2). The CFPT/CCPT met every month during the past year (July 07-June 08) and reviewed 20 child deaths. The purpose of the Child Fatality Prevention Team is to review the deaths of all children to determine if system problems exist that contribute to the delay of or lack of services that might have prevented this death. In this way, services can be improved/added that will prevent problems for families in the future. There were no system problems identified during this reporting period. The purpose of the Community Child Protection Team is to review current cases selected by the DSS staff that are particularly complex or that the case worker would like a review of the services provided. The CCPT reviewed 10 cases concerning children during the past year (July 07-June 08). The CCPT also reviews any deaths to children who were in the custody of DSS at the time of death or those who had contact with the agency in the 12 months previous to the child's death. There were no deaths of children in the custody of DSS during this period and no intensive reviews.

Technology Work Plan Progress Report

Annette Crotts, Computer Services Director, gave a quarterly update on the County's Technology Work Plan Progress. She said that plans currently underway include:

1. Tax Billing & Collections Conversion (awarded in June, 2008 for \$539,529) – currently working with vendor, IIS from Durham, NC to convert County data into their format and familiarizing staff with the software using a test machine and another county's data. Plans are to bill on the new software in July 2009.
2. Central Permitting (\$200,000 allocated in 2007) – the RFP is currently being reviewed by the Purchasing Agent and Staff Attorney. Once this is complete, bids will go out for replacing PICK software that handles the Central Permitting application with bids being reviewed by 1st quarter of 2009.
3. DSS Automation (approved in January, 2008 using remaining funds from 2006 allocation, current balance is \$70,380) - still automating Social Services' units using document imaging and on-forms software. Also currently working on Services unit data and hope to complete the final DSS unit by July 1, 2009.

Jane Leonard, Deputy Finance Officer, Suzanne Tate, Public Library Director, and Darlene Hill, Health Department Accounting Specialist, gave testimonials on improved efficiency in their departments since new Financial, Payroll and Personnel software was implemented during 2006.

Approval of Standard Status for 2009-2011 Work First Biennial County Planning Process

Beth Duncan, DSS Director, said that the current biennial Work First Block Grant planning cycle began with the receipt of a June 19, 2008 letter outlining the local planning requirements. In accordance with the letter, all county Departments of Social Services must submit a Standard or Electing County designation form to the Division of Social Services prior to September 26, 2008. The decision must have the support of three-fifths of the county commissioners. The DSS Work First staff updated the Work First Plan and presented a draft to the County Planning Committee on August 22, 2008 for discussion and review. The Committee recommends that Randolph County DSS continue operating under a Standard Plan. The public comment period will be advertised for September 7-20, 2008 with the final plan due to NC Division of Social Services prior to October 31, 2008.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to remain a Standard county for the Work First Program for FY 2009-2011.

Recess

At 5:55 p.m., the Board took a short recess.

Update of Old Courthouse Renovations and Approval of Budget Amendment

Richard Wells, County Manager, reported that cleanup and renovations are underway at the old Courthouse. Due to the current slow economy, construction has slowed in the County. Rather than laying off our highly skilled and trained inspectors, the work at the Courthouse will be done by our inspectors during their “slow” times. Mr. Wells proposed that the first floor be used as office space and the courtroom on the second floor be renovated for a public meeting room.

Mr. Wells asked that revenue from the timber sales at the landfill property last year be used for initial funding for the Courthouse renovations and asked the Board to approve a budget amendment to earmark \$110,000 for this purpose. (The remaining \$3,000 from the timber sale will be used for replanting at the landfill.)

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment # 5, as follows:

2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE		
GENERAL FUND Amendment # 5		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Appropriated Fund Balance</i>	\$110,000	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Public Buildings</i>	\$110,000	

Fall Planning Retreat Date Set

On motion of Lanier, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to set the fall planning retreat for October 27, 2008, 4:00 p.m., in the Health Department conference room.

Action to Discontinue Funding Support for the NC Pottery Center (NCPC)

Commissioner Kemp reminded the other Board members that the County approved \$25,000 in the FY 08-09 Maintenance Budget for County Maintenance staff to provide grounds upkeep at the NC Pottery Center. This was done with the understanding that the NCPC planned to gift itself to the state Dept. of Cultural Resources (DCR) and for DCR to take over the Center. However, the State did not include funding for the Pottery Center in its 08-09 budget. When the State’s assistance fell through, the NCPC Board voted to close the center and allow the buildings and property to be used by RCC as its southern campus for a nominal lease amount. Then, however, some NCPC Board members decided to raise funds in hopes to keep the Center open and voted recently to nullify its previous action to lease the property to RCC, choosing rather to sell the property, should the Center have to close.

James Chriscoe, County Maintenance Director, reported that about \$5,000 in equipment and materials (plus another \$5,000 in labor costs) was spent at the NCPC last budget year and about \$1,000 (plus labor costs) so far this year. He said that he had purchased some air conditioning parts (cost: \$700) to repair a unit at the NCPC but reported that these materials could be returned for a refund.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to discontinue the upkeep of the NC Pottery Center buildings and grounds and return (for refund) the air conditioning parts purchased by our Maintenance Department to make repairs at the Pottery Center.

The Board also directed County Attorney Darren Allen to determine if the Pottery Center could be sold outright since the Center was built with primarily State funding.

Rezoning Public Hearing

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

1. **JANET JOHNSON**, Liberty, North Carolina, is requesting that 26.40 acres out of 155.00 acres located on Shady Hollow Road, Liberty Township, be rezoned from RA to RLOE-CD. Tax ID# 8715536247. Rural Growth Area. The proposed Conditional Zoning District would specifically allow the development of an 8-lot subdivision for site-built or conventional modular homes with a minimum house size of 1,200 sq. ft. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on August 5, 2008, 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 are

Policy 6.5 The protection of viable rural neighborhoods should be encouraged by compatible residential development to insure the continued existence as a major housing source and as a reflection of the long term quality of life in Randolph County.

Policy 6.23 The County should encourage the use of rural lot subdivision designs where the size of lot allows for open space and groundwater recharge areas preserved by careful siting of the principal and accessory uses as noted through subdivision plat notations and related deed restrictions.

Tom Meacham, real estate agent representing the applicant, spoke in support of the request, saying that they had tried to stay within the parameters of the County's requests. There will be only site-built and off-frame modular homes in the subdivision.

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

2. **CHARLES APPLE**, Asheboro, North Carolina, is requesting that 25.65 acres located on Brantley Gordon Road (across from Valley Farm Road), Concord Township, be rezoned from RA to RLOE-CD. Tax ID# 6688889130. Rural Growth Area. The proposed Conditional Zoning District would specifically allow the development of a 5-lot subdivision for site-built homes with a minimum house size of 1,400 sq. ft. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on August 5, 2008, 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 are:

Policy 6.5 The protection of viable rural neighborhoods should be encouraged by compatible residential development to insure the continued existence as a major housing source and as a reflection of the long term quality of life in Randolph County.

Policy 6.23 The County should encourage the use of rural lot subdivision designs where the size of lot allows for open space and groundwater recharge areas preserved by careful siting of the principal and accessory uses as noted through subdivision plat notations and related deed restrictions.

No one spoke.

On motion of Lanier, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of Charles Apple, as determined consistent with policies contained within the adopted Growth Management Plan and outlined in the Planning Board recommendation.

Adjournment

At 6:42 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