

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
JULY 5, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE JONATHAN FELTON COMMISSIONERS ROOM
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, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. Ralph Webb and Mr. William Wooten.

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.

Safety instructions provided by Mrs. Bess.

3. PRAYER.

Prayer provided by Rev. Hines.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022, June 14, 2022 and June 27, 2022 meetings as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments relative to the possible county-line merger of Edgecombe County Public Schools.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that the Board has had multiple meetings with Edgecombe County School System Board and a series of public meetings to gather public comment. Therefore, the Board felt it would be appropriate before you considered taking action on this is to have an official public hearing tonight. Mr. Evans provided an outline of what the steps would be if the Board takes action in favor of moving in that direction. Those steps are already outlined in Senate Bill 382 or Session Law 2016-14. Mr. Evans directed attention to Section 7, which basically describes what is to happen if this Board decides not to continue to provide the funding as required through this statute: Step #1 states that effective July 1 on the following calendar year, that is if the Board takes action tonight to direct staff not to fund this a year from now then the actual transfer of the school board districts will happen the following July 2024. Also, it describes here the changing of the boundaries. The boundaries would then go to the County lines. #2 talks about terms of office of those Board of Education members who are not residing within the local school administrative unit for which they serve would then expire; #3 says that before then the electoral districts for the school boards would have to be redrawn to reflect the boundaries of each of the newly drawn school administrative units; Step #4 says that within 120 days of the certification of the funds ceasing to be given to the school system, that then a written plan is to be developed and submitted to the State Board Education. This is a plan that will detail the plan

of transfer of that portion of the district into Edgecombe County Schools. It also goes into detail on what that plan is to include; #5 discusses the transfer of property; #6 talks about any claims and demands that are held within that school district for those schools would transfer to the school unit and any debt obligations would as well.

Mr. Evans stated that if the Board takes action to initiate this tonight the steps of that transition are outlined in the Session Law 2016-14.

Mr. Wiggins acknowledge the presence of Dr. Valerie Bridges, ECPS Superintendent and Rev. Raymond Privott, ECPS Board Chairman and asked that they come forth if they had any comments.

Dr. Raymond Privott stated that when members of Edgecombe County Board of Education took their oaths of office, they swore or affirmed in that oath that they would provide the best sound appropriate quality education that they could possibly provide for all of the students in the Edgecombe County District. Not some. Not when it was popular. Not even when it was unpopular. Not even when people wanted, or didn't want it, but they swore or affirmed to make that commitment to provide that sound basic popular education. Dr. Privott stated that though they have no vote as a school board, they still swear and affirm their commitment to the same. To provide the best sound quality basic education for all of the students within the boundaries of the Edgecombe County School District. He stated that he believes in the Superintendent, her staff, and the Board of Education. There is no questions about whether they can provide that sound basic quality education for all of the children within the perimeters of the Edgecombe County boundaries. Dr. Privott asked that the Board give an affirm vote to allow them to do that.

Dr. Valerie Bridges thanked the Board of Commissioners for over the years providing the things they asked for so they could be a school district that would create an environment for our students that would be impactful, that they would be able to support a positive projectory for their lifestyle. She also thanked the School Board members that were present. Dr. Bridges stated that whatever happens this evening, her job as Superintendent is to make sure that she provides the best education for students that are a part of Education County Public Schools.

Teresa Deloatch-Bryant, 701 E. Church Street, Tarboro, stated that she stood before the Board to provide them with a prospective hopefully that may be more objective than someone who has really been in this. She stated that she attended the May 31st meeting and she listened to a lot up of the history and a lot of it to her is not helpful, may be more harmful than helpful. She stated that since she graduated from law school in 1993, during the time period when the mergers Edgecombe, Tarboro, Nash, Rocky Mount, those were going on and it was something of interest in law school as a student. Mrs. Deloatch-Bryant stated that she has always been in favor of Edgecombe County providing education for the students in Rocky Mount. She stated that she does have some issues with the plan but she still left the May 31st meeting convinced that Edgecombe County should provide the education for the students in Rocky Mount. She stated that she has understood this relationship we have, or this arrangement we have with Nash County. Why can Edgecombe County provide education for students in Pinetops, Battleboro, Tarboro, but there is something about Rocky Mount that you can't provide education for. Nash County has an obligation to their citizens, to their students, and sometimes, even though you may be aligned or friendly in terms of business and or personal, sometimes your interests just don't align and it would make sense that an entity has to be led by what would be best for whomever they serve. She stated that she does not have an issue with Nash

County. They have done no more or no less than what they have been permitted to do. With regards to the makeup of the district or the Rocky Mount, the children can have the misfortune of being Carolina blue and we still would have a duty to serve them. It is your duty to serve them. She stated that with regards to what she sees, she did not think it is a merger, but we contracted out a very important duty to Nash County and it's time to pull the contract back. Evaluate the contract. How have they performed the service? Without getting into topics or things that might cause distraction, the bottom line is that the contract has not served us well. She stated that she could not believe that we go year to year waiting for another County to tell us how much money they are going to spend for their schools and then you have to pay for it. She stated that the plan needs to be more fiscally conservative. We've got three elementary schools underutilized. We already have a middle school. The biggest thing is the high school. What's going to happen with the high school. The City of Rocky Mount, is now not making the gap payment. We need that money and she hopes that Edgecombe will lean upon Rocky Mount as it benefits the citizens in their municipality to have a high school in Rocky Mount. Mrs. Deloatch-Bryant stated that she is in favor of it without having the formal plan. She stated that she is hoping that the board will get ahead of it and do something about it and vote in favor.

C.B. Daughtridge stated that he was a fellow commissioner and he thanked the Board for allowing him to express his approval of the demerger. Mr. Daughtridge asked the Board, "Do you give a signed blank check to anybody? Would you, have you? Well, if you do not vote affirmative then that is what you are doing to Nash County. You are giving them a blank check and it's going to get bigger and bigger. He stated that what was started thirty years ago was a patch and then about seven years ago we come along and we readdressed the patch. We tried to put another patch on it, or somebody helped us do it. Patches are usually used for a healing period. The healing period is over. Let's get rid of that patch. He stated that we are cheating our Edgecombe students out of the opportunity of about \$2 million by the unbalanced County funding. We pay for those students to go over there, we are not equaling that fund to the 7,000 we got. Three reasons are enough to vote affirmative for the demerger. With the students that will be moving back into our school system he would like to see the startup of a vocational training program with a goal to expand it to the Edgecombe County full system as soon as we can do that. Mr. Daughtridge stated that he has ideas about negotiations on addressing the demerger plan, but let's hold that until we get this affirmative vote.

Faye Taylor, 240 Temperance Hall Road, Rocky Mount, stated that her community asked her to represent them on the consideration of the demerger issue. She stated that she is proud of Dr. Bridges for her deep caring and enlightened approach as our superintendent. She provided background information: From teaching 8th grade at West Edgecombe, becoming Assistant Principal at both Phillips Middle School and Martin Middle School; Principal at Bullock Elementary for twelve years; after retirement she served on the School Board; last two years served at Edgecombe Early College High School. She stated that she is always going to be concerned about the education in Edgecombe County. There are several issues that concerns her about the demerger: teacher retention and hiring, school safety, the effect of the pandemic on the value of education, uneducated parents who are now choosing to home school their children, financial concerns, student scores and the transition period, Qualified teachers are very difficult to find, shortage of teachers. When our supplement is 7%, they can go right over to Nash County for 11%. It would also be easy for Nash to choose the best of their teachers to fill their voids. The teachers who are now in their schools will be able to remain in the Nash County. After the previous school shootings, parents are extremely concerned about

safety. They feel this area of Rocky Mount is high in drugs and gangs. During the year and half of the pandemic many students did not get any education at all. They were given all the capability to participate in virtual learning. Before and after the pandemic some parents chose to home school their children. Knowing the inability of these parents to teach is a concern. We talk about we want to educate every student. She stated that to address the financial concerns, she understood that Edgecombe has had to send allotment dollars for each of these students to Nash County and we also have to pay a percentage for their new buildings, which are often no where near Edgecombe County. However, if the demerger takes place, there will have to be a high school provision made because Southwest is overcrowded. There will also be great expense to repair their existing schools and assume any debt that they may have. Mrs. Taylor asked the Board to consider all these concerns when making this decision. Please think about having to get even more qualified teachers, retaining those that we do have, providing the best possible safety for our students, placing student value back on education and keeping our education level up and moving rather than dropping. The Board's decision will greatly affect so many in our County.

Roosevelt Higgs, 127 Midway, Tarboro, stated that he has distributed over the course of the last seven years and over the course of the last two weeks (Senate Bill 382). The talk has been put out there so he cannot think of anybody who has not had to opportunity to hear about this. He stated that whatever decision is made it will be the right decision. Mr. Higgs stated that that he did some homework and found out that out of 100%, 50% of people don't want to serve on public boards. Another 30% want to serve but for some reason they don't pursue it. So mathematically that's 20% left. Out of that 20% left, 13% has strong reservations about making unpopular decisions. That leaves only 7% that realize that every decision is not going to please everybody. He stated that his is that the Board are all in that 7%. Mr. Higgs stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Edgecombe County Coalition for the Advancement of all People. He stated that it is time that we try to find a way to equalize funding for all of the students in the County on a fair and equitable way.

Andre Knight speaking on behalf of the Rocky Mount Branch of the NAACP stated that NAACP encourages the Edgecombe County Commissioners to vote for the consolidation of all of Edgecombe County under the Edgecombe County Public School System. We are saddened about, and frustrated in the condition of physical and ratings of all four Rocky Mount schools located in Edgecombe County. According to estimates it will cost over \$10 million to bring Fairview Early Childhood Center, Johnson Elementary School, Baskerville Elementary School, Parker Middle School up to current physical plant standards. We believe that under the Nash County Commissioners leadership, we know that some, voted against it. Under the Nash County Commissioners leadership, the Rocky Mount Edgecombe Schools have been intentionally underfunded and the physical improvements, staffing priorities, and programming creativities and support. None of the Rocky Mount Edgecombe Schools meet or exceed State growth guidelines. From our perspective this is a travesty and an injustice and we believe that our students deserve more and we expect more. We have been struggling with the Nash County Commissioners, the majority of them, to keep our regional system intact that has brought about prosperity to both Edgecombe and Nash counties. However, we feel that fighting to stay with system who devalue our sanity and our children are no longer worthy of our investment and energy. We enthusiastically are encouraged by the leadership and the track record of Dr. Valerie Bridges, Edgecombe County Superintendent, who has also been named the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2021. We are excited that with the proper support and funding that the Rocky Mount children and families that live in Edgecombe County will finally see them as being prioritized, their value, and will be invested in. For us, justice comes with the

shift of our economic, social and political capital to consolidate under the united Edgecombe County. We believe that Nash County owes Edgecombe County and Rocky Mount millions of dollars that we paid, that they used to build and improve Nash County Schools. For which Edgecombe County students would never benefit. Refund the money or repair the schools for which Edgecombe County residents paid for. Today, for those who don't know history, are destined to repeat history. Studying history help us understand how events in the past made things the way they are today. We look back on decisions that have been made in the past, that's why we are here today and we hope that you will make the right decision. You heard the citizens today. We hope that you will make the right decision.

Bronson Williams, 1230 Cokey Road, Rocky Mount, stated that he stood before the Board to talk about the public hearing in which we are in the midst of right now, to determine what is right and what is wrong. It is a huge battle that each Board member has to really tackle with, and he would hope that no Board member has come here tonight with a made-up mind saying what's the right decision, what's the wrong decision, but to listen to the constituents of this county. He hoped that the children would have been here to talk about what their school experience is. What their expectation is for our community as well. Mr. Williams stated that he found it somewhat disheartening that throughout this process there has been limited conversation with Nash County School Board to understand what is that section 7 talks about (b) the transfer of all funds, contracts, obligations, assets, and liabilities relevant to the area to be transferred effective July 1 from Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education to the Edgecombe Board of Education including but not limited to, consideration of real property, furnishings and improvements, encumbered and unencumbered property, equipment, buses, band and sports equipment, textbooks other instructional materials, and library resources, computers and supplies. He stated that what really bothers and concerns him is liabilities. There has been no conversation in the public community about what liabilities exist. We are talking about this thing from a financial aspect but we have not really looked at the totality. We must do the full due diligence when it comes to this. He understands the history and the true significance and importance of history. We are dealing with the city system that merged with the county type situation. That is how Rocky Mount got into the funding because Rocky Mount was funding those special school tax and when that stopped, of course the legislation did it, at the end of the day when you look at the law talking about who's responsible, everybody's responsibility is to follow the law. Nash County's responsibility is to follow the law when it comes to building facilities, when it comes to supplements, etc. There is a number of financial questions gone unanswered. Mr. Williams stated that there is a whole lot of emotional conversations in the community about what somebody might have done to you, but the reality is the core of this conversation is about the children. The core of this conversation is how are we making an investment into our future. We cannot make that with restlessness in our hearts. We cannot make that with envy in our hearts. We cannot make that with let me get back at somebody. When he hears the passion from this Board and people in the community talking about low performance schools he has never seen many of you at the Nash-Rocky Mount School system where they were talking about low performance schools. He has never seen any of you in the conversation about how do we raise the standards of these schools. Today we say perhaps the way to change it is to take our children back. First of all, they are Rocky Mount children. They were never in Edgecombe School system. Mr. William stated that regarding information put out to public, be sure that the information is accurate.

Rueben Blackwell, 912 Sycamore Street, Rocky Mount, stated that as an Edgecombe County citizen and a member of the Rocky Mount City Council, his

children grew up in Rocky Mount. They attended each of those four schools in Rocky Mount. His son is 27 and daughter will be twenty-five. He stated that those schools are in the same condition today as they were then. He stated that he is a product of the 60s and the 70s and the generation that was the first generation to benefit from integration. His children in Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County grew up in more segregated school systems than he did. He stated that when he looks at the issues before us today, the children in Rocky Mount are Edgecombe County citizens. We pay Edgecombe County taxes. We have to look to Nash County to have the conscious to treat our children as well as they treat their own. As a resident and a leader that has been in these meetings and conversations, the reason why some of us have not been in more conversations is because when we presented facts and trues, we were excused from the room. We were told our presence was not welcome. In Rocky Mount we were told that our money was not good enough. Mr. Blackwell stated that how long do we wait to value the lives of children who are going to school in unsafe conditions, who are being raised up in systems that we know are not well performing. He stated that he is not willing to wait and county dollars and time for more children's dreams not to be able to be achieved and for more folks to not be able to count on solid schools building communities around them that create energy for young families to move into our city. Rocky Mount, Edgecombe is being starved and I ask you that you make some more room on your plate, which we are willing to pay for, so we all can grow together better. Mr. Blackwell asked the Board to support the resolution to move forward.

There being no further public to come forward Mr. Wiggins asked for questions and or comments from the Board.

Mrs. Harris had concerns regarding the obligations and liabilities mentioned in section 7(b) of Senate Bill 382 that will come to Edgecombe County Public Schools. She asked if anybody has taken a close look as to what those obligations and liabilities will be.

Mr. Evans stated that he did not know the details of what that might be, but assumed that in general they are talking about any debt owed are any payments that are due related to those four schools, which would not be unusual.

Mrs. Harris stated that we are going into it blindly if we do not know what we are taking on.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he has been dealing with this for over thirty years and this is the first opportunity that we have had, based on the change in the statute, to actually take the responsibility of our children. Nothing about this will change unless this Board makes the decision to merge our system. The schools will get worse and it has already been stated that they will do nothing with capital improvement. Mr. Wiggins stated that any blame after tonight should be on Edgecombe County for those schools. We have neglected these children for not bringing them into our system. Mr. Wiggins stated that he is prepared to make a motion.

Mr. Wooten stated that we are going into it blind financially. He stated that he has concern about due process. We do not have a plan. The schools in the Nash system that reside on the Edgecombe County side have about \$10 million of needs. The existing Edgecombe County Schools outside of Rocky Mount had \$10 million worth of needs. We have not been able to fix that. How do you think we can fix the ones inside? Mr. Wooten stated that we do not have a plan.

Mr. Boswell also had concerns about the cost and the plan.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Edgecombe County students attending Nash are in no man's land.

After more discussion Mr. Wiggins moved to declare that it is the intention of this Board to initiate county-line merger of Edgecombe County Public Schools beginning with the 2024-2025 school year; and to effect that transition, for this Board to direct the County Manager to no longer appropriate current expense funds or capital outlay funds to the Nash School Administrative Unit beginning fiscal year 2023-2024; and to authorize the County Manager to prepare and execute any plans or documents necessary to establish a county-line school system for Edgecombe County Public Schools beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion. Voting for the motion: Wiggins, Powell and Hines. Voting against the motion: Wooten, Boswell, Harris and Webb. Motion failed.

6. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

A. **Alan Thompson, Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co., presentation of the FY-21 Audit.**

Mr. Thompson provided a power point presentation.

B. **Tanya Heath, Cooperative Extension Director, to introduce the 4-H representative to the NCACC Conference.**

Mrs. Health introduced Jaileea Knight.

Jaileea Knight came forth to introduce herself to the Board.

7. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

None.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

No budget amendments to approve.

B. **Approval of Health Department fee changes.**

Mr. Evans stated that we regularly review our 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 the requested changes for Health Department fees.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the approve the fees as presented and as recommended by the Human Services Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of the Involuntary Commitment (IVC) Transportation Agreement.**

Mr. Evans stated that NC General statues requires that cities and counties adopt what is known as an "Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement" regarding the custody and transportation of respondents in involuntary commitment proceedings. This agreement addresses the chain of custody and the responsibility of the parties involved.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. **Approval of Offer to Purchase on property located at 1681 Cox Ave., Rocky Mount, NC.**

Mr. Evans stated that an offer to purchase was received from Carolyn Thigpen to purchase property the County owns at 1681 Cox Avenue in Rocky Mount.

This property was acquired through tax foreclosure. The offer is the \$300. If the offer to purchase is accepted by the Board, a minimum 10-day public notice must then be given for upset bid.

Property Information

Address: 1681 Cox Avenue

Tax ID#: 3870-17-5097

Acreage: <1 acre (100'x200')

Tax Value: \$18,000 (land only)

Cost to County (back taxes & legal fees): \$215

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. Boswell moved to accept the offer and to direct staff to publish notice for upset bid. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of the addition of a Deputy Tax Administrator position.

Mr. Evans stated that we reorganized in 2013 to better align the work of the Collector and the Assessor's offices. In doing so, we created a Tax Administrator position. Tarasa Lewis, our Tax Administrator, holds the duties of both Tax Collector and Tax Assessor. We also have both a Deputy Tax Collector and a Deputy Tax Assessor who serve in her absence in each of those functions. To provide better continuity of operations of the overall functions of Tax Administration, Mr. Evans asked to transition the Deputy Tax Assessor Position to a Deputy Tax Administrator Position. To do so, the Deputy Tax Administrator position needs to be created.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the addition of a Deputy Tax Administrator position to a grade 22 on the Pay Scale. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of Deed of Trust to Transfer Property from Edgecombe County to Edgecombe County Water and Sewer District No. 6.

Mr. Evans stated that the County owns two parcels within the Lakeside Mobile Home Park on which are lift stations for Water & Sewer District 6. USDA funding is available to the County for renovations to the sewer system in District 6. To finalize the funding, these parcels need to be transferred from the County to Water and Sewer District 6.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the conveyance of parcels 4737-95-4334 and 4747-29-3802 to Water & Sewer District 6. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of Right-of-Entry for Survey and Exploration to the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Evans stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of conducting Cultural Resource and Geotechnical Surveys in connection with the Princeville Flood Risk Management Project. They are requesting the County's permission to enter the property identified in the attached right-of entry for a period of up to twelve months to conduct this work.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Right-of Entry for Survey and Exploration and Certificate of Corporate Authority as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of change to Solid Waste Fee Schedule.

Mr. Evans stated that during both the Budget Work Session and the Public Hearing he presented his recommendation to increase Solid Waste fees,

including raising the Construction and Demolition fee from \$46 to \$50. However, in error we did not change that on the Solid Waste Budget Ordinance the Board adopted on June 27th. Also, staff has since recommended that we increase the Yard Waste fee from \$44.50 to \$46.00 per ton.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Solid Waste Fee changes as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of change to Planning Fee Schedule.

Mr. Evans presented to the Board the proposed changes to the Planning and Inspections Fee Schedule. These additions are the result of the recent changes to our Unified Development Ordinance. The proposed changes are necessary and reasonable.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the revised Planning & Inspections Fee Schedules as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:

I. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Home & Community Care Block Grant Funding – FY 2023.

Mrs. Bess stated that the HCCBG programs are intended to encourage and maintain independence for persons over 60 as well as provide protection for older adults. The funds that support the HCCBG programs come from county, state and federal funds. The federal funds are provided through the Older Americans Act that was created in 1965. Edgecombe County is one of the five counties within Region L currently receiving HCCBG funds. The block grant gives County Commissioners maximum discretion in deciding how aging funds will be administered and budgeted in the county. By endorsing a local Funding Plan, Boards of County Commissioners will define the services to be provided, determine funding levels for services, and identify the community service providers to be involved with providing Home and Community Care Block Grant services. In addition to giving counties increased decision-making authority for planning and delivering aging services, the block grant is also intended to achieve the following goals:

1. Promote the visibility and importance of aging programs locally;
2. Establish a single set of policies and procedures for in-home and community-based services provided with block grant funds;
3. Provide for an equitable distribution of funds to each county consistent with the requirements of the Older American Act.

In accordance with the procedures for funding of the Home and Community Care block Grant, a recommendation for the allocation of \$599,612 for FY-24 funding is presented for the Board's consideration. Edgecombe County is being awarded \$599,680 for FY-23, which is an increase of 4.95% from the \$571,363 awarded in FY-22. The total requests from the providers (\$648,315) was \$48,365 more than the funding available to the County. After much valuable discussion, presentations from providers and guidance from Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, the plan is being recommended. We believe this plan reflects the needs of Edgecombe County's aging population and the best use of available funding.

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

9. APPOINTMENTS:

A. Edgecombe County Planning Board.

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint Michael Davis Brinkley. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. **AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**
Mr. Wooten moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
11. **APPROVAL AND/OR REVIEW OF CONTRACTS.**
Mrs. Powell moved to approve the contracts as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
12. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW. ***Received*****
 - A. Water and Sewer update.
 - B. Monthly Financial Summary.
 - C. Solid Waste update.
13. **MANAGER'S REPORT.***Received*****
 - A. Workforce Development indicators.
 - B. Notice from Dominion energy regarding a transmission line rebuild project.
 - C. Opioid settlement update.

Mr. Evans announced the retirement of Mark Walters, EMS Director and Katherine Walters, Finance Director effective August 1st.

14. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

15. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

16. **CLOSED SESSION.**

Mr. Boswell 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)]

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

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

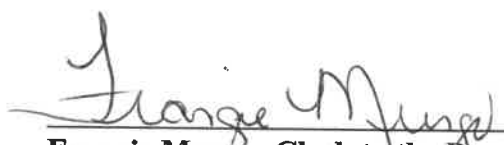
Mr. Wooten moved toSalary for Finance

Mr. Evans stated that the Board approved a 4% COLA increase. He asked the Board to vote to make that effective June 21st. He stated that it was approved with the July 1st starting budget, but if they allow it to go to June 21st it will cover the whole pay period and it will make payroll a lot easier.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve Mr. Evans' recommendation. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

17. **MRS. POWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved August 1, 2022.


Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board