

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 21, 2008
OTHERS PRESENT

Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman
Jimmy B. Clayton, Vice-Chairman
Kyle W. Puryear -**ABSENT**
Larry H. Bowes
Larry E. Yarborough, Jr.

Heidi N. York, County Manager
C. Ronald Aycock, County Attorney
Faye T. Fuller, Clerk to the Board
Brenda B. Reaves, Deputy Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in Special Session on Friday, November, 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Lunsford called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Courthouse security issues.

County Manager Heidi York stated that at the Board meeting on Monday staff was directed to bring back proposals for security enhancements at the Courthouse. She reviewed an estimate of probable construction cost as prepared by *MHAWorks*. *MHAWorks* is the architectural firm which the county worked with originally to design the renovation work at the courthouse. She said it is the intention that any security features would not be duplicated later as the renovation moves forward. The total estimate of probable costs is \$113,000.

The Sheriff's Department also would require two additional full time Detention/Court positions and one part/time position to staff the security stations in the Courthouse. The personnel cost would be estimated at \$97,500 per year or \$48,700 for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Ms. York also presented a Resolution Declaring a Special Emergency Relating to Security in the Person County Courthouse for Board consideration. She explained that the Resolution would exempt the County from the competitive formal bidding process as this is an emergency and that time is of the essence.

Chief Deputy Al Rhew spoke to the security issues at the Courthouse. He explained the design as outlined and provided justification for the two and one-half additional positions.

County Manager York told the Board that the \$113,000 would be taken from Contingency and the \$97,500 could, as an option, be taken from Fund Balance.

Commissioner Yarborough felt that much of the work could be done using county labor and expertise. Ms. York stated that the numbers reflect materials and not necessarily labor. She further explained that the enhanced system could be fully implemented within a month.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton and **seconded** by Commissioner Bowes to adopt the Resolution Declaring a Special Emergency Relating to Security in the Person County Courthouse. The motion **carried** by a 3/1 vote. Commissioner Yarborough cast the dissenting vote.

**A Resolution Declaring a Special Emergency Relating to Security in the Person
County Courthouse**

Whereas, on Monday, November 11, 2008 a citizen was killed across the street from the Person County courthouse grounds; and

Whereas, the victim in that shooting death had just departed the Courthouse where he was a defendant in a criminal trial; and

Whereas, the assailant who was carrying a firearm just outside the courthouse might have pursued the victim inside the courthouse; and

Whereas, security in the courthouse did not and does not adequately prevent the carrying of firearms into the courthouse and only minimally safeguards court personnel and citizens in the court rooms; and

Whereas, there is a need for secure exterior and inner doors as well as additional metal detectors and other security devices throughout the courthouse; and

Whereas, county officials and personnel as well as members of the general public cannot be provided adequate protection in and around the courthouse with the present antiquated security systems; and

Whereas, there is a need for immediate action to alleviate the problems and defects in the courthouse security system; and

Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners is informed and believes that the cost to remedy the situation described above will not exceed \$500,000 and that the purchase of apparatus, supplies and materials will not exceed \$90,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1-That a special emergency involving the health and safety of the people of Person County or their property exists as provided for in GS 143-129(e)(2), and

2-That Pursuant to GS 143-129(e) the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes and directs the County staff to act with haste to enter into contracts with outside vendors to remedy the emergency situation, and

3-That the normal bidding requirements of Chapter 143 article 8 of the North Carolina General Statutes need not be complied with.

This the 21st day of November, 2008.

**Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman
Faye T. Fuller, Clerk to the Board**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Yarborough, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton and **carried** to proceed with the work to provide security at the Courthouse as needed as cost effectively as possible.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Bowes, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton and **carried** to adjourn the meeting a 3:34 p.m.

Faye T. Fuller, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Chairman