

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 9, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on January 9, 2006 in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Administration Building, Bakersville, N.C. Those present for the session were Keith Masters, Chairman; Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman; Phil Byrd, Member; Mike Hensley, Member; Jim Saylor, Member; Ryan Whitson, County Manager and Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board. Also present were Lloyd Hise, County Attorney; Mavis Parsley, Finance Officer; Nathan Hall, Reporter with the Mitchell News-Journal; Steve Murphy, Reporter with WKYK Radio Station; John Duncan, Pease Associates; Gary Runion, Pease Associates; Larry Thompson, Former CEO of Western Highlands; Arthur Carder, CEO of Western Highlands; Darlene Burleson, Tax Assessor; Jennifer Sparks, Director of Elections; Roger Hoilman, Board of Elections; Luther Stroup, Board of Elections; John Perry, Dona Thanos, Carl Braswell, Ed & Jana Reid, David Carpenter, Ruthie Styles, Blaine Biddix, Lisa Sparks, Mary Hopper, Tom & Robin Ellis, Judge Leavell and David Woody.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Masters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Commissioner Hollifield gave the invocation.
3. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to add the Tower Site Lease with Mitchell County Board of Education to the agenda. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Byrd moved approve the minutes for September 27, 2005 Special Session, November 22, 2005 Special Session, December 1, 2005 Special Session and December 5, 2005. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**
 - A. **Mental Health Update** – Larry Thompson, former CEO of Western Highlands introduced Arthur Carder, CEO of Western Highlands. Mr. Thompson informed the Board he would be providing a Semi-Annual Report to each of the eight boards of commissioners. The best need or issue in the eight counties is the issue of Crisis Service. For the last six months Western Highlands has been working with Spruce Pine Community Hospital to see if it would be possible to have an observation bed at that facility rather than transporting people directly to Broughton Hospital. Western Highlands is working on the development on a Crisis Center in Asheville. Mr. Thompson provided the following information to the Board: **1) Crisis Stabilization Services Summary 2) Utilization Report 3) List of Governing Board Members.** A copy of these reports are hereby attached and becomes a part of the

minutes. Arthur Carder provided the Board with the status of the Re-Organization proposal of the LME.

County Manager Whitson thanked Mr. Thompson for the good job he had done over the years.

- B. **Board of Election Update** – Luther Stroup informed the Board that Diebold pulled out leaving Mitchell County with no certified voting machines. There is one company that is certified in the State of North Carolina and it is ES&S. Mitchell County will get a grant from the state that will cover all but \$570 of the cost of purchasing new voting equipment. Mr. Stroup read a Resolution recommending Model 100 Precinct Ballot Counter and the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal from Election Systems & Software (ES&S). A copy of the resolution is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes.

Commissioner Hensley moved to allow Jennifer to pursue the grant and to buy the machines. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- C. **Tower Site Lease** – Commissioner Saylor moved to approve the Tower Site Lease (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS** - None

7. **RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ORDINANCES** - None

8. **APPOINTMENTS** - None

9. **RELEASES/REFUNDS**

- A. **Releases/Refunds for Board Approval** – Commissioner Hensley moved to approve the Releases/Refunds for Board Approval (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- B. **Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval** – A copy of the Releases/Refunds for County Manager Approval are hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes.

10. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

- A. **Pease Associates** – Chairman Masters – This Board started taking a look at the jail issue sometime in January, February or March of last year. Since then we have been around a couple on what we should do on a jail design. I think we have had 2 plans drawn. We have a rather high dollar inclusive plan and we have a lower dollar plan for a basic kind of jail. This Board needs to attempt to come to some

11. **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT** - None

12. **BOARD COMMENTS**

13. **CLOSED SESSION** - None

14. **CITIZEN & AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

A. **Matters on the Printed Agenda**

B. **Matters not on the Printed Agenda**

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hensley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.