

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
FEBRUARY 4, 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Viola Harris and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman.

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

2. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Recognition of Art Bradley, Cooperative Extension Director, on receiving the Carol Birkhead Outstanding County Extension Director award for 2018.

Mr. Evans read the following press release:

North Carolina Cooperative Extension recently recognized Art Bradley with the Carol Birkhead Outstanding County Extension Director award for 2018. Art serves as the County Extension Director for the NC Cooperative Extension Edgecombe County Center, providing leadership in that position since 2009.

Cooperative Extension is a partnership of the county and our land-grant Universities, NC State University and NC A&T State University, providing educational outreach in agriculture, youth development, family & consumer issues and community development.

Eric Evans, Edgecombe County Manager, commented: "Mr. Bradley certainly does his job very well, but more impressively, he routinely goes above and beyond the duties required of him. He has used his position as a platform to establish himself as a great leader in our organization and the county as a whole."

Art began his career in Edgecombe County as an Agricultural Extension Agent serving our farmers with research-driven educational programming for field crops. He is supported by a staff that is devoted to helping people, and county government that recognizes the importance of agriculture.

Mr. Wiggins, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Bradley for his continued service.

Mr. Bradley thanked the Board for their continued support. He stated that he could not thank of any higher honor and privilege to be from Edgecombe County and be able to come back here to work for the County and NC State University. He talked about all the work his staff does and that they work together as a team. He recognized Ms. Yvonne Murphy, stating that she is one part of their team and for the last two years she has been on a CDC grant that has helped to address obesity and nutrition issues in the County that has helped in lots of different areas such as parks and recreation abilities. He stated that they have another grant that Ms. Murphy is going to be a part of, Department of Public Health grant that will focus on physical activity.

5. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Deborah Jordan, 614 E. Wilson Street, Tarboro, came before the Board because she has received several phone calls from parents of children with disabilities who want to participate in Special Olympics. Edgecombe County Special Olympics no longer exist. She asked if the Board would consider the support of that, stating that she is willing to help the parents get this along. Mrs. Jordan stated that she currently works as a qualified professional for individual that are Individual Development Delayed and also the mother of

an autistic son, who did benefit from participating in Special Olympics. There are families who will come out and participate in the games and give their kids something to feel proud about representing Edgecombe County, their town and the community they live in.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he was going to give that charge to the County Manager. He stated that on behalf of the Board, he felt that it is something that we need to participate in and the Manager will be your contact or his designee. This was the consensus of the Board.

Mr. Bronson Williams, 611 Hargrove Street, Rocky Mount, came forth to talk about priorities as we are getting into the budget season 2019 fiscal year. He stated that he has had the opportunity to read some of the Telegram articles of the newspaper in regards to our Sheriff's department. He stated how do we prioritize the hard working men and women of that agency who protects our County every single day. At some point priorities move off a list and you began to really focus on that area. He personally believes that safe communities are growing communities. Mr. Williams stated that we see the great work this commission has done with attracting CSX, Corning and what have you, and we certainly want to be sure that we are not investing money in men and women who go and leave because they are getting higher pay. We are serious about the commitment and investment we make to the members of our Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department. He stated that he understands we want to give across the board raises, but sometimes it is easier to do things in phases. He stated that he hopes that we are making that agency a priority in this budget coming forth.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, stated that he is just as concerned about one department as he is the other. He stated that he know you all heard that Edgecombe County is losing law enforcement officers, but he can tell you for the 30 years that he has been paying attention to Edgecombe County Government, Edgecombe County is the training ground for the Health Department, Social Services. Some of these people are moving away so they can get more money, some of them want to go to brighter light. He stated that there is a misconception out there with everybody seeing this dirt being turned with Triangle Tire and Corning and the Railroad potentially coming, they are instantly seeing dollars and cents. Rev. Higgs stated that nobody realizes the incentives that Edgecombe County had to give to recruit those industries here. He encourage the Board to do everything they can to hold that spending line down, because it will be a shame to pass that indebtedness down to another generation. You all get a chance to spend a whole lot of money, but he encouraged them to look at all of the employees. He stated that you don't see the other departments coming up here, because they know how the game is played, and he felt everybody should play by the same rules. When the Sheriff accepted this position he should have been smart enough to realize that he had to operate through a budget.

Rev. Thomas Walker, Rocky Mount, stated that he is a lifelong member of the Edgecombe County Community and former County Commissioner. Sometimes we start a conversation and other times we are born into conversations and sometimes we walk into it. He stated that he has been reading about the concerns about the Sheriff and our law enforcement. He stated that he sees were progress is made in Law enforcement, and he is very impressed with our current Sheriff, and his program that he has. Rev. Walker stated that he really appreciates the priority that the Board of Commissioners has given to law enforcement, but unless you live in another world that he is not living in you must see that that is one of the real crisis/issues that we are dealing with in our world and that is safety. Make sure that the law and order is distributed properly. We have a good Sheriff and department and money is always an issue. He asked the Board as they carry the budgets, priorities must take precedence over everything else. Let's not assume that our community is going to be able to maintain the kind of peace and tranquility that it definitely needs. We talk about industry coming, but industry is going to be here and they are going to need to have that security. He stated that he hoped that we will keep our law enforcement priority.

Mr. Curmilus Dancy, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, stated that he follows the news, not only locally but across the State and he see that our Sheriff Department being called to different places, not only Nash County but other places also. Which lets him know that we have expertise here. We also have the previous Sheriff that they piggy back on. Safety is number one. He stated that he knows the County and has been out here advocating since the late 80s, and he knows what is going on and he knows all of the players. We need to look at law enforcement.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Rev. Hines

seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

- B. Approval of a change in the Transportation and Travel Reimbursement Policy.**
Mr. Evans stated that currently, our Administrative and Personnel Policies include provisions that govern the use of personal vehicles for county business and the reimbursement of costs for doing so. We have determined the policy needs revising to address situations that are unclear as it currently reads. Mr. Evans presented a document that shows what the current policy states and the recommended changes.

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

- C. Approval of a change in the mileage reimbursement rate.**
Mr. Evans stated that it is the County's practice to follow the standard mileage reimbursement rates set by the Internal Revenue Service. Recently, the IRS issued a notice that it is increasing the rate from 54.5 cents to 58 cents.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the mileage reimbursement of 58 cents as recommended. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

- D. Approval an agreement between the Edgecombe County Animal Shelter and Nash Community College Veterinary Program.**

Mr. Evans stated that we have received a request from Nash Community College to consider a Memorandum of Understanding with their Veterinary Medical Technology program. As you will see in the MOU, they are proposing that we transfer animals from our shelter to their program to be used for training their students. In return, these animals will be provided basic and routine animal health care at no cost to the County. Mr. Evans stated that this is supported by Sheriff Atkinson and the staff at the Edgecombe County Animal Shelter. Therefore, he recommended that the Board approves the MOU as presented.

Mr. Evans introduced Dr. Mandy Tolson, Instructor for the program, who was present to answer any questions.

Dr. Tolson expressed her appreciation for the Board considerations on this. The program is not a program that is at Edgecombe Community College. The closest one is Nash. Having one in the North Eastern part of the State is really important for our community. She stated that if anyone has any questions about the MOU and what we are planning on doing contact her.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion.

Ms. Harris asked if Nash County's Animal Shelter involved.

Dr. Tolson stated yes. We actually have the same MOU with Nash County in place.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- E. NEED, Inc. Anti-poverty plan.**
Mr. Evans stated that Nash Edgecombe Economic Development, Inc. (NEED, Inc.) receives federal funding through the Community Service Block Grant program. A requirement of the program is to submit an Anti-poverty Plan. This plan discusses their strategies for eliminating poverty within their service area. He stated that an electronic copy was sent to the Board on January 11, 2019. No action is needed of the Board. NEED, Inc. is required to distribute a copy of the plan to the Board at least 30 days prior to its submission, which is due February 15, 2019 and the Board is given an opportunity to submit comments along with the plan.
- F. Approval of declaring a home in Midlakes Mobile Home Park as surplus.**
Mr. Evans stated that as part of the relocation program at Midlakes Mobile Home Park, some residents either have turned ownership of their home over to the County or have otherwise abandoned the unit on site. Some of these units are not in a condition that it can be moved, and therefore will be demolished. Others are salvageable. These are manufactured homes titled as personal property, and therefore must be deemed surplus in order to be sold. We have one additional property to come to the County that can be

sold. He requested that the Board consider declaring the home located at 37 Lagoon Lane as surplus and to authorize staff to sell the same through Gov-Deals.

Mrs. Harris moved to declare the home as surplus and authorize the selling through Gov-Deals. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

A. Approval of a resolution authorizing the donation of lots to United Methodist Church for Hurricane Recovery.

Mr. Eric stated that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has been here in the County assisting with Hurricane Mathew Recovery since immediately after the storm. Because of the Boards willingness to allow them to operate out of our facility on North Main Street here in Tarboro, they have been able to coordinate 200 volunteer teams, with over 2,000 volunteers, providing nearly 80,000 work hours to complete 36 rebuild projects. He stated that along with the continuation of that work, NCCUMC is working on a special project to potentially build four new homes for flood survivors. They have a group of 100 volunteers coming to Edgecombe County to provide the labor to construct these homes. They have already identified two families who still have a need for permanent housing to benefit from this mission. Mr. Evans stated that he also identified two lots that the County owns through tax foreclosure. NCCUMC staff members have assessed these lots and determined them to be buildable, and well suited for the project. The lots are 329 Ridgewood Road and 1205 Newson Street. They are considering two other lots owned by the Town of Princeville. NC General Statute 160A-279 allows the County to convey property to an entity that carries out a public purpose. If you do so, a public hearing notice is required after a resolution is passed, and the sale cannot be consummated until 10 days after the notice. Considering the benefit this will provide to the recovery process, and that these properties will revert to a taxable status, He recommend that the Board approve the resolution, which will authorize the sale of the properties for \$1 each to the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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

B. APPOINTMENTS:

Human Relations Commission:

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Ms. Tina Parker. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT:

A. Mr. Evans stated that in the absence of the presenter he asked the Board to refer back to the information in their package regarding the US Census 2020.

Mr. Evans stated that the start of the 2020 Census is quickly approaching us, and the US Census Bureau is already very active in preparing for it. Part of that preparation includes deploying their staff to help communities with raising awareness and encouraging their participation. Mrs. Cynthia Jones, our Planning Director, is our designated Census Liaison. He stated that they met with Mr. Terry Henderson, Partnership Specialist for the Atlanta Regional Census Center. He has encouraged us to establish a Complete County Committee (CCC). The CCC is key in creating awareness in communities and encouraging participation in the Census. The committee is to be comprised of a broad spectrum of government and community leaders. Mr. Evans stated that such a committee would be beneficial for us, and recommended that the Board take action to establish one. He suggested the committee consist of at least 10, but no more than 20, community representatives and that the following agencies and community sectors be represented:

Elected official	Faith community	Aging Population Rep.
Social Services	Community College	Municipality Rep.
Non-profits	Farming community	Chamber of Commerce
School System	Hispanic community	At-large members

Mr. Evans stated that Ms. Laura McClettie, the NC Partnership Coordinator for the US Census Bureau, was expected to be present tonight to provide an overview, but information

is included in the Board's packets regarding a Complete Count Committee, and some other information on the timeline for key dates that are coming upon us in preparing for the 2020 Census. He pointed out that they are currently hiring for people to work the Census.

Mr. Boswell moved to establish Complete Count Committee. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*****Received***

- A. Water Services. (Discussion and questions from the Board answered by Mike Matthews)
- B. Financial Summary Report.
- C. Hurricane recovery update. (Discussion)
- D. Midlakes Relocation Project. (Discussion)
- E. Update on new legislation related to Tax Administration.
- F. Influenza report.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.*****Received***

- A. Workforce Indicators.
- B. Update on Hometown Strong Program.
- C. Flood Insurance Program Community Assistance visit.
- D. Change in Golden LEAF Grant for fire station.
- E. Request from South Eastern North Carolina CDC.

10. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

Mr. Boswell shared dumpsite recommendations with the Board. He stated that he gave the recommendations to the County Manager tonight and asked him to look at them and the Board can discuss at the next meeting. He stated that he asked Mr. Evans to give input on what could and could not be done or should or should not be done.

Mr. Boswell stated that they continue to have, in his district, tremendous problem with deer hunters. He stated that he is contacting another Commissioner from Halifax County as recommended by one of the local law enforcement agencies to discuss maybe some possible remedies; possibly even changing local law. He stated that he just wanted to bring it up tonight so the Board will know what coming down the pipe.

Mrs. Harris reported on NCACC Legislative Goals and the top five goals that are going to NC General Assembly for all 100 counties:

- Broadband
- Statewide Bond for education
- Preserve our existing local revenue
- Resources to make sure that we are not putting people with behavioral problems or mental problems in the jail
- Repeal the ability for school boards to sue boards of county commissioners over appropriations

Mrs. Harris reported that on February 26th we will have our first district meeting (District 7) at the Event Center, 5-8 p.m.

11. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

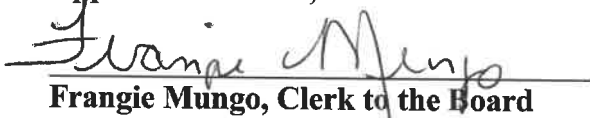
12. **CLOSED SESSION.**

Mr. Wooten moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development, a personnel matter and a legal matter. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

13. **MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MARCH 4, 2019. AT 7:00 P.M. MR. WOOTEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved March 4, 2019.


Franje Mungo, Clerk to the Board