

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
MAY 3, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.  
IN THE CARMON AUDITORIUM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. William Wooten and Mr. Ralph Webb.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mrs. Natalie Bess, Deputy County Manager, Mr. Michael Peters, County Attorney and Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.  
Mrs. Bess provided safety instructions.

3. PRAYER.  
Rev. Hines provided prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.  
Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:  
1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to the renaming of Bessemer Lane to Joe's Place.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Joe Powell has submitted a request to rename Bessemer Lane to Joe's Place. Section 20-37 of the Code of Ordinances requires a public hearing be held before consideration of a road name change.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Joe Powell was present to answer any questions.

Mr. Evans read the following letter received from Clara Neal of 1199 Powell Road, Rocky Mount, NC:

*Frangie Mungo  
Clerk to the Board  
P O Box 10  
Tarboro, NC 27886*

*In reference to request by Joe Powell and Edward Powell to rename Bessemer Lane, along Powell Road, to Joe's Place or Joe's Pl. I am in favor of this change.*

*Clara Neal*

There being no other comments, the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Wiggins stated that this request was forwarded to the Board of Commissioners with a favorable recommendation from staff.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the renaming of Bessemer Lane to Joe's Place. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.**

**A. Recognition of Dr. Glenda Knight, Princeville Town Manager.**

Mr. Evans stated that he has had the opportunity to work with Dr. Knight for some time now in her capacity as Town Manager during hurricane recovery. He stated that in the last year and a half or so he has observed a tremendous amount of progress. He stated that certainly it is a team effort and there are lots of people involved, but without a doubt he believed that Dr. Knight is the tip of that sphere and deserves credit and recognition for the work she has done to help the Town of Princeville to build back better. Mr. Evans named a few of the things that led to her accomplishments. Mr. Evans called Dr. Knight to the podium and presented her a plaque of recognition.

Dr. Knight expressed how honored she is for this recognition. She thanked Mr. Evans for responding to the ongoing needs of the Town of Princeville. Dr. Knight thanked the Board for accepting Mr. Evans' recommendation.

Mr. Alvin Jones and Ms. Linda Joyner, Town of Princeville Commissioners, were present and came forth to express their gratitude for the work that Dr. Knight has been doing for the Town.

Mr. Ricky Knight, Dr. Knight's husband, was also present for support.

**B. Cornelia Anthony-McGhee and Peter Varney with the City of Rocky Mount presented the three-year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing for the Down East HOME Consortium.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County is able to receive federal HOME funds by being a part of the Down East HOME Consortium. HOME funds provide for housing and community development activities for low-income families. Typically, the HOME funds we receive are used for housing rehabilitation projects. He stated that we participate along with the City of Rocky Mount (lead entity), and several other municipalities in the Twin Counties Region. One requirement of the program is that a three-year consolidated plan and subsequent annual action plans be prepared outlining how funds will be used.

Mr. Varney provided a slide presentation regarding the plan:

- Schedule for public process.
- Community Outreach.
- Consolidated Plan Goals.
- Priority Needs.
- HOME proposed budget.
- HOME expenditures.
- Analysis of impediments to Fair Housing choice.
- Background.
- Goals.

Mrs. Harris asked what amount is considered low-income.

Mrs. McGhee provided this information.

**C. Karen Lachapelle, Health Director, presented COVID-19 update.**

Mrs. Lachapelle stated that as of May 3, 2021, reported to her by the DHHS Edgecombe County has 5,400 cases of COVID-19. From April 25, 2021 there has been an increase of 81 cases. We still have Optum Serve testing at Heritage Park in Princeville and at Pinetops behind Town Hall. You can still be tested at Freedom Hill, Vidant Multispecialty Clinic and OIC.

Mrs. Lachapelle provided COVID-19 case information relative to total cases, age groups, gender, race, hospitalizations, deaths (age, gender); number of vaccines given, sites participating in vaccination clinics. She stated that they are currently working with businesses and industries to provide onsite vaccination clinics. They are still doing homebound vaccines. Anyone who has to be transported by rescue squad to the doctor's appointment and they also do curbside service at the Health Department. They continue to work together as the Rural Health Network to target the county. Michelle (Vidant Edgecombe) is taking the lead on working with local churches to provide vaccine clinic. Freedom Hill is working with the Farmers Association to provide vaccines to the migrant population.

**7. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.**

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**MRS. POWELL MOVED TO RECESS REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND RECONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

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**A. Mr. Wiggins called the meeting to order.**

**B. Scheduled appointments.**

Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, stated that there were no appeals to be presented tonight, but they received one appeal on Friday that staff worked on informally so

**C. Consideration of finalizing final values will take place at June meeting due to the appeal received on Friday.**

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**MRS. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

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Mr. Evans directed the Board's attention to an agenda item under Department Reports regarding a letter received from the North Carolina Department of Revenue regarding 2021 Sales Assessment Ratio Studies and asked Mrs. Lewis to provide explanation.

Mrs. Lewis stated that pursuant to NCGS 105-284, the Department of Revenue is required to adjust public service company values to achieve equalization in the year a county conducts a reappraisal and in the fourth and seventh years thereafter.

**8. PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Mrs. Deborah Jordan, 614 E. Wilson Street, Tarboro, asked why Edgecombe County does not have the Say Yes COVID Test. Pitt County has free rapid self-care test kits that they are distributing. She wanted to know why Edgecombe County does not have it and how can the County get in on this especially for the sick and shut in citizens. She stated that she has personally knocked on doors and took names and telephone numbers and turned them into the Health Department and Freedom Hill Clinic for individuals to get the vaccine. She wanted to know what is the Health Department doing to reach homebound individuals and citizens in the rural areas. Mrs. Jordan also expressed her concern about shot administrators asking

for health insurance cards which could be a deterrent if individuals don't know that they do not have to have an insurance card.

Mrs. Jordan also stated that she talked to Mr. Evans and Mr. Troy Lewis, Tarboro Town Manager, and Sheriff Clee Atkinson about it now being the time to have the conversation about the policing in our County. She stated that she is the mother of a Black Autistic son and if he is confronted by law enforcement he may not be compliant because he does not want people touching him. She suggested that Mrs. Harris, Commissioner serving her district, and Mr. Evans and others she has talked with come together and ask questions in light of what happened in Elizabeth City.

Mr. Wiggins stated to Mrs. Jordan that it appears that she is heading it up and making it happen and stated that the Board would support those efforts to talk with all involved in the community. He also asked Mr. Evans to check into her concerns regarding COVID vaccinations.

No petitions received via email or postal mail.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

Mr. Evans provided additional information on some of the budget amendments.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. **Approval of NC-DOT extension of Benbro Drive, SR-1354.**

Mr. Evans stated that staff with NC DOT have submitted a plan to extend BenBro Drive, which will be added to the State Maintenance System. To do so, a petition and request must be approved. He recommended that the Board approve the petition to add the extension of BenBro Drive to the State Maintenance System.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the petition as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of Elections equipment purchase.**

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Jerry Spruell, Board of Elections Director, submitted a request to purchase the new voting equipment high speed counter DS450. This machine will save time and money down the road when counting and recounting may occur. During the 2020 election this would have been exactly what they needed. He stated that they counted and recounted 24,000 ballots three time. Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Spruell stated that they received a grant to purchase this equipment, and it will not cost the County anything to purchase it. The cost of the Ds450 with accessories is \$56,679.00 and there will be a mock election on this equipment Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9 a.m. in the Carmon Auditorium, which is required before purchasing.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the purchase of the equipment as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. **Approval of JCPC funding for fiscal year 2022.**

Mr. Evans stated that the NC Department of Public Safety is again making available funds for the Juvenile Crime Prevention programs for FY-22 in the amount of \$255,122. Proposals were solicited and reviewed by the JCPC funding committee, and then approved by the Juvenile Crime prevention Council at their last meeting. Mr. Evans presented a list of the programs and recommended funding. He noted a difference this year in that we may approve programs to receive two-year program commitments. That is contingent upon the availability of funds and the program's continued compliance and

performance. Any new program or programs that have identified performance issues are to receive a one-year funding agreement. Mr. Evans presented the programs that are recommended for two-year funding agreements and recommended that the Board approve the allocation of these funds as presented, including \$23,104 in local match to be included in the FY-22 budget.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the allocation of these funds as presented and the local match. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of fee change for Health Department.**

Mr. Evans stated that staff at the Health Department regularly reviews the fee schedule to add fees as needed and to ensure existing fees cover the costs associated with providing the services. He presented for the Board's consideration a change in the fee for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration due to the Medicaid reimbursement rate increasing. The current fee is \$25 for the first dose and \$30 for the second dose. The recommendation is to increase both to \$40 per dose. The Human Services Board at their last meeting voted to recommend the approval of this fee change.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the fee schedule as recommended by the Human Services Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**10. APPOINTMENTS.**

**A. Edgecombe County TDA.**

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Commissioner Evelyn Powell. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Tarboro-Edgecombe Arts Commission.**

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Mr. Buddy Hooks. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**11. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**12. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Boswell moved to table contract approval. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**13. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.\*\*\*Received\*\*\***

**A. Water Services.**

**B. Financial Summary report.**

**C. Tax Administration – 2021 Sales Assessment Ratio Study.**

**D. Fire Department rating inspection.**

**14. MANAGER'S REPORT.\*\*\*Received\*\*\***

**A. Workforce Development indicators.**

**B. Update on Medicaid Transformation provided by Mrs. Bess.**

**C. Joint meeting with Edgecombe and Nash School Boards.**

**D. Budget Work Session – May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Call for public hearing for FY-2022**

**Budget approval for the June 7, 2021 Board meeting**

**Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing for the fiscal year 2021-2022**

**budget for June 7, 2021. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**E. Opioid settlement update.**

**F. Update on E-File in the Register of Deeds Office.**

15. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

None.

16. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

17. CLOSED SESSION.

Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss:

A. Economic Development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]

B. Legal Matter. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3)]

Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to consider contracts previously tabled. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the Long's Home Repair contract for post mold remediation renovations for EMS Station #2. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Contract with Ainsley Construction for roof replacement at DSS building in Rocky Mount remained tabled.

18. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL MAY 6, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. FOR JOINT MEETING WITH THE EDGECOMBE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD. MR. WEBB SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved June 7, 2021.



Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board