

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
OCTOBER 2, 2017 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, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Rev. E. Wayne Hines and Mr. William Wooten.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mr. Michael Peters, County Attorney, Ms. Frangie 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 September 5, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a rezoning request from David Phillips to change the zoning of property located at 41 Carr Farm Road from R-20 to M-1.

Mr. Peters read the public notice.

Mr. Evans stated that the Planning Board forwarded this request with a favorable recommendation.

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

Rev. Hines moved to approve the zoning request change as recommended by the Planning Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

A. Naim Akbar presented information on New Start Re-Entry Program.

Mr. Akbar stated that he is the community advocate in Edgecombe County and surrounding areas focusing on re-entry, helping men and women returning home from prison. He stated that a re-entry program is needed because 37,000 inmates are in 55 North Carolina State prisons. The cost is \$28,214 per inmate per year. The recidivism rate is 49% within two years of their release and the number of citizens that returned to Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson Counties as of November 2016 were: Nash 311 returned, Edgecombe 303 returned, Wilson 290 returned. He stated that these numbers have an impact on our communities.

Mr. Akbar stated that he is a part of the New Re-entry Council, which helps get resources for people coming out. He stated that he also serves as the facilitator for the Family Resource Center South Atlantic, which was just awarded a three year grant for \$1.5 million to serve Edgecombe, Vance and Wilson Counties to help men and women ages 25 and up get back on the straight path when they return from prison. Services provided will include employment training, vocational and occupational skills training and program participants will receive subsidized salaries. The participants will be tracked from the time they enter the program until they leave. He asked the County Commissioners to support this effort by helping and supporting returning citizens.

B. Art Bradley, Cooperative Extension Director, presented on the County Needs Assessment Survey.

Mr. Bradley stated that Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach of NC State University and North Carolina A&T State University in all 100 counties and the Cherokee Reservation. Program work areas are agriculture and food production, nutrition and nutrition related diseases and youth and families. He stated that they work to connect the

resources and knowledge base of the university system to the people in the County. The needs of the people and the industry in the County can direct the research and program direction for the extension system. As part of this effort the Extension office conducts a Needs Assessment every five years. Mr. Bradley stated that the input from the commissioners is an important part of this assessment and asked them to participate in the survey.

Ms. Tanya Heath, 4-H Extension Agent, introduced Britaney Anderson, 4-H participant who came forth to tell about her involvement in the August NCACC Conference. She explained her participation in various workshops.

**6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Jefferey Smith, 1229 Blue Brown Road, Rocky Mount, representing the Conetoe Family Life Center came forth to convey a message of appreciation from Rev. Richard Joyner for the Board's support of the Conetoe Family Life Center and for all they are doing for the County. Programs provided by the center include re-entry initiative partnering with the Sheriff; Zero Suspension program; computer labs and training facility; coordinating with schools for horticulture and gardening classes. He invited the Board to take a tour of the center.

Bobby Gaston, 1012 E. Saint John Street, Tarboro, came forth to inquire about the Hurricane Matthew recovery process and the amount of programs available and the process of evaluating the applicants. He also wanted to know why the process was taking so long.

Mr. Evans stated that there are a number of programs coming under the umbrella of Hurricane Recovery. One of those we already have, which is the Single Family Rehab, in which Mr. Gaston has applied for. We also expect additional funds to come under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for buy-out, elevation or reconstruction/elevation expected to come. A third program, Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, and under this program there is a list of different programs that the County can offer. That application was submitted to the State on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the State is reviewing that application. The next step is the receipt of a grant agreement that the Board will have to approve. After that we will start taking applications for the programs on that list.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. Approval of budget amendments.**

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

**B. Approval of the budget for Edgecombe Community College.**

Mr. Evans presented a copy of the fiscal year 2018 budget for Edgecombe Community College. He stated that the ECC Board of Trustees approved the budget on September 5, 2017. Now, the Board of Commissioners must acknowledge their total budget and confirm our appropriation of \$1,656,000 for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the County's appropriation of \$1,656,000 to Edgecombe Community College. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**C. Approval of the awarding of Recreation Mini Grants.**

Mr. Evans reminded the Board that they included in the fiscal year 2018 budget \$10,000 to provide mini-grants to support recreation in the County. This program was created to offer mini-grants of up to \$2,000 each to community-based organizations that provide recreational facilities and/or activities. He stated that the review committee that the Board appointed met Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss and rank 13 proposals received. Each proposal was rated based on the project description, timeline, area served, number of individuals served, duration of the program, budget and feasibility, and the capacity of the organization. The committee recommended the following projects to be funded:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Conetoe Family Life Center	Walking trail at their training Center and program support	\$2,000
Michael's Angels Girls Club	Equipment and activity costs for tennis training	\$2,000
Edgecombe Early College	For recreation equipment at	\$1,000

the Early College

Edgecombe Little Warriors	Uniforms and equipment for youth Football and cheer league	\$1,500
Edgecombe Entrepreneurs Organization	Equipment for a mobile play pod; to offer recreation activities at Designated areas around the County	\$2,000
North Edgecombe Athletics	Equipment for high school athletics Program and an AED	\$1,500

Mrs. Powell moved to award grants as recommended by the Recreation Grant Review Committee. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval of the Urgent Repair 2017 Grant Program.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County has been awarded \$75,000 by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) under the 2017 cycle of the Urgent Repair Program (URP). The goal of the project is to assist at least 10 very-low and low-income families with special needs in addressing housing conditions that pose imminent threats to their life and/or safety or to provide accessibility modifications and other repairs necessary to prevent displacement. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board of Commissioners accept this grant award by adopting the project ordinance and budget amendment, authorize the County Manager to execute the funding agreement, and approve the accompanying assistance and procurement policies.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Urgent Repair 2017 Grant as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of a resolution to declare October 6th through October 10th as Days of Thelonious Monk 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.**

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

**F. Approval of the County administering the HMGP for the Town of Princeville.**

Mr. Evans stated that at their meeting on September 15, 2017, the Princeville Board of Commissioners voted to request that Edgecombe County consider administering its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) once the project is approved for the Town. Assuming this task would mean the County taking on the administrative and financial responsibility of the projected \$13.5 million program. There would be administrative funds included with the grant that would allow the County to hire and contract as necessary to implement the program. The main concern would be the fact that these programs operate on a reimbursement basis, and therefore would put some cash-flow strains on the County's budget. Mr. Evans stated that another issue to consider is the Town Board's decision as to how they want to distribute HMGP funds. Once the NC Emergency Management office processed the 348 applications submitted from Princeville residents, they determined that 49 were pre-selected to participate, which would use approximately \$7 million. They then gave the Town the option as to how they would distribute the remaining \$6.5 million with the other 299 on the list. It was recommended by NCEM staff that the Town sort the remaining applicants by projected cost, from lowest to highest, and go as far down the list as possible, without regard to which of the three HMGP options was selected. Mr. Evans stated that at same meeting on September 5, 2017, the Town Board voted to distribute those remaining funds to only those who chose elevation or reconstruction/elevation as an option. It was stated that the reason is to preserve the Princeville community. That raises some concern in the County's consideration, because there is the possibility that some citizens who wanted the buyout may push back on that decision; even to the point of taking legal action. He stated that being that Princeville may not have the administrative or financial capacity to implement an HMGP project of this size, he felt that if the County did not administer the program for the Town, it may put citizens' chances of receiving the much needed help in jeopardy. He stated that he did not ignore the problems a contentious program could cause for the County, but thought there is a way that the County can administer the program, while at the same time protecting the interest of our organization. He recommended that the Board of Commissioners approves the administration of the Town of Princeville's HMGP program and authorize the County Manager and attorney

to draft and execute an intergovernmental agreement to include a provision to indemnify the County of any legal action taken against the Town.

After discussion Mr. Felton moved to approve the County's administering the Town of Princeville's HMGP program subject to an interlocal agreement to include protecting the County of any legal action taken against the Town. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**G. Approval of an application for HMGP.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County has been informed by the North Carolina Emergency Management Office that 39 applicants have been pre-approved for one of the three options under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program NCEM staff has assisted with preparing the application that now must be submitted to FEMA. The total grant request is \$6,146,178, which would be to complete 15 elevations and 24 acquisitions.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the submission of the application to FEMA, to include the approval of the Eric Evans, County Manager and William Johnson, Assistant County Manager, as the primary and secondary agents for the submission of this application.

**H. Approval of a contract for roof repair at Ossid facility.**

Mr. Evans stated that in 2011 the County entered into an inducement agreement with Ossid LLC, a manufacturing company, for economic development purposes with a mission to retain jobs in Edgecombe County. The agreement included the County purchasing the building Ossid occupied, and they in exchange would lease the building from the County for twelve years. The building was purchased with a loan, which is being paid back with rent revenues. He stated that Ossid has been experiencing leaks in the roof of the building for a few years and the County has made attempts to limit costs by having the roof minimally repaired. That no longer is sufficient, and a complete repair of the roof is needed. The work has been bided and the lowest responsive bidder is Allied Roofing Company with a price of \$220,900.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the budget amendment to appropriate the funds needed to cover this cost, along with authorizing the County Manager to execute a contract with Allied Roofing in the amount of \$220,900. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of designating Cynthia Jenkins, Planning Director, as the liaison for the 2020 census.

Mr. Evans stated that work has already begun on the 2020 Census. A very important part of the process is the submission of an updated and accurate address list. The Census Bureau requests that units of local governments designate a Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) liaison. This person will be the main contact for the County during the Process. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board of Commissioners appoint Ms. Cynthia Jenkins, Planning Director, as that liaison. This is an administrative appointment that can be made by the Manager, but having the Board do so elevates to the public the importance of the census and the County's role in it.

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Ms. Cynthia Jenkins and the LUCA liaison for the 2020 Census. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**J. Approval of the Final Resolution for Economic Development Financing.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County is considering financing for the capital to purchase land for economic development and for renovations at the County's Administration Building. This financing requires approval from the Local Government Commission. At the Board's special meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> Raymond James was approved as the bank for the loan. He stated that now that the bank and their offered terms have been accepted, he recommend that the Board approve the final resolution that authorizes related actions not to exceed \$17 million. This will be contingent upon approval of the Local Government Commission.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the final resolution as recommended. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**K. Approval of declaring vehicles as surplus.**

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration and approval vehicles that have been

declared surplus by the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the vehicles as surplus and authorize the disposal by listing on GovDeals. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**L. Approval of an offer to purchase property located at 121 Tarboro Street, Rocky Mount.**

Mr. Evans stated that an offer to purchase was received from Jesse Gerstl to purchase property the County owns at 121 Tarboro Street, Rocky Mount, known as the Alford Building for \$175,000. If the offer to purchase is accepted by the Board, a minimum 10-day public notice must then be given for upset bid. He recommended that the Board accept this offer to purchase in order to remove this liability from the County and to place it back to taxable status.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the offer to purchase as presented and authorize staff to publish a notice for upset bid. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**M. Approval of a contract and budget amendment for Landfill Corrective Measures.**

Mr. Evans stated part of our responsibility with operating a construction and demolition landfill (C&D) is ensuring that it does not negatively impact surrounding land or water sources. Therefore, our staff and contracted engineers are constantly monitoring the C&D landfill. We are also routinely inspected by the NC Department of Environmental Quality. He stated that the State has informed us that we need to take some corrective measures to prevent water that has percolated down into the landfill, or leachate, from being able to run off onto adjoining properties and water sources. Failing to do so could result in fines, if not closure of the landfill until these measures are taken. Mr. Evans stated that the work needed for a corrective measure has been designed by the engineer and bid out. The price from the lowest, responsive bidder is \$314,000. We only included \$250,000 in the CIP for this, and therefore need an additional \$64,000 appropriated.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the budget amendment and authorize the County Manager to execute a contract with Preston Contractors for \$314,000. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**8. APPOINTMENTS.**

**A. ABC Board.**

Mr. Felton moved to appoint Mrs. Evelyn. Mr. Wiggins seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Jury Commission.**

Mrs. Harris moved to re-appoint Mr. Rueben Thompson IV. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

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

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

**A. Water Services.**

**B. Financial Summary Report.**

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

**A. Economic/Workforce Indicators.**

**B. Thelonious Monk Jazz Festival and Birthday Celebration.**

**C. FEMA Immediate Needs Funding update.**

**D. Notice from Nash County.**

**E. Community College events.**

Mr. Felton moved to approve a Resolution in Recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edgecombe Community College. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**F. Eastpointe update.**

**12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

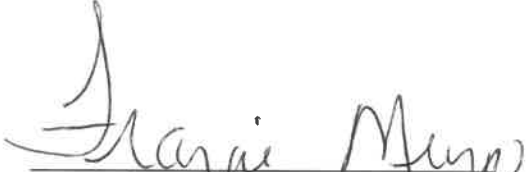
13. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

14. **CLOSED SESSION.**

**Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development and a personnel matter. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

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

15. **MR. FELTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

  
**Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board**