

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

October 1, 2007
OTHERS PRESENT

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

Steve Carpenter, County Manager
Ronald C. Aycock, County Attorney
Faye T. Fuller, Clerk to the Board
Brenda Reaves, Deputy Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Lunsford called the meeting to order. Commissioner Clayton led in prayer and Commissioner Bowes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton and **carried** to approve the agenda as presented.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

Chairman Lunsford stated that the Board would not hear any informal comments related to the landfill due to the pending quasi-judicial public hearing to be held at a later date.

Patrick Riley – Farmer sprayed sucker control product on 5 acres of tobacco near his home. The product was a petroleum distillate. He contacted the NC Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Division, but learned there was nothing they could do as the product was applied according to label directions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Bowes and **carried** to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2007 meetings

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The following Administrative Reports were accepted by motion of Commissioner Clayton, second by Commissioner Yarborough and unanimous vote: Detention Center, Public Library, Tax administration & Collection

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR EQUESTRIAN CENTER:

Mr. Jim Stovall – Chairman of Roxboro-Person County Development Committee, Representative W. A. “Winkie” Wilkins and Glenn Petty appeared before the Board to request a Resolution of Support for the Oakland Plantation Equestrian and community

Events Center. Mr. Petty gave a power point presentation of the proposed center on property owned by Leigh Holeman Gunn and husband Tommy Gunn. Leigh Holeman Gunn, being the last of the Holeman descendants, while neither she nor her husband has any heirs, have established a non-profit to preserve the 330 historical acres and to generate revenue and jobs to sustain the property after they are deceased. The property has 2000 feet of river frontage.

Mr. Petty's study was initiated to: 1)determine the market potential for recommended usage, 2)evaluate potential rental rates, 3)estimate potential cost of operation and revenue providing a potential list of promoters and users, and 4) acquire recommendations on necessary alterations to existing facilities and new facilities that would be required to accommodate these equine and community events.

Representative Wilkins stated that an application has been made to the Golden LEAF Foundation for funding. He asked the Board to draft a Resolution of Support for the project.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton, **seconded** by Commissioner Puryear and **carried** to approve a Resolution of Support for the Oakland Plantation Equestrian and Community Events Center.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR OAKLAND PLANTATION EQUESTRIAN AND COMMUNITY EVENTS CENTER**

WHEREAS, Oakland Plantation has been continuously owned by a member of the Holeman Family since 1669 when 10,000 acres were granted to Richard Holeman by King Charles. The last Holeman descendant, Leigh Holeman Gunn and husband Tommy Gunn wish to preserve historical Oakland Plantation for future generations by establishing a non-profit to preserve this historical acreage and to generate revenue and jobs to sustain the property after they are deceased; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Plantation Equestrian & Community Events Center would attract equine and community events to the historical plantation and provide a much needed multi-purpose facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed business would be in harmony with the rural landscape of the area; and

WHEREAS, Oakland Plantation Equine Events Center would become a desirable equestrian venue for show promoters of local and regional events and provide a boost to the local tourism economy and to local businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Person County Board of Commissioners does hereby unanimously support the proposed Oakland Plantation Equestrian & Community Events Center.

(signed)
Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman
Person County Board of Commissioners

REPORT ON COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT:

Bill McCaffrey – MHA Works – appeared before the Board to report on the feasibility study of space needs in the courthouse. He said the study consisted of existing conditions and a projection of space needs for the next ten years. He explained that every department needs additional space. Mr. McCaffrey said the options for gaining added space are to expand the courthouse, use unused space and move some departments outside the courthouse. One option for unused space would be to renovate the old jail area on the top floor. This would include incorporating an 80 square foot segment of the adjoining roof, which would provide about 4,000 square feet of space. This renovated area could accommodate offices for the district attorney and judges. He estimated cost of such renovation to be \$500,000.

The feasibility study included moving the probation office and tax office out of the building. He also noted that a hearing room for the Clerk of Superior Court, a jury room for Superior Court, and secure entrances to the courthouse, as well as, handicapped accessibility are also needed.

He explained that renovations to the top floor would only address immediate needs. He asked for guidance from the Board as to where they wanted to proceed from this point.

Following a discussion which included other space needs that could be addressed at the time of the renovations, it was the **consensus of the Board** to explore other uptown buildings which have available space of possible lease. MHA Works will secure price quotes, as well as, contact business owners in the uptown area.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING NCDOT TO INSTALL WELCOME SIGNS COMMEMORATING PHS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM 2006 4-A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

The following Resolution was approved by **motion** of Commissioner Yarborough, **second** by Commissioner Puryear and **unanimous** vote.

Resolution Requesting NCDOT To Install Welcome To The City of Roxboro Signs With Additional Signs Commemorating the Person High School Rockets Varsity Volleyball Team 2006 4-A State Championship

Whereas, the Person High School Rockets Varsity Volleyball Team ended the season with an impressive record of 28-1 season; and

Whereas, on October 31, 2006 the Person High School Rockets Varsity Volleyball Team won the 4-A East region title after defeating Wilmington Hoggard, and Chapel Hill to advance to the 4-A State title finals in a re-match with Charlotte Providence.

Whereas, on November 4, 2006, the Person High School Rockets Varsity Volleyball Team competed in the State Championship in Reynolds Coliseum, Raleigh, North Carolina, finishing as 4-A State Champions; and

Whereas, the Person High Rockets a team of student athletes displaying spirit and unmatched winning determination in their quest for the title will long set an outstanding example for the rising youth of Roxboro and Person County.

Whereas, the City of Roxboro desires to install new *Welcome to Roxboro* signs including the slogan "Progress is Our Business" with additional signs to be installed for a maximum of three (3) years commemorating the Person High School 2006 State 4A Volleyball Championship on NCDOT highways at the City limits.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Roxboro and the Roxboro City Council desires to install new welcome signs and to honor the Person High School Rockets Varsity Volleyball Team for its outstanding accomplishments by installing new signs on NCDOT roads commemorating this accomplishment at the following City limit locations:

- NC 501 North and South
- NC 158 East and West
- NC 49 North and South
- NC 57 East
- NC 157 North

Adopted on this 1st day of October, 2007.

(signed) Steven G. Joyner, Mayor, City of Roxboro
Johnny Myrl Lunsford, Chairman, Person County Board of Commissioners

DISCUSSION OF RUNNING DOGS FOR DEER HUNTING:

Chris Barwick, appeared before the Board to ask that the Board make it illegal to run dogs for deer hunting in the more populated areas of the county such as Allensville, Chub Lake and Timberlake. He said running dogs is a great hazard to the public right of ways. He suggested that zoning might make it illegal to run dogs, releasing or retrieving dogs on the right of way in certain parts of the county.

Commissioner Yarborough said Person County has no local law to protect the rights of property owners. He said he would like to hear from law enforcement to determine if there is a need for more regulations to assist them to control issues.

Commissioner Bowes said he would not support stopping running dogs for deer hunting. Hunting areas are getting smaller as clubs lease land on which to hunt. Landowners are leasing land for hunting. He said he was not aware of any public outcry on the matter.

Chairman Lunsford agreed that he would like to hear from law enforcement to determine if they have any problems with hunters. He told Mr. Barwick that the Board would take the matter under advisement.

County Manager Carpenter reminded the Board that a new law would require a special act of the Legislature. This would also require a public hearing; therefore the public would be aware of any change in the law.

APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PERSON COUNTY AND ROXBORO FLORIST, INC.:

County Manager Carpenter informed the Board that no comments or inquires had been made to his office relative to the proposed Lease Agreement with Roxboro Florist. He recommended that approval of the lease agreement be delayed until all signatures were acquired.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Lunsford told the Board that no Commissioner is under any obligation to sign a Conflict of Interest statement as requested by PCPride or any group. He reminded board members that when each one took their Oath of Office, it was a sworn statement that would commit each one to the laws of the State of North Carolina.

County Attorney Aycock said in G.S. 153, Commissioners are required to recuse themselves from voting on matters involving their own financial interest or official conduct. That member must announce disclose the interest. He said there are some legalist questions about the wording of the proposed Conflict of Interest Statement. He said there were broad statements as to what the member would be certifying to if such a statement was signed.

He told Board members they have no requirement to sign the Conflict of Interest Statement.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

► Animal Control Advisory meeting held today – Animal Control Ordinance to be rewritten and brought to board next meeting.

Shelter will be opening extended hours – 9:00 a.m.-12 noon on Saturdays, and 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays on a trial basis for six months beginning begin November 1st.

Visioning and goals process – November 13 – discuss operation of Animal Shelter – meet at 6:00 p.m. – discuss goals - Discussion from APS to have volunteers at shelter on Saturdays

MOTION:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Clayton to expand the membership of the Animal Control Advisory Committee and to authorize the advertisement for four (4) additional positions. The applicants would be interviewed if more than four applications are received. The motion **carried** unanimously.

► Strategic Planning – October 25, 2007 - Auditorium

► October 3, 2007 - Progress Energy demonstration for public safety personnel regarding live electric lines

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Yarborough questioned if a Commissioner comment period could be added to the agenda directly after the Informal Comments.

Commissioner Puryear questioned if the Rules of Procedure could be changed at any time during the year. He also addressed the need for a second to a motion for a Board of only five members.

Commissioner Clayton congratulated Glen Newsome, EDC Director on his designation as Economic Developer of the Year for Region K.

Commissioner Puryear said Mr. Sam Martin, a Deacon at Calvary Baptist Church, had contacted him about an unpaved intersection near the church and the problem they experience with dirt settling on church from traffic. He said he had contacted NCDOT and Rep. W. A. Wilkins about paving a small portion, approximately 200 feet of the intersection to accommodate church.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton, **seconded** by Commissioner Bowes and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Faye T. Fuller, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Johnny Myrl Lunsford
Chairman