

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
MARCH 2, 2020 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, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Evenly Powell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. William Wooten and Mr. Ralph Webb.

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.

Prayer provided by Rev. Hines.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 meeting as presented. Rev. Hine seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to an Inducement Agreement with Sara Lee.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that Carolina's Gateway Partnership, acting on behalf of both Edgecombe County and the Town of Tarboro, negotiated an agreement with Sara Lee Bakery to encourage the expansion of their business here in our County. The result of those negotiations is that Sara Lee agrees to create 108 new jobs at an average salary of \$40,681. In addition, the company will invest at least \$19,800,000 in improvements, upfit and equipment. Upon certification that the company has met the obligations of the agreement, they will receive annually an amount equal to 50% of the property taxes paid over a five-year period. Mr. Evans stated that following public comment, he recommends that the Board approve the inducement agreement with Sara Lee Bakery.

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

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the inducement agreement with Sara Lee Bakery as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Representatives from Cloudwvze were present to discuss Broadband Deployment.

Mr. Evans stated that concern has been for a long time about broadband, or the lack of broadband, in many parts of our County. It has become so important as a part of our everyday life, education, health care and a number of other things that

our citizens have access to high speed internet service that is affordable. He stated that we have been in conversation with two different companies that are working to try expanding broadband in the County. He stated representatives from Cloudwyze will come forth and present to the Board about their company.

Mr. Adrian Wilson, Executive Vice-President of Cloudwyze and Mr. Chris Utesch, Business Development Manager came forth to present a power point presentation regarding:

- About Cloudwyze
- Current Projects
- Vision for Edgecombe County

Having or not having broadband impacts educational opportunities, telemedicine, small business, e-commerce, etc. Without it it's tough to be competitive.

After the presentation they answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Evans stated that he has met, along with Tabetha Sumerlin – CIO, several times and find their services to be creditable and they are already doing work in Nash County and Halifax County and getting started in Martin County. He stated that what they are asking from the Board is a letter of support regarding CloudWyze's plan to expand internet access in Edgecombe County by asking citizens who lack access to quality internet speeds at their residence or business, to complete a survey. They will use this information to plan their network expansions.

Mrs. Harris moved to provide a letter of support. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Mr. Curmilus Dancy, II, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, P O Box 1391, Pinetops, stated that he can relate with what the CloudWyze presenters talked about. He stated that he has Century Link and can only do one TV. He stated that he has to purchase a power pack just to upload videos and may take him three days to upload an hour video, so (broadband) is needed. Mr. Dancy stated that they need to come to Pinetops, where they will have all the way to Wilson County, to Pitt County, in Macclesfield, Crisp, where they will get a whole lot of service.

Mr. Dancy stated that he went on the website and tried to pull up the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meetings and the last one he could pull up was June. He wanted to know what is going on with July up until today.

Mr. Evans stated that he will check on that.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**

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

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. **Approval of amendment with Jones Grading and Fencing from buyout property demolition.**

Mr. Evans presented for your consideration is an amendment to the contract with Jones Grading & Fencing, Inc. for the demolition of homes acquired through the HMGP buyout program. The amendment includes the addition of two more structures that were acquired after the original demolition contract was approved. This change order will result in an addition of \$11,150, increasing the total contract price to \$134,990. Mr. Evans recommended that

you approve the contract amendment as presented, and authorize the chairman to execute the same.

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

**C. Approval of Health Department's 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. They are proposing an increase in fee for TB skin tests from \$14 and \$20 and pregnancy tests from \$21 to \$30. He stated that these fees come with a favorable recommendation from the Human Services Board.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Health Department's fee changes as recommended by the Human Services Board. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval of contract with H.G. Reynolds for renovation of Courthouse basement.**

Mr. Evans stated that in September of last year mold was found in the basement of the Courthouse. On October 1, 2019, the Board approved a contract to remediate the mold. That work involved removing all of the material and cleaning all of the surfaces affected by the mold. He stated that since then, we have bid out the work to replace that material and the related repairs. Of the five bids, received, the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder is H. G. Reynolds. Therefore, He recommended that the Board authorize him to approve a contract with H.G. Reynolds in the amount of \$423,000 and he recommended approve of the budget amendment.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contract and the budget amendment as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion.

Mr. Wooten asked if this was covered under our insurance.

Mr. Evans stated that it is not.

Mr. Boswell asked we had the entire courthouse checked to see if there is anymore issues anywhere.

Mr. Evans stated yes. He stated that in the mechanical room located in the basement, where all of the electrical, HVAC, mechanicals are mold was found and we had the environmental health specialist to do testing throughout the building. His findings were that, there is mold in that room. It needs to be sealed off and remediated. In the rest of the courthouse they do test the air for airborne mold spores and they found that the mold in the air was less inside than it is outside.

After discussion the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of agreement with NC Budget Office Disaster Recovery Single Acquisition.**

Mr. Evans stated that the NC Office of State Budget and Management is seeking to assist Vonzell and LaTausha Roberts with the mitigation of their flooded property at 156 Grove Church Road. To that end, they wish to enter into agreement with the County for us to manage the acquisition, clearance and related repairs. Like properties in our HMGP-Acquisition program, once closed, the County will own this property and will have to maintain as open space. Mr. Evans

stated that the agreement makes available to the County, on a reimbursement basis, \$40,000 for this project.

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

**F. Approval of agreement with NC Office of Recovery for CDBG Buyout Program.**

Mr. Evans stated that the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency, through the CDBG-Disaster Recovery program, plans to offer flood mitigation through buyouts in areas designated as Disaster Risk Reduction Areas, or buyout zones. These are areas with repetitive losses due to flooding. One such area is just outside of Pinetops on Bynum Farm road, for which the agreement pertains. He stated that this is a voluntary program. Homes within these areas will be given the opportunity to participate in a buyout program, very similar to the FEMA program we are already administering. The other two buyout zones being considered by their respective municipalities are in Tarboro and Princeville. This program will be administered through NCORR, and our role will be to assist in the closing process and to hold ownership of participating properties as open space.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**9. APPOINTMENTS.**

**A. Nursing Home Adult Care Advisory Committee  
No recommendation.**

**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. Financial Summary report.**
- B. Water & Sewer Department.**
- C. Hurricane recovery update.**
- D. Tax Administrator – Board of Equalization and Review.**
- E. New Law re: Land Use.**
- F. Solid Waste Trash pick-up.**
- G. TDA report.**

**12. MANAGER'S REPORT.**

- A. Workforce Development Indicators.**
- B. Special Olympics update provided by Mr. William Johnson, Assistant County Manager.**
- C. Update on Edgecombe County Rescue Squad. (To be put on retreat agenda.)**
- D. Open positions on NEED, Inc Board.**
- E. Reminder of Board Retreat:  
March 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.  
East Carolina Agriculture and Training Center at Kingsboro**
- F. Response to Sheriff's presentation. (To be put on retreat agenda.)**

**13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

Mrs. Harris shared information she received while attending the NACo Legislative Conference.

**14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

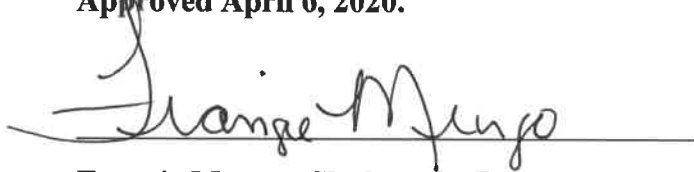
15. **CLOSED SESSION.**

**Mr. Boswell moved to go into closed session to discuss Economic Development [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)] and a Personnel. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6)]. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Boswell moved to approve the budget amendment for Edgecombe Rescue. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

16. **MRS. POWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL APRIL 6, 2020. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**Approved April 6, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frankie Mungo", is written over a horizontal line.

**Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board**