

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
APRIL 1, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE 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, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. Donald Boswell and Mrs. Evelyn Powell. Newly appointed Commissioner Mr. Ralph Webb took his seat after being administered the oath of office.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mr. Michael Peters, County Attorney, and Ms. Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

Mr. Evans provided safety instructions for all present.

3. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICER:

A. Vice-Chairman

Mr. Wiggins moved to appoint Rev. Hines. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE VACANCY OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SEAT FOR DISTRICT 5.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Ralph Dawson Webb as recommended by the Edgecombe County Democratic Party. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Webb.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to the proposed text amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding Special Use Permits.

Mr. Peters read the notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that at the last meeting this item was brought to the Board's attention. The purpose of the recommended amendment was to follow the practice currently in place. Currently the UDO states that the Board "may" send special use permits to the Planning Board for review and recommendation. What is before the Board now are the changes to the language stating it "shall" go before the Planning Board for review and recommendation. He stated that the Board had some discussion at the last meeting as to whether or not they wanted to maintain an opportunity to forgo the Planning Board, if the situation

arises, so it is being brought for public comments and the Board's further deliberation on it.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Wiggins stated that his concern was that the Board should maintain an option in case an emergency came up. He stated that the last SUP request was one that came to the Board within the 20 day timeframe and if the Board did not have an option at that time, based on the ordinance, the Board could not have done anything and that is why he asked staff to look at it. Mr. Wiggins stated that his concern was the Board being boxed in. He stated that the Board does get the best information from the Planning Board, but should not be boxed in and not have the flexibility.

Mr. Wooten stated that he has the same opinion.

Mr. Wiggins asked that if we maintain the language, could we still refer it back to the Planning Board.

Mr. Peters stated that is correct. The current language allows you to send applications to the Planning Board.

Mr. Evans stated that the current language states that you "may" and if you keep that same position you would take no action.

Mr. Wiggins asked for Board members concerns and their position.

Mr. Wooten stated that he liked the flexibility. He felt that the Planning Board can help the Board review and take into consideration, but in times that the Board needs to act in that period of time we should have that flexibility.

With consensus of the Board no action was taken.

2. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to the proposed text amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance regarding Vegetative Buffers.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that at the last meeting there was a discussion about the proposed changes in the language to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that would better handle requirements for vegetative buffers. He stated that our ordinance does have requirements in there, but as you have heard from some previous projects we needed some amending, because sometimes there would be height requirements not sufficient for screening in residential areas. The Planning Board spent some time on preparing recommended language. Mr. Evans stated that since that last meeting, Art Bradley and Spencer Thomas, Extension and Scott Kiser, Soil and Water Office met and talked about alternatives in areas where vegetation would have a difficult time growing and they are offering, just for the Board's discussion tonight, in those areas a proposed requirement that would call for green slat privacy fencing to be an alternative to a vegetative buffer that is not able to be established. They also recommend in highly sensitive areas, such as near residential lots (within 300 feet of a residential lot), green slat privacy fence be used in addition to vegetation buffers. He stated that the Planning Board has not had the opportunity to meet to discuss these recommendations. Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Jonathan Melvin,

Planning Board Chair was present at the meeting, who may be able to offer some advice if the Board had any questions.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Jonathan Melvin, 5264 Morning Star Church Road, Battleboro, stated that he had a chance to study the recommendations and as a professional landscape architect his concerns about the aesthetics of a green slat fence and comments in the letter regarding soil conditions. He stated that after 43 years being in a profession, he has never run across a site that could not be addressed in terms of soil conditions. Edgecombe County is known for its soil and he could not imagine a situation in which soil is not suitable. Mr. Melvin stated that the Planning Board listened to the public sector and some of the concerns heard regarded buffers, and the text amendment they proposed is beefing up the buffers by increasing the green aspect of the buffer to the point that you will not see the fence at all once this buffer has matured. He felt like the Planning Board addressed the issue quite well. Based on comments from the public, if we start the slatted fencing it will give it a more industrial look which he did not think Edgecombe County would want to be noted for. He stated that more and more solar farms are coming to the County and we want to be wise about how we address solar farms and buffering and the concerns of the public so they will have a good positive feel about solar farms as opposed to a negative one. If we put the green slats in the residential areas the public is not going to accept that. A more green look would look better, it would address the density so the fence will melt away in time.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Melvin if the Planning Board had seen the letter.

Mr. Melvin stated no.

Mr. Wiggins stated that as the Chair of the Planning Board was he saying that it is his suggestion.

Mr. Melvin stated that he was expressing his professional concerns as a landscape and he knew the intensity of the process that the Planning Board went through proposing the beefing up of the vegetation because of listening to the public.

Mr. Wooten stated that he agreed with Mr. Melvin wholeheartedly about the industrial look of a slat fence.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Board heard serious concerns when dealing with the last solar farm regarding trees that have died. The Planning Board should have an opportunity to review this proposal from Soil Conservation and Extension and come back to the Board of Commissioners and maybe a decision can be made to do revisions.

Mr. Melvin stated that in the language that the Planning Board proposed, they are addressing maintenance, in which the Planning Department will go out on a periodic basis and examine the area and make sure that it meets the standards of the ordinance.

Mr. John Killebrew, 3386 Hartsmill Run Road, Tarboro, stated that he agreed with Mr. Melvin that the green slatted fencing is not the most ideal thing to have, but felt that it looks a lot better than what is out here already. He stated that he would personally rather look at the green slatted fence than the low growing trees that have not met maturity yet with solar panels behind them. That looks a lot more industrial than the fence.

Mr. Art Bradley, Extension Director, 425 Worsley Road, Rocky Mount, stated that they did the recommendations at the Board's direction so they came up with these options in order to look at the type of fence, which would not replace the vegetative buffer but gives you something immediate that you are not seeing the solar panels until the plants meet maturity. He stated that the solar operations that are in existence now have been here for a while and the plants have not reached maturity yet.

Mr. Boswell stated that he agreed with what everybody said in terms of fencing and natural vegetation. A lot of the areas are not maintained as it should be maintained for vegetation to grow all the time.

After Board discussion Mr. Wooten moved to send it back to the Planning Board for further review. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.**

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

- A. Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court, administered the oath of office.
- B. Mr. Wiggins, Chairman, called the meeting to order.
- C. Notice of Decision letters.

Mr. Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Notice of Decision letter as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

- D. Scheduled appointments.
None.

REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW UNTIL MAY 6, 2019 AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

9. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

- A. **Pam Gould, with the STEP Initiative, presented an update on the program.**

- Educational Non-profit
- Been in existence since 2012
- Focus of career awareness and facilitating job pipeline for jobs of the future
- STEP is a collaborative effort between the two school systems, two community colleges and other community stakeholders, businesses and industries with the goal of making students aware of what careers are critical and emphasize college and career readiness
- Create activities with industry partners to make students more aware of what jobs are
- Making educators aware by staff development
- Engineers go into the schools and sit down with students and have casual conversation regarding opportunities in the area
- Medical professionals go into schools with a focus on Healthcare

- Sponsor Twin Counties Education Business Leader's Summit
- Twin Counties Industry Consortium
- Middle Schoolers from both counties attend Manufacturing Day
- Addressing current high school senior who do not have a plan to make them more marketable as a potential employee
- Provide summer STEM camp scholarships

B. Kristian Barnes, NCDOT District Engineer, presented updates on projects in the region.

- NCDOT leadership
- Mission and goals for better transportation service for North Carolina
- Division 4 overview
- Capital Program – Construction
- Significant Projects under Construction
 - Kingsboro Megasite
 - Carolina Connector Site
 - Tar River Bridge Replacement (Old Sparta)
 - Springfield Road Widening
 - Bridge Replacements
 - NC 111 & SR Intersection realignment
 - Resurfacing projects
 - Curb ramp improvements
 - Guardrail upgrades
- Maintenance program delivery
- Local maintenance and construction
- Growth Opportunities
- I-95 Corridor
- Subdivisions
- Keys to success.

C. Scott Bailey, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, presented the fiscal year 2018 audit.

- Unmodified Opinion
- Government-wide Financial Statements
 - Statement of net position
 - Net position
 - Changes in net position
- General fund revenue
- General fund expenditures
- General fund revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance
- General fund balance available for appropriation
- Ad Valorem Taxes
- Water fund budget –vs- actual
- Solid Waste budget –vs- actual

10. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Ms. Joan Wickham Sugg, 187 North Woods Country Road, Tarboro, asked the Board to write a letter to the Department of Transportation Raleigh Office asking them to reduce the speed limit on North Woods Country Road. Currently it is 45 and turns into 55 mph. Most people are driving 60 on the 55 section and 55 on the 45 section. She has been close to being hit at least four to five times. She requested that the 45 mph section be changed to 35 mph and the 55 mph section be changed to 45 mph.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to ask DOT to review the citizens request.

Mr. Curmilus Dancy, P O Box 13, Pinetops, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, stated that he has a problem with setting up at the back and asked the Board to talk into their microphones so he can pick it up clearly. He stated that he attended the Sheriff's Academy and he has learned so much about the Sheriff's Department. He stated that to compare the Sheriff's Department with entities in the County is a low blow, because nobody else put their lives on the line like they do. The Sheriff just received Sheriff of the Year and he is putting in the work. He asked the Board to look at the budget and try to do something for the Sheriff's Department to compensate them for the fine work that they do before we lose them to another county.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the budget amendments as presented.

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

B. **Approval of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for Water and Sewer Department.**

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the Water and Sewer Department's Capital Improvements Plan. He stated that 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. It was last updated in May of 2018.

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

C. **Approval of proposed parking lot lease agreement with Town of Tarboro.**

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the lease agreement as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. **Approval of Public Records Policy.**

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

E. **Approval of contract amendment with The Wooten Company.**

Mr. Evans stated that we currently have an engineering services contract with The Wooten Company for Water & Sewer District #6. This contract is to provide field survey, engineering design, and construction administration for a Sewer system rehabilitation project within the Town of Princeville. This is a USDA-Rural Development funded project, currently set at approximately 60/40 grant to loan funding. Mr. Evans stated that representatives at USDA-Rural Development have expressed a desire to provide additional funding to the project that will take the project to approximately 70/30 grant to loan. The additional funding will allow us to replace a greater percentage of the sewer lines as opposed to repairing the lines. The necessary changes to the project design does require a modification to the agreement with The Wooten Company. He stated that Amendment No. 2 will add \$79,000 to the existing contract, for a total not-to exceed contract of \$695,000. It will also add 135 days to the time for services. Mr. Evans stated that as with other USDA-funded projects, these costs are reimbursable from project funds.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contract amendment as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Request from Town of Speed for assistance with their Town Hall.

Tabled for consideration during the budget process.

G. Approval of Dominion Power's request of releasing the right to purchase property from 3MR.

Mr. Evans stated that Dominion Energy has plans to build a substation at Kingsboro to serve Triangle Tire. The area they have plotted to purchase for the substation extends onto land owned by 3MR Limited Partnership. We have the Memorandum of option in place with 3MR to purchase that parcel. Therefore, for Dominion to pursue purchasing this from 3MR, the Board must first agree to release our right to purchase. Being that this will help to advance the development of Kingsboro, Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the release of the County's right to purchase the portion of and authorize him to execute the necessary documents for the same.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve Dominion Power's request as presented and to authorize Mr. Evans to execute the necessary documents.

H. Approval of declaring County vehicles as surplus.

Mrs. Harris moved to declare vehicles as surplus and dispose of by listing on GovDeals. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of Community Impact grant for Sheriff's Office.

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

J. Approval of Cooperative Agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

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

K. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Acquisition Relocation Assistance.

Mr. Evans stated that to assist those affected by Hurricane Floyd and are participating in the HMGP buyout program, the NC Division of emergency Management is making available State Acquisition Relocation funds (SARF). These funds provide a gap payment that may not exceed \$50,000 to help a family relocate from the damaged home to a comparable home outside of the flood plain. The total allocation for Edgecombe County is \$2,783,000.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

L. Approval of a request for funding from Edgecombe County Rescue Squad.

Mr. Evans stated that a request from Edgecombe County Rescue Squad for an

additional \$300,000 appropriation for the current fiscal year. This would take the total appropriation to \$1,500,000. He stated that we have been closely monitoring the fiscal management of ECRS over the last two years and have met with their leadership monthly for the last year. He stated that it is his assessment that their operations have been managed to minimize costs where possible, but their revenues from billing have been lower than budgeted. This has created a cash flow shortage. In order to continue operations for the remainder of the fiscal year he recommended that the Boar approve an additional \$300,000 to ECRS with the stipulation that if their shortfall proves to be less than the amount requested, the difference be deducted from their appropriation next fiscal year.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the funding request as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

M. Approval of project agreements with NCDOT for Kingsboro.

Mr. Evans stated that the NC Department of Transportation has been a partner with us in the development of Kingsboro Industrial park. In an effort to continue their assistance with the project, NCDOT is proposing the following two agreements:

The first agreement would allow NCDOT to take on the site preparation for the Kingsboro Training Facility by adding it as a supplement to their existing contract with Barnhill. This will expedite the preparation of the site and ready it for construction by our targeted start date of June 1st. This will be paid for with funds recently allocated to us from the Golden LEAF Foundation.

The second agreement is to assist with the predevelopment costs at Kingsboro associated with the Triangle Tire project. Carolinas Gateway Partnership facilitated and paid for a number of predevelopment activities in order to create the site plan used for the project. These costs are above and beyond the usual services provided by the Partnership for which we give an annual allocation. NCDOT will provide funding to the County to reimburse those costs. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board take separate action on each agreement.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the agreement to allow NCDOT to take on the site preparation for the Kingsboro Training Facility. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the agreement to assist with the predevelopment costs at Kingsboro associated with Triangle Tire project. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

12. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Complete Count Committee.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the following appointments to the Complete County Committee:

Elected Official: Viola Harris; Faith Community: Rev. Kelly Andrews; Aging Population Rep.: Deborah Coley; Social Services: Betty Battle or designee; Community College: Mr. Gregory McLeod or designee; Municipality Rep.: Deborah Jordan; Non-profits: Doris Stith; Farming community: Art Bradley; Chamber of Commerce: Susan Freeman; School system: Dr. Valerie Bridges or designee; Hispanic Community: Marie Sanchez Elfaysal; At large members: Levetta Howard, Samuel Branch, Leshawn Jenkins, Naim Akbar.

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

B. Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint JoeRoam Myrick and Leo Taylor. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 6 for and 1 against. Mrs. Harris voted against.

C. Edgecombe Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Webb moved to appoint Quandail Schenall. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments.

Mr. Wiggins moved to appoint Mr. Webb. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

13. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

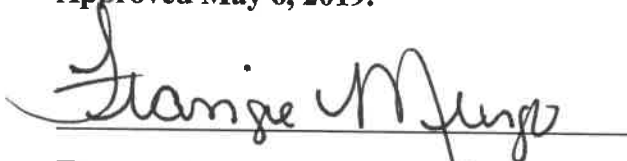
Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contracts as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

14. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

15. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*****Received***
- A. Water Services.
 - B. Financial Summary report.
 - C. Hurricane recovery update.
 - D. Midlakes Relocation Project.
 - E. Cooperative Extension Health Matters Project.
16. **MANAGER'S REPORT.*****Received***
- A. Workforce Indicators.
 - B. Veteran's Museum – The Wall that Heals.
 - C. NCACC Membership.
 - D. Letter from NC Superintendent of Public Instruction.
 - E. Update on State changes with Medicaid.
 - F. Risk Management report.
 - G. NCDOT proposed bridge replacement.
17. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**
- None.
18. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**
- None.
19. **CLOSED SESSION.**
- Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development. Mr. Wooten 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.
20. **MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MAY 6, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved May 6, 2019.



Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board