

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
DECEMBER 3, 2018 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. Donald Boswell, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mrs. Viola Harris and Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman.

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

2. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. SWEARING IN CEREMONY.

Honorable Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court, administered the oath of office to re-elected Commissioners, Rev. Hines, Mr. Boswell and Mr. Wooten.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2019.

Mr. Wiggins turned the Chair over to Mr. Peters for the purpose of electing officers for 2019.

Board of Commissioners Chairman

Rev. Hines nominated Mr. Wiggins. There being no other nominations Rev. Hines moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Wiggins as Chairman of the Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman

Mr. Boswell nominated Mr. Felton. There being no other nominations Mr. Boswell moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Felton as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments or questions regarding the consideration to close a portion of College Road (SR 1403).

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans started that to accommodate the building of the CSX Intermodal Rail Terminal, it is necessary to abandon a part of College Road (SR 1403). The portion of College Road to be abandoned lies between properties that CSX owns. He stated that at the Board's September meeting, they started the abandonment process by approving a petition to the NC Department of Transportation for such action. Their Board has since approved that petition and removed that portion of College Road from State maintenance. The next step is to hold tonight's public hearing, and, subject to public feedback, move to close that portion of College Road. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the resolution to close a portion of SR1403/College Road.

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

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the resolution to close a portion of SR 1403/College Road. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.

A. Jeff DeBellis, Director of Economic Development and Policy Analysis at North Carolina

Department of Commerce, provided a presentation.

Mr. Evans introduced Mr. DeBellis and stated that he will be providing a presentation focusing on the labor market, job opportunities and workforce development in Edgecombe County. Mr. Evans stated that this has been a topic that has been an interest of the Board and also considering the new jobs that are going to be created.

Mr. Jeff DeBellis provided information on Workforce Statistics for Edgecombe County in the following areas:

- Labor market and economy
- Long period of high unemployment
- Shrinking labor force
- Population declining and getting older
- Workforce declining and getting older
- Most jobs in Edgecombe County belong to residents of other counties
- More commuting out for primary jobs
- Declining employment opportunities in Edgecombe County
- Declining jobs in Edgecombe County
- Good paying jobs are harder to find in Edgecombe County
- Projections of future employment
 - New businesses coming impacting future employment projections
 - Potential implications
 - Future is up to us
 - Continue to push economic development

After his presentation, Mr. DeBellis answered questions from the Board.

B. Tyronda Whitaker, Regional Ombudsman UCP-COG Area Agency on Aging, was present to discuss Adult Care Home Committee membership.

Ms. Whitaker explained that a Long Term Care Ombudsman is a patient advocate. She advocates for approximately 3,649 residents across the five county area. Here in Edgecombe County we have 520 long term care beds, which are concentrated into the skill nursing facilities. An Ombudsman's job is to provide advocacy for the residents, make sure their rights are being upheld, make sure they are being treated with dignity and respect, make sure they are receiving the services they are paying for, and make sure that any complaints that they cannot work out with the facility they will call the ombudsman who will go in and do the complaint resolution.

Ms. Whitaker stated that an Ombudsman is also tasked with managing Community Advisory Committees (CAC). Edgecombe County has two CACs comprised of private citizens who volunteer and are appointed by the Commissioners to be regional Ombudsman. They are trained by her and other Ombudsman. Edgecombe County has been fortunate to have volunteers who have been on committees for 15 to 27 years. She stated that when you have that type of longevity you run into issues such as aging and volunteers almost in rehab need or nursing home needs themselves and the committees become lacking. She stated that here presence was to plead the case to have more long term care volunteers appointed to the committees. She stated that the Adult Care Home Committee has totally dwindled down to zero and they have been unsuccessful in trying to recruit members. Ms. Whitakers stated that the Nursing Home Committee is different. It has quite a few members who have maintained their membership. They participate and do everything that is required of them. Ms. Whitaker suggested the combining of the two committees that will visit both types of facilities. They meet once a quarter and visit the facilities. The visits are not friendly visits, strict protocol is followed. They go through training prior to going into the facilities. She also suggested the recruitment of at least 7 to 10 additional members to the committee so that there won't be an issue with visits if a member is out for any reason.

Ms. Whitakers answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Evans stated that the combining of the committees as recommended would certainly help with recruiting members. He stated that the Board will have to take action on this.

With the consensus of the Board Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to bring a new structure for the committee back to the Board that will support Ms. Whitaker's recommendations.

Mr. Wiggins suggested to the Board that they look for members that might want to serve.

8. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Mr. Trey Lewis, Regional Representative with the Office of Senator Thom Tillis, came forth to bring greetings from Senator Tillis to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Lewis stated that he is also an Edgecombe County resident and felt that it had to be noted that he believes in numbers and he believes numbers are factual, but numbers don't tell the whole story. He stated that he has the nineteen northeastern counties for Senator Tillis, fifteen being tier one counties, and he brags on Edgecombe County, the work that is being done in Edgecombe County, the recruitment from the Board and from the Economic Development agencies. There is a lot of enthusiasm. The Senator and his office is aware of it. He stated that he is really excited about the things that are happening in this Edgecombe County. He thanked the Board for their work and ask them not to hesitate to reach out to him or the Senator's office and they will help anyway they can.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval budget amendments.**

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

B. **Approval of Down East Home Consortium Agreement.**

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration the Joint Cooperative Agreement for participation in the Down East Home Consortium (DEHC). This agreement is for a three-year period running from July of this year through June of 2021. Edgecombe County is able to receive federal HOME funds by being a part of the DEHC. HOME funds provide for housing and community development activities for low-income families. Typically, the HOME funds we receive are used for housing rehabilitation projects. We participate along with the City of Rocky Mount (lead entity), and several other municipalities in the Twin Counties region. Nash County has recently withdrawn from participating. Allocations vary from year to year depending on federal allocation formulas, but typically we and the towns in Edgecombe County receive around \$100,000 per year.

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

C. **Approval of funding of the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport paving project.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County is a sponsor of the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport, along with Nash County, Wilson County, Rocky Mount and Wilson. This airport has a 7,100 ft. runway with a terminal, 7 box hangers, and 24 based aircraft. In 2017, there were 29,840 operations at the airport, which are take-offs and landings. The staff and Board of the airport have determined that it is critical that the runway and taxiway pavement be repaired immediately. The condition of the pavement is growing more difficult to patch and repair, and could soon become unsafe for use. The total cost of the project is \$14,700,000. Mr. Evans stated that they have secured \$13,320,000 in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and the NC DOT-Aviation Division. These funding sources require a 10% local match, which they are requesting of the sponsors. The amount requested of each of the three counties is \$211,458. With the timing of the project, this could be spread over the current fiscal year (\$116,744) and next fiscal year (\$94,714). Considering the importance of this airport to our region, the critical need of this project, and the opportunity afforded to us by way of the funding secured, he recommended that the Board approves the commitment of the funding, including the budget amendment to appropriate \$116,744 in the current fiscal year. This action should be contingent on the other sponsors approving the amount requested.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the commitment of the funding and the budget amendment as presented contingent on the other sponsors approving the amount requested. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. **Approval of a contract amendment for Kingsboro Infrastructure Project.**

Mr. Evans stated that we received grant funding to extend infrastructure onto Kingsboro Industrial Park from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the NC Department of Commerce. In June, the Board approved the selection of T.A. Loving for a contract totaling \$4,403,208.75 to extend water and sewer to the site. Since then, the NC Department of Commerce has approved an additional \$540,000 to extend water and sewer onsite to Corning's facility. The Wooten Company has designed the additional work to incorporate it into the existing contract with T.A Loving. However, the contract needs to be amended by way of change order. This will increase the contract by

\$528,065. This will also add sixty (60) days to the completion date. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board first accept the grant award from NC Commerce and approve the budget amendment. And in a separate action approve change order #1 for the Kingsboro Infrastructure contract with T.A. Loving Company.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the acceptance of the grant award from NC Commerce and the associated budget amendment. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve change order #1 for the Kingsboro Infrastructure contract with T.A. Loving Company. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of Contract Amendment #2 for Kingsboro Infrastructure Project.

Mr. Evans stated that to accommodate the Triangle Tire project, NC Department of Transportation will be widening the roadway at the intersection of Harts Mill Run and US 64 Alt. This project will require an additional water inter-connection between an existing 8-inch and a new 16-inch water line not currently called for in the contract with T.A. Loving Company. Therefore, a change order is needed. Mr. Evans stated that we believe NC Dot will cover the additional \$28,946.16 in costs. Waiting for funding approval from NC Dot and bringing this to the Board in January would further delay the project. Therefore, he requested that the Board consider approving change order #2 to the contract with T.A. Loving Company contingent upon NC DOT approving the additional funding.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve contract amendment #2 to the contract with T.A. Loving Company contingent upon NC DOT approving the additional funding. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of an amendment to the Solid Waste fee schedule.

Mr. Evans stated that our goal in making fee recommendations to the Board is to make sure the fees cover the cost of the service without being overly burdensome to our customers. We attempt to do so by considering the actual costs to us, as well as comparing our fees with those in surrounding counties. Upon review of our Solid Waste fee schedule he realized that our tipping fee for asbestos is significantly higher than that of landfills in the surrounding area. Ours is set at \$140 per ton while other landfills are much lower (Nash - \$48; Halifax - \$55.32; Wilson - \$100; and EJE landfill = \$95.00). Mr. Evans recommended that we reduce the tipping fee for asbestos to \$75.00 per ton, which is the average of the fee in those landfills surveyed.

Mrs. Harris moved to amend the Solid Waste fee schedule as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of an agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Mr. Evans stated that annually the County enters into an agreement with the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to assist eligible individuals in gaining employment. These services include counseling, training, education, transportation, job placement, assistive technology, and other support services. For those services, the County provides matching funds, which for FY 2019 will be \$20,007 (already included in the approved budget). He stated that the County also provide office space for their staff and recommended approval of the agreement.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the agreement as presented and authorize the Chairman to execute the same. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of adopting the amendments to the County Management Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Mr. Evans stated that per North Carolina General Statute, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of archives and Records is responsible for determining which public records must be retained and for how long. They do so by publishing, and periodically amending a Records Retention Schedule. He recommended that the Board approve the latest schedule update.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the Records Retention Schedule amendment as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of a Resolution in Support of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Allocation Expansion.

Mr. Evans presented for the Board's consideration a resolution to support an increase in State funding to the Juvenile Crime Prevention program. The juvenile age is set to be raised in North Carolina to include 16 and 17 year olds. In order to accommodate that change, considerably more funding needs to be allocated to the juvenile justice system, especially to the juvenile crime prevention program. He stated that our Juvenile Crime Prevention Council has been successful in funding organizations that provide a continuum of services for court-involved and at-risk juveniles. However, it will become increasingly challenging, if not nearly impossible, to maintain that success if the funding for these programs does not increase proportionately to the increase in number of youth needing those services.

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

10. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Edgecombe County Rescue Board.

Rev. Hines moved to re-appoint Mr. Donald Boswell and Mr. Charlie Harrell. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

12. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA.

A. Approval of calling for a public hearing at the January 7, 2019 meeting to consider a proposed Special Use Permit request from SunEnergy.

Mr. Evans stated that SunEnergy Systems has a Special Use Permit submitted for a proposed solar energy project. It will be 1,471 acres located on Harts Mill Run road. The SUP will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their meeting this month. It will then need to come before the Board with a public hearing.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing that the January 7, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

13. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW. *Received*****

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary Report.
- C. Hurricane recovery update.
- D. Midlakes Mobile Home Park update.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT.*Received*****

- A. Workforce Indicators.
- B. Animal Welfare Advisory Council update.
- C. Farm City Breakfast, December 6, 2018, 7:30 a.m., East Carolina Agriculture and Education Center, Kingsboro Road.
- D. Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit, December 12, 2018, 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m., Rose Hill Conference Center

15. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mr. Boswell stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Evan after he was approached by some people at the dump site the day after Thanksgiving and it is a headache. He mentioned the possibility of using stickers to identify residents. Mr. Boswell stated that he hears the same thing every time, that we are dumping other people's trash. He stated that they are going to report to him in black and white on paper what they need and what they would like to see. So it will be an issue coming down the pipe.

Mrs. Harris stated that she will be going to the Legislative Goals in January. If the County has anything they think we need to present to the General Assembly as a goal make sure they get it to her.

16. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

None.

17. **CLOSED SESSION.**

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

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

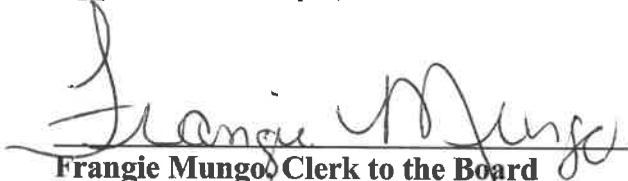
Mrs. Harris moved to approve the selection of Mr. Michael Peters as the full time attorney for the County. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the employment contract between the County and the Attorney (Michael Peters) as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Evans explained the information in the notebooks delivered by the Sheriff to Board regarding the costs of raising salaries

18. **MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL JANUARY 7, 2019. AT 7:00 P.M. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved January 7, 2019.


Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board