

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 9, 2009
3:30 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Workshop on the above date at 3:30 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Commissioner Phil Norris, Vice-Chairman
 Commissioner J. Martin Cooke
 Commissioner Charles Warren
 Commissioner Scott Phillips
 Commissioner William M. Sue, Chairman

STAFF: Marty K. Lawing, County Manager
 Steve Stone, Assistant County Manager
 Huey Marshall, County Attorney
 Debby Gore, Clerk to the Board
 Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sue called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cooke was not present for the majority of the Workshop.

(Attached to these Minutes is an item called Board Action containing all items on this agenda and those items are incorporated herein.)

II. REVIEW OF POTENTIAL RECOVERY ZONE BOND PROJECTS

Ann Hardy, Fiscal Operations Director, explained the different kinds of Recovery Bonds and their potential use. The Board discussed and reviewed the Potential Recovery Zone Economic Development Projects and the associated costs.

There was discussion regarding the \$50,000 grant approved by the NC Department of Transportation Board for a northbound right turn-lane on Highway 17 (Whitlock Landing Park Project). It was consensus to decline this funding in that the estimated cost of the proposed turn-lane was at least \$200,000 and there were no funds to make up the difference.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to proceed with the following projects utilizing the county's \$2,810,000 U. S. Treasury Allocation for Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds: Leland Library Project, Randolphville Road Water Line, Mt. Zion Church Road Water Line, Shingle Tree Acres Water Line and Highway 74/76 Sewer Line Extension to the Joint Industrial Park. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**III. PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATION ON AUTOMATED METER
READING SYSTEM**

Jerry Pierce, Utility Operations Director, offered recommendations for the installation of a new automated meter reading system to replace the existing manual meter reading system being

currently used by the county from the committee that included staff from the Public Utilities Department, Finance Department and Vice-Chairman Norris. Mr. Pierce reviewed the radio read system (AMR) and the advance meter infrastructure (AMI) and informed that the committee recommended installation of an AMI type meter reading system and negotiate a final contract with Sensus Meters to install the system with an estimated cost of equipment to be provided by Sensus at approximately \$8.1 million. The estimated installation cost over a 2-year period is \$1.5 million.

The committee also recommended that the system be installed over a six-year period and that the cost of the project be funded on a pay-as-you-go basis to be installed by the Public Utilities staff, Customer Service staff and contractor staff and that the first phase of the meter installation program be in the Carolina Shores area due to the age of the existing meters.

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to authorize staff to begin negotiations with the vendor for installation of an AMI system on a pay-as-you-go basis. The vote of approval was unanimous.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to enter Closed Session at 4:42 p.m. pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) and (a) (5) to protect the attorney-client privilege, to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action and to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property located at Airport Road. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Reconvened

Chairman Sue called the Workshop back to order at 5:40 p.m. (Commissioner Cooke arrived during the Closed Session at 4:58 p.m. and was present for the rest of the Workshop) and announced that staff was instructed about a particular matter that will be disclosed upon response from the other party, no other action was taken.

The County Manager informed of the upcoming NAACP Annual Banquet to be held on November 21, 2009 and indicated that Commissioner Warren had inquired if it was acceptable to purchase an ad in the banquet program and tickets (\$25) for department heads to attend in support of the organization. Mr. Lawing indicated that this had not been done in the past in using county funds and asked for input. After some discussion it was consensus to allocate a total of \$500 from the Commissioners discretionary funds to purchase a \$250 ad and \$250 for 10 tickets.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Norris moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. The vote of approval was unanimous.

William M. Sue, Chairman

Deborah (Debby) Gore, Clerk to the Board