

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BRIEFING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2002**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 20, 2002, in the South Wing Conference Room of the Iredell County Government Center, 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present: Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Karen B. Ray
Tommy E. Bowles
Steve D. Johnson
R. Godfrey Williams

Staff Present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, Planning Supervisor Ron Smith, County Assessor Brent Weisner, Emergency Management and Communications Director Larry Dickerson, County Assessor Brent Weisner, Health Director Ray Rabe, Environmental Health Supervisor Kelly Sheeks, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Tice.

REQUEST FOR A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MECKLYNN ROAD REZONING PUBLIC HEARING (RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT): Planning Supervisor Ron Smith said the planning board on August 7 heard a request from Davidson Development to rezone approximately 11 acres from Residential Agricultural to Multi-Family Residential District. He said that at the meeting, there were several individuals against the new zoning, and they had requested more time to prepare their case before the matter was heard by the commissioners. Smith said the applicant was also requesting more time. He said that normally a zoning request would be heard by the planning board one month, and during the next month, the case would be presented to the board of commissioners. Smith said that if the commissioners agreed with the postponement, the rezoning request would be presented in October instead of September.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A REVISED CABARRUS/IREDELL/ROWAN CONSORTIUM JOINT COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT & APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SAME: Erskine Smith, the Mooresville Assistant Town Manager, explained that since the May 2, 2002 meeting, when the consortium agreement was presented and approved, a few changes had been recommended by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development attorneys. Smith said one change was to correct the qualification period (Federal Fiscal Years 2003-2005). Another change was to stipulate in item 15 that the City of Kannapolis had been added as a new member.

REQUEST FOR A DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CONCENTRATED NEEDS APPLICATIONS (CDBG-CN): Shelley Williamson, a planner with Centralina Council of Governments, said the CDBG-CN program was designed to assist local governments in improving and developing residential neighborhoods. She said the process was on a state-wide competitive basis and the application deadline was September 23, 2002. Williamson said there were six different types of community block development grants, and one of them was for economic development.

(Due to the lack of time to prepare an application, this item was deleted from the agenda.)

Discussion on the Scattered-Site Housing Program Funds: Mr. Mashburn said the county would be receiving \$400,000 from the Department of Commerce for the

scattered-site housing program. Due to the extensive administrative oversight needed for the grant, Mashburn recommended that the county contract with Centralina for the work.

Williamson said there were many “strings” attached to the \$400,000. She said the money would be sent to the county, but it could be used by the municipalities. Williamson said the funds would be given as loans to homeowners for home repairs. She said the funds were distributed this way to prevent individuals from selling or trying to make a profit out of the renovated properties.

A question was asked about extending water sewer with the money, and Williamson said this could be done. Another question pertained to using the money for road improvements, and she said the funds could be used for this purpose.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$209,060 FOR THE LAKE NORMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT’S DEBT RETIREMENT: (This item was deleted from the agenda.)

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #4 REGARDING THE FUND BALANCE RELEASE OF \$100,000 FOR MOUNT MOURNE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT: Mount Mourne Fire Chief Steve Knox, and Wayne Turner, a member of the VFD’s Board of Directors, attended the meeting and requested the release of \$100,000 in fund balance to aid in the financing of a new fire station. Knox said the project was ready for site preparation.

Chief Knox said the department had worked hard to keep the district’s tax rate low. He added that just recently the Department of Insurance had reduced the district’s insurance rating from a nine to a seven.

(The department’s fund balance, after the budget amendment will be \$14,506.)

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE JULY 2002 REFUNDS & RELEASES: County Assessor Brent Weisner explained the refunds/releases and requested their approval.

Update on Tax Bills for the 2002-2003 Tax Year: Weisner said 88,330 tax bills had been mailed with a total amount due of \$45,126,122 for the county (over \$68,000,000 for all jurisdictions). He said this year, for the first time, taxes could be paid using the Internet with a credit card.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: Emergency Communications (ECOM) and Emergency Management Director Larry Dickerson requested approval of the Hazard Mitigation Plan required by Senate Bill 300 and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Dickerson said the plan was comprehensive, and it tried to prioritize the hazards or problem areas in the municipalities and county.

Radio Transmission Near the Chuckwood Road area: Chairman Tice said some First Responders were concerned about the radio transmissions beyond the Chuckwood Road area.

Dickerson said mobile radios should be workable in the area. He said, however, there might be problems with portable radios, because the communications system was designed for base (ECOM office) to mobile radios. Mr. Dickerson said that no one had spoken to him about the problem.

Chairman Tice also shared a concern about the maps not being up-to-date.

Mr. Dickerson said current maps were shared with all of the fire departments. He said that if the First Responder(s) had contacted him, he would have taken care of the situation.

REQUEST FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL OF A WEST NILE VIRUS RESPONSE BUDGET: Health Director Ray Rabe said his

FY 2002-03 budget did not include a course of action to combat the West Nile virus. He said the understanding, at budget time, was that he would return to the board of commissioners if a diseased bird were found in an adjacent county. Rabe said that unfortunately, infected birds had been found in two adjacent counties (Mecklenburg and Lincoln). (An infected bird was also found in nearby Surry County.) He also mentioned the high mortality rate in Louisiana. Rabe said his department had sent out thousands of public notices or mailings that listed ways to control the mosquito population. Mr. Rabe said his department could not do anything else without a budget. He submitted the following budget for the board's consideration; however, he said it would not be immediately implemented. Rabe said the plan would be to activate the budget if an Iredell County bird or horse were found infected, or if a human case was reported in an adjacent county.

Proposed FY 2002-2003
West Nile Virus Response Budget

REVENUES

Town of Mooresville
City of Statesville

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES \$ _____

EXPENDITURES

WEST NILE VIRUS RESPONSE

5100.02 Sal & Wages Regular (1 FTE Sanitarian Tech)	20,326.00	(begins 8/1/02)
5125.01 FICA Tax Expense	1,555.00	
5125.02 Group Ins. Expense	3,960.00	
5125.03 Retirement Expense	2,035.00	
5100.04 Provision for O.T.		

TOTAL SALARY & FRINGE 27,876.00

5315.00-INSURANCE & BONDS

Professional Liability	-	
Unemployment	-	
Blanket Bond	-	
General Liability	-	
Building & Contents	-	
Automobile Insurance	438.00	
Medical Malpractice	-	
Workers Compensation	11,006.00	(Includes EH Supv. II & Sanitarian Tech)
TOTAL INSURANCE & BONDS	11,444.00	

5325.01 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR – EQUIPMENT 500.00
Mosquito Sprayer Maintenance

5340 POSTAGE 2,000.00

5350.00 DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES

Includes: 2 hand-held Larvacide Sprayers @ \$300 each	1,000.00
Anvil Adulticide	1,000.00
VectoBac Larvacide	2,000.00
Bactimos Briquettes	1,500.00
2 Office Chairs @ \$350 ea	700.00
New Workstation Supplies	750.00

5350.04 AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES 800.00
1 New Vehicle

5355.00 TELEPHONE EXPENSE (STATESVILLE)

BellSouth 2 lines @ \$23.00/line/mo.	552.00
BellSouth Long Distance	
AT&T Long Distance	96.00
2 NEXTEL cellular phones	1,800.00

5360.00 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT 2,000.00
West Nile Virus Response Staff Training

5366.00 UNIFORMS 75.00
Sanitarian Technician

5375.00 CONTRACTED SERVICES-OTHER		
WNV Response Field Helper - \$10/hour April-Oct		16,092.00
WNV Response Office Temp - \$9.25/hour April-Oct		14,900.00
Health Education Assistance		1,200.00
5480.00 COMMUNITY AWARENESS		
WNV Response Public Education		4,000.00
5800.08 CAPITAL OUTLAY- EQUIPMENT		
Storage Building, Placarding		3,500.00
5800.12 CAPITAL OUTLAY- VEHICLES		
Full Size Pickup - West Nile Virus Response Program		<u>17,500.00</u>
	Total Estimated Expense	\$111,285.00

Rabe said the workers comp could probably be deleted from the budget, because the employee would be hired mid-year in the cycle. He also mentioned that if there was a suitable vehicle already in the county's fleet, it could be used.

Sheeks said that if an infected bird or horse were found in the county, resources would be needed. He said the main line of defense against the virus was to destroy the mosquito larvae before they reached adulthood. He said a sprayer had been made available by the State.

In reference to the funds needed, County Manager Mashburn recommended that Medicaid Maximization money be used. He said that if the health department needed money from this fund for some other expenditure in the future, e.g., Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act, the county's fund balance could be used.

Rabe voiced concerns about using the Medicaid Max funds. He said the federal funds were not a "sure thing," and he had problems using them for operational costs. He added there would probably be State cuts this year, and funds would be needed for the shortage.

Sheeks emphasized that what he and Rabe had presented was not a mosquito control budget. He said that if the budget had to be implemented, the staff and State officials would identify the county "hot spots" and work in the high risk areas.

Rabe said the county attorney was working on an ordinance that would give the health department some legal basis to carryout the West Nile Virus program. He asked if Statesville and Mooresville should be approached for funding assistance.

Commissioner Bowles requested that Mr. Rabe ask the municipalities if they would allow their personnel to assist in the effort if they were needed.

REQUEST FOR THE DENIAL OR APPROVAL OF AN EXCISE TAX REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE FOODMAN, SURANE, HUNTER AND KARRES LAW FIRM: The county manager said the Foodman Surane law firm on July 13, 2001 paid \$638 to have a warranty deed recorded at the Iredell County Register of Deeds' Office. He said that recently, the firm realized the deed should have been recorded in Lincoln County. On July 19, 2002, the law firm faxed a request for reimbursement to the Register of Deeds' Office. Mashburn said the Register of Deeds and the county attorney had been asked to give a recommendation on the reimbursement, and both felt the request should be denied. He said the reasoning for this was:

1. G.S. 105-228.37 stipulated a request should be made within six months of the date in which the tax was paid.

2. The State of North Carolina has already been sent its portion (one-half) of the tax.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PARTICIPATE IN A GRADUATE STUDIES PROJECT WITH UNC-CHARLOTTE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: The county manager requested permission to allow graduate students at UNC-Charlotte to develop a capital improvement plan. He said county staff time would be the only resource needed for the project. Mashburn said the plan would simply list the best way to meet the county's needs, in priority order, with available resources. Mashburn said the project could be accomplished during this year's fall semester, and it would be available for review at the January planning session. He said the plan's contents would simply be information unless the board chose to approve anything.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO USE CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' MEMBERSHIP HOURS FOR GREATER STATESVILLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (GSDC) PROFILE UPDATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 02-03: Mashburn said that each year the GSDC updated its county demographics. He said Centralina could assist in updating the GSDC charts and tables at a cost of \$1,175; however, if a county block (7.5 hrs.) of membership hours could be used, the cost would be \$585. Mashburn said the county usually had membership hours remaining at the end of the year, and he felt this would be a suitable way to use them.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tice adjourned the briefing at 6:45 p.m.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board