

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 5, 1990

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a continuation of the June 4 regular meeting. The meeting was held at 12:00 noon at 100 North King Street in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

Those present were: Chairman William T. Drake, Vice-Chairman F. Richard Baker, Commissioner Hugh D. Randall, Commissioner Troy L. Maybin, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, County Administrator Jerry D. Myers, County Attorney Don H. Elkins, Finance Director David E. Nicholson, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Chairman Drake called the meeting to order and stated that there is a motion on the floor that would put three separate issues on the bond referendum for August 28. It would be a county school issue of \$21,500,000, a city school issue of \$2,500,000, and a Blue Ridge Community College issue of \$4,900,000. We are in the discussion phase of that motion. We had requested the County Attorney to do some research and give us an opinion as to the legalities or possible ramifications of a statute that dealt with separating the issues.

Don Elkins addressed the Board stating he had researched the issue since yesterday and believes that the motion as presented would raise certain legal implications. He recommends that the issue be discussed in executive session.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Randall made the motion for the Board to go into executive session. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Commissioner Edney made the motion for the Board to go out of executive session. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

#### SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

Chairman Drake stated that the Board was just in the discussion phase of the motion that was made yesterday with consideration deferred until this time..

Don Elkins<sup>n</sup> addressed the Board stating he had done some research on the question of two issues concerning city and county bond issue. It is Council's opinion that the Constitution of North Carolina and Statutes relating to the erection of school buildings in North Carolina calls for a uniform system for the State and the County. In providing funds for the city and county, Council thinks the total needs must be considered by the Board. The philosophy of the Board in the past, the way he understands it, has been in favor of a merger of the two systems and should encourage that merger and should fund this system as a combined whole rather than city or county. Mr. Elkins recommended to the Board that only one issue appear on the ballot for the city and county.

Chairman Drake said that he guessed his personal opinions would have to be set aside based on the recommendation of the County Attorney. He feels that it should be two separate issues, that if there are two systems there should be two issues. If actions taken by this Board would prohibit merger down the road he would be willing to set aside his personal feelings and change the way he would have voted last night because he feels that merger is the most important issue.

Commissioner Baker also stated that he was in the same position, he still feels that each school system should defend the request they have made. Since the two School Boards wish to have it combined and in view of the interpretations based on Don Elkin's investigation, he is willing to put aside his personal feelings and go along with the wishes of the two school boards and vote in favor of combining the two figures.

Commissioner Maybin stated that he was the one who made the motion to put them on the bond referendum as separate issues and he still feels that way. He feels that one good strong merged system is what is needed for Henderson County and stated that there have been delays on school funding of school projects because of battling back and forth between two systems. He would like to see more work done toward getting a merger somewhere down the road. He feels that there are a lot of people in this county who are a little tired of living on promises of better facilities for schools. He said the issue was presented by two different school boards and he thinks each system should stand on their own, unless they can get it together.

Chairman Drake reminded the Board that the motion on the floor is for three separate school issues. He asked that all in favor of putting the issue on the ballot as three issues vote aye. He then asked all who opposed to vote nay. The motion failed one to four.

Commissioner Baker made the motion that the August 28 bond issue be set up as one combined figure for the public schools and one figure for Blue Ridge Community College. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Drake stated that since this is a continuation of the meeting yesterday, there are a couple of items on the agenda concerning board appointments that may need to be considered.

He informed the Board of two vacancies on the Hospital Board, one was filled last night. He asked for nominations for the other vacancy.

Commissioner Baker nominated George Stowell to return to the Hospital Board.

Commissioner Maybin made the motion to suspend the rules and reappoint Mr. Stowell to the Hospital Board of Trustees. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Drake stated that there is one pending issue for Executive Session, dealing with personnel matters.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Baker made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for personnel matters. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Commissioner Baker made the motion for the Board to go out of Executive Session. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Drake stated that there was no action taken at this time and stated that the Board will continue this meeting again until next Monday

night, June 11, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters in conjunction with the budget workshop at that time.

There being no further business and having taken no action, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

*Elizabeth W. Corn*  
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

*William T. Drake*  
William T. Drake, Chairman