

**MINUTES**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 12, 1995

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the County Office Building. The purpose of the meeting was a Public Hearing on the FY 1995-1996 Budget with a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)/Budget Work Session to follow.

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David F. Thompson, Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Members of the media were present as well as 45-50 in the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

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

**PRESENTATION OF AWARD**

Chairman Kumor presented a certificate to Commissioner Eklund for his leadership and participation in the Mayor's Cup Raft Race Sunday, June 11. The certificate read "Let it be known to all present that Bob Eklund has been named Commander of the French Broad River Fleet of the Henderson County Navy, this 12th day of June, 1995." The certificate had been signed by Chairman Kumor and Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good.

Commissioner Eklund saw that Henderson County had no entry into the Mayor's Raft Race and took it upon himself to organize a crew to represent Henderson County. The crew consisted of: Commissioner Eklund, Chairman Kumor, Bill Byrnes, Tim Hopkin, Chris Rigling and his wife. Standing on the shore cheering them on was our own Vollie G. Good, Vice-Chairman. The Henderson County crew came in fifth place out of ten.

Commissioner Eklund and the crew received a round of applause.

**PUBLIC HEARING - FY 1995-1996 Budget**

Commissioner Edney made the motion to go into Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Input**

1. Roger Conklin - Mr. Conklin spoke on behalf of Crime\$toppers. He provided statistics to show that Crime\$toppers does work. In their fund request this year they have requested one half-time person as

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a coordinator. Crime\$toppers has made some significant changes in their by-laws just recently.

2. Tom Mueller - Mr. Mueller also spoke on behalf of Crime\$toppers. He gave some examples of how Crime\$toppers has saved Henderson County money.

3. Marcia Caserio - Mrs. Caserio spoke on behalf of the Community Foundation of Henderson County in favor of a Community Cultural Center. On February 16, 1995, the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra (HSO) and the Four Seasons Arts Council (FSAC) exercised an Option to Purchase a tract of land from the City of Hendersonville. The tract is located on Grove Street adjoining the Henderson County Courthouse property. The sole allowed use of the property is for a site for the proposed Community Cultural Center. The 1 and 1/2 City Block tract is optioned at \$300,000, which is far below its true market value.

The HSO and the FSAC formally appointed a small committee and charged it with the task of proceeding towards the goal of building a Community Cultural Center. The first main objective is to acquire the money necessary to exercise the Option to Purchase the proposed site location on Grove Street.

The Henderson County Commission was requested to allocate \$150,000 in the 1995-1996 budget for the purchase of the "Option" on the Grove Street property. The purchase price remains at \$300,000, with the restricted use of a community cultural center/auditorium. The Commission was requested to plan to allocate additional monies in the future to complete the purchase. The "Option" contains a provision that if the land is not used for a community cultural center, the City will repurchase the land at full purchase price.

Marcia Caserio recognized others in the audience that were here in support of the Community Cultural Center, members of the HSO and the FSAC.

4. R.E. Harmon - Mr. Harmon spoke in favor of the Community Cultural Center and the proposal presented by Mrs. Caserio. Mr. Harmon informed the Board that they have received \$530,000 in endowments toward the Cultural Center project. Mr. Harmon is President of the Community Foundation. At their last meeting, the Community Foundation voted unanimously to support and recommend to the Board of Commissioners the proposal made by Marcia Caserio.

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5. Bryan Alecksich - Mr. Alecksich spoke for concern of the school budget. He stated that nearly \$60 million will flow into the Henderson County Public School system from all sources during the coming fiscal year. Mr. Alecksich favored decreasing class size to 15 in elementary school and hiring of 10-15 more elementary school teachers.

6. Ruby McClung - Ms. McClung is a teacher at Mills River Elementary School. She spoke of a need for a reading specialist at Mills River School and asked the Board of Commissioners to reconsider their funding for schools in this budget.

7. Tom Orr - Mr. Orr is current Chairman of the Board of Public Education. He stated that the School Board based their budget requests on a questionnaire that was sent out to parents who wanted certain programs and were willing to pay for those programs. From the questionnaire came eight specific goals or things that the community requested (four of which he named):

1. reduction in class size
2. getting resources to the classroom level
3. improved technology and training
4. improved communication

He spoke specifically for additional teachers at the elementary school level, including reading specialists. He also spoke in favor of elimination of combination classrooms.

8. Charles Palmer - Mr. Palmer spoke as a concerned citizen and interested parent. He stated that we must take an expanded role in public education. He requested these items as the bare minimum:

1. 4% increase per pupil = \$935.00 each.
2. budget for additional 352 students expected this year.
3. 4% increase in capital outlay budget.

Mr. Palmer's request would be a total increase of \$40,000. This would require increasing the budget by \$747,440 or about 8% of last year's local funding just to maintain our current spending level relative to the number of students that we will have and adjusting for inflation.

This would not allow for any improvements. Mr. Palmer stated that our school needs are far more extensive than just keeping up. He questioned whether it was really worth cutting back on the needs of our schools just so we can enjoy the second lowest tax rate of the surrounding counties. He requested the Board to error on the side

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of education rather than tax rate cuts.

9. Gray Stallworth - Mr. Stallworth spoke on behalf of the Henderson County YMCA. He requested the Board's support of their capital campaign for their expansion (addition of 8,000 square feet). They are currently in a fund raising campaign to raise \$1.2 million. All but \$50,000 of their goal has been raised. Mr. Stallworth asked the Board to give consideration to their request when deliberating on the budget.

10. Russ Bachart - Mr. Bachart is a member of the Downtown Hendersonville Inc. (DHI) Board. He stated that the DHI is vital to a healthy downtown. He requested that the Board continue to fund DHI. Mr. Bachart recognized several in the audience who were also present in support of his request.

11. Noel Watts - Mr. Watts spoke on behalf of Something Special. He requested funding in the amount of \$100,000. Funds would be used to provide vocational training and job placement services. Mr. Watts shared statistics with the Board.

Tom Orr - Mr. Orr wanted it stated in the record that Dr. Dan Lunsford was not in attendance due to a death in his family. Dr. Lunsford will likely be present during the remainder of the discussions regarding the education budget.

**RECESS** - Chairman Kumor called a 10 minute break.

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) WORK SESSION**

The Commissioners listened to a presentation by Staff Attorney, Angela Skerrett. Ms. Skerrett introduced a process to develop Board priorities in capital projects. She presented a time line for designing the process.

Commissioner Edney made the motion to adopt the purpose and value of a CIP. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Angela Skerrett continued with an example of how the process would work. At the next meeting to discuss the CIP process, Commissioners hope to begin to develop absolute and evaluative criteria.

#### **PURPOSE AND VALUE OF A CIP**

The purpose and value of a Capital Improvements Program is to

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create a fiscal planning tool that lists capital expenditure requirements, places requirements in order of priority, and schedules them for funding and implementation. The five year forecast period encompassed in a CIP means that capital requirements are seen ahead of actual need and this together with the yearly repetition of the CIP process means that capital requests are submitted to several stages of annual review before the time comes for final approval and funding.

A CIP will give Henderson County a tool or approach that, if exercised skillfully and with good judgement, will help us to (1) select projects where the need is most pressing; (2) eliminate projects that are favored by one or more particular groups in the community but have a low overall priority; and (3) prevent projects from being undertaken either too soon, causing unnecessary carrying costs, or too late, after the need for the project is already on us.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION - FY 1995-1996**

The Commissioners reviewed the revenues portion of the Manager's proposed budget:

- Tax Land Sales
- Taxes: Ad Valorem
- Intangibles Tax
- Local Options Sales Tax
- ABC Revenues
- Beer and Wine Licenses
- Franchise Fees
- Motor Vehicle Tax Collections
- Indirect Charges
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes
- Register of Deeds
- Tax Collector - Refunds
- Court Facilities Fees
- Board of Elections
- Sheriff Department
- Jail Revenues
- Emergency Management Revenues
- Inspections & Planning
- Ambulance
- Health Misc.
- State Revenues - Health Department
- Various Grants - Health
- Federal Grants - Health

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Project Revenues - Health  
Refunds - D.S.S.  
DSS - Miscellaneous Revenues  
Federal Block Grant - DSS  
In-Home Revenues - D.S.S.  
Program Revenues - D.S.S.  
Staff Costs - D.S.S.  
Federal Programs - D.S.S.  
Various Fees & Other - DSS  
State Refund - Veteran's Services  
State Revenues - Youth Programs  
Library Revenues  
Recreation Department  
Transfer from Other Funds  
Interest Earned  
Rents and Concessions  
Sale of County Properties  
Miscellaneous Revenues  
Refunds to County  
Fire Training Ground  
Fund Balance Appropriated

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

  
Renee Kumor, Chairman