

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
122 SAINT JAMES STREET, FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
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, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Powel and Mr. Ralph Webb.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. William Wooten.

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 provided safety instructions.

3. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.

A. Sheriff Clee Atkinson and Mrs. Kathy Williams, Animal Shelter Volunteer, came forth to discuss capital campaign for a new animal shelter.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

In light of the State of Emergency and in consideration of the recommendations of government and public health officials to limit public gatherings, Edgecombe County's Board of Commissioners meeting was closed to the public and the public was encouraged to submit any public petitions via email to publiccomments@edgecombeco.com or by mail addressed to Eric Evans, County Manager. The public was notified that all public comments submitted would be read at the meeting. The public was also encouraged to listen to the meeting by calling the published number.

The public was previously notified by the Board of Commissioners that they will allow ten people to make public comments in person and to do so, they public must sign up in advance by calling the Clerk to the Board.

No public comments submitted and no petitioners signed up for in person comments.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

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

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

B. Approval of purchase agreement with Eastern Petroleum.

Mr. Evans stated that at the Board's September meeting they accepted an offer to purchase from Eastern Petroleum for property at Kingsboro Industrial Park. The required notice for upset bid was published, and no other bids were received. Therefore, Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration a purchase agreement with Eastern Petroleum. This includes the purchase of 7 acres at \$8,000 per acre and an option on another 4.8 acres.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the purchase agreement as presented. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of Health Department fees.

Mr. Evans stated that the Health Department regularly reviews the fee schedule to add fees as needed and to ensure existing fees cover the costs associated with providing the services. He presented for the Board's consideration changes in fees for both clinical and dental services due to the Medicaid reimbursement rate increasing.

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

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

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 in the account for more than six months. This does not mean that there will be no further efforts to collect the debt. In fact, 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. Boswell moved to approve the Bad Debt Write-Off for the Health Department as recommended by the Human Services Board.

E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Evans stated that the NC General Assembly passed Session Law 2017-41, also known as House Bill 630. This statute requires that all counties enter into an annual agreement with the NC Department of Health and Human Services for all programs except Medicaid. Mr. Evans stated that the MOU sets forth performance measures, reporting requirements, and actions to be taken if the performance requirements are not met. This will be the third year of the execution of the MOU.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the MOU with the NC Department of Health and Human Services for FY-21 and FY-22, and authorize Mr. Evans to execute the same. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Whitakers for Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Mr. Evans stated that the County received \$2,086,432 from the State under the Coronavirus Relief fund (CRF). Twenty five percent of the funds is to be made available to our municipalities. Our distribution plan is based on population. The Board previously approved agreements for Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Princeville, and Sharpsburg. Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the agreement with the Town of Whitakers. The uses of funds proposed are consistent with the program guidelines.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the agreement as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion.

Mrs. Harris asked about the timeline for acceptance of the funds.

Mr. Eric stated that the money has to be spent by December 15, 2020.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of calling for a public hearing regarding changes in ordinance for EMS Advisory Council.

Mr. Evans stated that Chapter 8 Article IV of the County Code of Ordinances created an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. In light of the County taking over EMS, he recommends that this Council be reactivated. However, he suggests that revisions be made to the ordinance. He presented the suggested changes to the Board. In order to make changes to the ordinance, a public hearing must be held.

Rev. Hines moved to call for a public hearing to be held at the December meeting. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

A. Approval of Resolution of Recognition for retired Judge Walter H. Godwin, Jr.
Mr. Boswell read the resolution and made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of audit contract for fiscal year 2020 with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co.
Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contract as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram for consulting and financial services.
Mrs. Powell moved to approve the contract as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of budget amendment.
Mr. Boswell moved to approve a budget amendment to appropriate EMPG monies. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment.
No recommendations.

B. Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Board of Directors.
No recommendations.

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

Mrs. Katina Braswell newly promoted Planning Director gave the Planning Board report.

A. Planning Board approved a request for a major subdivision, Eagles Farm Subdivision by Mr. John Smith.

B. CodeWright Planners UDO revision update.

C. Minutes of October 19, 2020 meeting.

10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, provided an update on the Lowes Home Improvement, LLC appeal and settlement.

Mrs. Harris 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.

Mr. Michael Matthews came forth to provide an explanation regarding the Notice to the Public for Total Trihalomethands above drinking water standards.

B. Financial Summary report.

C. Tourism Development Authority.

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

A. Update on transition of rescue services.

B. COVID-19 update.

C. Workforce Development Indicators.

D. Sales Tax Report.

E. Social media update.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mr. Boswell mentioned the lack of returned phone calls from County departments.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

15. CLOSED SESSION.

Rev. Hines moved to enter into closed session to discuss economic development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]; Personnel matter. [Per N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(6)]and a legal matter. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

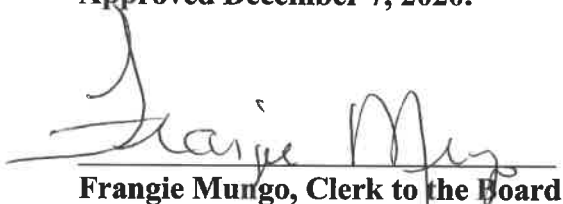
Rev. Hines moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to approve a salary of \$125,000 for Mrs. Evans retro June 2020 Board meeting. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to approve a budget amendment of \$20,000 for a back-up generator for Focus. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

16. REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL DECEMBER 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved December 7, 2020.


Franjie Mungo, Clerk to the Board