

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
NOVEMBER 6, 2023 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, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. Ralph Webb, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. George Thorne 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, Mr. Michael Matthews, Assistant County Manager, Mrs. Linda Barfield, CFO and Ms. Frankie 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 MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 meeting as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public to order relative to the Community Block Grant – Neighborhood Revitalization application.

Mr. Peter read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans asked Mr. A.J. Mandigo, with McDavid and Associates, who is working with Mrs. Katina Braswell, Planning Director, on preparing the application to come forward and give an overview of the application that will be submitted. Mr. Evans stated that there will be actions needed. One to approve the Citizens Participation Plan, which talks about the ways citizens will be informed about the program, which includes the public hearing we are having tonight. Second, pending any public comments and Board questions, the Board is asked to adopt the resolution that will authorize the submittal of the application.

Mr. A.J. Mandigo stated that Edgecombe County will be applying for a \$950,000 grant aimed to assist help for nine homeowners that the Housing Committee has collected together and ranked the eligible applicants. The beneficiaries selected were from a total of 136 applicants. The top six were ranked based upon a reconstruction level of assistance that would be needed to the homes. The plan is projected to have four homes reconstructed and two more to have standby units in case of any issues with the top four.

Mrs. Harris asked if the 136 applications were from the past or just collected.

Mr. Mandigo stated yes. Edgecombe County has homeowners that call in and the County has kept a good record over the last two years and those are normally aimed at the urgent repair program that the County has done in the past. They did a brief evaluation of the houses there, but also able to see houses that have substantial needs of repair, highlighted those houses to be able for further review. From there they did a secondary inspection internally in the house, which allowed them to be able to present their findings to the Housing Selection Committee.

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Braswell and her staff get calls all the time from people interested in programs like this. Unfortunately, we never get enough funds to address all the needs that we see. He stated that at a previous meeting the Board saw the criteria like giving priority to elderly applicants, very low-income households and based on the needs of the home

inspections.

Mrs. Harris asked if the County tried to make sure that we do not put all of the money in one area. That we spread it out throughout the County.

Mr. Evans stated that yes. One of the criteria for the Selection Committee was based on geographic distribution.

Mr. Mandigo stated that the cities listed include Battleboro, Tarboro, Macclesfield and Rocky Mount.

Mr. Boswell stated that six people were chosen for the \$950,000 for \$160,000 apiece.

Mr. Evans stated that there are four homes we expect to be able to reconstruct. The other two are alternates in case for whatever reason one of those four fall out of the process. He stated that most of these homes are beyond repair and some of the costs included administrative cost.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, NC, stated that there is a situation in Speed that he will talk to the Manager about. He hoped that, if there was anyway, some of that money could be used to address the family that were living in a house and through mishap they moved out of the house and they are currently living in Conetoe in a substandard house. He stated that the situation should have been detected. They got a house build out of Chapel Hill after the flood of 1999 and through mishaps with some taxes the house got from under them and they are supposed to start paying rent and the people who build the house came back and got that cleared up, because they did not think it was fair for someone to be paying rent for a house that they build and gave to them. He stated that the family is mentally challenged and there should be some way something can be done.

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

Mr. Thorne moved to approve the Citizens Participation Plan as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Boswell moved to approve the resolution authorization the submission of the application as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Wiggins called a quasi-judicial public hearing to order to receive citizen comments relative to a Special Use Permit request from Barnhill Contracting Company for property located off Ellis Lane.

Mr. Peters read the public notice.

Swearing in of the participants was done by Mr. Peters.

Mr. Jonathan Proctor (sworn), Barnhill Hill Contracting Company Representative:

*On behalf of Barnhill I appreciate you taking the time to listen to our case for the Special Use Permit. This is a piece of property that we've been on just north of for the last 15, 16 years. We are currently mining out towards NC 33 and getting to a place where we're going to need to expand our operation. This pit, just a little background. This pit supplies, pretty much exclusively, our asphalt plant in Rocky Mount. So, this sand goes directly into the production of our asphalt. All the asphalt that is made in Rocky Mount. So, we are looking to expand it just to get some more, get the next in line material to make some more asphalt. You know obviously there's a particular type of material we've got to use. It's not in every location. We've got to hunt and peck where we can find it. So, with this obviously with us being right there where we are made sense to us to expand just south of the piece of property that we're actually looking at tonight. We already own and have an existing conditional use permit on it as well that we got back in 2007,8 range. So, this would just allow us to continuously mine in the same areas that we've already been. We have already submitted our application for the mining permit with the State that will regulate all of the erosion control, dust control, buffers, in addition to the 100-foot property line buffer that we'll have to abide by with the County ordinance. All of the wetland environmental concerns would be addressed in that permit that we received from the State. So, it's in review, actually already gotten comments back, and I*

*hope to have the permit by, before the end of the month. I'll be glad to answer any questions if you have any questions.*

Mr. Wiggins asked for comments from the Board.

Mrs. Harris stated that she was reading the Technical Review Committee comments and asked if we have looked into what our Environmental Health Supervisor's concerns were about relative to the septic or well system.

Mr. Proctor: *So, in the actual area of the pit there obviously are none. It's an existing just agricultural field. With the application that we have for permitting, we have to identify any wells within 1500 feet. If we find any we have to survey them and then there's a monitor and then there's actual, we have a dewatering permit that we have to submit data to and all so we can monitor, make sure there's no draw down or anything like that. This particular site, any water that we do pump, we pump internally back into the same pit that we've already excavated, so there's not a lot of pumping and then discharge off site anything that is kept on site.*

Mr. Wiggins asked if there were any other questions or comments for Mr. Proctor. Mr. Wiggins asked if there was anybody else to speak or make comments. There being none, the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Wiggins stated that before the Board is the application and it is consideration for approval to the Board.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Special Use Permit. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins stated that along with that is an order.

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

## 6. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(S):

A. Sherry Johnson, Veterans Services Director, presented the Resolution for Operation Green Light to recognize our veterans.

Ms. Johnson read the resolution honoring the Veterans. Within the resolution it states that "with designation as a Green Light for Veterans, Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners hereby declares the month of November a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service." It further states, "that in observance of Operation Green Light, Edgecombe County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence."

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

B. Betty Battle, Edgecombe County Social Services Director, gave an update on Medicaid Expansion.

Mrs. Battle stated that Medicaid Expansion will become effective December 1, 2023 in North Carolina. She stated that the for Edgecombe County, the State is projecting that we are going to have about 3,177 citizens that will be eligible for Medicaid Expansion and 2,200 more who will be eligible for Family Planning Waiver eligible. Those are people that do not receive Medicaid. She stated that it will be about 5,400 people we can expect to be eligible for Medicaid Expansion. Mrs. Battle presented on the following:

- Health care that people will be able to get through Medicaid.
- The income limits for ages 19 through 64.
- Non-citizens eligibility.

- Medicaid cost is \$.00; The highest Medicaid cost is \$4 and only required on some services.
- Information that is needed to apply.
- How to apply.
- How long it takes to find out if a person is covered.

Ms. Tina Radford, DSS Family and Children Medicaid Supervisor, explained the Family Planning Waiver and what happens when you apply for Medicaid Expansion.

Ms. Auston with Braswell Memorial Library stated that the State has libraries to assist DSS in the application process.

C. Antwan Brown, Emergency Services Director, and Jonathan Langley, Chief of South Edgecombe Volunteer Fire Department, gave an overview of fire response responsibilities of volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Webb brought up a concern at the last meeting about an issue of response out in the district, and this was a good opportunity for Mr. Brown to talk about the relationship between the County and our volunteer fire departments. He stated that Mr. Langley is going to talk about his department.

Mr. Brown presented on:

- Roles and responsibilities of the County's Fire Protection departments.
- Fire Protection contract (local)
  - EMS monitor departments responses to calls
  - Monitor training hours
  - Ability to respond within 9 minutes
  - Monitor their rosters
- Interlocal agreement between local departments.
- Seeing a decline in the volunteer service membership locally and nationally.

Mr. Langley presented on the following:

- Why I am here?
  - Respond to the concern of the County Commissioners in reference to the response from South Edgecombe Rural Fire Volunteer Fire Department.
  - Educate and provide information about the Volunteer Fire Department and their current status.
- Provided information on the incident (grass fire/gas leak on NC 124 West on August 18, 2023); Who responded and why.
- National statistics.
- Edgecombe County fire statistics.
- Recruitment and retention challenges.
- What can you do?

D. Sherrod Knox, with When People Work, presented on their work with justice impacted citizens.

Mr. Knox stated that When People Work is a comprehensive re-entry program that is an all-inclusive program, where you sign up for one program. He stated that they work with the Edgecombe County Sheriff Office. Mr. Knox stated that they are able to bring this service to the area through a unique public private partnership called A Pay for Success contract. As they need to have government partners in order to obtain data collection and if their program does not work they do not continue to exist. The success of the program is evaluated after five years and if the program has saved the County some money they ask for a portion of that back to keep the program running. Mr. Knox stated that the State of North Carolina states that it cost about \$50-54,000 per person per year to keep a person imprisoned in North Carolina and their program is significantly less than that. Mr. Knox presented a video with testimonials from the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office. He stated that he would like to meet with the Board to look at A Pay for Success contract.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Knox to follow up with Mr. Evans.

James Wrenn, Vice-President Phoenix Historical Society, 704 NC Hwy 97 East, Leggett, thanked the Board for continuous support. They had two successful events in the spring, The premiere of the film “We Can Do Better”, which highlighted the campaign to keep IBP out of Edgecombe County, and they also unveiled a North Carolina Civil Rights Trail marker to the East Tarboro Citizens League on Panola Street. Mr. Wrenn stated that on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church they will be unveiling a new North Carolina Highway Historical Marker that recognizes some history that they have recovered and researched and brought up that has not been recognized. Meetings of freed people in 1866 in the area of Northern Edgecombe County where hundreds of freed Black people were gathered and had meetings trying to set the Equal Rights League and fighting for higher wages, voting rights and self-defense. This was during the time period where people were free from slavery, but not yet had the right to vote and the powers that be were trying to turn the clock back. Farm workers in this County stood up and made a difference.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, P O Box 264, Speed, stated that the Board did an excellent job dealing with the Countyline merger issue. Rev. Higgs stated that the resolution on the agenda to recognize Native American Heritage Month. He stated that once Edgecombe County was a historically home to the Tuscarora Indians and it is important that no one is left out of Edgecombe history. Also, on the agenda is a resolution in the honor of Mr. Walter Plemmer, Jr. He provided history on Mr. Plemmer and stated that on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Cherry Hill Church there will be a Christmas concert in honor of Mr. Plemmer. Mr. Higgs provided history on General Hugh Shelton, Joint Chief of Staff and the Welcome to Edgecombe County – Home of Hugh Shelton signs throughout the County. He asked the Board to consider having signs to say Welcome to Edgecombe County – Home of the Oldest Black Town Chartered by Blacks in America to represent Princeville.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS:

### A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve budget amendments 1-4b as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

### B. Adopting a joint resolution to approve the Countyline Merger Transition Plan.

Mr. Evans presented for Board review the County Line Merger Transition Plan, which is due for submission to the NC State Board of Education by November 15, 2023. The plan has two parts detailing the respective sides of the merger for each school system. A few modifications have been made since the joint meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, which Mr. Evans reviewed. He stated that all four Boards are asked to consider the resolution to approve the to approve the plan and authorize its submission before the deadline on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the plan as presented subject to some minor technical corrections that he pointed out.

Mrs. Harris expressed concern regarding appropriations.

Mr. Thorne stated that the Edgecombe County side of the transition is very vague, which includes a lot of “we will determine”. He stated that the Board is approving a document that has not been determined.

After discussion, Mr. Wiggins moved to approve the resolution approving the Countyline Merger Transition Plan as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 for (Wiggins, Hines, Webb, Powell and Boswell) and 2 opposed (Thorne and Harris).

### C. Approval of Resolution to Recognize Native American Heritage Month.

Mr. Evans (being Native American) was proud to read the resolution acknowledging the rich and diverse cultural heritage that has shaped our County. Within the resolution it states that “November has been designated as Native American Heritage Month to recognize and celebrate the rich cultural traditions, contributions, and history of Native American Peoples’ and “that the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners officially recognizes the month of November as “Native American Heritage Month” in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.” Mr. Boswell moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval of Edgecombe Community College easement agreement.**

Mr. Evans stated that the City of Rocky Mount is requesting a utility easement on property used by Edgecombe Community College at their Rocky Mount Campus. The proposed easement is on a section of the campus that the County owns and leases for the Biotech Training Center.

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

**E. Approval of COVID vaccine fee schedule.**

Mr. Evans stated that the latest COVID-19 vaccine is becoming available to the Health Department. Being that the cost of the vaccine has changed, a new fee needs to be set.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the COVID Vaccine administration fee schedule as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**F. Approval of the sale of Edgecombe County's interest in the building located at 500 Nash Medical Arts Mall, Rocky Mount to Nash County.**

Mr. Evans stated that we have been in discussion with Nash County for some time regarding a sale of Edgecombe County's 45% interest in the former Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health building property located at 500 Nash Medical Arts Mall in Rocky Mount to Nash County. Nash County owns the remaining 55% in the property. We have come to a negotiated agreement for the sale of the County's interest in the property where Nash County is will to pay \$2,200,000 for Edgecombe County's 45% interest in the property. The current tax value of the property is \$4,832,070, thus 45% of the current tax value is \$2,174,432. He stated he, along with County Attorney Michael Peters feel that \$2,200,000 is a reasonable and appropriate sales price considering the tax value of the property, or not having a need to own the property, and that the nature of the County's interest limits it value. For historical context, in 1991, Edgecombe County financed \$945,000 for its portion of the construction of the building on this property. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the sale of our interest in the building located at 500 Nash Medical Arts Mall, Rocky Mount and authorize Chairman Wiggins to execute the deed and related documents.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the sale of the building and to authorize the Chairman to execute the deed and related documents. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**G. Approval of request from the Town of Princeville to support the naming of the Tar River Bridge after the late Mr. Walter Plummer.**

Mr. Evans stated that he received a request from Dr. Glenda Knight on behalf of the Princeville Board of Commissioners requesting Board support for the naming of the Tar River Bridge between Princeville and Tarboro in honor of the late Mr. Walter Plummer. This request ultimately must be approved by the NC Transportation Board, but they ask for the support of the local governing board. Mr. Evans stated that if the Board would like to support the request he will then work with Dr. Knight to submit the application that must be reviewed by NCDOT staff. If it meets their requirements, he will prepare a resolution for the Board to consider, which will accompany the application before the Transportation Board. He stated that if the Board choses to support the request, he will notify the Town of Tarboro so their Board will be aware this request is being submitted.

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

**H. Approval of cell tower lease agreement.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Board was made aware at the last meeting, CitySwitch, LLC is proposing to lease property from the County in order to construct and maintain a communications tower. The tower will be located next to the Kingsboro water tower. The proposed lease is for \$850 per month for an initial term of ten years with the option to renew for three additional five-year periods. The proposed tower does not

meet the set-back requirements of our Unified Development Ordinance. CitySwitch, LLC has applied to appear before our Board of Adjustment to get a variance. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the lease agreement. The construction of the tower will be subject to the approval of the variance from the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Evans stated that a representative is present from Edgcombe Martin Electric Membership Cooperation, adjoining property owner and may want to speak.

Mr. Winston Howell, CEO of Edgcombe Martin-EMC, stated that he wanted the opportunity to speak in opposition of the tower that CitySwitch has proposed. There was a proposal last year for them to locate the tower just south of the tracks next to the Kanban facility and that was denied by the Planning and Adjustments Board because the off sets were not in place to meet the requirements at the time. The new proposed site puts it between the County's water tower and their electric substation, which is a critical piece of infrastructure that they use to serve around thousands of their members in Edgcombe County. Mr. Howell stated that the location that is proposed for the new tower will put it within 100 feet of major distribution lines coming out of their station and they serve several key accounts out of that station as well as others that are looking to locate. He stated that further importance is all the attention that they continue to get from request from around the County, projects looking at the mega site. There could be future expansion needs for that station. They have grave concerns that are safety and liability and they want to make sure that they protect the interest of their members and that station, which is \$12 million investment.

Mr. Boswell stated that he received a call about this and he is a little concerned. He asked about the urgency of this. He has concerns about anybody coming there and where the location is in relationship to everything else. Mr. Boswell stated that he did not want to do anything that is going to hinder or hurt anybody in the future until we get some factual information on what has to be done or what should be done.

Mr. Peters stated that they apparently do have a tight window. They advised us that CitySwitch gets a request from a provider and that provider advises them that they want the tower in a particular radius. Their original application last year was south of

railroad. It was within the CSX right-of-way, directly south of this proposed location. When they did not get that variance, they came back to the County interested in this location and proposed a location on the northeast side of that intersection further down. That location would be within the right-of-way and not near any buildings, but it would be a potential hazard to future economic development. Mr. Peters stated that we proposed further east, about a mile from the intersection and they told us that location was too far away from their target area. After conversations with EMC, we proposed some of the land directly behind the former QVC property and was told the same thing. He stated that apparently the target area that they are looking at is very narrow.

Mr. Thorne stated that we have a water tower beside it, which should be a concern about a tower falling on our water tower. EMC has expressed that the station supplies 1,000 people. We have concern about it falling on their station and taking power out for 1,000 people, plus the expansion need with having to go over 400 megawatts for some of these projects that we are looking at. He stated that Kanban has also expressed concern about the tower being beside them.

Mr. Webb asked Mr. Tolson and Mr. Pike, Carolinas Gateway Partnership, if we wanted a tower in a place that we are trying to develop.

Mr. Tolson stated that he did not know about the tower until today, but all the arguments against the tower he completely support. We are going to have to expand the electrical capacity at Kingsboro and if it impinges on the current site that Mr. Howell previously described, he strongly oppose this tower. A 300-foot tower out there may not be acceptable to the client base either.

Mr. Evans stated that this discussion is important, because the Board has very difficult decisions to make and needs to be as well informed as they can. He stated that his recommendation was not easy. Part of the reason for the recommendation, as Mr. Peters



mentioned, is that the company is either interested in what is being proposed tonight or just east of Kingsboro Road along with right-of-way of the railroad, south of the Long track. Mr. Evans stated that their concern was to try to steer it away from that, because they were considering something in the right-of-way, not land that the County owns. They would need no lease agreement from the County. They would still have to go back to the Board of Adjustment for the variance, but there is a possibility that the Board of Adjustment may approve that. He stated that we do not want a tower north of the railroad track and east of Kingsboro Road, because project could come in needing a rail spur off of CSX Railroad and that tower is in the way. Mr. Evans stated that the County owns land that EMC could potentially expand in that direction.

Mr. Wiggins moved to approve the lease agreement as presented. Motion failed due to no second.

Mr. Thorne moved to not approve the lease agreement. Mr. Boswell seconded, which carried by a vote of 6 for (Hines, Webb, Harris, Thorne, Powell and Boswell) to 1 opposed (Wiggins).

**I. Approval of an amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with NC Department of Public Safety.**

Mr. Evans presented for Board review First Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Edgecombe County for the North Carolina CDBG Buyout Program. This document is an amendment to the cooperative agreement previously signed between NCORR and Edgecombe County. This brings the properties in Princeville's ETJ to the agreement with the County. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the amendment and resolution as presented.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the First Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between the NC Public Safety Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Edgecombe County for the NC CDBG Buyout Program as presented. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Resolution to Accept Strategic Buyout Program Properties as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**J. Approval of corrections to the Compensation Plan.**

Mr. Evans stated that as we have continued to review our new Compensation Plan, we have identified additional corrections and additions to be made. He presented to the Board a summary of those changes, which present no additional appropriation needed to the budget.

Mr. Boswell moved approve the updated Compensation Plan Ordinance as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**K. Approval of change in policy for public records requests.**

Mr. Evans stated that in April of 2019 the Board approved our Public Records Policy. This policy addresses records retention, records disposition and responding to public records requests. Since implementing the policy, staff have noted changes and updates needed as it relates to the section on public records requests. Currently, the policy requires that requests be submitted on the form provided in the policy. Though that form is helpful, sometimes a request is received by email or other written form that provides the necessary information. However, because of the policy, we must ask the requester to transfer that request on our form. Therefore, one change (pages 9 and 10) removes the requirement that the request be on our form. On page 11, additional information is provided to specify the fee we charge for processing extraordinarily large requests. On page 14, a formatting issue is corrected.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the revised Public Records Policy as presented. Mr. Throne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**L. Approval of Adoption of Schedules, Standard and Rules to be used in the 2024 appraisal of real property in Edgecombe County.**



Mr. Boswell moved to adopt the 2024 Market Value Schedule as previously presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Thorne moved to adopt the 2024 Present Use Value Schedule as previously presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

M. Approval of request for the sale of service weapons to retiring Sergeant David Parker and Captain Charles West.

Mr. Evans stated that NC Statute 20-187.2 allows the Board of commissioners to award a retiring officer his/her service weapon. It specifically stated that the Board may do so at a price determined by the governing body. Sheriff Atkinson has requested that consideration be given for retiring Capt. Charles West and Sgt. David Parker. To show the County's appreciation for exemplary service, and to provide a memento to that service, Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the transfer of their service weapon at a price of \$1 upon their retirement.

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

N. Approval of the 2024 Holiday Schedule.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

O. Approval of acceptance of the AgVenture grant from NC State University.

Mr. Evans stated that we received notice from North Carolina State University that through their AgVentures Program, Edgecombe County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,967,00 for the purchase of an enclosed trailer. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the grant project ordinance as presented.

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

9. APPOINTMENTS:

A. Jury Commission.

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Reuben Thompson IV. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. Webb moved to reappointment Sheila Cook, Bernice Anderson, Regina Moseley, Sue Howard, Lorraine Dickens and Curtis Knight. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mr. Thorne moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

Mr. Evans asked the Board to take separate action on the contracts.

Envirocon Change Order. This company security key fobs for accessing our building. This change order allows us to add access and security controls at the Emergency Operations Center. No additional budget appropriation is needed.

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

Prime Corrections contract is a not to exceed \$200,000 and note that this is paid through savings found in medical billing for jail health services. Cost containment services for medical services at the Detention Center.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contract as presented and as a sole source vendor. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Avineon contract to provide GIS addressing software. This is a request for a sole source contract.

Mr. Harris moved to approve the contract as presented and as a sole source venter. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

- A. Water and Sewer update.
- B. Monthly Financial Summary.

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

- A. Major events and updates.
- B. Workforce Development Indicators.
- C. TDA financial report.
- D. Update on tornado storm debris clean-up and recommendation to end the State of Emergency.

Mr. Evans stated that on the day of the tornado Mr. Wiggins declared a State of Emergency. He stated that we never ended that State of Emergency.

Rev. Hines moved to approve ending the tornado storm State of Emergency. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Evans shared a copy of a letter in which we were recently notified that Eastpointe, Trillium and Sandhills Managed Care Organizations are going to merge. The plan is to consolidate those three areas.

14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mrs. Harris thanked Mr. Wiggins for the resolution on behalf of the loss of her mother-in-law.

Mr. Thorne stated that medical grades came out today for hospitals through out the State and Vidant received an A for patient safety, which is a great success.

Mr. Wiggins congratulated Mr. Thorne on the birth of his first child.

15. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

16. CLOSED SESSION.

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

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

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

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

17. REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved December 4, 2023.

  
Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board