

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
AUGUST 17, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.  
IN THE CARMON AUDITORIUM  
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

\*\*\*\*\*

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY VICE-CHAIRMAN E. WAYNE HINES AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Ralph Webb and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman and Mr. William Wooten.

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

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

Mr. Evans provided safety instructions.

3. PRAYER.

Mrs. Harris provided the prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2020 meeting as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, presented the 2019 Annual Settlement.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Tax Collector's Settlement as of June 30, 2020 and recharge the Tax Collector with collecting taxes for years 2010 through 2020. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

In light of the State of Emergency and in consideration of the recommendations of government and public health officials to limit public gatherings, Edgecombe County's Board of Commissioners meeting was closed to the public and the public was encouraged to submit any public petitions via email to [publiccomments@edgecombeco.com](mailto:publiccomments@edgecombeco.com) or by mail address to Eric Evans, County Manager. The public was notified that all public comments submitted would be read at the meeting. The public was also encouraged to listen to the meeting by calling the published number.

The following public petition was submitted via email on July 6, 2020 and read by Mr. Evans:

*Mr. Evans,*

*I dialed in this evening to our BOC meeting. I appreciate the county IT providing information for the public to call in and listen.*

*Also, I wanted to say thank you for addressing my concern; by reading my email and prompt follow up with the BOC. Landscaping every 2-3 weeks may be too lengthy of a gap. Considering NOAA's 3- month precipitation probability outlook places our area in the 33-40% higher than normal rate.*

*I would hope we could consider weekly? I'm sure it has contributed to the recent growth spurt, it's that time and season.*

*Thanks again for your time and your voice.*

*Leigh Ann Hazzelwood*

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. Consideration of approval of budget amendments.**

Mr. Evans provided explanations for several of the budget amendments. He asked the Board not to approve budget amendment #1 (Purpose: to roll the CARES ACT (Coronavirus Relief) funds for FY 2020-2021 at this time)

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the budget amendments, with the exception of budget amendment #1, as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Approval of contract to demolish septic tanks at Midlakes.**

Mr. Evans stated that in June the Board approved a contract with Fleming Landscaping to decommission 85 septic tanks on county-owned property at the former site of Midlakes Mobile Home Park. Since the work began, 15 additional septic tanks have been discovered, and we believe there is the possibility there may be more. Therefore, he presented for the Board's consideration a change order to add a not-to-exceed amount of \$750 per tank for up to 25 additional tanks, adding no more than \$18,750 to the contract. The amount paid will only be for the actual number of additional septic tanks demolished up to 25. The proposed change order amends the total not-to-exceed cost to \$82,500. Mr. Evans stated that we have the funds already budgeted to cover these costs, and recommended that the Board approve the change order as presented.

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

**C. Offers to purchase county-owned properties.**

Mr. Evans stated that presented at the Board's July meeting were offers to purchase five county-owned properties. The Board tabled the requests and directed him to see if these properties may be used for affordable housing development. Mr. Evans stated he has since discussed this with the CEO of the Southeastern North Carolina CDC, which is the development arm of the Rocky Mount Housing Authority. In response, he has submitted a letter requesting these lots be donated to SENCDC for the purpose of developing affordable housing. The lots are:

- 630 & 641 Woodland Avenue, Rocky Mount
- 617,619 & 713 Shearin St., Rocky Mount

The offers on the lots were \$550 each. These properties will be put to better use by being developed by SENCDC, which has a strong track record of building and maintaining affordable housing. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board reject the offers to purchase.

Mr. Boswell moved to reject the offers to purchase. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Conveyance of County-owned property to SENCDC.**

Mr. Evans stated that Southeastern North Carolina CDC, which is the development arm of the Rocky Mount Housing Authority, is interested in lots owned by the County through tax foreclosure. He presented a letter from their CEO requesting these lots be donated to SENCDC for the purpose of developing affordable housing. The lots are:

- 630 & 641 Woodland Avenue, Rocky Mount

- **617,619 & 713 Shearin St., Rocky Mount**

These are vacant lots the County has owned since as long as 2006. He felt that these properties will be put to better use by being developed by SENCDCDC, which has a strong track record of building and maintaining affordable housing. He recommended that the Board approve the resolution as presented.

Mr. Kelvin Macklin, CEO, came forth and provided information on proposed usage of the property.

**E. Approval of annual agreement with NC Forest Service.**

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the agreement with the NC Forest Service. This renews our annual cooperative relationship with the Forest Service to provide forest protection, development, reforestation, management, and improvement. This agreement requires a 40% cost share, or \$122,617 appropriation from the County, which is included in this year's budget. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman and Finance Director to execute.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the agreement as presented and to authorize the Chairman and Finance Director to execute. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**F. Agreement with Edgecombe County Public Schools for School Health Program.**

Mr. Evans proposed that the Health Department continues to provide school health services for Edgecombe County Schools. Annually, we review our agreement, and then present for the Board's approval. Mr. Evans stated that we will continue to provide eight school nurses who will administer the services described in the agreement. This is funded partially by a grant, and the remainder by the school system.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the agreement with Edgecombe County School System as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**G. Approval of the annual contract renewal with Southern Health Partners.**

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration a contract renewal with Southern Health Partners. This is for health services provided onsite at the Edgecombe County detention center. The agreement calls for a 3% increase, which he felt is reasonable. This also comes with a recommendation for approval by Sheriff Clee Atkinson.

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

**H. Approval of Interlocal Agreements with Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Pinetops and Princeville for Coronavirus Relief Fund plan.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County received \$1,087,466 from the State under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). We were required to submit a plan as to how those funds were to be used, which the Board approved. Since then, we have received notice that we are to receive a second allocation of funds and part of the funds are to be used to distribute to our municipalities. Our distribution plan is based on population. All of the municipalities have received notice of the availability of funds and were asked to submit an application. Mr. Evans stated that he received applications from Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Pinetops, and Princeville. The uses of funds each proposed are consistent with the program guidelines.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the interlocal agreements for Rocky Mount,

Tarboro, Pinetops and Princeville as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**I. Approval of revision to coronavirus Relief Fund plan.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County received \$1,087,466 from the State under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). We submitted the required plan describing how we plan to use the funds, which the Board approved. Since then, we have learned we are receiving a second allocation in the amount of \$998,966, bringing our total to \$2,086,432. Therefore, he revised the CRF plan as presented. Mr. Evans stated that he would like to note that with the new allocation, we are required to distribute at least 25% of the total allocation to our municipalities. He presented a table to show the breakdown for the municipalities. He stated that he had already solicited proposals from all ten for the original amounts. If the Board approves this proposed plan, he will send out a second solicitation for the additional funds. He recommended that the Board approve the revised CRF Plan as presented.

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

**J. Approval of revision to Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2021.**

Mr. Evans stated that when presenting the budget for the current year for the Board's approval, he recommended a number of items under our Capital Improvement Plan to be held for consideration after the start of the fiscal year. The purpose was to have a better chance to see how the COVID-19 Pandemic would impact our revenues. As the Board will hear from the Tax Administrator, it did impact our collection rate for FY-20. It has also impacted our revenue in the Water & Sewer Department due to the executive order that prohibited the application of late fees and the disconnection of services. However, our sales tax revenues have continued the trend of being considerably above what we budgeted. Mr. Evans stated that considering that the items presented are critical to our operations and maintaining our physical plant, he recommended that the Board approve the budget amendment to appropriate an additional \$241,000 for CIP.

Mr. Powell moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**K. Project Reach Grant for the Health Department.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Health Department has been approved to receive additional funds in the REACH Program (Redefining & Empowering Adolescent and Community Health). This is an initiative which provides outreach and evidence-based programs in areas with high teen birth rates. He recommended that the Board approve the grant agreement and budget amendment.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the grant agreement and budget amendment as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**L. Approval of COVID-19 Cares Grant for the Health Department.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Health Department has been approved to receive CARES Act funding to assist with the cost of testing and surveillance related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He recommended that the Board approve the grant agreement and budget amendment.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the grant agreement and budget amendment as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment.

No recommendations.

B. Strategic Twin-Counties Educational Partnership.

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

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

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

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

A. Water Services.

Mr. Michael Waters, Water & Sewer Director, explained the payment plan process.

B. Financial Summary report.

C. Hurricane recovery update.

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

A. Workforce Development Indicators.

B. COVID-19 update.

C. Notice of Sunset Avenue added as a State maintained road.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mrs. Harris reported that she attended the NCACC virtual conference. She stated that the new NCACC President is Commissioner Ronnie Smith from Martin County. During their business meeting it was stated that dues paid by NC Counties to NCACC will be refunded.

Mr. Evans stated that the NACo has made available a Leadership Training Program in which Mrs. Harris as expressed interest in. He stated that it will all be done virtually this year and if any Commissioners is interested in participating to let him know.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

15. CLOSED SESSION.

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

B. Legal Matters. [Per N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(3)]

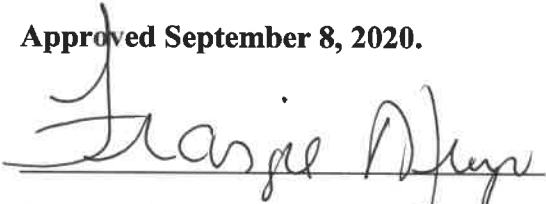
- To consult with the attorney to preserve attorney-client privileged information, including receiving advice regarding Eastpointe Human Services v. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Mandy D. Cohen, in her official capacity as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Richard O. Brajer, in his individual and former official capacity as Secretary of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Nash County, and Edgecombe County; Duplin County Superior Court, 17-CVS.
- To consult with the attorney to preserve attorney-client privileged information, including receiving advice regarding JoeRoam Myrick, as an Individual and as Representative on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Cleveland Atkinson, Jr., as Sheriff of Edgecombe County; County of Edgecombe; and Does 1 through 20, Inclusive; Case Number 4:20-CV-139-FL (E.D.N.C.)

**Mrs. Powell moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development and legal matters. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

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

- 16. MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**Approved September 8, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frankie Mungo", written over a horizontal line.

**Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board**