

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2005**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (Commissioners' Meeting Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present were:

Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Godfrey Williams
Steve D. Johnson
Marvin Norman
Ken Robertson

Staff present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, County Attorney Bill Pope, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Tice.

INVOCATION by Commissioner Johnson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Boy Scout Josh Souther with Troop 360, affiliated with Western Avenue Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C., led the Pledge of Allegiance. Josh attended the meeting in conjunction with his communications merit badge, and he was accompanied by his father, Michael.

ADJUSTMENTS OF THE AGENDA: **MOTION** by Chairman Tice to adjust the agenda by the following actions:

- Additions:
- Request for Approval of an Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Statesville for Fiber Optic Cable Services
 - Closed Session for Economic Development: G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4)
 - Closed Session for Property Acquisition: G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5)

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Proclamation in Recognition of the Mooresville Graded School District's Centennial Year: **MOTION** by Chairman Tice to approve the following proclamation.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays- 0.

Proclamation

In Celebration of the Centennial Year of the Mooresville Graded School District

WHEREAS, the Mooresville Graded School District is a public school district, established in 1905 by the North Carolina legislature; and

WHEREAS, the district has grown to over 4,400 students, 600 employees, and seven campuses in Mooresville, and is currently fulfilling its original purpose of offering exceptional educational opportunities to children in Mooresville; and

WHEREAS, February 25, 2005, has been designated as a day of celebration for the Mooresville Graded School District in recognition of 100 years of service provided to the children of Mooresville; and

WHEREAS, schools are community hubs, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials for a common endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of the school district continue to contribute significantly to the educational and overall quality of the community while continually equipping students for success in our rapidly changing world.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Iredell County Board of Commissioners proclaims Friday, February 25, 2005, as a day to recognize the many achievements of the Mooresville Graded School District and to encourage all Iredell County citizens to participate in the centennial events that have been organized to celebrate this prestigious milestone and accomplishment.

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Dr. Bruce Boyles, the Superintendent for the Mooresville Schools, accepted the proclamation.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Request for Approval of the January 2005 Refunds and Releases: County Manager Mashburn requested approval of the January refunds and releases.

MOTION by Commissioner Johnson to approve the following refunds and releases.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

JANUARY 2004 TAX RELEASES & REFUNDS		
	<u>Releases</u>	<u>Refunds</u>
County	\$ 4,793.80	\$22,512.54
Solid Waste Fees	416.00	273.00
East Alexander Co. Fire #1	5.79	54.96
Shepherd’s Fire # 2	149.62	60.97
Mount Mourne Fire # 3	1.00	171.58
All County Fire # 4	366.27	967.90
Statesville City	463.45	2,695.85
Statesville Downtown	10.06	1.04
Mooresville Town	732.08	9,677.62
Mooresville Downtown	0	0
Mooresville School	369.65	1,118.06
Love Valley	0	0
Harmony	0	0
Troutman	0	57.66
Total	\$7,307.72	\$37,591.18
A complete list, of the individual tax releases and refunds, is hereby incorporated into the minutes by reference.		

Request for Approval to Apply for Two Library Services & Technology Act Grants Through the State Library of North Carolina: Library Director Steve Messick asked permission to apply for two grants. He said an EZ-Basic Equipment grant would be used to purchase nine notebook computers and a wireless access point to provide computer-training classes. Messick said the \$10,500 grant would have an 85/15 split with \$8,925 coming from the state and \$1,575 being a local match.

Pertaining to the second grant, Messick said the funding would be used for a marketing plan for the new library. He said one grant goal would be to encourage the county’s citizenry to become a “community of readers.” Mr. Messick said the total project cost would be \$25,000.00, and this included a ten percent (\$2,500) local match that would be provided by the Friends of the Library organization. He said the funding would be used to purchase (1) two heavy-duty color printers along with supplies that would be used to produce newsletters and other promotional materials (2) postage (3) printing company services to help in the newsletter’s design and creation (4) staff training in computer graphic design programs and (4) speaker honoraria.

MOTION by Commissioner Norman to approve the two grant requests as presented.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Request from the Library for Approval to Apply for E-Rate Discounts (Internet & Regular Telephone Service) from the Federal Communications Commission: Library Director Messick asked for permission to apply for the following E-rate discounts:

Service	Annual Cost eligible for E-rate	% Covered by E-Rate	Total E-Rate Reimbursement	County cost after reimbursement
Main Connection Harmony	\$ 8,596.80	60%	\$ 5,158.08	\$ 3,438.72
Main Internet	\$10,019.40	60%	\$ 6,011.64	\$ 4,007.76
Main Telephones	\$ 8,643.60	60%	\$ 5,186.16	\$ 3,457.44
Harmony Telephones	\$ 1,263.48	60%	\$ 758.09	\$ 505.39
	\$28,523.28		\$ 17,113.97	\$11,409.31

Messick said discounts were currently being given in all of the listed services. He said the reimbursement period for the new application would be July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the E-Rate Discount grant request as presented.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Request from Crossroads Behavioral Healthcare for Permission to Sub-Lease Space at Two Facilities (Turnersburg Road, Statesville site & East Center Avenue, Mooresville site) to Telecare Mental Health Services of North Carolina beginning March 1, 2005: County Manager Mashburn said the Crossroads Director/CEO had requested permission to sub-lease space at two facilities to Telecare Mental Health Services of North Carolina. Mashburn said the Crossroads/County lease for the Mooresville site allowed sub-leasing; however, the Statesville, or Hwy. 21 lease, needed to be revised. He said the same language used in the Mooresville lease could be used for the Statesville document.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to allow the sub-leasing as requested by Crossroads and to amend the Statesville lease as presented by the county manager.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Request for Approval to Revise the Plat Review Officer Listing by Adding Steve Warren to Iredell County’s List: County Manager Mashburn said Planning Supervisor Steve Warren was recently hired to replace Ron Smith. He said this development would necessitate revisions to the plat review officer listing. Mashburn said the listing would need to be revised by (1) eliminating Smith from the county’s designation (2) deleting Warren from the City of Statesville’s designation, and (3) adding Warren to the county’s designation as a plat review officer.

MOTION by Commissioner Johnson to approve the revisions as presented by the county manager.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Request for Approval of a Resolution Supporting State Assumption of the County Share of Medicaid: County Manager Mashburn said there were only two states (North Carolina and New York) in the nation that required their counties to participate in Medicaid. He said the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners had prepared a “model” resolution to be adopted by each county to show the need for Medicaid “relief.” Mashburn said statistics relevant to Iredell County had been inserted into the resolution, and it was being submitted for adoption.

MOTION by Commissioner Norman to approve the following resolution pertaining to Medicaid.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING STATE ASSUMPTION OF COUNTY SHARE
OF
MEDICAID**

WHEREAS, Iredell County pays \$4,932,666 or 4.4% of its expenditures for services to Medicaid eligible citizens; and

WHEREAS, the counties share of Medicaid reimbursements has increased over 67 percent in the last five years and now totals approximately \$440 million; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that require counties to pay a share of all Medicaid services costs; and

WHEREAS, in Iredell County, the \$4,932,666 budgeted for 2004-05 equals 3.80¢ of the tax rate or \$37 per capita; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the local share of Medicaid spending has averaged 11% per year for the prior five fiscal years and totaled \$20.26 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iredell County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to provide immediate Medicaid relief to Iredell County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Iredell County.

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Request for Approval of the January 25 & the February 1, 2005 Minutes:

MOTION by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Request for Approval of an Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Statesville for Fiber Optic Cable Services: County Manager Mashburn said improved internal data communications were needed between the county’s information services department and other county departments (board of elections, library, and law enforcement). He said in the past, the service or connection had been provided by a donated supply of fiber optic cable, but Statesville’s transmission poles were never used. Mashburn said the City of Statesville on February 7, 2005, approved an agreement that would allow the utilization of power poles, if the county provided the cable and paid the installation costs. He said the county would have the exclusive use of eight strands of fiber optic cable, and the remaining four strands would be reserved for the city’s use. Mashburn said the arrangement would adequately meet the current and future needs of the county.

MOTION by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Statesville and authorize the chairman to sign the document.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES OCCURRING ON BOARDS &
COMMISSIONS**

Hazardous Waste & Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Board (3 announcements)

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Adult Care Community Advisory Committee (6 appointments): Commissioner Norman nominated the Reverend James Henderson.

MOTION by Chairman Tice to (1) close the nominations, (2) appoint Henderson by acclamation, and (3) postpone the remaining five appointments until the March 1 meeting.

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

James Hoffner Property: County Manager Mashburn said that at the February 1 meeting, the James Hoffner family had made an appearance before the board in reference to their property that was split between Iredell and Rowan Counties. Mashburn said the family had requested that the two boards of commissioners work together in an effort to release the family’s residential property, or home, to Rowan County. He said a request had been made to the Iredell-Statesville School System for a review of the policies used in surrounding counties pertaining to students who might live in one county and attend school in another county, especially in conjunction with how tuition was handled and if the local dollars followed the students. He said that possibly by the next meeting, some information on the request might be available. Mashburn said this might address some of the concerns of the family.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Statesville Airport: Commissioner Johnson said the first international flight recently occurred at the Statesville Airport. He said the flight originated in Statesville and flew non-stop overseas. Johnson said many requests had occurred from companies wanting to locate at the airport, but the airport commission had decided to obtain an overlay plan prior to making any decisions. He said once the plan was evaluated and put in place, the area would have a “tremendous tax base.” Johnson said Bethlehem Road would have to be temporarily closed due to the need to fully satisfy the Federal Aviation Administration’s concerns that traffic on the roadway would not interfere with the ILS approach system.

Commissioner Williams asked the status of Airport Road.

Johnson said it was supposed to be opened before Christmas, but the cold weather and rain caused delays. He said it was now predicted the road would re-open the end of February, or the first week of March.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT: County Manager Mashburn distributed a written report.

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:42 p.m., Chairman Tice made a **motion** to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to Attorney-Client – G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3), Property Acquisition – G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5), and Economic Development – G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4).

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

(RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:50 P.M.)

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION** by Chairman Tice to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. (NEXT MEETING: Winter Planning Session, February 25, 2005, beginning at 8 a.m., at the Agricultural Resource Center, 444 Bristol Drive, Statesville, NC.)

VOTING: Ayes – 5; Nays – 0.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board