

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
OCTOBER 7, 2019 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ralph Webb, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Evelyn Powell and Mr. William Wooten.

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.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 meeting as presented. Rev. Hines 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 ordinance amendment for Solid Waste permits.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that at the Boards request we are moving forward with the plan to implement permitting for use of solid waste convenience sites. This will require an amendment to the code of ordinances. Mr. Evans presented in the agenda packets language proposed for the Boards consideration. Before the Board takes action, we should hear from the citizens. Therefore, at this meeting we have scheduled a public hearing. Following the public hearing, Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the ordinance amendment as presented and to authorize Mr. Evans to proceed with implementing the Solid Waste Permit system.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, NC, stated that as the Board considers implementing the policy that they also be in a position to monitor and see whether or not the policy is going to increase people throwing out stuff down side the road or pulling off into little paths and dumping the stuff rather than carrying it to the landfill, and if you see where this is happening you may want to look at your plan again, because sometimes people do whatever is convenient. He stated that we have enough litter beside the road without them adding to it.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to explain to the public why the County only has one incorporated community.

Mr. Evans stated that the Town of Leggett would be included in receiving a permit because they already participate and the citizens already pay the annual fee for use of the solid waste.

With no further comments or questions the public hearing was adjourned.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the ordinance amendment as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion.

Mr. Wooten stated that Rev. Higgs was correct in that we need to keep a monitor on the increased litter that may occur once someone arrives and does not have their permit. He stated that he was afraid that this could cause more littering down the road and in the area and asked that something be put in place to monitor it.

Mr. Evans stated that it will be done.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.**

A. **Dr. Gregory McLeod, Edgecombe Community College President, presented on male mentoring and outreach initiatives.**

Mr. Evans stated that Dr. McLeod would like to share with the Board a couple of programs, or efforts, he is working towards regarding outreach and male mentoring programs.

Dr. McLeod stated that he is trying to address an issue and that issue is the lack of enrollment, persistence and success in college of the males in our community.

Dr. McLeod stated that in the letter he shared with the Board and the community he outlined the fact that across the country research has shown that males are enrolling in college at abnormally low rates and those who do are largely arriving unprepared or underprepared to succeed there. Furthermore, the many socioeconomic barriers they face coupled with society's generally low expectations of them significantly impact their persistence and success in college and beyond. He stated that as President of ECC, and others working together to address this issue, find this unacceptable, and while we see these trends nationwide and across the state, we do not want to see that happen here and we want to do something about it. Dr. McLeod stated that it takes an entire village to educate them. He shared the following with the Board:

According to the 2019 Roadmap of Need, published by the NC Center for Afterschool Programs, we rank 99th out of the 100 NC Counties in 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency. Research has shown that reading proficiency has a direct correlation with college persistence and success.

According to the US Census Bureau, the gender distribution of Edgecombe County residents is 53.8% females and 46.2% males. However, the gender distribution of Edgecombe Community College curriculum students is 77% females and 23% males. This indicates there is a significant gap between females and males going to college.

Similar to the County's population distribution by ethnicity, ECC's enrolled student population is predominately African American. However, our most recent graduating class and other data indicate that we may not be consistently a predominately African American-graduating institution.

With 55% of the student body being African American, most of the African American student body is female (45 of the 55%) versus male (10 of the 55%).

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|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Black Female | Black Male 10% | Black All: 55% |
| White Female | White Male 11% | White All: 36% -1 |
| Hispanic Female | Hispanic Male 2% | Hispanic All: |

Similarly, African American males are disproportionately underrepresented in high school dual enrollment participation.

Furthermore, looking at students enrolled in high school dual enrollment compared to their overall numbers in high school by ethnicity and gender, a lower percentage of males participate in high school dual enrollment than females.

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| White Females 31% | White Males 26% |
| Hispanic Females 19% | Hispanic Males 15% |
| Black Females 17% | Black Males 9% |

Additionally, males in general but minority males especially, also fall behind in the number of college-level courses attempted, college credits earned, cumulative GPA earned, persisting semester to semester, and ultimately

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|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| White Females 27% | White Males 25% | White All: 52% |
| Black Females 27% | Black Males 11% | Black All: 38% |
| Hispanic Females 5% | Hispanic Males 4% | Hispanic All: 9% |

earning a degree.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 8% of the African American students who enrolled at ECC in Fall 2015 graduated with a degree in 3 years. It is similarly low statewide and nationally but either way, we must own this. During this same timeframe, 25% of the Hispanic and 33% of the White students graduated.

Dr. McLeod stated that we cannot wait to engage our students when they show up at our door. We must meet them where they are. We need to reach those who did not think about showing up and do something to help them. He stated that if we can help them we can help this community. He provided a list of four programs they have identified and are working on:

- Fall Mentoring Meet and Greet Social, Cookout, and Games
- Excellence in Academics, Character, and Leadership Awards Program
- Men on a Mission: Dress for Success Program
- Computer Coding and Robotics Summer Camp

Dr. McLeod stated that they would love to have whatever forms of support, presence and engagement the Board can offer.

After a brief discussion from the Board Mr. Wiggins thanked Dr. McLeod and asked the County Manager to support this effort in any way we can.

B. Christopher Carr and Shar Legree with the Mediation Center of Eastern North Carolina provided an update on Teen Court Program.

Mr. Carr, District 7 Teen Court Supervisor covering Wilson, Nash and Edgecombe Counties, and Ms. Legree, Teen Court Case Manager for Nash and Edgecombe Counties came forth and provided information on the program. Teen Court is a unique and alternative program that is designed for youth who have committed minor or misdemeanor offenses within the community and they have admitted guilt. They primarily focus on those first-time offenders within the Edgecombe County community. The program serves youth between the ages

of 10-17 and it serves as an alternative to the juvenile justice approach. They can receive referrals from juvenile justice and also from law enforcement and local school systems. The program allows for the participating youth to be held accountable for their actions and receive consequences, such as community service, life skills anger management class and others that allow them to make amends to themselves, to make amends to any particular victims that may have been involved as well as with local schools and communities. What makes Teen Court unique is that the youth participants attend a real court case sentencing hearing and they do utilize volunteer local judges and attorneys to serve on the cases. However, jury members clerks, bailiffs, and attorneys are student volunteers between 7-12 grades that they recruit from Nash and Edgecombe County Schools and they train them to serve in these court role capacities. The sanctions given to those coming through Teen Court are determined by their peers, providing that peer to peer education model for these first-time youth offenders. The benefits of the Teen Court Program, those youth that come through Teen Court, they get a true picture of how their actions, not only impact themselves, but others. It allows staff to reach these youth at a critical time in their growth and development and allows staff to educate them on their behavior and the law. It allows them to accept personal responsibility for their actions. As a contingency of program completion there is no legal record of the offense for that youth.

C. Sam Watts, S&ME, provided an update on Princeville's 53 Acre Development Project.

Mr. Evans stated that the County has taken on the responsibility of implementing the project for Princeville's 53-acre development and we have enlisted the help of S&ME to do the predevelopment work and Sam Watts came forth to provide an update.

Mr. Watts stated that the County is assisting Princeville by administering the grant and providing a lot of technical guidance. He stated that they began work on the project about six months ago. He provided a power point presentation on the following:

- Held two public workshops
- Held workshop with stakeholders: regulatory agencies, funding agencies and leadership
- Pointed out the location of the 53 acres for the future development
- Looked at a lot of prior studies of the Town of Princeville and took guiding principles, which had a lot to do with the historical information that had already been gathered and asked for other guiding principles.
- How to get on and off the property
- 53 acres is outside of the flood zone
- Phase I environmental site assessment...clean bill of health
- Looked at the streams and wetlands
- Did a geotechnical investigation (study of the soils and how they behave)
- Modifying of zoning codes
- Sustainable agriculture
- Municipal services
- Multi-culture space
- 53-acre design

7. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mr. Keith Abrams and Ms. Faye Lawson, 1682 Old County Home Road asked for help regarding barking dogs in the neighborhood, stating that he has a neighbor with beagles that howl and bark all the time, and a neighbor on the other side of

them that has a couple of pit bulls and a rottweiler that bark continuously. He has called the Sheriff's Department many times. Several years ago, deputies worked with them and talked to the gentleman that owns the dogs and got him to put up a privacy fence that blocked the view of his area from the pen, which helped. As time went on they got to the point that they were calling the Sheriff's department and were told by the deputies that there is nothing they can do about a barking dog. Mr. Abrams stated that the purpose of the law is to enforce personal responsibility. Personal responsibility is having a quiet neighborhood to live in, which the noise ordinance states that. He stated that the ordinance gives a four-step procedure on a public nuisance. An ordinance is an order. A deputy sheriff does not have anybody they can call in to and say how can I handle this. Their advice to him is to go see the magistrate. The noise is a violation of the ordinance and cannot get the Sheriff's department to do anything about it because they have not read the ordinance and have not been trained.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he will asked the County Attorney and County Manager to look at the ordinance and if there is any violation that can be addressed by our current ordinance, they will so advise and get with the Sheriff.

Carlton Jones, 1712 Augusta Drive, Rocky Mount, with Mrs. Linda Knight came forth regarding results received from the Hazard Mitigation Program to get a better understanding of it. They are both landlords and just received letters informing them that they are ineligible for any type of assistance in the rehab program, because the property is not their primary residence. When they went through the intake they understood that the property they were filing for were rental properties. They went through the whole gamut of meetings, taking information they requested them to bring so they could get involved in the rehab program, only to get a letter back from NC-Rebuild stating they are not eligible.

Mr. Evans stated that we do the applications at the County level and the State processes it from there.

Mr. Jones stated that his caseworker told him that during the intake process it was done improperly by putting the properties as primary residences and there is nothing the State can do about it and he was told to come back to the County and some adjustment needed to be made to get them back in that recovery process. Mr. Jones stated that after talking to other landlords and evidently, when all the information was taken, it was taken as primary residences.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the County did the intake and sent it to the State. The State is telling them that based on what is on the intake they are not qualified. He stated that the question is does the County have the authority to do another intake. He stated that if we did the intake, we did it according to State guidelines. He referred him to Mr. Evans to check with the State to see if anything can be done, because the Board is not familiar with the process and how it should have been done or if it was done improperly.

Mr. Jones stated that they wanted to make the Commissioners aware. He stated that a State sponsored meeting will be held on October 15th at ECC.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Board needed to know about these kinds of problems. He stated that if there can be some help the Board certainly wants to see all of the landowners get help.

Mrs. Linda Knight, 704 Panola Street, stated that not only are some of the landowners receiving letters of rejection because they did not stay in the property, but also being rejected because of their income. It was not fore stated that it will have anything to do with income.

After a brief discussion Mr. Wiggins referred them to Mr. Evans with hopes that he and the State can get some answers for the reasons for those letters.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, NC, stated that he was a part of what they called “the movement” that brought Edgecombe County to where it is now. Some of what you hear and see that is coming out of Rocky Mount, the same thing took place here in Edgecombe County. What came to bring a head to some of it, the County went from a five-member Commissioner Board to a seven member. He stated that when you look at Rocky Mount and all the hell that is being raised out of it and everybody act like they don’t see or hear it, and then you look at all of the good efforts that is trying to happen in the County to bring forth to make the County better, you would think you are talking about two planets. Rev. Higgs stated that we need to do better. We need to try to encourage the County to continue to work together. Edgecombe County went through an affirmative action. He stated that he was here about six months ago and he asked the County if they had a County workforce diversity plan as well as a chart. It was here in the 80’s and 90’s and anybody could request a chart and it showed the number of employees in each department, gender etc. He stated that although we have come a long way he thought that there is room for improvement. The County is more than just black and white now.

Rev. Higgs stated that the Register of Deeds is going to be retiring effective December 1st. There is a process that the Democratic Party will be going through to recommend to the Board a replacement for her based on General Statutes. He stated that come November 5th, whoever wins the election in these townships he will be looking at who will be on the committee which he plans on convening on between December 2nd and 17th to act on that replacement.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

After Mr. Evans provided explanations on several 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 a removal of streets in Dodge City subdivision from the State Maintenance System.

Mr. Evans stated that there are five roads located in what was the Dodge City Subdivision. This subdivision was flooded during Hurricane Floyd in 1999, and the properties located there were subsequently bought out. It is now the location of the Sheriff’s training facility. He stated that these roads are now treated as private drives for the sole use with the training facility, and therefore should be removed from the State maintenance system. NC DOT has submitted petitions which need Board approval.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the petitions to remove those five roads from the State maintenance system. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of additional of a portion of Sunset Avenue and Harper Farm Lane to the State Maintenance System.

Mr. Evans stated that staff with NC DOT have submitted petitions to add two roads to the State Maintenance System. They are Sunset Ave. Extension and Harper Farm Lane. They have verified that they both meet the standards set forth by NC DOT.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the petition to add Sunset Ave. Extension to the State Maintenance System. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the petition to add Harper Farm Lane to the State Maintenance System. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of application for permit renewal for the C&D Landfill.

Mr. Wooten moved to call for a public hearing at the November meeting to relative to permit renewal for the C&D Landfill located on Colonial Road. Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of Governor's Crime Commission Grant.

Mr. Evans stated that the Governor's Crime Commission has selected the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office to receive a \$21,650 grant. This grant will be used for security upgrades at the Courthouse and Sheriff's Office. The grant does not require a cash match.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the grant agreement as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of resolution to assign a bid to Tarboro Edgecombe habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Evans stated that the County bided on foreclosed property and Habitat for Humanity is interested in the property and willing to pay the \$9,000 bid amount. State law does allow us to assign the bid to them, but it requires the Boards approval.

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

G. Approval of amendment to the Financial Policies to revise the per diem limit for out of town.

Mr. Evans stated that the County currently have set in our Financial Accounting Procedures a per diem limit of \$34 for the cost of meals during business related travel. He stated that it should be updated to be more consistent with the Meal and incidental Rate (M&IE) set by the US General Services Administration. He presented the GSA's table of tiers used as guidance for setting this rate. \$60 is the average for breakfast, lunch and dinner combined.

Rev. Hines moved o approve the revision of limit to \$60 per day as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of a change order for Kingsboro Infrastructure Contract.

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration Change Order #5 with TA Loving Company for the work to extend infrastructure onto the Kingsboro Megasite. The items as described in the change order will increase the contract by \$45,612.44, bringing the total contract to \$5,029,428.19, with no changes to the substantial completion date. These additional costs will be covered by our grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the NC Commerce Industrial Development Fund.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve Change Order #5 with TA Loving Company as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of Deed of Right of Way for new road at Kingsboro.

Mr. Evans stated that NC DOT is having a road constructed in Kingsboro Industrial Park that will run from Hwy 64 Alternate to Kingsboro Road. A right of way is necessary for this project. Mr. Evans presented for the Board's approval a deed of right of way and an agreement for entry.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the documents and authorize the Chairman to execute the same. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

J. Approval of resolution to preliminarily recommend the adoption and acquisition of voting equipment.

Mr. Evans stated that the Edgecombe County Board of Elections is required to recommend to the Board of Commissioners a voting system after they have witnessed a demonstration of said system. They may only recommend a voting system that has been certified by the State Board of Elections. The Edgecombe County Board of Elections witnessed a demonstration and is now recommended the preliminary approval of the ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Voting System. If the Board approve the resolution the Elections office will test the system in at least one precinct during the November 5, 2019 election. The BOE will then bring a final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the December meeting.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Powell 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.
- C. Hurricane recovery update.
- D. Recognition of DMV License Plate Office.
- E. TDA finance report.
- F. NC Health news article on recreation efforts.

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

- A. Workforce Development Indicators.
- B. Discussion of Smoking Policy.
After discussion Mr. Wooten moved to ban smoking on all County property. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 6 for and 1 against. Mr. Wiggins voted against the motion.
- C. Response to audit findings.
After discussion Mr. Wooten moved to approve the recommendations of the County Manager relative to the audit findings and responses to LGC as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- D. Follow-up to Board Policy on remote participation in meetings.
After discussion Mr. Wooten moved to call for a public hearing at the November meeting. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- E. Special Olympics update.
Mr. William Johnson, Assistant County Manager, provided an update.
- F. Announced retirement of Register of Deeds.
- G. Thank you letter from Lorraine Dickens.

12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

None.

13. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

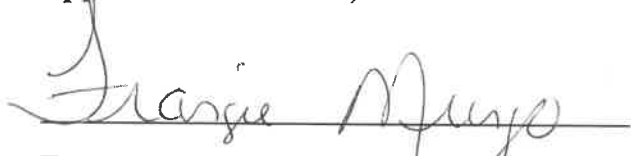
14. **CLOSED SESSION.**

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.

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

15. **REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL NOVEMBER 4, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved November 4, 2019.



Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board