

# LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF LEE, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 2, 2007

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The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners present were Robert H. Brown, James C. Kelly, Jerry M. Lemmond, Nathan E. Paschal, Robert T. Reives, Linda A. Shook, and Amy L. Stevens.

Chairman Brown presided and the following business was transacted:

County Attorney K. R. Hoyle delivered the invocation.

Chairman Brown led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Marc Clark from the Employee Selection Committee introduced Mr. Scott Brummond, Computing Support Technician II with the Department of Social Services as the *April 2007 Employee of the Month*. Chairman Brown presented Mr. Brummond with his awards which include a day off with pay, a *Star Award*, a framed certificate, a pizza, compliments of Papa John's Pizza, Coca Cola products from Sanford Coca Cola Bottling Company, and a movie rental from the Movie Gallery.

With no additions to the agenda, Commissioner Paschal moved to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Lemmond moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, which consisted of the following items:

- Minutes of the March 19, 2007 regular meeting;
- Acceptance of a \$500 donation to the Parks and Recreation Department from the Kiwanis Club of Sanford;
- Proclamation for *National Volunteer Week* (copy attached);
- Resolution honoring Tax Listing Manager Mary Yow (copy attached);
- Request for DOT to conduct a traffic study on Nicholson Road;
- Approval of Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action FY 2007-08 Community Services Block Grant Program;
- Proclamation for N.C. Department of Transportation Spring *LITTER SWEEP* roadside cleanup (copy attached);
- Acceptance of donated amateur radio equipment for the Emergency Management Office valued at \$4,500;
- Annual Consolidated Agreement between the Lee County Health Department and the State Division of Health Services;
- Approval for the Health Department to increase standard fee for DOT physical exams in the Primary Care Program from \$35 to \$75; and
- Resolution in memory of former Commissioner Dr. John Dotterer (copy attached)

Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
 Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

At this time the Board conducted a public hearing that had been advertised for this date and time for public comments in reference to an economic development project with Wyeth for the extension of utilities and other site preparation on property owned by it in the Lee County Industrial Park for the construction of an administrative building containing at least 180,000 square feet, with an initial taxable value of at least \$50,000,000.00. Mr. Bob Heuts, Director of the Economic Development Corporation discussed the project and stated the proposed new facility would result in the retention and creation of a substantial number of jobs in Lee County and would further the economic development of the County, would provide gainful employment, and be in the best interests of the people of Lee County. Mr. Heuts further stated that \$911,858.00 is being requested from the County for the cost of the project.

Chairman Brown opened the public hearing.

Mr. Bob Heuts, representing the Lee County Economic Development Corporation stated he was in favor of the proposed project.

Mr. John Daniel, Chairman of the Lee County Economic Development Corporation spoke in favor of the proposed project.

Mr. Kirk Smith, 3108 Avents Ferry Road, Sanford, spoke in opposition to the proposed project. Mr. Smith stated it was not the County's responsibility to support businesses and the Commissioners did not need to give taxpayers money away.

Chairman Brown closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Reives moved to approve a *Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds for an Economic Development Project and Approving an Agreement with the Lee County Economic Development Corporation*, a copy of which is attached, and by this reference made a part hereof. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Stevens  
Nay: Shook

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted by a six to one vote.

No one present signed up to speak during the *Public Comments* section of the meeting.

The Board heard a presentation from Mr. Frank Thompson, Vice-Chairman of the Lee County Board of Education in reference to their FY 2007-08 budget request. No figure requests were presented; however, Mr. Thompson addressed the following issues and concerns:

- Lee County ranks 37 out of 115 school units in the County appropriation per pupil amount. Lee County's per pupil appropriation is \$1,333 compared with the state average of \$1,477;
- Fines and Forfeitures are running well below receipts as compared to the same time last year. This potential revenue shortfall is of concern for the current year's budget;
- Salaries are estimated to increase between 5-8% and retirement contributions by 1%;
- Anticipated 15% increase in health insurance costs;
- Required to hire two additional School Resource Officers as part of a grant received from the Department of Justice;
- Teacher turnover rate is 18% as compared to a state average of 12.58%;
- Recent lose of staff in the finance department who went to neighboring counties for more money;

- Curriculum changes mandated by DPI, along with the changing student population, require the hiring of additional staff;
- Anticipated increase in audit fees and Worker's Compensation Insurance;
- Estimated 5% increase in utility charges;
- Funding to expand telephone system as additional mobile units are added;
- Increased bandwidth needed for an enhanced student information management system;
- Replacement of network switches at the two middle schools and co-ax cabling at Lee County High School;
- Update of hardware and software for the mainframe that houses accounts payable, payroll, child nutrition, federal budgets, SIMS and personnel files;
- Capital Outlay issues addressed include additional mobile units for Deep River and J. R. Ingram Schools;
- HVAC projects at three of the schools to enhance energy efficiency and conservation;
- New roof needed for the new gym at Lee County High School;
- Old gym needs to be stabilized and renovated;
- Science building at Lee County High School needs to be demolished;
- Need mobile building with seven classrooms and restroom facilities in anticipation of the restoration project at Lee County High School;
- Parking lot improvements at six locations;
- Continue lock replacement projects at two of the school facilities; and
- Provide walkway canopies at two schools

Mr. Thompson stated the Board of Education is scheduled to approve their final budget requests at their April 3, 2007 meeting, and will forward a more detailed budget request to the County by Wednesday, April 4, 2007. No action was taken.

Mr. Johnnie Edmondson, Tax Consultant gave the Board a report on the 2007 Revaluation Project. Mr. Edmondson stated staff were evaluating and reviewing approximately 30,500 parcels at this time. All neighborhoods are being reviewed to make sure they are in compliance with all records. At this time, approximately 80% of the work has been completed. Notices should go out to the property owners around April 12-13, 2007. A "Notice" will also be placed in the local newspaper advising citizens that notices are being mailed and other needed information. Mr. Edmondson stated the Tax Office is still short-staffed at this time; however, applications are being taken for those vacancies. Staff from other departments will assist Tax Office staff with answering questions and scheduling appointments once notices are mailed. The Board of Equalization and Review will begin meeting in early May. No action was taken.

The Board considered an agreement for jail health services from Southern Health Partners, Inc. County Attorney K. R. Hoyle told the Board that on February 19, 2007, the Commissioners heard a presentation from Sheriff's Department staff in reference to jail health services with Southern Health Partners, Inc. A question was raised in reference to the 40% discount Central Carolina Hospital currently gives Lee County for medical services provided for inmates and whether the same discount would be offered to Southern Health Partners. The agreement currently states Lee County will pay Southern Health Partners an annual base price of \$169,800, with monthly installments during the initial term of \$14,150 per month. It is proposed for the agreement to be effective May 1, 2007, renewable on an annual basis. Mr. Hoyle stated a meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2007, with Southern Health to hopefully finalize some of the questions and concerns referenced in the agreement. After much discussion, Commissioner Stevens moved to table discussion until the April 16, 2006 meeting. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board considered a joint resolution with the Town of Broadway Commissioners, City of Sanford City Council, Sanford Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Lee County Economic Development Corporation for the 2009-2016 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) projects for Lee County. Economic Development Director Bob Heuts presented the resolution. After some discussion, Commissioner Lemmond moved to approve the resolution as presented with the following additions:

1. Re-route traffic on Kelly Drive in front of the Central Carolina Community College to exit on Nash Street between the Dennis Wicker Civic Center and Magneti Marelli USA; and
2. Repave Cotton Road (SR 1403)

Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Interim County Manager Lisa Minter presented a letter and by-laws from the City of Sanford in reference to a 911 Communications Committee that was established in January 2005. City Manager Leonard Barefoot had stated to Ms.

Minter that he was not interested in forming a 911 Advisory Board with Lee County. The question in reference to establishing a 911 Advisory Board came about at the annual Commissioners Retreat held in February 2007. At the March meeting, Ms. Minter was instructed to bring back to the Commissioners a proposed list of individuals to serve on said committee. IT Director Ryan Draughn, Emergency Management Director Eric Griffin and the new Fire Marshal will be members of the 911 Communications Committee established by the City of Sanford. After some discussion, Commissioner Lemmond moved not to appoint a County 911 Advisory Board at this time. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Ms. Minter presented a list of recommended names to serve on the Lee County Facility Planning Committee, as directed at the March 19, 2007 meeting. The Committee will bring recommendations to the Commissioners for building needs for County facilities as addressed in the space needs study completed by Mullins-Sherman Architects. After some discussion, Commissioner Lemmond moved to approve the following individuals to serve on Lee County Facility Planning Committee:

- Commissioner Ed Paschal
- Commissioner Linda Shook
- Assistant County Manager Kenny Cole
- Social Services Director Brenda Potts
- Mark Revels, Local Realtor and
- John Daniel, Local Appraiser

Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: Reives

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Lemmond moved to go into closed session to establish negotiations of the amount of compensation of an employment contract per N. C. General Statute § 143-318.11 (a) (5). Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

At this time the Board took a ten-minute recess.

Upon returning from recess, the meeting (closed session) resumed in the Small Conference Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. All Commissioners were in attendance in addition to County Attorney K. R. Hoyle and Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee.

After completing business in closed session, the meeting resumed in the Commissioners' Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina. All Commissioners were in attendance.

Commissioner Paschal moved to approve an agreement between Lee County and Interim County Manager Lisa Minter for a 30% pay increase (from \$71,631 to \$93,120) effective March 15, 2007, a copy of which is attached to these minutes and by this reference made a part hereof. The agreement will be in place until a new County Manager is hired. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Shook moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens  
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned in keeping with the motion.

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Robert H. Brown, Chairman  
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk