

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
APRIL 5, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE CARMON AUDITORIUM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. Ralph Webb, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Viola Harris and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

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 MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021, March 1, 2021 and March 15, 2021 meetings as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.

A. Vila Anderson, Register of Deeds, presented a proposed resolution to name the ROD's Records Vault in honor of Mr. Jonathan Newton.

Mr. Peters read the Resolution Dedicating the Records Vault in the Edgecombe County Register of Deeds Office in Memory of Jonathan Leo Newton "John", stating that Mr. Newton was not an employee of Edgecombe County, he worked for many years as an independent title researcher in Edgecombe County where he became such a vital aspect of the community of citizens, Register of Deeds personnel, and local attorneys who relied on his services that he maintained his own "corner office" in the records vault.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Karen Lachapelle, Health Director, presented COVID-19 update.

Mrs. Lachapelle stated that as of today the County has 5,016 cases of COVID-19 over the last year. From the week before that was an increase of 123 cases. That is an increase of about 29 cases from the week before. She stated that we still have the Optum Serve testing at Heritage Park in Princeville and at Pinetops behind the Town hall. Of course, you can still be tested at Freedom Hill, Vidant Multispecialty Clinic and OIC.

Mrs. Lachapelle provided the following breakdown of the cases:

- Age group 25-49 have had most cases (1797)
- Males have had most cases
- Whites have had more cases (2035)
- 373 hospitalized
- 111 total deaths

- Majority deaths in age group 75+
- More males have died than females
- More whites have died (59) 53%

She stated that they continue to give vaccinations at the Health Department and have given only 12,000 vaccines and it is declining in both offices. She provided a list of places currently giving the vaccine.

MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO RECESS THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- A. The Honorable Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court, administered the oath.
- B. Mr. Wiggins, Chairman, called the meeting to order.
- C. Consideration of adoption of updated Notice of Decision letter.

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

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Decision Regarding the Discovery Billing as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

- D. Scheduled appointments. None

RECESS AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW UNTIL MAY 3, 2021 AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

No petitioners came forth or signed up to speak.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Evans provided explanation on several of the budget amendments.

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

B. Approval of demolition order for 123 Martin Sasser Drive.

Mr. Evans stated that a home located at 123 Martin Sasser Drive was destroyed by fire in 2017. The remnants of which are unsafe and pose a threat to nearby residents. After a complaint was received and subsequent inspection done, a public hearing was held in August of 2019. The owner was ordered to demolish the structure, but has not complied. Therefore, Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the resolution ordering the Building Inspector to condemn the property, giving the owner 90 days to comply with the order. If after that time, the owner has not, this will authorize the Building Inspector to have the structure demolished and removed, placing a lien against the real property for the costs incurred.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Resolution Ordering the Building Inspector of Edgecombe County to Condemn the Building Owned by Rosaland Evans and Located at 123 Martin Sasser Drive, Rocky Mount, NC Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160D-1129. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of Resolution to support the naming of Sunset Avenue Bridge in honor of Mr. Gus Tullos.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the Resolution in Support of Naming the Sunset

Avenue/Wesleyan Boulevard Bridge in Honor of Mr. Gus Tulloss. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the Water and Sewer Department's Capital Improvement Plan. This provides a way to plan for the phased build-out of needed infrastructure in the County as well as capital purchases needed to maintain our existing system. This plan lists desired projects, planned capital purchases, estimated costs, and the number of citizens potentially benefitting from the project.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of amended purchase agreement with Stryker for Stretcher and power lift system for EMS.

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the purchase agreement with Stryker for the purchase and installation of power stretchers and lift systems for three of our new ambulances. The total cost is \$110,338. Funds are already budgeted for this purchase.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the purchase agreement as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of Resolution to approve the submittal of funding application for Kingsboro Water System Improvement Project.

Mr. Evans stated that we have the opportunity to apply for funds to expand our water capacity at Kingsboro Industrial Park. We are currently able to serve all of the park with the existing infrastructure. However, increasing our capacity will allow us to pursue industrial clients who have a water volume demand greater than what we can currently provide. Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration a resolution that will authorize the submission of an application to the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

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

G. Approval of calling for a public hearing to consider the renaming of Bessemer Lane to Joe's Place.

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 to be held before consideration of a road name change.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing at the May 3, 2021 meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of contract for Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Mr. Evans stated that annually, we enter into an agreement with the NC Division of vocational Rehabilitation services to assist eligible individuals in gaining employment. These services include counseling, training, education, transportation, job placement, assistive technology, and other support services. For those services, the County provides matching funds, which for FY 2022 will be \$18,086 and office space is provided for staff.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute the same. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of amendment to Southern Health Partners contract.

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration a contract amendment with Southern Health Partners. SHP provides health services onsite at the Edgecombe County detention center. Sheriff Atkinson has requested SHP to also provide mental health services. This amendment will add the services of a Qualified Mental Health Specialist for up to four hours per week. This will add \$8,653 to the contract annually.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the contract amendment with Southern Health Partners as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. APPOINTMENTS

A. Arts Commission.

Mrs. Powell moved to appoint Barbara Vick as recommended. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*Received*****

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary report.
- C. Solid Waste – Roadside Litter.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT.*Received*****

- A. Parks and Recreation Taskforce.
- B. Workforce Development Indicators.
- C. Joint meetings with school boards:
 - Edgecombe May 6th at 7:00 p.m.
 - Nash May 10th at 7:00 p.m.
- D. Schedule for follow-up work session to review draft Unified Development Ordinance updates.
- E. Award for infrastructure work at Kingsboro Industrial Park.

Mr. Evans stated that he had one last item that was not on the agenda that he wanted to add. He stated that we have a new road in the Kingsboro Industrial Park. The road has been there for some time and we have to name that road and he has a recommendation/suggestion for that road. Mr. Evans recommended, along with Norris Tolson and Oppie Jordan with Carolinas Gateway, the road name of the Leonard Wiggins Parkway. Although Mr. Wiggins was unaware of this Mr. Evans had previously discussed this with the other Board members.

Mr. Evans read the following request to be submitted to NC-DOT and to be signed by all Board of Commissioners:

The Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners is pleased to recommend naming our new industrial access road into our 2,000 acre Kingsboro business park, "Leonard Wiggins Parkway". Mr. Wiggins, current Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, has served on this board for 28 years and has been chair for the last 10 years. He has been an active public servant for most of his adult life, chairing numerous boards including the Edgecombe County social Services Board and the Edgecombe Community College Board. Chairman Wiggins is a graduate of Shaw University. The majority of his public service career was with the NC Human Relations Committee where he served as the Human Relations Specialist and Supervisor of Investigations. Though retired from the position, he is still very active as a small business owner. Mr. Wiggins also served in the United States Army. He is married to

Selma Wiggins and they have one adult son, The Honorable Lamont Wiggins, NC Superior Court Judge.

12. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

None.

13. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

14. **CLOSED SESSION.**

Rev. Hines moved to go into executive session to discuss economic development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

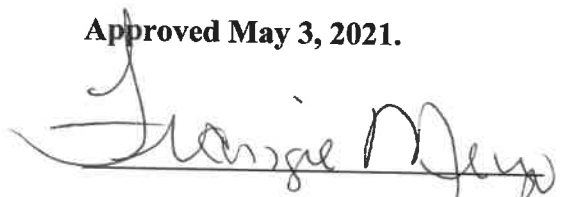
Rev. Hines moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell asked whether any federal funds from the American Rescue Plan would be earmarked for broadband. Mr. Evans responded that there would be some funds earmarked for broadband expansion. The board discussed that broadband was still an ongoing issue and Mr. Wooten commented that the board should consider waiting to see how the federal money would be allocated before spending county money where federal funds could be used. The board discussed waiting for more guidance from the federal government about how the funds could be spent, county staff working with key stake holders to decide how to utilize federal funds, and waiting to see how the State of North Carolina's budget allocates the stimulus money the state received so as to not duplicate spending and to invest county funds well.

Mrs. Harris reminded everyone that the NCACC webinar regarding the American Rescue Plan was going to be held the following day on April 6, 2021.

15. **MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MAY 3, 2021. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved May 3, 2021.



Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board