

April 1, 2013 8:30 A.M.

JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JONES COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX – COMMISSIONERS' ROOM

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Frank Emory, Chairman
Mike Haddock, Vice-Chairman
Sondra Ipock-Riggs, Commissioner
Joe Wiggins, Commissioner
Zack Koonce, III, Commissioner

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Franky J. Howard, County Manager
Jennifer King, Clerk to the Board
Melissa Moore-Freeman, Finance Officer
Jimmie B. Hicks, County Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Zack Koonce gave the invocation. A **MOTION** was made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Mike Haddock, and unanimously carried **THAT** the agenda be approved with the following addition:

9. EAST CAROLINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – MEMBERSHIP

MOTION made by Mike Haddock, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the minutes of March 18, 2013, be approved.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – ISLAND CREEK ESTATES/BEAR RUN FIRE DISTRICT

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the board go into public hearing.

Franky Howard, County Manager, explained that the residents of Island Creek Estates and Bear Run had submitted a petition to the board in regard to their desire to be covered by Township 7 Fire Department, as opposed to Pollocksville. This change would allow these residents to be covered within the six-mile district of Township 7, thus positively affecting their homeowners insurance. Public Hearing notices were mailed to homeowners, and an advertisement was posted in the newspaper, to inform them of this hearing and the requirement to pay a small tax if the request was approved.

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the board go out of public hearing.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** residents of Island Creek Estates and Bear Run be covered under the Township 7 Fire Department's District, as requested and petitioned by members of said communities and that the resolution in support of this change be approved. A copy of the resolution is marked Exhibit A and is hereby incorporated by reference and make a part of these minutes.

2. FIRE TAX DISCUSSION

Buddy Weatherington, Pollocksville Fire Department Volunteer, provided budget comparisons between Pollocksville, Township 7 and RHEMS Volunteer Fire Departments. Backup materials provided to the board are marked Exhibit B and are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Weatherington explained that the Big Game Hunt, the department's largest fund raiser, did not do well because it was held during the week of a hurricane. The department relies on fund raisers to meet budgetary needs. He stated that Pollocksville VFD petitioned the commissioners years ago for a substation that was not approved. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs stated that the members were polled and preferred that Township 7 be utilized because they felt it would be safer. Mr. Weatherington explained that the toughest part of volunteer service is having responders twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He also stated that the fire department is very proud of their 5/9 fire rating. Mr. Weatherington requested that the board allow Pollocksville VFD petition for a special district tax to help reduce the deficit of the department. Frank Emory stated that the board agreed to allow the department to get 35% of the community's signatures, which was what was originally asked of the fire department. Mr. Wiggins explained that while Mr. Weatherington explained the citizens would not vote for the increase, the citizens would have the responsibility for paying for the tax either way. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs questioned why the fire department can't charge insurance companies like EMS charges. Mr. Weatherington explained that Lenoir County tried and it didn't work out. Timmy Pike explained that Medicaid and Medicare was a big difference between EMS and fire and that not all insurance companies pay for fire service. Everyone agreed that the number one concern is the citizens.

3. FORESTRY UPDATE

Wayne Bell, Jones County Ranger, spoke to the board about the forestry program. Mr. Bell discussed the programs offered to Jones County by the forestry service. Mr. Bell explained that the forestry service has asked since 2006 to fund a new truck and it hasn't been funded as of yet. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs asked if they could lease and vehicle and was told that it wouldn't be cost effective because of the mileage limitations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Robert Masters, Greene County resident and a previous treasurer for East Carolina Council of Governments, spoke to the board concerning the Eastern Carolina Council. Mr. Masters explained that he had been questioned by a federal prosecutor as to the spending habits of the Eastern Carolina Council. Mr. Masters urged the commissioners to think about whether or not it was a good idea for Jones County to remain with the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments.

4. NURSING HOME ANNUAL REPORT

Mrs. Ipock-Riggs reviewed the 2012 Nursing Home Annual Report with the board.

5. DEBT SET-OFF REFUNDS

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** debt set-off refunds be approved as presented, a copy of which is marked Exhibit C and is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

6. COUNTY ASSEMBLY DAY

Mr. Howard provided information to the board for County Assembly Day, which will be held on May 22, 2013, at the Quorum Center in Raleigh. All board members requested to be registered for this event.

7. AGENDA REQUEST PROCESS

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the Agenda Request Form be approved as presented. This form will be required for any item that will be included on agenda, one-week in advance.

8. BUDGET AMENDMENTS #5 AND #6

MOTION made by Mike Haddock, seconded by Joe Wiggins, and unanimously carried **THAT** Budget Amendments #5 and #6 be approved, copies of which are marked Exhibit D and are hereby incorporated by reference and made a copy of these minutes.

9. EAST CAROLINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - MEMBERSHIP

There was some discussion about the membership of Jones County with the East Carolina Council of Governments. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs feels that Jones County should no longer be a member of this organization, except for the aging program. Mr. Howard, Frank Emory, and Mike Haddock were concerned that if we are no longer members we will lose our vote and input for issues in the future. Joe Wiggins and Sondra Ipock-Riggs were concerned that we may be held liable for any wrongful spending by the East Carolina Council of Governments. It was determined that even if the county is not a member in the future, we are still responsible for anything that happened while we were a member. Mr. Masters stated that there were a number of loans that did not have payments made for years and the auditor wrote it up after several years of telling the East Carolina Council of Governments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no public comments.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Howard had no additional reports.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Zack Koonce -

Mr. Koonce shared items from his calendar with the board.

Zack Koonce left the meeting at this time for a previously scheduled appointment.

Joe Wiggins –

Mr. Wiggins was concerned with the fact that Sondra Ipock-Riggs stated the deadline for getting out of the East Carolina Council of Governments was April 1.

MOTION made by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, seconded by Joe Wiggins, and carried **THAT** Jones County get out of the East Carolina Council of Governments, except for the aging program. Zack Koonce was not present at this time, and therefore his vote was counted as a yes vote. Mr. Koonce was contacted after the meeting and requested that these minutes reflect the fact that his vote would have been against this motion if he was present. Frank Emory and Mike Haddock **OPPOSED**.

MOTION made by Joe Wiggins, seconded by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Frank Emory
Chairman

Jennifer King
Clerk to the Board

EXHIBIT A

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 FRANK EMORY, Chairman
 8466 Hwy. 41 W.
 Richlands, NC 28574
 MIKE HADDOCK, Vice-Chairman
 2314 Wyse Fork Rd.
 Trenton, NC 28585
 ZACK KOONCE
 1539 Ten Mile Fork Rd.
 Trenton, NC 28585
 JOSEPH F. WIGGINS
 641 Richlands Rd.
 Trenton, NC 28585
 SONDRRA IPOCK RIGGS
 862 Riggstown Rd.
 Pollocksville, NC 28573



POST OFFICE BOX 340
 TRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28585
 (252) 448-7571 FAX (252) 448-1072

COUNTY MANAGER
 FRANKY J. HOWARD
 P.O. Box 340
 Trenton, NC 28585

COUNTY ATTORNEY
 JIMMIE B. HICKS
 P.O. Drawer 889
 New Bern, NC 28563

CLERK TO THE BOARD
 JENNIFER KING
 P.O. Box 340
 Trenton, NC 28585

email: jonescounty@jonescountync.gov
 website: www.jonescountync.gov

**RESOLUTION
 ISLAND CREEK ESTATES/BEAR RUN FIRE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the majority of property owners from Island Creek Estates and Bear Run have presented a signed petition to the Jones County Board of Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, these communities are currently served by Pollocksville Volunteer Fire Department which is outside of the six-mile fire district which has a negative impact on insurance ratings; and

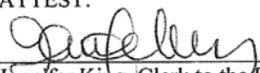
WHEREAS, the Township 7 Fire Department has offered to serve these communities in exchange for a small fire tax, which the community has been made aware of and will be levied by the Jones County Tax Collector; and

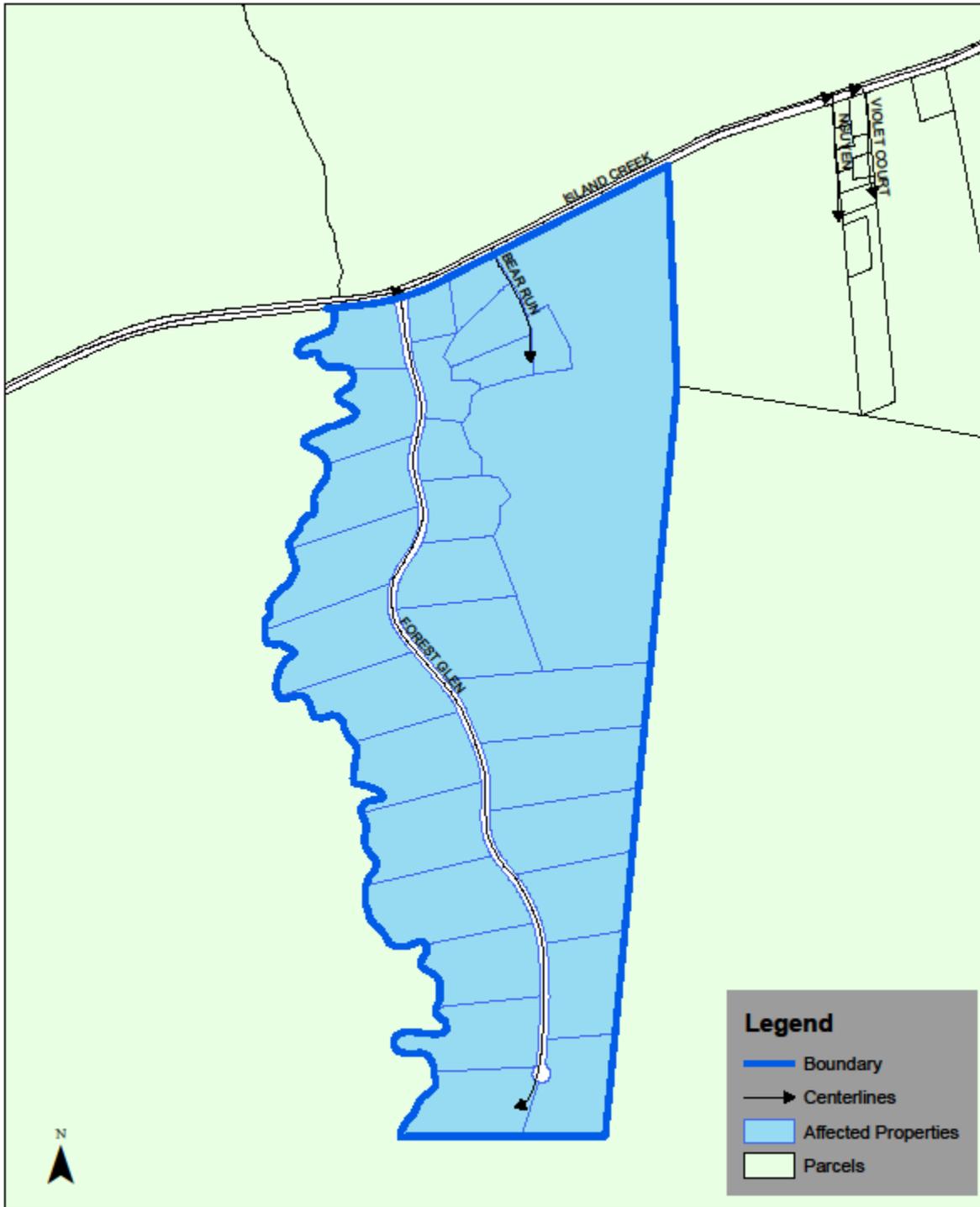
WHEREAS, the Island Creek Estates and Bear Run communities are within the Township 7 Fire Department's six mile district and serving these communities would have a positive impact on their insurance ratings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jones County Board of Commissioners approves the boundary lines of Township 7 Fire District as shown on the attached map for insurance rating purposes only.

This the 1st day of April 2013.


 Frank Emory, Chairman
 Jones County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

 Jennifer King, Clerk to the Board



Jones County, NC

Furthermore described as those certain tracts of parcels of land lying and being situated in Pollockville Township, Jones County, North Carolina and being more particularly described as follows: Being all the Lots as shown and delineated on a map of Island Creek Estates, said map being recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 271 Page 2, in the Jones County Register of Deeds office.

EXHIBIT B

**POLLOCKSVILLE VFD BUDGET COMPARISONS
AND FIRE RATINGS**

POLLOCKSVILLE VFD:

FIRE RATING: 5/9 (BEST IN JONES COUNTY)

BUDGET (INCLUDING FUNDRAISERS) 2010-2011 (-\$12,969.69)

2011-2012 (-\$9267.03)

2012-2013 (- \$15,067.00)

FIRE TAX IS: \$0.00 PER \$100.00

#7 TOWNSHIP VFD:

FIRE RATING: 6/9

BUDGET (WITHOUT FUNDRAISERS) 2012-2013 (\$327,422.00)

FIRE TAX IS .0177 PER \$100.00

RHEM'S VFD:

FIRE RATING: 5/9 (SAME AS POLLOCKSVILLE VFD)

BUDGET (WITHOUT FUNDRAISERS) 2012-2013 (\$216,442.00)

FIRE TAX IS .0414 PER \$100.00



COUNTY OF JONES

JONES COUNTY TAX OFFICE
P.O. Box 87
TRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28585-0087

Wayne L. Vanderford
Tax Administrator

Phone
252-448-2546
Fax
252-448-1080
E-mail
wvanderford@co.jones.nc.us

2012-13 Jones County Taxable Valuation (Estimated)

White Oak Township (Maysville VFD)	\$84,410,914
Pollocksville Township (Pollocksville VFD)	\$211,679,042
Trenton Township (Trenton VFD)	\$120,142,664
Chinquapin Township (Phillip's Crossroad VFD)	\$47,159,580
Cypress Creek Township (Comfort VFD)	\$45,915,847
Tuckahoe Township (Hargett's Crossroad VFD)	\$59,686,645
Beaver Creek Township (Wise Fork VFD)	<u>\$61,285,737</u>
Total Township Valuation	\$630,280,429

In addition, there is approximately \$129,738,697 in valuation that is not broken down by township. This valuation total includes registered motor vehicles, discoveries, and deferred taxes.

The estimated total 2012-13 taxable county wide valuation is (\$630,280,429 + \$129,738,697) or a total of \$760,019,126.

**POLLOCKSVILLE VFD REQUEST AND POSSIBLE
OPTIONS APRIL 1, 2013 BOCC MEETING**

REQUEST:

- 1. IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL DISTRICT FIRE TAX AS WE
HAVE ASKED FOR SINCE FEBRUARY, 2012. (NC
GENERAL STATUE 153A-301)**
- 2. TREAT THE CITIZENS IN OUR FIRE DISTRICT THE
SAME AS YOU HAVE FOR ROCK CREEK, ISLAND
CREEK ESTATES, AND BEAR RUN. (SPECIAL DISTRICT
FIRE TAX)**
- 3. DO NOT MAKE US GET 35% SIGNATURES
(FREEHOLDERS) ON A PETITION TO IMPLEMENT A
RURAL DISTRICT TAX FOR A SPECIAL VOTE SO OUR
CITIZENS INSURANCE PREMIUMS WILL NOT
INCREASE DUE TO LACK OF BUDGET AND LOSS OF
CURRENT FIRE RATING. (NC GENERAL STATUE 69-25-1)**

**NOTE: TREAT ALL CITIZENS THE SAME AND DO NOT
USE DOUBLE STANDARDS WHEN IT COMES TO
PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION BUDGET (SPECIAL
DISTRICT FIRE TAX VS RURAL DISTRICT TAX) TO
HELP MAINTAIN OR REDUCE THEIR HOMEOWNERS
PREMIUMS WHICH ARE LINKED TO VFD FIRE
RATINGS!**

**AN EMAIL RESPONSE I RECEIVED STATES THAT THE
BOCC WANTS EVERY HOMEOWNER IN JONES
COUNTY TO HAVE THE BEST INSURANCE RATE
POSSIBLE. (THIS REQUIRES APPROVED BUDGET
EACH YEAR!)**

**SPECIAL THANKS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS ON
BEHALF OF THE POLLOCKSVILLE VFD APRIL 1,
2013 BOCC MEETING**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO: ZACK KOONCE
WAYNE VANDIFORD
JENNIFER KING
FRANKIE HOWARD**

**THE ABOVE REFERENCED INDIVIDUALS HAVE GONE
ABOVE AND BEYOND HELPING THE POLLOCKSVILLE
VFD WHEN I HAVE SENT EMAILS OR CALLED ASKING
FOR INFORMATION ON THIS LONG PROJECT
CONCERNING A FIRE TAX IMPLEMENTATION THAT I
HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FOR OVER 18 MONTHS.**

DISAPPOINTMENT:

**THE DISAPPOINTING PART ABOUT THIS WHOLE
PROJECT PROPOSAL IS THAT OUR DEPARTMENT
FEELS WE DO NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE BOCC
AS WE ALSO DID NOT HAVE DURING THE REQUESTED
6 MILE IMPLEMENTATION AND APPROVAL.**

**THANK EACH OF YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SPEAK
ON BEHALF OF THE POLLOCKSVILLE VFD. AS I
STATED DURING THE FIRST PRESENTATION, ALL WE
ARE ASKING IS FOR BUDGET FUNDING EACH YEAR
SO WE CAN MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT FIRE RATING
AND PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE FIRE PROTECTION
TO ALL OF THE CITIZENS IN OUR FIRE DISTRICT.**

EXHIBIT C

DEBT SETOFF REPORT 03/25/2013

NAME AND ADDRESS	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT #
Terika Jones 1017 Custom Oak Lane Fuquay Varina, NC 27526	\$167.89	24018
David Stroud 1268 Hwy 11 Kinston, NC 28504	\$92.00	10801, 2596
Total amount for refunds	\$259.89	
Total received from DS	2,324.61	
Less refunds	259.89	
Received for Tax Dept	2,064.72	

EXHIBIT D

Budget Amendment

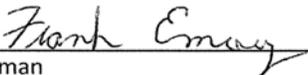
Date: 4/1/2013
Fund: Fund 28
Fiscal Year: 2012-2013 Amendment #5

Decrease Revenues

TC2	Local Match	28-0214-4587-00	281,000.00
TOTAL			281,000.00

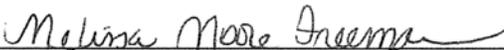
Increase Revenues

TC2	Rural Center EIP Grant	28-0214-4903-00	281,000.00
Total			281,000.00


Chairman


County Manager


Clerk to the Board


Finance Officer

Budget Amendment

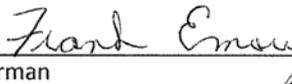
Date: 4/1/2013
Fund: General Fund
Fiscal Year: 2012-2013 Amendment #6

Increase Expenditures

Economic Development	Building Construction	11-4920-5580-01	49,000.00
TOTAL			49,000.00

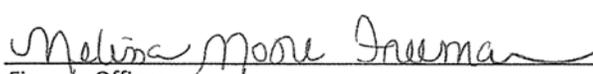
Increase Revenues

Fund Balance	Revolving Loan	11-0991-4991-00	49,000.00
Total			49,000.00


Chairman


County Manager


Clerk to the Board


Finance Officer