

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

OCTOBER 17, 2011
OTHERS PRESENT

Jimmy B. Clayton

Heidi York, County Manager

Kyle W. Puryear

B. Ray Jeffers

Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

Samuel R. Kennington

Frances P. Blalock

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The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Clayton called the meeting to order, led invocation and asked Commissioner Kennington to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers, **seconded** by Vice Chairman Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

Sheriff Dewey Jones appeared before the Board to make informal comments to announce Operation Medicine Drop will take place on October 29th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in front of the Wal-Mart store. Sheriff Jones explained this is an opportunity for residents to properly dispose of old or unused medicines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeffers, **seconded** by Commissioner Blalock, and **carried 5-0** to approve the minutes of October 3, 2011.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Blalock, **seconded** by Vice Chairman Puryear, and **carried 5-0** to approve the Administrative Reports for the Inspection Department, Public Library and Person Area Transportation System.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:

Chairman Clayton read and presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Captain Albert Pruitt recognizing his retirement and years of service to the county. Sheriff Jones praised Captain Pruitt for his cumulative 50 years of service with the Department of Corrections and Person County noting Captain Pruitt's outstanding work ethic. All Board members stated their appreciation to Captain Pruitt.

October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Captain Albert Pruitt has served the people of Person County during his tenure working for Person County Sheriff Department as its Jail Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Captain Albert Pruitt has served the citizens of Person County with honor, integrity, sincerity and dedication, providing accurate, concise services for twelve years, October, 1999 – September, 2011; and

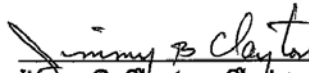
WHEREAS, Captain Albert Pruitt has earned the respect and admiration of all who have known him and worked with him throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, the County of Person recognizes the many contributions Captain Albert Pruitt has made to the County and offers him sincere best wishes for his retirement.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jimmy B. Clayton, Chairman of the Person County Board of Commissioners, do hereby extend this Resolution of Appreciation to Captain Albert Pruitt for continually striving to make Roxboro and Person County a better place to live and work.

Adopted this the 17th day of October, 2011.




Jimmy B. Clayton, Chairman
Person County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Brenda B. Reaves, NCSCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

October 17, 2011

PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT:

It was the consensus of the Board that Chairman Clayton read and present a Proclamation of Support for the SHOP EAT ENJOY initiative pioneered by the Roxboro Development Group to Tourism Development (TDA) Director, Margaret McMann and TDA Board Member, Bettie Yarboro.

PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE

SHOP EAT ENJOY

INITIATIVE PIONEERED BY THE ROXBORO DEVELOPMENT GROUP

WHEREAS, the Person County Board of Commissioners desires for Roxboro/Person County to become a destination for shopping, dining and enjoying local attractions; and

WHEREAS, over 50 local Roxboro/Person County businesses, restaurants and attractions are participating; and

WHEREAS, local economic development growth will be stimulated by making Roxboro/Person County a *DESTINATION* for people in neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners encourages local residents to shop local *FIRST* by supporting these area businesses; and

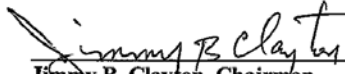
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the partnership between the Roxboro Development Group, Person County Tourism Development Authority, Person County Economic Development and the Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce *WITH* local businesses to develop this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners appreciates the generous contributions of the Person County Tourism Development Authority for the marketing of this initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Person County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim support for the *SHOP EAT ENJOY* initiative pioneered by the Roxboro Development Group and call upon the people of Roxboro and citizens of Person County, North Carolina to participate by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the importance of shopping, eating and enjoying with local businesses, restaurants and attractions.

Adopted this the 17th day of October, 2011.




Jimmy B. Clayton, Chairman
Person County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

October 17, 2011

RIGHT-OF-WAY OFFER FROM NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

General Services Director, Ray Foushee presented the Board with a formal offer from NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to Person County in the amount of \$10,500 to purchase the right-of-way in front of the county owned School Bus Garage on Highway 49 North. Mr. Foushee stated the offer is related to the NCDOT Highway 501 Bypass Project and includes payments for land value (appraised and compared to similar properties in the county), temporary construction easement and improvements to the property. Mr. Foushee explained the project basically bypasses the City of Roxboro. Mr. Foushee noted the construction easement was modified so that the fence and the School Bus Garage Sign near the road would not have to be moved for construction, further noting the county property would not be adversely affected other than modifications to the driveway and where it intersects with Highway 49. Mr. Foushee confirmed to the Board that the county would not have any costs related to the project. Mr. Foushee told the group as additional information the Board of Education had also received a similar offer for the right-of-way in front of the VFW property (adjacent to the county owned property). Mr. Foushee gave the Board the available options for consideration for action:

1. Accept the offer for \$10,500,
2. Negotiate for a better offer,
3. Donate the \$10,500 back to NCDOT as a “good faith” gesture toward the 501 Bypass Project, or
4. Accept the offer for \$10,500 and share the proceeds with the Board of Education.

Mr. Foushee stated the Board of Education met this past week and elected to retain the funds as offered by the NC DOT for the adjacent property right of way noting the driveway access may need to be widen when the Learning Academy is relocated to that location.

Mr. Foushee passed out to the Board copies of the Deed for Highway Right of Way as well as the Agreement for Entry noting both documents require signatures of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Kennington, and **carried 5-0** to accept the offer from NC Department of Transportation to Person County in the amount of \$10,500 as presented in the Deed For Highway Right of Way and set aside the funds in the General Fund for non profit purposes.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Blalock, **seconded** by Vice Chairman Puryear, and **carried 5-0** to approve the Agreement for Entry for immediate access to the property.

CODE RED PROGRAM:

Health Director, Janet Clayton announced to the Board that the Person County Health Department and Progress Energy have partnered to provide the residents of Person County an emergency communication network. Ms. Clayton explained that for the past several years, county emergency response leaders have been investigating the possibility of implementing an emergency communication system (reverse 911) for Person County noting many after action reports of various emergency preparedness exercises throughout the county have indicated the need for a system with the capability to rapidly release information to the residents of Person County during an emergency. Several systems were reviewed and the system of choice was CodeRED. However at the time of initial investigation, the system was cost prohibitive. Ms. Clayton told the Board in the spring of 2011, the Person County Health Department and Progress Energy became aware of the mutual interest in the implementation of an emergency communication system for Person County thereby forming a partnership. Both entities had researched various response systems and agreed that CodeRED was again the best system for Person County's needs. A three year commitment was agreed upon and has been jointly funded through a grant.

Ms. Clayton stated since the spring, both phone and GIS data have been uploaded, and the system is now functioning and will become operational on November 1, 2011. Ms. Clayton stated there will be an access point on the Person County Website for residents to submit cell phones to the data base. Ms. Clayton confirmed there would be no cost associated for this service to the residents. Ms. Clayton noted designated emergency response leaders have the capability to initiate emergency notifications currently. Ms. Clayton stated with the implementation of CodeRED, the residents of Person County will receive emergency alerts rapidly which will increase their level of safety. The alert system will use voice, email, and text messages to alert citizens within minutes of activation.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Blalock, **seconded** by Vice Chairman Puryear, and **carried 5-0** to approve the response system, CodeRed to rapidly release information to the residents of Person County during an emergency.

Board members extended their appreciation to staff at the Health Department and Progress Energy for their partnership to serve the citizens of Person County.

On another subject, Chairman Clayton informed the Health Director the NC Association of County Commissioners is implementing a Wellness Project and gave her contact information to inquire further.

RESTRUCTURING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

County Manager, Heidi York stated the current state of Person County Economic Development (the recent resignation of the Person County Business and Industrial Center's (PCBIC) contracted Economic Development Director, no Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chair, struggle to have consistent, regular EDC meetings) the Board of Commissioners directed the Manager to develop a transition plan for economic projects to staff and to restructure the current Economic Development Commission. Ms. York noted economic development has been evaluated numerous times by the Board of Commissioners and the current structure is not meeting the needs of the Board. In an effort to facilitate the Board with any such transition and restructure, Ms. York presented the Board with a starting place for the Board's discussion and consideration using best practices and incorporating the direction and feedback from all members of the Board. Ms. York asked the Board to receive the following presentation and provide direction to the Manager and staff as appropriate.

Person County Economic Development At a Crossroads



October 17, 2011

Recent History of the EDC



- April 2007, the Board approved the creation of: Roxboro-Person County Development Board ("B.O.B." or the Board of Boards)
 - Tasked with the coordination and execution of economic development strategies for the County as directed by the City Council & Board of Commissioners; and to recommend funding for each member organization to the respective governing bodies.

Person County Government

October 17, 2011

Recent History of the EDC (cont'd)



- Summer 2010, the Person Futures Plan includes an economic development goal with these objectives:
 - “Establish an active, aggressive, proactive and visionary Economic Development Commission to ensure that the Economic Development Director and staff have ready access to and guidance from the Person County community.”
 - “Provide ongoing communication to the Chamber of Commerce, Roxboro Development Group, Roxboro Merchants Association, small businesses, stakeholders, civic organizations and the entire community to increase awareness on economic growth and opportunities relating to growth and development in the local economy, and to sustain the widest possible support for the Person Futures Strategic Plan economic development program.”

Person County Government

Recent History of the EDC (cont'd)



- July 2010- Board approves a reorganization of County Government to bring the role of economic development under the county manager with the creation of the assistant county manager position
- February 2011, Board approves a six month contract with PCBIC for economic development with the hiring of an Economic Development Director thru PCBIC
- July 2011, contract with PCBIC is extended for an additional six months
- October 2011, contracted Director resigns

Person County Government

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What Do We Need?



- An EDC?
- A director?
- An Economic Development Strategy?
- Incentive Policy?
- Leadership and Decision Makers Engaged throughout the process?
- A separate nonprofit agency?

Person County Government

What do Businesses Need?



- 2009 General Assembly commissioned a study through UNC Center for Competitive Economies; interviewed 150 incented companies and 465 non-incented companies
- Top factors for expansion/relocation:
 - Access to skilled labor
 - Highway access
 - State and local taxes
 - Regulatory climate
 - Availability of educational institutions

Person County Government

What about incentives?



- Cash incentives ranked 12th and 13th in level of importance to businesses
- Cash incentives are necessary to compete for equally comparable sites
- Responsible, progressive communities are developing formal written incentive policies

Person County Government

Incentive Policies?



Chatham County- a scorecard for rating projects and determining the level of incentives a company can obtain.

Criteria used to rank projects include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| •Total number of new jobs | •Number of existing county residents hired |
| •Level of capital investment | •Environmental impact (reuse of existing building, location of expansion, etc.) |
| •Wage level of jobs (compared to state and local averages) | •Industry cluster/business type (does this expansion "fit" into the county's strategic plan) |
| •Quality of jobs (benefits offered to employees) | |

Person County Government

Incentive Policies?



- The points then translate to a percentage of the local taxes that are rebated back to the companies over a 5 year period. The cash incentives would not be more than the taxes collected in any year
- This amount reflects a starting point in the cash incentive negotiation process

Person County Government

A New EDC



- Look at “change agents” in the community that can create a unified strategy and impact real change
- The EDC members can then facilitate change in their organizations and make high level decisions regarding the use of public resources
- Can be an interim appointments with specific tasks
- These tasks include developing a sustainable and responsible economic development strategy and vision for the community and the creation of an incentive policy

Person County Government

A New EDC



Potential Members:

- County Commissioner
- County Manager
- City Council Member or Mayor
- City Manager
- Person County Schools Superintendent
- State Representative or Senator
- Piedmont Community College President
- Chairman of Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce
- Chairman of the Person County Tourism Development Authority
- President of Roxboro Development Group
- President of Roxboro Area Merchants Association
- CEO of Person Memorial Hospital

Staff : Economic Development Director/Assistant County Manager

Future of PCBIC



- Right now the EDC is the board of PCBIC
- Current EDC members become solely the PCBIC Board
- PCBIC could be a small, self-appointed group

OR

PCBIC could shift to a model similar to 'Committees of 100' in other jurisdictions

- They could actively fundraise, recruit new members, provide marketing of the community
- Tax deductible dues are collected from members wanting to join PCBIC if designed as a Committee of 100
- The existing board could maintain their seats for the balance of their unexpired term without paying dues until the end of their respective term

Person County Government

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Future of PCBIC (cont'd)



- The responsibilities of the new PCBIC could include:
 - Recommending applications of the Revolving Loan Fund to the Board of Commissioners
 - Coordination of industrial expansion announcements
 - Manage and develop the 501 S industrial park and other properties related to development
 - Serve as the face of Person County business and commerce for site selectors and other dignitaries
 - Provide marketing to our businesses and community

Person County Government

Future of PCBIC (cont'd)



- Potential Funding for PCBIC:
 - Maintain the contract component of \$20,000 annual for property maintenance
 - Monthly dues from tenant companies
 - Annual dues/donations from the members and the community
 - Request for non-profit funding during the annual budget process

Person County Government

Remaining Questions



- PCBIC as a separate nonprofit entity or a committee of 100 structure
- Role for advocacy?
- Do we need an EDC?
- Do we need an Econ. Development Director?
- Willingness to serve?
- Assuring the engagement of local government(s) and the PCBIC board?
- Oversight/reporting of local government financial support?

Person County Government

Where do we go from here?



What vision does the Board of Commissioners have for Economic Development?

Person County Government

All board members were given the opportunity to make comments and provide input related to the presentation.

Commissioner Blalock passed out copies to the Board of a brochure titled *The Guiding Principles from Learning to Lead*, a primer on Economic Development Strategies by Maury Forman and James Mooney with contributions by Charles Eckenstahler and Dionne Maniotes Hulsey.

Chairman Clayton suggested the Board to schedule a work session to further discuss the economic developing transition and restructuring. It was the consensus of the Board to meet on November 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm jointly with Economic Development Commission members in the Board room prior to the regular scheduled 7:00 pm meeting.

Ms. York confirmed the Economic Development Commission meeting scheduled for 12 noon on October 20, 2011 at the Clarksville Station Restaurant had been changed to 9:00 a.m. at Tricia's Café on the same date.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Finance Director, Amy Wehrenberg presented and explained the following Budget Amendment.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jeffers, and a second by Commissioner Blalock and majority vote (5-0), the Board of Commissioners of Person County does hereby amend the Budget of the Fund(s) listed below on this, the 17th day of October 2011, as follows:

<u>Dept./Acct No.</u>	<u>Department Name</u>	<u>Amount</u> Incr / (Decr)
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	
	General Government	115
	Public Safety	2,628
	Human Services	18,577
	Culture & Recreation	573
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	
	Intergovernmental Revenues	20,768
	Other Revenues	1,125

Explanation:

Appropriating revenues received from the sale of concessions for the Morale Pals Committee (\$115); donations in the Sheriff's (\$72), Animal Control (\$365) and Library Departments (\$573); revenues received from the NC Department of Agriculture for the Spay & Neuter Program in Animal Control (\$300); revenues allotted to the Senior Center from the DOT for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (\$6,600); Unauthorized Substance Tax revenues received to cover expenses in the Law Enforcement Restricted Fund (\$1,891); and various program adjustments in the Department of Social Services (\$11,977).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Clayton commented on the following:

- NC Association of County Commissioners Environmental Committee meeting will be held on October 18, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Quorum Center in Raleigh, and
- Vice Chairman Puryear would be participating at an upcoming ribbon cutting at Granddaddy's Restaurant on his behalf.

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MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager, Heidi York reported the following:

- An informal, joint session with the Board of Education would be held in Room 25 (their board room) at 11:00 am noting it would not be streamed live on the web,
- Administrative reports would be taken off the board agenda and submitted separately to Board members unless Board action is required,
- November 14, 2011 Board meeting would be held in the County Auditorium (Local Government Day), and
- Requested the Board set the Community Conversations date. It was the consensus of the Board to set November 28, 2011 as the Community Conversations opportunity with citizens to be held at the Kirby starting at 6:30 pm.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kennington stated he had no report but asked if Gene Hodges, Assistant County Manager would set the agenda for the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting in the absence of a Director or EDC Chairperson. Vice Chairman Puryear added election of EDC officers should take place at the beginning of the meeting.

Commissioner Blalock reported a renowned expert scientist would be speaking on uranium mining in Danville on November 5, 2011 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Registration costs would be \$10.

Commissioner Jeffers reported on the following:

- NC Rural Center Forum to be held on November 16-17, 2011,
- NC Association of County Commissioners Executive Committee would be meeting with the Governor on November 4, 2011, and
- Backpack program update included brochures highlighting the mission noting 6 meals and 2 snacks to be provided to eligible children for weekends/holidays. Volunteer Coordinator and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Vice Chairman Puryear encouraged the Board to introduce themselves to the successful City Council election winners. Ms. York confirmed a joint session with the City of Roxboro would be scheduled early in the new year.

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RECESS:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Kennington, **seconded** by Commissioner Blalock, and **carried 5-0** to recess the meeting at 10:21 am until 11:00 am at which time the Board of Commissioners will meet in joint session with the Board of Education in their board room (Room 25 in the County Office Building).

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy B. Clayton
Chairman

October 17, 2011