

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENE

The Greene County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Greene County Office Complex. Present for the meeting were Chairman Bennie Heath, Vice-Chair Jesse Tyndall and Commissioners Jack Edmondson, Denny Garner and James Shackelford. County Manager Don Davenport and County Attorney E.B. Borden Parker were also present.

The Chairman called the meeting to order, Commissioner Garner gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge to the Flag.

On motion by Commissioner Edmondson, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

On motion by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Garner the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda which included the following:

**June 29, 2007 Recessed Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes**

REFUNDS

Susan Davis Thompson	\$79.36
Susan Davis Thompson	\$81.91

The Chairman opened the Informal Public Comments section.

Being there were no comments the Chairman closed the Informal Public Comments section.

Chairman Heath opened the Public Hearing for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) funds.

Mr. Mike Lovett, Greene County Transportation Director presented information regarding the Rural Operating Assistance Program funds. Mr. Lovett also reviewed the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance program, Employment Transportation Assistance Program and the Rural General Public Program. Mr. Lovett noted that he will be asking for the formula funds and approximately \$4,000 from the Rural Public monies.

There were no public comments and the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Heath opened the Public Hearing for the conveyance of 3.18 acres of land to Townsend Ridge Properties, LLC.

Mr. Chris Roberson, Assistant County Manager presented information regarding the two outparcels located west of 429 Kingold Boulevard. Townsend Ridge Properties, LLC has offered the County \$242,000 for these parcels and will develop these lots commercially as required by the Town of Snow Hill zoning regulations.

There were no public comments and the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Davenport, County Manager stated that contractor for the Recreation Park is currently storing top soil on these parcels and asked if this could be made as a condition to the sale.

Mr. Bradley Gillam, McDavid Associates also noted that the construction entrance is located there as well.

County Attorney Borden Parker stated that the County could hold off closing on the property until the end of the year in order to allow these issues to work out. He would be willing to talk with the potential buyer regarding this.

Mr. Parker stated that he could state as a selling condition that the County/contractor being able to use the parcels for storage of topsoil and construction entrance. If this is not satisfactory with the potential owner, then he could return to the Board and pursue the conveyance of the property at that time.

On motion by Commissioner Shackleford, seconded by Commissioner Edmondson the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Attorney to state as a selling condition that the County/contractor being able to use the parcels for storage of topsoil and construction entrance.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing regarding the lease with the Town of Snow Hill for a Skateboard Park.

Mr. Davenport reviewed the information regarding the lease of the old tennis courts located beside the Greene County Senior Center to the Town of Snow Hill for a period of 25 years beginning July 16, 2007 for \$1.00 per year.

There were no public comments and the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Edmondson stated that the Senior Center Director is concerned about having the skateboard park located next to the Senior Center.

On motion by Commissioner Shackleford, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall the Board voted unanimously to lease the old tennis courts located beside the Greene County Senior Center to the Town of Snow Hill for a period of 25 years beginning July 16, 2007 for \$1.00 per year for the purpose of a Skateboard Park.

Mr. Davenport presented information regarding the Cemetery Board.

Chairman Heath noted that two applications are from the same household and feels that should only be one individual from a given household.

Commissioner Shackleford asked about the duties of the Board.

Attorney Borden Parker noted that state statutes says the County Commissioners are responsible for looking after abandoned cemeteries.

Mr. Davenport reviewed the duties of the Board.

The Chairman called the names and votes were as follows:

Mike Edge – Edmondson, Garner, Heath, Shackelford and Tyndall

Louis Dail – Edmondson, Garner, Heath, Shackelford and Tyndall

Linda Ivey – Edmondson, Garner, Heath and Tyndall

Ken Creech – Edmondson, Garner, Heath, Shackelford and Tyndall

Amy Ivey – none

Sara Sparks – none

Doris Jones – Edmondson, Heath, Shackelford and Tyndall

Michelle Giles – Garner and Shackelford

On motion by Commissioner Edmondson, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall the Board voted to appoint the following individuals to the Cemetery Board:

Mike Edge, Louis Dail, Linda Ivey, Ken Creech and Doris Jones

Mr. Davenport gave an update on the 2007-8 budget.

Mr. Davenport advised that the Medicaid Bill would swap part of the sales tax for all of the Medicaid over a 3-4 year basis beginning October, 2007. The State would also take back some of the sales tax revenue next year. The bill has passed two readings and is scheduled for one more. Still waiting to see if it will pass the House.

Based upon discussions, additional budget cuts and savings on insurances, the budget is balanced without a tax increase and includes adding back in the step increases.

Commissioner Edmondson expressed concern over there not being a cost of living raise included for employees.

Mr. Davenport presented a letter from the Town of Snow Hill nominating Allison Thomas to serve on the Greene County Economic Development Commission in the slot vacated by Robert Masters.

On motion by Commissioner Edmondson, seconded by Commissioner Garner the Board voted unanimously to appoint Allison Thomas to the Greene County Economic Development Commission in the slot vacated by Robert Masters.

Mr. Davenport presented two applications for the Greene County Library Board. No action required at this meeting.

Mr. Davenport stated that in June 2004 and 2006, the Board of Commissioners authorized the County Manager to issue two hours of bonus leave to County employees who volunteer at least two hours at the County sponsored blood drive. The scheduled County sponsored blood drive was held on June 25, 2007.

On motion by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Edmondson the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to issue two hours of bonus leave to County employees who volunteered at least two hours at the County sponsored blood drive that was held on June 25, 2007.

Mr. Davenport stated that he and the County Attorney have talked with the architect for the Jail Project and feel that they have all issues resolved. Mr. Davenport asked for permission to move forward.

Attorney Borden Parker noted that they have reduced the fee from 7.25% to 6.75%.

Commissioner Edmondson asked if the percentage could be further reduced to 6.25% or 6%.

On motion by Commissioner Edmondson, seconded by Commissioner Garner the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager and County Attorney to negotiate with the architect to 6.25% or 6% and bring back to the Board.

There were no County Attorney reports or recommendations.

Commissioner Garner asked if the old fruit stand downtown behind the Courthouse could be demolished. The Board concurred that the old building should be removed but the fence should be maintained.

Mr. Davenport will check into this and report back to the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall the Board voted unanimously to enter into closed session to discuss property acquisition and Attorney/client privilege.

On motion by Commissioner Edmondson, seconded by Commissioner Garner the Board voted unanimously to adjourn closed session and return to open session.

On motion by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Edmondson the Board voted unanimously to recess until July 27, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in the large meeting room of the Greene County Office Complex.