

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY  
MARCH 4, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.  
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. William Wooten, Mr. Donald Bowell, Mrs. Viola Harris 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. Evans stated that this item on the agenda is something new that we will start doing at each of our meetings. It is a protocol followed for proper safety precautions. He provided the following statement:

*To provide for the safety of those attending this meeting, I want to give the following instructions in case of an emergency. If an emergency arises that prompts us to evacuate, I ask that everyone exit this room in a quick and orderly manner through one of the two doors to your right. Then proceed to the nearest stairwell. Directions to are indicated by exit signs. Once you exit the building, we ask that you safely cross the street to either of our parking lots to be safely away from the building. Our staff will help provide direction and assistance. In the case of a tornado warning, we ask that you exit this room to the hallway, where we will remain until it is safe to exit. Thank you for your attention.*

3. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

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

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Resolution Honoring the Service of Mr. Jonathan Felton.

Mr. Wiggins pointed out the vacant chair and name tag to his left. Stating that they are draped tonight, because we have loss one of our long serving members, who proudly served this community for fifty years in some public office either appointed or elected. He stated that he had the honor of serving with him the longest on this Board and served with him on the Community College Board of Trustees. They came on this Board together in 1996. At that time, he was not the Chair and sat in Mr. Wooten's seat. He stated that when he became Chair he was honored to sit beside Mr. Felton for the past eleven years as the Chair and Mr. Felton serving as our Vice-Chair. Mr. Wiggins stated that Mr. Felton would often hunch him and say "I have got to get to the ECU ballgame to watch television", but he also would be the one that would hold us up from closing. He stated that Mr. Felton was a good Commissioner for District 5 and a very strong advocate for that District and for the people of this County. He stated that he will miss him and so will this Board. While we might appoint somebody in the future, there will be no other as Jonathan Felton. Mr. Wiggins asked the for a moment of silent prayer for our fallen Commissioner.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Boswell to read the following Resolution to Honor Commissioner Jonathan Felton:

*Whereas, it is our desire to recognize the accomplishments and service of individuals whose life and work impact this County and its citizens; and*

*Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Felton dutifully served as Edgecombe County Commissioner from December 2, 1996 until his transition from life on February 21, 2019; and*

*Whereas, we acknowledge that his influence extended well past his position as County Commissioner as he served in several leadership roles, through which he touched the lives*

*of many; and*

*Whereas, with confidence we proclaim that I the years to come, no one will ever be able to look back over the history of our great County without clearly seeing the part Commissioner Felton played in making it so.*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Governing Board of Edgecombe County that, we give honor to his legacy by declaring February 21<sup>st</sup> as Commissioner Jonathan Felton Day.*

*This the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.*

*Leonard Wiggins, Chairman  
Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board*

**Rev. Hines moved to approve the Resolution to Honor Commissioner Jonathan Felton as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Wiggins asked the family of Mr. Felton to come forth and asked the Commissioners' if they had any comments.**

**Mrs. Harris stated that she has enjoyed sitting these last seventeen years beside Mr. Felton. She stating that they talked about singing, sports and church. She stated that when he was ill she got a chance to go see him and sent cards each month he was gone to let him know how much she missed him from sitting beside her. Mrs. Harris stated that she really appreciated and loved him.**

**Rev. Hines stated he too appreciated him for who he said what he meant. He stated that Mr. Felton said what he said and Jon was Jon, and that is what we loved about him. He was just who he was.**

**Mr. Boswell stated that he too enjoyed serving with Mr. Felton. He was a good man. He was a great Commissioner. He was a great Pirate.**

**Mrs. Powell stated that she too enjoyed Mr. Felton. He always made it a point of telling her how much he appreciated her and how he supported what she was doing. The only time she ever saw him really mad was when somebody ran against her. She stated that she knew he loved her just as much as she loved him.**

**Mr. Wooten stated that he respected Mr. Felton and he was a true lion at heart. He was an honest man and he appreciated the time he served with him.**

**On behalf of the Board Mr. Wiggins presented to Mrs. Liz Felton and family a plaque with a picture of Mr. Felton and the resolution and thanked the family for allowing him to serve.**

**Mrs. Felton, on behalf of herself and other family members present thanked the Board.**

**Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Trey Lewis, former Macclesfield Mayor and representative for Senator Tillis' office to come forward.**

**Mr. Lewis stated that he served as Mayor of Macclesfield, a title and honor that Mr. Felton held many years ago. He stated that Mr. Felton was a young man when he served in that position and because he was so young when he served he always felt that he could call on him and ask him for advice and he was always willing to give friendly advice and just talk whenever he needed it. Mr. Lewis stated that our community, Macclesfield, Pinetops, will truly miss Mr. Felton. He was not only a great representative, he was just a great man, a great Godly person. He stated that he always told Mr. Felton that he and Mrs. Liz were role models for him and his wife. Mr. Lewis stated that he would like to remember today, all of the things that he has helped with on this board and his legacy that he has left behind. He thanked Mrs. Felton for being here and thanked the Board for always serving alongside with Mr. Felton and always working for the betterment of the County.**

**B. Recognition of the 2018 Tarboro High School Football Team.**

**Mr. Wiggins stated that as we mourn the loss of Mr. Felton, Edgecombe County has had a really good day today. We had the opportunity at the Community College to present to**

Mr. Todd Gurley and give him thanks for the many things he is doing as an inspiring young man in terms of the things he is bringing back to our community to help others. Now we have another opportunity to thank the Tarboro High School Athletic Program and coaches. Mr. Wiggins stated that we have a resolution in the agenda and he asked for a motion. Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Resolution of Recognition 2018 Tarboro High School Football Team. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Powell read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION  
2018 Tarboro High School Football Team**

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*WHEREAS, the Tarboro High School Football Team ended their remarkable 2018 season undefeated; and*

*WHEREAS, on December 15, 2018 the Team won the 1-AA State Championship Title; and*

*WHEREAS, there are hundreds of high school football teams in North Carolina with only sixteen earning the opportunity to play for a championship title; and*

*WHEREAS, the Tarboro High School football team has now won six State Championship titles; and*

*WHEREAS, the leadership of the coaching staff and the commitment shown by every player, on and off the field, bring a great deal of pride to our county.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that official recognition and praise on behalf of the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners are extended to Coach Jeff Craddock and all the members of the Tarboro High School Football Team; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners and a suitable copy presented to Tarboro High School Football Team.*

*Adopted this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.*

*Leonard Wiggins, Chairman*

*ATTEST:*

*Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board*

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Craddock and any others present to come forth. He presented them with a plaque of the resolution and thanked them for what they are doing for the young people of this community.

Coach Craddock stated that he is blessed to be a part of this program and this community. He stated that they take a lot of pride in going out there and instill that into our kids and letting them know that they are not doing it just for themselves or the school they are doing it for our community, which is something they take a lot of pride in. None of that would be going on without the great leadership provided behind the scene by the staff. He introduced the following coaches:

Ricky Babbs, Offensive Coordinator

Wayne Cherry, Offensive Coordinator

Leonard Cox, Offensive line

Mr. Burnette, Offensive/Defensive line

Andrew Harding, Defensive Coordinator

**C. Art Bradley, Cooperative Extension Director, presented on the 4-H program and the upcoming Livestock Show.**

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Bradley and some of his team are going to come and talk about the 4-H program and the upcoming Livestock Show and Sale.

Mr. Bradley stated that one of their biggest events they have during the year is their 4-H Show and Sale. Mr. Bradley introduced Ms. Tanya Heath, 4-H Agent.

Ms. Heath introduced their spokespeople for the evening, Masey Moore and Jada Smith, members of the newest club, 4-H Angels for Life Club, followed by Jeffery Bradley, who is a member of several clubs in the County..shooting sports, wildlife, forestry, etc.

Masey Moore talked about her experience with showing a lamb. She stated that she was determined to try something new. She also talked about her experience in taking care of the lamb, while trying to manage her school schedule, taking care of the lamb, and being out in the cold, but it took dedication. She stated that during sale day, even though she did not place she went home with a Go Get 'Em award. She stated that it was a great opportunity.

Jada Smith stated that she is responsible for one ewe, which is a female lamb and her name is Annie. She stated that she likes 4-H because she gets to work with animals and gets to learn body parts. She stated that this year she will be competing as a junior because last year she was a clover bud. Jada stated that one of the challenging things is getting in contact with her lamb because she lives in Rocky Mount and Annie lives in Tarboro. She stated that she learned that she has to have dedication, passion and be responsible because the life of the lamb is in her hands.

Jeffery Bradley stated that he is a 14-year-old Edgecombe County 4-H'er. He stated that he was here to invite the Board to their 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Livestock Show and Sale. year's activity will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Livestock Arena on Kingsboro Road. He stated that they will have 4-H'ers from three different counties, Halifax, Nash and Edgecombe with 48 Edgecombe 4-H'ers showing. Projects they have been working on include swine, sheep, goats, and steers. He stated that he has been showing since he was five years old and most of these years he has been showing sheep. He talked about his experiences throughout the years. He stated that they appreciate all of the help from the Board.

Mr. Wiggins stated that it was good to see our African American youth involved in this program, which he sees as a leadership training program. Mr. Wiggins thanked Mr. Bradley and his staff.

6. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Ms. Phyllis Mueller, 1106 Cypress Street, Tarboro, stated that she was concerned about the allocation for the Sheriff's Department and she was hoping to ask the Board if they would please consider allocating funds for them to get a raise in light of the fact that all of the other surrounding counties pay more than what our Sheriff's department pays. It concerns her that the quality of the people we have to work for other counties.

Mr. Curmilus Dancy, II, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, P O Box 1391, Pinetops, stated that he just wanted to echo what Ms. Mueller said about Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department. He stated that he was reading the paper this week where they do more than just act as deputies, they were in the water saving a person's life. They act as rescue and many other things. They are called to different counties. Mr. Dancy also commended Michael's Angels Girls Club for all the work they do and getting involved in the 4-H and for 4-H allowing them to participate.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

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

B. **Approval of Sheriff's request to award service weapon to retiring Lt. Ronald Bentley.**

Rev. Hines moved to approve the award of the service weapon to retiring Lt. Ronald Bentley. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of an amendment to the Kingsboro Infrastructure Contract.**

Mr. Evans stated that at the Board's December meeting, they approved change order #2 for the infrastructure contract at Kingsboro Industrial Park. That was for an additional water inter-connection between an existing 8-inch and a new 16-inch water line that was not called for in the original contract. Since then, it has been determined that addition is not needed. Therefore, this change order will remove that from the contract and decrease the contract price by \$28,946.16.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve change order #2 as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval a change order for engineering contract for Kingsboro infrastructure.**

Mr. Evans stated that we are working on developing infrastructure onto Kingsboro Industrial Park, including water/sewer extensions, with funding from The Golden LEAF Foundation and the NC Department of Commerce under their Industrial Development Fund. The Board recently approved an additional grant of \$540,000 to include infrastructure to the Corning Site. Mr. Evans stated that The Wooten Company is currently under contract for engineering on this project. With the additional work for Corning, their contract needs to be amended. Therefore, included for the Board's consideration is Amendment No. 2 which will add \$73,267.15 for engineering and construction administration services, for a total not-to-exceed contract of \$914,667.15.

Mr. Harris moved to approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract with The Wooten Company. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of Health Department fee changes.**

Mr. Evans stated that staff at the Health Department regularly reviews fees to ensure they cover the costs associated with providing the services, and to make sure they are in compliance with rules associated with such fees. Mr. Evans presented a list for consideration and stated that the fees come with a favorable recommendation from the Human Services Board.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Health Department fees and recommended by the Human Services Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**F. Approval of an amendment to the audit contract.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County currently has Carr, Riggs & Ingram under contract to audit our accounts. Due to delays in receiving reports necessary to complete the audit, it was not completed within the time frame expressed in the contract. Therefore, an amendment is needed to extend the contracted time from completion to March 31, 2019. Also, there are new requirements for audits such as ours, which add to the number of programs and documents to be reviewed, and subsequently the time and effort to do it. Mr. Evans stated that we were aware of some of those changes at the outset of this contract, but it was difficult to determine the time and costs it would add. Therefore, there is also included in this amendment an increase in the fee to \$125,000.

After questions and comments from the Board Mr. Wooten suggested that the amendment language should include "not to exceed".

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the amendment with the addition of "not to exceed" language. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**8. APPOINTMENTS.**

Mr. Evans stated that at the last meeting the Board approved the creation of an ad hoc committee that will serve to help create awareness for the 2020 census to engage people to participate, to inform citizens as to how they can participate, with a goal of having the highest possible participation rate that we can. In that committee structure there are a number of different agencies and sectors to be represented. Mr. Evans stated he did not note any names to be recommended other than two that of the aging population and Social Services and he would like the Board to consider the appointment of the Office on Aging Director and for Social Services, the Interim Director or her designee.

Mrs. Powell moved to appoint Deborah Coley to the 2020 Census Complete County Committee. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint Betty Battle or her designee to the 2020 Census Complete County Committee. Mr. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**9. PLANNING BOARD REPORT. \*\*\*Received\*\*\***

**A. UDO Text Amendment – Special Use Permits.**

After Board discussion Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing at the April 1, 2019 meeting. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. UDO Text Amendment – Solar Energy.**

After Board discussion regarding strengthening the ordinance relative to possible fines and penalties for not having proper vegetation and fencing Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing at the April 1, 2019 meeting. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**C. Minutes of the February 18, 2019 meeting.**

**10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.**

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

**11. 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.

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

**A. Water Services.**

**B. Financial Summary Report.**

**C. Hurricane recovery update.**

**D. Midlakes Relocation Project.**

**E. Tax Administration and Board of Equalization and Review.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Board will convene at the April meeting.

**F. Board of Elections.**

**G. Risk Management Report.**

Mr. Evans stated that we are in the Risk Management Pool for the NCACC and every year they review our procedures and how we do things and they make recommendations for improvements. Part of that often times gives us opportunity to earn points and we get some credits and savings on our premiums. He stated that he will share this report with the Board as they come available.

**H. Influenza Surveillance Summary.**

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

**A. Workforce Indicators.**

**B. NC-DOT response to Gwenda Moore.**

**C. Courthouse Security Committee.**

Mr. Evans stated that Sheriff Atkinson, through the Sheriff's Association, had access to a consultant to come in and do a walk through assessment of security needs of the Courthouse and make recommendations. Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Wooten participated in that. One of the recommendations they made is to make a Courthouse Security Committee and that has been done by a joint letter and each of the ones who signed will have the opportunity to appoint two people to this committee. This committee will work with the consultant and talk about some of the vulnerabilities and security of the Courthouse and what measures can be taken to address.

Mr. Wiggins asked if any Board member wanted to serve.

Mr. Wooten volunteered to serve.

**D. Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport.**

**E. Hwy 17/64 Association.**

**F. Update on issues raised re: Solid Waste.**

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Boswell brought some things to our attention at the last meeting concerning the Solid Waste. Mr. Evans highlighted a few of the things in response to those things and the things we are going to do address some them. He stated that one of the concerns was about out of county residents bringing trash to our convenience sites.

**G. NC DHHS changes re: Medicaid.**

**14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

None.

**15. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

**16. CLOSED SESSION.**

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

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

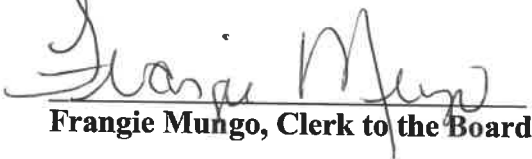
Mr. Wooten moved to give a 5% salary increase to the Robin Braswell, Register of Deeds. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to give a 5% salary increase to the Clee Atkinson, Sheriff. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the naming of the Commissioners Room after Mr. Jonathan Felton. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

17. MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL APRIL 1, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. MRS. HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved April 1, 2019.

  
Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board