

**MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
MARCH 6, 2017 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, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. William Wooten, Rev. E. Wayne Hines and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

2. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the February 6, 2017 minutes as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Mr. James Overton, Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA's and Advisors, provided a presentation of the County's Fiscal Year 2016 Audit Report.

- General Fund total assets \$25,438,668
- General Fund total liabilities \$2,953,078
- General Fund fund balance \$17,655,870 (which is in good shape). Of this amount, \$5 million is appropriated to balance next year's budget. Undesignated fund balance is \$6.4 million dollars

Mr. Overton reviewed some line items in the budget and answered questions from the Board.

5. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

No petitioners came forth.

6. 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 the transfer of property to Speed Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Evans stated that at last month's meeting the County received a request from the Speed Volunteer Fire Department for the use of a parcel of land located near the corner of NC 122 North and Mill Pond Road. They need it to expand their facilities. State statutes requires that a ten-day notice be published before land is conveyed to a volunteered fire department, which has been done. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the transfer of parcel #4861-11-6586 to the Speed Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Peters if the Board should put a reversion clause in the deed regarding the property maintaining the use for public purpose.

Mr. Peters stated that a restricted covenant can be included in the deed, that way they cannot use it for anything other than a public purpose and if they are going to use it for anything other than public purpose it has to be offered back to the County.

After discussion Mr. Wiggins, with the consensus of the Board, recommended that this action item be tabled until this recessed meeting is resumed on March 21, 2017.

C. Approval of calling for a public hearing for Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development.

Mr. Evans stated that the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Rural Economic Development has funds available in its Community Development Block Grant Industrial Building Demolition Program. Through this program, a maximum of \$500,000 may be awarded to demolish vacant, dilapidated industrial buildings and properties under the elimination of slums and blight national objective. The demolition activity is expected to create a site at which it can be reasonably expected new jobs and private sector investment will locate. Mr. Evans recommended submitting and application, but to do so it is required to offer the public the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. He recommended that the Board hold a public hearing at the April 3, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Felton moved to call for and hold a public hearing on April 3, 2017. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Health Department's Bad Debt Write-Off Policy states that a patient's account will be handled as Bad Debt when there has been no activity on the account for more than six months. This does not mean that there will be no further efforts to collect the debt. He stated that if there is any new activity on the account, for example, the patient presents at the Health Department for services, then the account is reactivated. This action is an accounting method whereas the written off debt no longer shows on our books as a receivable. Mr. Evans stated that the Human Services Board voted unanimously to recommend the debt be written off.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Policy as recommended by the Human Services Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of declaring County owned property and vehicles as surplus.

Mr. Evans presented to the Board a list of vehicles and pavers that have been declared surplus by the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department, Maintenance Department and Emergency Services Department. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the list as surplus.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the items listed as surplus and to authorize the disposal by listing on GovDeals. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of awarding badges and service weapons to James Knight.

Mr. Evans stated that NC Statute 20-187.2 allows the Board of Commissioners to award the badges and service side arms to former Sheriff, James Knight. It specially stated that the Board may do so at a price determined by the Board. He stated that to show the County's appreciation for his 32 years of exemplary service, and to provide mementoes to that service, it is recommended that the Board approves the transfer of these items as a price of \$1.

Rev. Hines moved to award the items to retired Sheriff James Knight at a price of \$1. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Consideration of approval of Lease Agreement with United Methodist Church.

Mr. Evans stated that at the Board's last meeting, the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church has plans to be here in the County for at least two years to provide disaster recovery assistance to the citizens of the County. They will bring resources and volunteers from all over the country to repair and rebuild homes for Hurricane Matthew survivors. To do that work, they need a facility from which to operate. He stated that he met with representatives and discussed the possibility of using the building formerly used the Health Department. They agree that the building will work well and assist them greatly in the work they will do here in the County. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the lease agreement.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the lease agreement as presented and to authorize the County Manager to execute the same. Mr. Felton seconded the motion.

Mr. Wooten had questions regarding the statement in the agreement that the County will continue to pay all water, sewer, electricity, natural gas. He stated that traditionally in lease agreements tenants pay for the operating expense for a facility and the responsibility of taking care of normal wear and tear of the building.

After discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **APPOINTMENTS.**

A. **Human Services Board.**

Mrs. Harris moved to reappoint Mr. Roy Gray. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. **AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**

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

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

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

10. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*****Received***

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary Report.
- C. Flu Report.
- D. Report on opioid abuse.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA.

1. **Approval of a Temporary Construction Easement with Piedmont Natural Gas.**

Mr. Evans stated that Piedmont Natural Gas needs the easement on the property owned by the County. He stated that a meter vault is located on the property.

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

11. **MANAGER'S REPORT.*****Received***

- A. Economic Development and Workforce Indicators.
- B. Preliminary Report on property tax revaluation.

Mr. Evans provided a valuation summary:

- County-wide, total real valuation went from \$2,381,974,826 to \$2,305,110,007; which is a 3.2% decrease in real property values. This is an overall assessment and does not apply to individual properties. Some properties may see a greater decrease, while others will see an increase in value.
- The County's municipalities have the following change in real property values. As they have other sources of revenue, this does not paint the complete picture of what they can expect next fiscal year. In other words, the percentage changes below do not translate into the percentage change in their total operating revenue for next year.
 - Tarboro -2.4%
 - Rocky Mount -7.6%
 - Pinetops -4.0%
 - Macclesfield -2.2%
 - Conetoe -7.6%
 - Speed -3.6%
 - Whitakers -5.5%
 - Leggett -2.9%
 - Princeville -35.4%
 - Sharpsburg -21.6%
- Of the total value of taxable property, \$3,173,372,000, real property makes up 72%; personal property 12%, public service property 6%, and motor vehicles 10% for the County.
- A more detailed analysis of the impact of revaluation FY 2018, along with other budget drivers, will be presented at the retreat.

- C. FEMA's approval for bridge replacement at Old Sparta.
- D. Braswell Memorial Library letter.
- E. Hurricane Matthew update.

12. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

- A. Ethics Training for Local Government Officials to be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Letter from Judge Milton Fitch regarding the Jenkins Building.

Mrs. Powell shared information from the Strategic Twin County Educational Partnership (STEP) group, in which she serves on the Board.

Mrs. Harris shared information on the NACo Legislative Conference she attended.

Mr. Boswell discussed the complaints coming from citizens regarding trash in the County and applauded the Sheriff's department on their quick response in contacting an individual for dumping trash.

13. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

14. CLOSED SESSION.

A. Mr. Wooten moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

15. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M. FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RETREAT BEING HELD AT THE EAST CAROLINA AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION CENTER, 1175 KINGSBORO ROAD, ROCKY MOUNT. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved April 3, 2017.

Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.