

MINUTES

January 28, 2003

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, 7:00 P.M., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Governmental Center, Lexington, for two public hearings and a regularly scheduled meeting.

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Fred Sink, Vice Chair Priscilla Hege, Cindy Akins, Billy Joe Kepley, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser, and Sam Watford

County Manager Robert Hyatt, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Stephen Holton, Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Interim Human Resource Director Carol Black, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Lynn Meeks of Social Services, Emergency Services Director Del Welch, Davidson County Economic Development Executive Director Steve Googe and Chairman Tommy Hedrick, Thomasville Schools Superintendent Dr. Daniel Cockman, Dixon Odom CPA Randy Brodd, Aurora Plastics General Manager Larry Mefford, Ben Ross of Davidson Vision, Charlie Sink of High Rock Lake Property Owners

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Sink called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

B. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Hege

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. RECOGNITION

Chairman Sink recognized Executive Director Steve Googe and Chairman Tommy Hedrick of Davidson County Economic Development Commission, and Lynn Meeks of Social Services.

Chairman Sink, assisted by Lynn Meeks and Del Welch, presented awards in honor of years of service to three retiring county employees: Sheila Koonts, 30 years with Social Services; Kenneth Cook, 21 years with EMS; and James Robbins, 31 years with EMS.

E. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS

Chairman Sink noted the register for public address.

F. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the agenda with additions as follows:

Add - I.13. Rural Center Grant Agreement – Phase I (Pilot Community County Sewer District)

I.14. Reschedule Joint Elected officials Dinner

I.15. Appointment to Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee for Davidson
County Day Reporting Center

I.16. Convention Potential/Tourism

Closed Session for Attorney/Client and Economic Development (Exhibit 1)

G. PUBLIC ADDRESS

Allen Hutton and Jim Everhart delivered a request from the Concerned Bikers Association for placement of a proclamation on the agenda for February 11, 2003 to proclaim May 2003 as Motorcycle Awareness Month.

The Board acknowledged the request and agreed to place the proclamation on the agenda for February 11, 2003.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing on Economic Incentive Grant for Aurora Plastics, Inc.

Steve Googe, Executive Director of Davidson County Economic Development, stated the purpose of the public hearing and noted the proposed \$4,000,000 investment in the Welcome Business Park by Aurora Plastics. Mr. Googe stated the County's proposed appropriation and expenditure of County funds for a cash incentive grant in the amount of \$17,500 for a new rail spur to the site and cash incentive of \$5,250 per year for five years. Mr. Googe then introduced Larry Mefford, General Manager of Aurora Plastics.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to open the public hearing to receive public comment and information.

Tommy Hedrick spoke in support of the Economic Incentive Grant to Aurora Plastics and noted that the company is a first-class business going to a first-class business park.

Larry Mefford, General Manager of Aurora Plastics, spoke in support of the expansion of Aurora Plastics into the Welcome Business Park and also the incentive grant. Mr. Mefford answered inquiries concerning the length of the rail spur (600 feet) and the total cost (\$120,000.00).

Ben Ross, President of Davidson Vision spoke in support of the incentive grant and noted the benefits of having the company in the area.

Barney Hill spoke in opposition and referred to NCGS 158-7.1. Mr. Hill noted three items that he felt the board should have: (1) a document showing who made the initial contact, (2) a contract, (3) a simple written statement saying if the investment would have occurred without the incentive. Mr. Hill stated his opposition to the rail spur and noted that he favored the five payments of \$5,250 per year for five years.

Commissioner Walser stated that there is a need for the County to attract industry and that the Davidson County Economic Development Commission and staff are first-class.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Kepley the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the appropriation and expenditure of County funds for a cash incentive grant in the amount of \$17,500 for a new rail spur to the Aurora Plastics site and the incentive of \$5,250 per year for five years, and allow the Chairman to enter into the contract with Aurora Plastics. (Exhibit 2)

2. Public Hearing on Economic Incentive Grant for Childress Properties, LLC

Steve Googe, Executive Director of Davidson County Economic Development, addressed the Board and stated the proposal for the County's appropriation and expenditure of funds, not to exceed \$24,000, for extension of a sewer line to the Childress Property to accommodate a winery to be constructed on the property.

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to open the public hearing to receive information and public comment on the County's proposed appropriation and expenditure of funds for an economic incentive grant for the Childress Properties, LLC.

Tommy Hedrick spoke in favor of the grant and noted the potential for tourist attraction and expansion to other attractions in the area.

Ben Ross spoke in favor of the grant and alluded to the diversification of businesses that could follow as the market is created by the winery, mentioning hotels, restaurants, and various other types of stores and businesses.

Barney Hill opposed the appropriation of funds. He asked why sewer is needed for a vineyard, why in such a hurry, and would this happen without the \$24,000 incentive?

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Walser inquired if the City of Lexington would be participating.

Steve Googe replied that Lexington has agreed to participate and supply the other half (\$24,000) of funding for the sewer. Mr. Googe continued emphasizing the draw of the winery for tourists and noted that an amphitheater has been proposed also.

Commissioner Kepley stated that he had received calls from tobacco growers who are interested in using their farmland for vineyards.

Commissioner Truell commended Commissioner Kepley for his efforts and the strides made for tourism.

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the appropriation and expenditure of funds, not to exceed \$24,000, for extension of a sewer line to the Childress Property to accommodate a winery to be constructed on the property and allow the Chairman to enter into the agreement with Childress. (Exhibit 3)

I. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Akins requested the removal of I.2. Budget Amendments from the Consent Agenda in order to discuss specifically the Public Buildings line item transfer of \$10,150 from Utilities to Capital Outlay for 7 street lights for the Library and County Building in Thomasville and then consider all under deliberation.

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On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted 6-1 to approve the consent agenda consisting of I.1.,I.3., and I.4; Commissioner Kepley voted “No.”

1. Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes of November 7, 2002 Planning and Zoning Public Hearing and the Minutes of January 14, 2003 Board of Commissioners’ Meeting.

3. Street Additions to NC Secondary Roads System by Guy Cornman, Planning and Zoning Director

The Board adopted a resolution SR-2 Form supporting the additions of North Silver Street in Silver Acres in Emmons Township, Stacey Street Extension in Fullerdale Subdivision in the Thomasville Township, Hill Street in Midway Township, and Hunt Road Extension in the Cotton Grove Township to the North Carolina Secondary Roads System for maintenance. (Exhibit 4)

4. Reclassifications by Carol Black, Interim Human Resources Director

The Board approved the reclassification of a Social Worker III (grade 67) position to a Social Worker III Supervisor (grade 71) position and the reclassification of a Data Processing Administrator position (grade 64) to a Data Processing Administrator II (grade 69). (Exhibit 5)

Deliberation

2. Budget Amendments

Commissioner Akins expressed her concern for using money for decorative lights, a possible cost increase in utility bills, and noted the money could be used for other things and services.

On a motion by Commissioner Watford and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted 6-1 to approve the budget amendments; Commissioner Akins voted “No.”

Sheriff – Line item transfer of \$1,200 from Regular Salaries for Telephone line item for \$400 to purchase a new phone for the CTO Officer, Internal Telephone line item for \$400 to cover monthly charge and long distance, and Departmental supplies for \$400 to cover software upgrades for CTO Officer.

Sheriff – Receive \$324.98 in medical co-payments

Sheriff – Accept \$1,639.33 in commissary funds

Register of Deeds – Receive appropriation of \$35,027 in State Mandated Preservation/Technology

Funds

Social Services – Accept \$19,008 additional Crisis money from NC Dept. of Health and Human Services

Public Buildings – Line item transfer of \$10,150 from Utilities to Capital Outlay for 7 street lights for Library and County Building in Thomasville. (Exhibit 6)

5. Resolution to Request a Parade Permit for an Easter Parade in Welcome, North Carolina by Judy Butler

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the Resolution to Request a Parade Permit for an Easter Parade in Welcome, North Carolina and submit it to NCDOT. (Exhibit 7)

6. Resolution in Support of Actions to Stabilize the Water Level of High Rock Lake

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the Resolution in Support of Actions to Stabilize the Water Level of High Rock Lake.

Charlie Sink requested that the Commissioners and County Attorney continue to be involved in the relicensing of High Rock Lake and make an appointment for representation from the County.

(Exhibit 8)

7. Thomasville City Schools Request for Construction Funding by Dr. Daniel Cockman, Superintendent of Thomasville City Schools

The Board received a request for construction funding for proposed renovations and additions to Thomasville City Schools from Dr. Daniel Cockman. The Chairman noted that the request would be taken into consideration in discussion at the March 14th and 15th retreat. (Exhibit 9)

8. Designation of Applicant's Agent by Jane Kiker, Finance Director

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt a resolution for the designation of Jane Kiker as an agent to apply for disaster assistance for the Winter Storm of December 4-6, 2002. (Exhibit 10)

9. Davidson County Financial Statements/Presentation of Audit Report by Randy Brodd of Dixon Odom, PLLC

Randy Brodd presented the Audit Report and Financial Statements for Davidson County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002 and responded to inquiries from the Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Kepley and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002. (Exhibit 11)

10. Renewal of Property Lease by Dwayne Childress, Purchasing Director

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Walser the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the renewal of the property lease with Dr. H.L. Kwan for the County's part of Probation and Parole offices at \$2,600.00 monthly or \$31,200.00 annually. (Exhibit 12)

11. Construction Contract Extension by Dwayne Childress, Purchasing Director

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the extension of the construction period at the Davidson County Landfill of Phase 1-Area2-Cell 2 Expansion. (Exhibit 13)

12. Resolution of Intent to Reimburse by Jane Kiker, Finance Director

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Akins the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Reimburse in connection with the construction of the new East Davidson elementary school. (Exhibit 14)

RECESS THE MEETING

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to recess the meeting.

13. RECONVENE MEETING OF THE PILOT COMMUNITY COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to reconvene the meeting of the Pilot Community County Sewer District.

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Phase I Unsewered Communities Program Agreement (Rural Center Grant

Agreement) that covers work on the project including design, easement acquisition, permit approvals and bidding of the project. (Exhibit 15)

ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE PILOT COMMUNITY COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn the meeting of the Pilot Community County Sewer District.

RECONVENE DAVIDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

On a motion by Commissioner Akins and a second by Commissioner Watford the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to reconvene the Davidson County Board of Commissioners' Meeting

14. Reschedule Joint Elected Officials Dinner by Vice Chair Hege

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to reschedule the Joint Elected Officials Dinner for Thursday, February 20, 2003 at Yarborough's Restaurant at 6:00 P.M. (Exhibit 16)

15. Appointment to Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee for the Davidson County Day Reporting Center by Commissioner Walser

On a motion by Commissioner Walser and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to appoint Henry Mitchum to the Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee for the Davidson County Day Reporting Center. (Exhibit 17)

16. Convention Potential/Tourism by Commissioner Kepley

Commissioner Kepley apprised the Board of the interest in Davidson County to host a dog show and possibly use the Davidson County Fairgrounds on a weekend in April. Commissioner Kepley requested permission from the Board to get Davidson County Tourism involved and make contacts with the municipalities.

On a motion by Commissioner Walser and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to support the concept and move forward.

J. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel, Real Estate, Economic Development, and Attorney/Client

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Closed Session for matters of personnel, real estate, economic development, and attorney/client.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Vice Chair Hege and a second by Commissioner Truell the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to return to open session.

County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Stephen Holton reported discussion of personnel, real estate, economic development, and attorney/client with no action taken.

K. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Truell and a second by Vice Chair Hege the Board voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman

Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Stephen C. Holton, Clerk to the Board

Davidson County Board of Commissioners