

**MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
JANUARY 6, 2020 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Ralph Webb and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

Mr. William Johnson, Assistant County Manager, provided safety instructions for all present.

3. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT. Item 6 moved up on the agenda with consensus of the Board.

A. Appointment of Vila Anderson as Register of Deeds.

Mr. Evans stated that per NC General Statute 161-5, when a vacancy occurs in the office of Register of Deeds, the Board of Commissioners is to appoint a successor for the unexpired term. This appointment must be of the person recommended by the political party of the outgoing Register of Deeds. Enclosed you will find the official recommendation from the Edgecombe County Democratic Party's Executive Committee of Ms. Vila R. Anderson.

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Vila R. Anderson as Register of Deeds as recommended by the Edgecombe County Democratic Party. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

The Honorable Carol Allen-White, Clerk of Court, administered the Oath of Office.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a proposed change to County Animal Services Ordinance.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that in June, the Board adopted changes to the County's ordinance pertaining to animal services. Since then, the Animal Welfare Advisory Council has continued to review the ordinance and have further recommendations regarding Article II Sec. 4-33-Definitions and several sections in Article III-Wild or Exotic Animals. The change they recommend to Article II

Sec. 4-33 for “Adequate shelter” under the description for what does not constitute adequate shelter is to add “metal” to barrels. He stated that the recommended changes to Article III are numerous. In summary, the changes include: reference to Inherently Dangerous Animals instead of Wild and Exotic Animals; it defines what Inherently Dangerous Animals are; it bans Inherently Dangerous Animals in the County with the noted exceptions; and it leaves the responsibility of permitting and enforcement of those exceptions to the appropriate State and Federal agencies. Mr. Evans stated that Ms. Kathy Williams, who is the Chairperson of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, to answer any questions the Board may have. He stated since the Council has reviewed the latest changes, there are a few small changes that they would like to review to better fine tune that definition of Inherently Dangerous Animals. He asked the Board to consider doing is opening the public hearing for comments and not closing that public hearing but continue that hearing until the February meeting so that the Council can review those final changes.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment. There being none Mr. Wooten moved to continue the public hearing at the February meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to proposed changes to the Smoking Policy.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that at the December meeting the Board held a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the County’s smoking policy. Following the public hearing, the Board’s decision was to amend the ordinance to match our current policy which bans smoking in county buildings and in county-owned vehicles. Such a change requires another public hearing, which the Board called to be held at the January meeting.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment.

Thomas Gennosa, 200 Cotton Court, Tarboro, stated that he is a family physician and has been in the area for the past 20 years and he was present to speak on the enhancing of the tobacco ban to include all county properties. He provided several reasons, including health and economic, to ban smoking on all county owned property.

Robin Webb-Corbett, 3971 NC 111 South, Macclesfield, came forth to ask the Board to consider the smoking ban to include all county properties.

Bill Leland, 800 Main Street, came forth and presented facts regarding smoking and tobacco use and asked the Board to ban smoking on all county owned property.

There being no further comments the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the changes to the smoking ordinance as presented. Mr. Wiggins seconded the motion.

After discussion Mr. Wooten proposed that the ordinance change include to ban all smoking and use of all tobacco products from being used on all County owned property and in county owned vehicles.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the ordinance change as stated by Mr. Wooten.

Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 for (Wooten, Harris, Powell, Hines and Webb) and 2 against (Wiggins, Boswell)

3. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to rezoning request from Reba Allen.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that Reba W. Allen submitted a request to rezone approximately .752 acres located at 4477 Draughn Road, currently zoned Agriculture Residential – 30,000 sq. ft. (AR-30) to a Neighborhood Business District (B-1). Per her application, her request is to allow for the operation of a restaurant without a drive-through. A rezoning requires a public hearing, which the Board called for at the January meeting. This request comes with a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment.

Reba Allen, 1101 Panola Street, Tarboro, came forth to provide information on her request.

Thomas Johnson, 2502 O’Neal Road, came forth to express his concerns regarding the rezoning request.

Jennifer Wallace, 3237 Coker Town Road, came forth to express opposition to the rezoning request.

Tony Blackley, Reba Allen’s husband, came forth in support of the rezoning.

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

Mr. Wiggins moved to approve the rezoning request as recommended by the Planning Board. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to UDO text amendment request from Raeford Allen Walston.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that Raeford Walston presented to the Planning Board a request to amend the Unified Development Ordinance to add agritourism to section 2-4 “Definitions”. Agritourism is any activity carried out on a farm for recreational use, entertainment or educational purposes. A text amendment requires a public hearing, which the Board called to be held at the January meeting. This request comes with a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board.

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

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the UDO text amendment as recommended by the Planning Board. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to UDO text amendment request from the Planning

Department.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that Planning staff presented to the Planning Board a request to amend the Unified Development Ordinance to add bona fide farm to section 2-4 "Definitions". A bona fide farm is a tract of land which is used for agriculture, as further described in the attached document. A text amendment requires a public hearing, which the Board called for at the January meeting. This request comes with a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board.

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

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the UDO text amendment as recommended by the Planning Board. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Ms. Melanie Goff Bradley, President League of Women Voters Twin Counties, 875 Powell Road, Rocky Mount, stated that she a resolution that the League of Women Voters asking the Board to adopt. The resolution is to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the league, which will take place on February 14, 2020 and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, which will take place in August 2020. She also alerted the Board to the fact that Edgecombe County will be one of only nine counties this year with the ability to display the original 19th Amendment document, which will be here in May at the Edgecombe Memorial Library. As League of Women Voters Twin Counties will be the host for that event. She stated that the email sent with the resolution failed and she hoped that the Board would pass the resolution.

After brief discussion Mr. Wiggins, with no opposition from the Board, stated that the resolution will be placed on next month's agenda.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Evans provided explanations on some of the budget amendments.

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

B. Approval of contract amendment with NC Department of Commerce for Princeville 53 Acre Project.

Mr. Evans stated that the County received funds on behalf of the Town of Princeville from the NC Department of Commerce in the amount of \$2,631,000 for the development of the 53-acre tract the Town purchased and annexed. In a separate grant agreement, we had received \$540,000 from the golden LEAF Foundation to construct a new fire station for the Town. Since then, Golden LEAF Foundation decided to allow NC Commerce to take over that grant project, and consequently decommitted those funds. Mr. Evans presented a contract agreement with NC Commerce committing the %540,000 to the project.

Mr. Boswell moved to accept this grant award and approve the project ordinance and budget amendment. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion.

After discussion the motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of the purchase of new voting equipment.

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Board of Elections is required to recommend to the Board of Commissioners a voting system after they have witnessed a demonstration of said system. They may only recommend a voting system that has been certified by the State Board of Elections. The Edgecombe BOE witnessed a demonstration and recommended the preliminary approval of the ES&S Unity 3.4.1 Voting System. He stated that the Board approved that resolution at the October meeting. Mr. Evans stated that our elections office tested the system at one precinct during the November 5, 2019 election. The BOE is now bringing back to the Board a final recommendation for the purchase of this equipment.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Sales Order Agreement as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of bid awards for farm leases.

**Mr. Evans stated that on behalf of the County, Art Bradley, Cooperative Extension Director, Facilitated the bid of a number of county-owned parcels for farm leases. They were bid in two groups; group #1 at Kingsboro Industrial park included a total of 196.5 acres, and group #2 at the landfill included a total of 46.29 acres. Based on the bids received, we recommend the approval of farm leases to:
Group #1 – Harrel & Owens Farm - \$150 per acre
Group #2 – Pakhouse, LLC – 126.52 per acre**

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the lease of these parcels and authorize Mr. Evans to execute agreements. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of contract to collect taxes for the Town of Whitakers.

Mr. Evans stated that the Town of Whitakers has requested that we collect their property taxes. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, is in agreement to provide this service. As a note, we already collect taxes for Conetoe, Leggett, Princeville, Sharpsburg, and Speed. It will be a 2% collection fee.

Mr. Harris moved to approve the agreement with the Town of Whitakers as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of an offer to purchase County owned property from Mr. Darius Smith.

Mr. Boswell moved to accept the offer to purchase property located at 509 Cokey Road, Rocky Mount for \$650 and to direct staff to publish the public notice for upset bid. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Harris moved to accept the offer to purchase property located at 1740 Harper Street, Rocky Mount for \$600 and to direct staff to publish the public notice for upset bid. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to accept the offer to purchase property from Mr. Darius Smith located at 606 E. Thomas Street for \$625 and to direct staff to publish the public notice for upset bid. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of application for franchise for non-emergency medical transport.

Mr. Evans stated that we have received an application for a franchise to operate ambulances in Edgecombe County from Meraki Healthfirst, LLC. This would be to provide non-emergency medical transportation as a back-up for Edgecombe County Rescue Squad. Mr. Evans stated that it is recommended that the Board approve the franchise agreement as presented.

- Mr. Wooten moved to approve the franchise agreement for Meraki Healthfirst, LLC as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- H. Approval of the Health Department's bad debt write-off.
Mrs. Harris moved to approve the bad debt write-off as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
9. APPOINTMENTS.
- A. NC East Alliance.
No recommendations.
- B. Carolinas Gateway Partnership.
Rev. Hines moved to appoint Mr. Wooten to represent the private sector. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- C. Nursing Home Adult Care Advisory Committee
Rev. Hines moved to appoint Ms. Natema Drummond. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.
Mr. Wooten moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
11. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL.
Mrs. Harris moved to approve the contracts as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
12. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.***Received***
- A. Water Services.
Mr. Michael Matthews, Water/Sewer Director, came forth to answer questions and concerns from the Board regarding water loss.
- B. Financial Summary report.
- C. Hurricane recovery update.
- D. Update on Solid Waste permits provided by Mr. William Johnson.
13. MANAGER'S REPORT.***Received***
- A. Date for Recreation Mini Grant presentations: January 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2020 events.
- C. Update on complaint with NC Department of Labor regarding courthouse mold.
- D. Approval of projects through the Public School Capital Fund.
- E. NC DHHS plan for Medicaid services for Behavioral Health/Development Disabilities.
- F. Workforce Development Indicators.
- G. Proposed date for Commissioners' room dedication: February 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.
None.
15. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.
None.
16. CLOSED SESSION.
Mr. Boswell moved to go into to closed session to discuss economic development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]; Legal. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3)]; and Personnel. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6)]. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

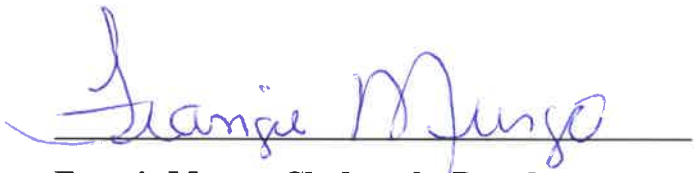
Mrs. Harris moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the salary of \$53,750 for Vila Anderson, Register of Deeds. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Webb moved to a approve a 2% salary increase for Michael Peters, County Attorney. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

- 17. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved February 3, 2020.



Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board