

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
JUNE 5, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE JONATHAN FELTON 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. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mr. George Thorne, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, and Mr. Ralph Webb.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mrs. Natalie Bess, Deputy County Manager, Mr. Michael Peters, County Attorney, Mr. Michael Matthews, Assistant County Manager, Mrs. Linda Barfield, CFO and Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

Mrs. Bess provided safety instructions.

3. PRAYER.

Mrs. Harris provided prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 meeting as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments relative to the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 Edgecombe County budget.

Mr. Peters read the notice as published.

Mr. Evans provided a presentation of the proposed budget:

- **Budget Objectives:**
 - ❖ **Balanced the budget with no tax increase**
 - ❖ **Make room to implement the comp. plan**
 - ❖ **Minimize fund balance appropriation**
 - ❖ **Find operational efficiencies**
 - ❖ **Address critical capital needs**
 - ❖ **Align agency funding to our vision, mission, and priorities**
 - ❖ **Follow our fiscal policies**
 - ❖ **Allow the budget to reflect your priorities**
- **Budget priorities:**
 - ❖ **Employee salaries**
 - ❖ **Public safety**
 - ❖ **Education and workforce**
 - ❖ **Economic growth**
- **Where do we want to go?**
 - ❖ **Vision for our County: Edgecombe County is a historic place that values its citizens and natural resources and creates opportunities where people are proud to live, work and play for generations to come.**
 - ❖ **Vision for the Organization: Edgecombe County values its employees so that it can be an organization committed to providing exceptional services to our citizens through and innovative, passionate and creative team**

devoted to excellence, integrity and transparency, for the continued growth of our County and staff.

- “I’m sick and tired of being at the top and bottom of every bad list.” Lorenzo Carmon, Former County Manager
 - ❖ Our call to action: **GET OFF THE LIST!**
- The list:
 - ❖ High Unemployment
 - ❖ Poor health indicators
 - ❖ Low educational attainment
 - ❖ Declining population

How can our budget reflect our vision? ---Budget Overview

- Revenues.
 - ❖ Ad valorem tax revenue projections
 - ❖ Sales tax revenue.
 - ❖ Other revenue notes.
- Expenditures.
 - ❖ Personnel.
 - ❖ New positions.
 - ❖ Outside agencies. Mr. Evans invited three outside agencies to come forth and explain their program.
Ms. Linda Brinson, United Christian Ministries.
Pam Gould, STEP.
James Mercer, Mercer Foundation.
 - ❖ Capital Improvements.
 - ❖ Enterprise funds.
 - ❖ Building Security.
 - ❖ Fleet maintenance
 - ❖ Edgecombe Works.
Dr. McLeod, President – Edgecombe Community College, came forward to talk about the following Programs: Earn As You Learn, Promise Program and Edgecombe Works Academy.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Mr. John Walker, 1303 N. Main Street, Tarboro, stated that he is a constituent of Mrs. Harris. He stated that he has covered public meetings since 1991 and this is the best hour he has ever spent in a public meeting, because of the way it was presented, the way people in the room were able to see the numbers. He commended the Board. He stated that he has sat through so many of these in three different states. This was a transparent process. A very open process. He thanked the Board.

Mr. Bronson Williams, 1230 Cokey Road, Rocky Mount, stated that he shared the same sentiments as Mr. Walker as regards to the budget. He stated that it was great the way the budget was presented. We always wish we could pay more towards education, but reality is that it is what it is. He stated that he was excited to see our County grow. He commended Mr. Evans on the video presentation that he made available through social media to ensure that people engaged in the process and his willingness to respond. He also commended the Board for their work

The public hearing was adjourned.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mr. William Ellis, 1959 Webbs Lake Road, Macclesfield, thanked the Board and Mr. Evans for the hard work with the sign at Handy Corner crossroad. It was erected about three weeks ago. It shows the Board’s willingness to help small communities. It is a fixture of proud in their small community.

Bronson Williams, 1230 Cokey Road, Rocky Mount, stated that someone called in to his television show this morning with an idea to have a tax payment center in Rocky Mount for convenience.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:

I. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Consideration of approval of Resolutions to Request Approval of Revenue Bonds for Water and Sewer District #6.

Mr. Evans stated that we have funds committed from USDA-Rural Development to renovate and improve the sewer system in District #6. The project includes \$2,619,000 in revenue bonds which must be approved by the Local Government Commission. At the May meeting the Board approved a resolution to submit an application to appear before the Local Government Commission at their June meeting. Now, we need Board approval to issue these revenue bonds for the purpose of this project.

Mrs. Powell moved to recess the regular meeting and convene as Governing Body of Water and Sewer District #6. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Resolution Providing for the Issuance of a \$2,619,000 Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Note for Water and Sewer District #6. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the Resolution Declaring the Intent of Water and Sewer District #6 to Reimburse itself for Capital Expenditures from the Proceeds of Certain Tax-Exempt Obligations. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Bond Order Authorizing the Issuance of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds for Water and Sewer District #6. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Powell moved to adjourn as Governing Body of Water and Sewer District #6 and resume the regular meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve budget amendments #1-5 as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of revision of Family Planning Coordinator position.

Mr. Evans stated that to better suit the needs of the Health Department, Michelle Etheridge, Health Director, has recommended the revision of the Public Health II – Family Planning Coordinator position. The recommendation is to change the position to a PHN III-Family Planning and Maternity Coordinator, moving it from grade 19 to 20.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the revised job description as presented. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of funding recommendation for Home and Community Care Block Grant for FY-24.

Mrs. Bess stated that the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) is composed of funding for in-home and community-based services for older adults. The County is charged with developing and implementing a funding plan locally that meets

the needs of older adults in our County with funds provided through the HCCBG. This proposed funding plan is submitted based off of the recommendations from the Edgecombe County HCCBGT Committee. The Committee met in April to review the submitted funding proposals.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the funding recommendations as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of applications for fireworks displays.

Mr. Evans stated that the Towns of Tarboro and Macclesfield have submitted applications for their July 4th fireworks displays. NC General Statute 14-4 requires authorization of the Board of Commissioners before issuance of the required permit. The applicants have furnished the required documents including property certification and insurance. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board authorize Antwan Brown, Emergency Services Director, to issue the required permits as requested.

Mrs. Harris moved to authorize the Emergency Services Director to issues the permits to the Towns of Tarboro and Macclesfield. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of designating County property as surplus.

Mr. Evans stated that in the last twelve months, we have been able to replace old and outdated computers in several departments. Staff in our IT Department have wiped the hard drives clean and prepared them for decommissioning. There is likely resale value in these units. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the list of devices for surplus and authorize their sales on GovDeals.

Mr. Thorne moved to approve designating County property as surplus and to authorize their sales on GovDeals. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of voting delegate for the upcoming NACo and NCACC Annual Conferences.

Mr. Wiggins moved to approve designating Mrs. Harris as the voting delegate for the 2023 NACo Annual Conference. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to approve designating Mrs. Powell as the voting delegate for the 2023 NCACC Annual Conference. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Human Services Board.

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Mr. Ernest Taylor and Ms. Marsha Cooper. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Turning Point Workforce Development Board.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Ms. Elizabeth Newcomb. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees.

Rev. Hines moved to reappoint Mrs. Barbara Davis-Campbell. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

Mr. Boswell moved the approve the contracts as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*****Received***
A. Water and Sewer update.
B. Monthly Financial Summary.
C. DSS-Community Impact Program update.
Mr. Evans commended Betty Battle, DSS Director, and staff on how they carried out this program.

12. **MANAGER'S REPORT.*****Received***
A. Workforce Development Indicators.
B. TDA financial report.
C. Update on Countyline merger.
Mr. Ronnie Sharpe came forth and presented on the Rocky Mount Demerger Design Team meeting Review and answered questions from the Board.
D. Recess meeting until June 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm to adopt the FY-24 budget and approve budget amendments.
E. Reminder of June 21, 2023 Work Session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Compensation Plan and Broadband.
F. Updated list of upcoming meetings.
G. NC Megasite Readiness grant.
H. Handy Corner sign.

13. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

In regards to the Countyline merger, Mr. Boswell stated that he finds himself confused about what is going on. He stated that we need to know where students are going. How many will be transferring, how many will stay and how many will remain in the Nash County system. He stated that we do not know anything and did not think we will have those answers.

Mr. Wiggins stated that it is a school board decision and issue and felt as if they will lead the timeline. They are over there doing their job. He stated that until we pass this budget, they are doing things that we don't know and we cannot micromanage them in terms of how they do their job. It's the school boards job to do, our job is to fund. He stated that he did not think we can sit here and say that they are not because the timeframe is not here yet.

Mr. Boswell asked what is the timeframe.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the timeframe is outlined in the statute. When we send that letter to LGC then we can be dealing with timelines. It has not been triggered.

The Board engaged in further discussion regarding the countyline merger.

Mr. Thorne stated that he would like to see updated leasing numbers verses owning cars for the Sheriff's Office before we vote on the budget.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to bring that information to the Board.

14. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

15. **CLOSED SESSION.**

Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss:

A. Economic Development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]

Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

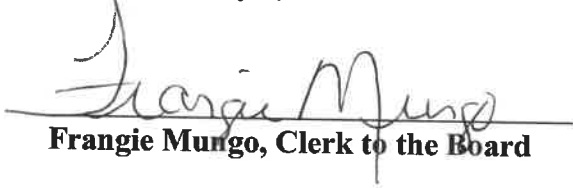
Mrs. Powell moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

16. **REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL JUNE 26, 2023. MRS.**

HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

*******The June 26, 2023 recessed meeting was cancelled due to the threat of severe weather. A Special Call Meeting was held on June 28, 2023.**

Approved July 3, 2023.


Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board