

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
JULY 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Ralph Webb, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. William Wooten 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 June 3, 2019 minutes as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. 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 regarding Vegetative Buffers for Solar Energy Systems.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that a discussion on this matter was held at a previous meeting and was sent back to the Planning Board to provide stricter guidelines.

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

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the text amendment that was forwarded to the Board with a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Claudia Baker, Executive Director of Veteran's Residential Services of Wilson, came forth to tell the Board about their program. She stated that the agency works with homeless and at-risk veterans. As of today, they work with 643 homeless/at-risk veterans. They get them off the streets, help them get into housing, furnish their homes and make sure they are taken care of. They furnish food, furniture, clothing and household items. Of the 643 veterans, 89 have been from Edgecombe County, currently working with 44 from Edgecombe County. She stated that they work with any County that has a veteran that is in need. They also make sure that the family of the veteran is taken care of. Ms. Baker stated that she was not asking for money, but if the Board had any extra money they could always use it. She

stated that they work from a small County grant that they get from Wilson, which pays for the office to be open and they fundraise.

Mr. Wiggins thanked Ms. Baker and referred her to the County Manager in terms of any assistance we can do and asked Mr. Evans to have conversation with her.

7. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Mr. Gerald Price, 2896 Bynum Farm Road, Pinetops, came to the Board regarding a problem whereas Counties in North Carolina allow people to use their backyards as a firing range. He stated that last weekend he had an incident where people next door turned their backyard into a firing range shooting fifty feet away from his bedroom window. They spent five hours shooting in their backyard out towards another home right next door to his house. The next day they spent seven hours firing. He stated that he now has a damaged barn with animals in it and a horse that is traumatized. He stated that the people are terrorizing his family. He stated that he called the Sheriff's Office and when the Deputy came out all he could tell his was it is legal. He stated that he called the Governor's Office and they directed him to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Price stated that his children are afraid to go outside and in the back yard to use the pool. He stated that the shooters are out their getting high and drunk. He stated that the Board has the power to pass an ordinance in the County stating that they cannot shoot within 300 feet of somebody's house.

After further discussion and questions from the Board Mr. Wiggins stated that what the Board can do is ask the County Manager and County Attorney to coordinate this with the Sheriff's Department and see what can be done under the present laws and what the Board can possibly do to address it.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of the Edgecombe County Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Pay Plan.**

Mr. Evans stated that it is his responsibility to annually review the County's Compensation Plan and make recommendations for modifications. His review of the plan involves consideration of maintaining a competitive compensation structure, while being mindful of what the budget can sustain. He stated that he was recommending no changes to the pay plan for fiscal year 19-20 and ask the Board consider approving the same as presented.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the fiscal year 2019-2020 Pay Plan as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. **Approval of a revised fee schedule for Solid Waste.**

Mr. Evans stated that at the time the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget, we had just received notice that the fee for the contract to haul municipal solid waste (MSW) to the regional landfill is going up from \$40.60 per ton to \$41.98 starting in July. He did not recommend a fee change at the time so as to have the opportunity to review the impact of this increase on the cost of operations. Mr. Evans stated that upon review of the Solid Waste fee schedule and costs for operations, he determined that we cannot take on this additional cost without raising our own fees. Therefore, he recommended that the Board approve the revised schedule, which raises the tipping fee for commercial, industrial and municipalities to \$54.00 per ton.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the revised fee schedule for Solid Waste as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of a Health Department fee revision due to Medicaid reimbursement rate changes.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Health Department is requesting the approval of a number of fee changes. These changes are being presented because NC Medicaid has increased their reimbursement rates for these services. These changes come with a favorable recommendation from the health Advisory Board and the Human Services Board.

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

D. Approval of Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) allocation for fiscal year 2020.

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County is receiving another allocation of Home and Community Care Block Grant funds from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services totaling \$585,820 to provide county-based services. These funds are administered through the Upper Coastal Plains Area Agency on Aging and they fund a number of services. This grant does require each provider to supply a 10% match of the total project costs.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the HCCBG funding plan and to authorize the Chairman to execute all required documents. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of the Health Department's fee schedule.

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Health Department is requesting to increase its record of screening fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00; an example of this fee would be a TB skin test. The Department is also requesting to implement three new fees. The Health Department now has the ability to test for strep and the flu and are requesting fees of \$20.00 and \$25.00, respectively. The Health Department is also requesting to implement a \$15.00 for Caries Arresting Medicament applications. This procedure helps in stopping further decay from a cavity present on a tooth. These fees similar or less than surrounding counties are charging for these services and come with a favorable recommendation from the Health Advisory Board and the Human Services Board.

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

F. Approval of the Health Department's Bad Debt Write-off.

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Health Department is requesting the approval of \$1,296.05 in bad debt be written off. This debt is as of 3/31/2019. This bad debt write off comes with a favorable recommendation from both the Health Advisory Committee as well as the Human Services Board. The current Health Department debt policy states that after an account has no activity for six months it will be treated as bad debt and sent to the debt setoff system for collection.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the bad debt write-off as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Update on the Tobacco Policy.

Mr. Evans stated that the Human Services Board is forwarding a recommendation to amend the tobacco policy for the Health Department. Among the recommended changes is a provision to ban smoking within 50 feet of all Health Department facilities, which includes the County Administration Building since Environmental Health is located here. Enforcing this change would be difficult without banning smoking entirely at the Human Services Building, and forcing smokers to cross the street into one of our two parking lots here at the Administration Building. He stated that he would like to further study this recommendation to see if there might be a way to meet the intent of the proposed

policy change, while finding a reasonable accommodation for employees and clients who smoke. He recommended that the Board table this matter for further study.

Rev. Hines moved to table the matter as recommended. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments.

None.

B. Edgecombe Memorial Library.

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint Mr. Jonathan Cobb. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Human Relations Commission.

Rev. Hines moved to re-appoint Mrs. Viola Harris. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins moved to re-appoint Dr. Glenda Lawrence-Knight. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

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

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary report.
- C. Hurricane recovery update.
- D. Human Relations Commission report.

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

- A. Workforce Indicators.
- B. Letter from Edgecombe Community College regarding the National Guard Armory building.
- C. Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce report regarding retail sales revenue.
- D. Representative Shelly Willingham's congratulations letter for the Urgent Repair Grant.
- E. Update on Forestry Management Project.
- F. Update on City of Rocky Mount's request regarding occupancy tax.
- G. HUD income limit change.

Mr. Evans stated that the Master Gardner's Program has installed a water fountain in front of the building.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

A. NCACC voting delegate.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Mrs. Harris as the voting delegate. Mr. Wiggins seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

15. CLOSED SESSION.

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

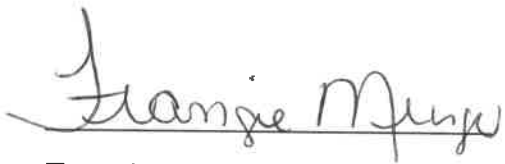
Mrs. Harris moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Wiggins for the resolution regarding the passing of retired Sheriff Phil Ellis, who was Commissioner Felton's first cousin.

Mr. Webb stated that about three weeks ago Coastal Plain Council of Governments hosted a Bureau of Census workshop and he found out that Edgecombe County was far ahead of other counties in regards to planning, to the committee and to the work that has already been done. He stated that the Census Bureau also would like for us to have a resolution pertaining to the 2020 Census in the near future.

- 16. MRS. POWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL AUGUST 5, 2019 AT 7:00 PM. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved August 5, 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frankie Mungo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board