

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**AUGUST 24, 2009**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

Johnny Myrl Lunsford  
Jimmy B. Clayton  
Kyle W. Puryear  
B. Ray Jeffers  
Samuel R. Kennington

Heidi York, County Manager  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in recessed session on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Lunsford called the meeting to order.

**CONSIDERATION FOR AN ADDITIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER  
FOR PERSON HIGH SCHOOL:**

County Manager, Heidi York told the Board that Dr. Cartner of Person County Schools has requested to place an third school resource officer at Person High School for 2009-2010, with a ten month salary funded by the school district.

Mr. Gordon Powell, Chairman of the Board of Education, on behalf of Dr. Cartner, explained safety and education were the primary concerns noting Person High School is a 42-acre complex, 230,000 square feet of building, huge assembly areas in the school, cafeteria with approximately 400 seats, gymnasiums that will hold 950 children at one time, large parking lots, one hall that is one-quarter mile in length. Mr. Powell stated in March, 2009, the schools contracted with the Sheriff's Office to place a third resource officer at Person High School for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and were pleased with the additional coverage of a very large facility. Mr. Powell confirmed the intent for the school district to continue to fund this 10-month salary for an additional school resource officer.

Sheriff Dewey Jones stated in addition to the ten month salary funded by the school district at \$46,567.10 that \$15,603.02 is requested to be funded by Person County to cover two months salary at \$9,513.02, and equipment and training at \$6,090. Sheriff Jones noted the Sheriff's Department currently has a used patrol car that could be used for this position. Sheriff Jones stated there were no funds in the Sheriff Department budget to dedicate to this new position.

Commissioner Kennington inquired about 10-month contracts for school resource officers. Sheriff Jones responded that in-service training takes place when school is out of session, school response plans are prepared during the summer break, and other duties are assigned, i.e., GREAT camps for youth, serving papers, fill in on shifts. The school resource officers are sworn officers and work 42 hours a week. Sheriff Jones stated that there are currently four resource officers deployed in Person County Schools, one at each

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middle school and two at Person High School plus one DARE officer. Historically, the county has funded three of those school resource officers plus the one DARE officer and the school district has funded one ten-month salary with funds from the state budget allotment specifically for the high school. Sheriff Jones noted there are approximately 1,600 students enrolled at Person High School and the amount of incidents had decreased with an additional school resource officer that was in place part-time during the spring semester last year.

Commissioner Kennington asked if the City had any part of funding for the school resource officers. The Sheriff confirmed the county has always had the responsibility.

Commissioner Puryear asked about an average daily incident report at Person High School. The Sheriff noted quarterly meetings occur with the Sheriff Department staff and Person County Schools' staff to discuss the incidents. In the Sheriff's opinion there is a need for an additional school resource officer at the high school.

Sheriff Jones stated if a favorable vote, a part-time staff would be in place at the open of school until a full time staffing was hired.

The County Manager, Heidi York offered two possible funding options for the county portion of an additional school resource officer. 1) Undesignated Contingency Fund and 2) Fund Balance, both of which the County Manager noted were typically funds to be used on an one-time need versus an on-going indicating this funding would need to be included in the budget for next year. Ms. York's recommendation was to use the undesignated contingency fund noting there was a balance of \$50,000 in that fund account presently.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Kennington, **seconded** by Commissioner Puryear, provided no teachers are being laid off because of lack of funds, to accept the request for an additional school resource officer for Person High School and to fund \$15,603.02 to cover two months salary at \$9,513.02, and equipment and training at \$6,090 as a supplement to the Person County School funding the ten-month salary at \$46,567.10 with the county funding of \$15,603.02 funded for this fiscal year only from the account at the County Manager's recommendation.

A **substitute motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton, and **carried 3/2** to approve the request for an additional school resource officer for Person High School and to fund \$15,603.02 to cover two months salary at \$9,513.02, and equipment and training at \$6,090 as a supplement to the Person County School funding the ten-month salary at \$46,567.10 with the county funding of \$15,603.02 to be drawn from the undesignated contingency fund on a recurring basis based on the intent of Person County School's intent to continue to fund the 10-month salary on a recurring basis. Commissioners Lunsford, Clayton and Jeffers voted in support. Commissioners Kennington and Puryear voted in opposition.

**CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT THE PERSON FUTURE’S REPORT GOALS AND THE NEXT STEPS:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Kennington, **seconded** by Commissioner Puryear, and **carried 4/1** to adopt the goals and the next steps of the Person County Future’s Project including each commissioner to select the working group of choice to co-chair, select a subcommittee to work with the County Manager to solicit and select county staff and citizens co-chairs for each working group and solicit and select members of each working group and to follow through and present to the Board with a tentative Strategic Plan by March 1, 2010. Commissioner Puryear cast the dissenting vote.

Commissioners Kennington and Jeffers were designated to work with the County Manager as a subcommittee to solicit and select county staff and citizens to serve as co-chairs for each working committee as well to solicit and select members to serve on each working committee. A meeting would be scheduled following the Board meeting.

Each commissioner selected the goal and working committee of their choice:

Goal #1 Prosper by Developing the New Economy Locally	Commissioner Puryear
Goal #2 Foster a Sense of Community	Commissioner Kennington
Goal #3 Protect our Land	Commissioner Clayton
Goal #4 Encourage Learning for Life and Lifelong Learning	Chairman Lunsford
Goal #5 Re-imagine our County for a Better Future	Commissioner Jeffers

**CLOSED SESSION:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers, **seconded** by Commissioner Puryear and **carried** to have a five minute recess after which the Board would go into closed session at 10:15 a.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose of the discussing personnel.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton, seconded by Commissioner Jeffers and **carried** to return to open session at 10:45 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton, **seconded** by Commissioner Jeffers, and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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Brenda B. Reaves  
Clerk to the Board

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Johnny Myrl Lunsford  
Chairman

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