

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 27, 1997

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Kaplan Auditorium of the Henderson County Public Library.

Those present were: Chairman Bob Eklund, Vice-Chair Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Vollie G. Good, Commissioner Renee Kumor, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David E. Nicholson, and DSS (Department of Social Services) Director Liston Smith.

Also present were the following members of the Social Services Board: Brigadier General Frank Blazey, Grace Poli, William Lapsley, and John Drill.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Social Services Board to discuss welfare reform, specifically whether to become an electing county or a standard county.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Eklund called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

WELFARE REFORM/Electing County v. Standard County

Frank Blazey, DSS Board Chairman, reviewed the issues associated with the two choices that faced the Board of Commissioners before October 31, 1997 (electing or standard options). Some of the general guidelines included developing a county plan and manageable goals for welfare roll reduction. He informed the Commissioners that this would affect only 11 of 125 employees of the Social Services Department and \$680,000 of county dollars. He stated that the Workfirst Program had reduced the number of clients by 24% over the past four years. However, food stamps had a 10% increase and Medicaid a 35% increase in clients.

Bill Lapsley, DSS Board Vice-Chair, reviewed the Commissioners' new responsibilities under this act. He also informed the Board that five other Western North Carolina counties had chosen to request to become an electing county.

Liston Smith reviewed several welfare reform projects that the DSS Board and the County Commissioners had already undertaken such as the LAN Project, Single Application and JobLink.

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There was discussion with questions and answers.

It was the recommendation of the DSS Board that Henderson County remain a standard county. Standard county leaves more involvement with the state whereas electing county gives more involvement to the local government (county commissioners).

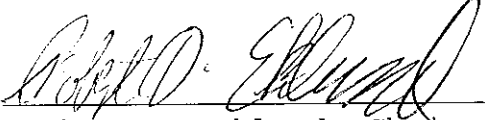
Following discussion, Commissioner Good made the motion that Henderson County remain a standard county, based on the DSS Board's recommendation. A vote was taken and the motion failed two to three with Commissioners Hawkins, Ward and Eklund voting nay.

Commissioner Ward then made the motion that Henderson County request to be an electing county. A vote was taken and the motion passed three to two with Commissioners Kumor and Good voting nay.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

  
Robert D. Eklund, Chairman