

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OF EDGEcombe COUNTY**  
**APRIL 4, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE JONATHAN FELTON COMMISSIONERS ROOM**  
**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. Evelyn Powell, Mr. William Wooten, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris 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.**

**Mr. Webb moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 with the correction being made on item #3 (7-A), which should state that Mr. Boswell seconded the motion. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.**

**A. Michelle Etheridge, Health Director, to presented COVID-19 update.**

**Mrs. Etheridge stated that as of March 29, 2022 NC DHHS reported 13,332 cases of COVID-19 in Edgecombe County. Group most affected is white females in the age group of 25-49. She provided information on demographics on cases, deaths and vaccines. Death count due to COVID-19 is 141. She provided information on COVID-19 testing, vaccines, community events and incentives.**

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**6. REV. HINES 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.**

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**A. Honorable Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court, administered the oath of office.**

**B. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.**

**C. Consideration of adoption of updated Notice of Decision letters.**

- **Regular**

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

- **Discovery and late listing**

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Discovery and Late Listing Notice of Decision Letter as presented. Rev. Hine seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Scheduled appointments. (None)**

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**REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW UNTIL MAY 2, 2022 AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

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**7. PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Bronson Williams, 1230 Cokey Road, Rocky Mount, spoke on the possibility of the County split with the school system. He stated that 1600 Edgecombe County students will be affected by the decision and he hoped that a lot of information will be disseminated to the community as it relates the impact on those families and how the County going to come up with the nearly \$11 million in deferred maintenance that the buildings have. He expressed his concern regarding the Board if there going to be a push to ensure that Nash County will do its part of servicing those children and those buildings that are in somewhat of a horrible condition. He stated that they will have a meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, inviting the Commissioners and community to come out at the OIC auditorium to hear what the community has to say before making a decision. A lot of people in the community do not know the history of the situation and how it started. He stated that it is his responsibility as a media person to speak from an informed decision as to what will happen. Secondly, he stated that he attended the Nash County Commissioners meeting and he talked about how in this society we are shattering glass ceilings for women across our Country. Mr. Williams stated that he didn't think Nash County has ever had a female County Chairman and Edgecombe as well. He stated that the Board has two females sitting on the board. When we have a representation that looks like our young women in our community they can say I too can be a Chairperson of a County. He stated that his hope is that in the near future, looking at Chairmanship, that the Board will look at what would be the best for our community as showing people that we all are equals in this world and we can do the same things that other people can do.

Mr. Wiggins provided dates and locations of upcoming community meetings regarding the school system.

Mr. Wiggins stated that every year the Chair of the Board is decided by public votes from the Board. He stated that since he has been on the Board the opportunity is offered to anybody sitting on the Board and if they are nominated and they get four votes they will be the Chair.

Mrs. Harris stated that rotation of the Chair would give every Commissioner the opportunity to learn to lead in case said person is not available. She stated that she has asked the Board several times about rotation, because she may not get the popular vote, which means she would never be Chair. Mrs. Harris stated that she has 21 years under her belt and feels that she is just as qualified as anybody else.

Roosevelt Higgs spoke on Senate Bill 382 and all the conversations relative to it in the past meetings and discussions. He stated that the Board of Commissioners knows that they are the ones to ultimately make the decision, but trying to put it in the hands of the School Board. He stated that the Commissioners should be the ones to face their constituents. He also asked the Board to consider having day time meetings.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. Approval of budget amendments.**

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Rev. Hines

seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Approval of offer to purchase County owned lot at Arlington Street Extension, Rocky Mount.**

Mr. Evans stated that an offer to purchase was received from Thomas and Smith Group, LLC to purchase property the County owns at Arlington St. Ext., Rocky Mount, NC. This property was acquired through tax foreclosure. The offer is for \$700.00. If the offer to purchase is accepted by the Board, a minimum 10-day public notice must then be given for upset bid. In order to remove this liability from the County's ownership, to recoup the costs the County has in the property, and to return it to taxable status, it is recommended that the Board of Commissioners accept this offer to purchase and direct staff to publish the aforementioned public notice.

Mr. Bowell moved to accept the offer to purchase and to direct staff to publish required notice. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**C. Approval of Recreation Mini-Grant Awards.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Recreation Mini-grant program was created to offer grants of up to \$2,000 each to community-based organizations that provide recreational facilities and/or activities. The review committee met Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss and rank the eight proposals received. Each proposal was rated based on the project description, timeline, area served, number of individuals served, duration of the program, budget and feasibility, and the capacity of the organization. The committee recommends that seven of the eight projects be funded in the amounts listed in the attached document. Mr. Evans stated that some of the recommended amounts exceed the \$2,000 limit. Being that the total of the seven recommended did not equal the \$20,000 budgeted for the program, the committee recommends to waive that limit and offer five of the seven programs an additional \$1,200 each.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the grant awards as presented and to authorize the Manager to execute agreements. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval of transfer of property to the Town of Tarboro for backup generator at Focus Services.**

Mr. Evans stated that part of the incentive offered to Focus Services for locating their call center here in Tarboro was providing a back-up generator at the facility, which is located on the corner of St. Andrew and Church St. next to our Human Services Building. The Town of Tarboro has facilitated the installation of the generator there at the facility, which part of it is on county-owned property. The Town will oversee and maintain the generator. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board convey that property, which I approximately half the size of a parking space, to the Town of Tarboro by approving the deed.

Mrs. Harris moved to convey the property to the Town of Tarboro. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of Proclamation Declaring April as County Government Month.**

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

**F. Approval of resolution requesting to retain current Workforce Development area.**

Mr. Evans stated that there are twenty-three workforce development Regions in North Carolina responsible for administering federal workforce

funds and coordinating workforce related services for both job seekers and employers. We are in the Turning Point region, which also includes Northampton, Halifax, Nash, and Wilson counties. There is some discussion at the state level regarding the possible consolidation of these workforce regions. Both our Turning Point Consortium, which is made up of the chairs of our five counties as well as the Turning Point Board of Directors, have collectively stated they wish to keep our region as it is. Also, the other four counties in our region have acted on the same resolution.

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

**G. Approval of resolution to designate April 4 – 10 as Public Health Week.**  
Mrs. Harris moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**H. Approval of Resolution of Preliminary Findings for Water and Sewer District 4 Closing.**

Mrs. Harris moved to convene as Governing Board of Water and Sewer District No. 4. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Evans stated that we have completed the sewer project for Speed and vicinity, and we plan to close on the USDA-Rural Development loan associated with the project in June. At the closing, we will issue Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$503,000. First, the Local Government Commission must approve this. Mr. Evans presented a resolution directing the application to the Local government Commission for approval.

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

Mr. Webb moved to adjourn as Governing Board of Water and Sewer District No. 4 and reconvene regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**I. Approval of the placement of a portrait of Judge George M. Britt to be placed in the courthouse.**

Mr. Evans stated that he received requests for the placement of a portrait of the late Judge George M. Britt in the Edgecombe County Courthouse. The portrait, which was commissioned by the Nash/Edgecombe Bar Association, has been completed.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the placement of the portrait in the courthouse. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**J. Approval of resolutions for infrastructure projects.**

Mr. Evans stated that we are fortunate to have a considerable amount of grant funding coming available to use from the State for water and sewer projects. These are State ARPA funds through both the Clean Water/Water Infrastructure program as well as the Viable Utility program. To capitalize on this opportunity, we have developed projects that could be eligible for either program. These projects include:

- A water asset management plan;
- A wastewater asset management plan;
- Waterline extensions;
- Water system improvements, including replacing water meters; and
- Wastewater improvements in Lone Pine Mobile Home Park.

These programs will be very competitive, and quick submission of applications as soon as the application period starts is critical. Mr. Evans presented resolutions to the Board that will authorize us to submit applications in either of the two programs for each project.

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

**K. Approval of Right of Way easement for Edgecombe Martin - EMC.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe Martin Electric Membership Corporation is in need of an easement along property the County owns in Fountain Industrial Park. This will allow them to expand and improve their system in the area.

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

**L. Funding approval for fiscal year 2023 JCPC Programs.**

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. Last year, four programs were approved for a two-year funding agreement. That left \$76,748 open for proposals, which were solicited. Four programs submitted proposals, which were reviewed by the JCPC funding committee. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council at their last meeting voted to recommend funding per the attached spreadsheet. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the allocation of these funds as presented, including \$25,512 in local match to be included in the FY-23 budget and to authorize him to execute agreements with each program.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the allocation of these funds as presented, the local match and to authorize the Manager to execute agreements. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**9. APPOINTMENTS:**

**A. Planning Board.**

Board of Commissioners was presented a chart showing districts in which vacancies exist.

**B. Board of Adjustment.**

Board of Commissioners was presented a chart showing districts in which vacancies exist.

**C. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.**

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint:

Lorraine Dickens, At-large appointment

Ralph Webb, Commissioner appointment

Shelia Cook, Non-profit appointment (Boys and Girls Club)

Calvin Adkins, At-large appointment

Bernice Anderson, At-large appointment

Kentay Knight, At-large appointment

Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Princeville Planning Board for ETJ.**

None.

**10. PLANNING BOARD REPORT.**

Planning Board report provided by Mrs. Katina Braswell, Planning Director.

**A. Preliminary plat approval for Mr. John Smith.**

**B. UDO Text Amendment request for approval.**

*The Planning Board voted unanimously to forward the request to the Board of Commissioners to call for a public hearing at the May 2, 2022 meeting.*

*Rev. Hines moved to call for a public hearing at the May 2, 2022 meeting. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.*

C. Minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

A. Water and Sewer update.

B. Monthly Financial Summary provided by Katherine Walters, Finance Director.

C. One-Stop Early Voting schedule.

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

A. Workforce Development indicators.

B. Update from NCDOT on bridge construction.

C. Update on Opioid settlement.

D. Sales Tax report.

15. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

Mrs. Harris reported on the reduction of the NCACC membership dues; June 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day in Raleigh; Counties should make sure that their EOC plan has been reviewed and the April 1<sup>st</sup> HRC candidate's forum.

Mr. Boswell expressed his concerns regarding the school system report.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding this.

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. Personnel. [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 session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Peters provided detailed information regarding a case in North Carolina regarding a taxpayer who preferred email notifications and was not notified of tax foreclosure by email and the tax office had the email address.

After discussion Mr. Wooten moved to support a resolution against the requirement to notify a taxpayer by email regarding foreclosure. Mrs. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

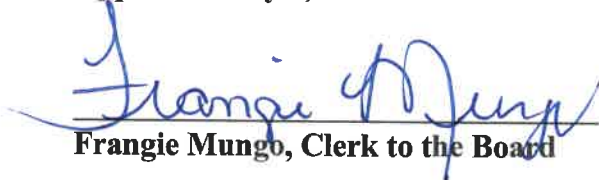
The Board talked about LGC and the audit findings for FY 20

Rotation of Board of Commissioners Chairperson was discussed.

**Mr. Wooten moved to approve the resolution to terminate the agreement with Triangle Tire. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

- 18. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**Approved May 2, 2022.**

  
**Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board**