

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
MAY 1, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE JONATHAN FELTON 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. Donald Boswell, Mr. George Thorne, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mr. Ralph Webb and Mrs. Viola Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.

Safety instructions provided by Mrs. Bess.

3. PRAYER.

Prayer provided by Rev. Hines.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND RECONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW. MRS. HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

A. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.

B. Scheduled appointments.

Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, stated that there were no appeals for 2023.

C. Consideration of resolution finalizing final values.

Mrs. Lewis read the resolution.

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

REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Gwenda Moore, stated that she was speaking in reference to her property at 103 Market Center Drive across the street from Walmart. She stated that she went to the Division of Highways to ask them if they would get the underbrush and trees on the State's side cleared out because she thought that would help the retail of Market Center Drive on that side, which is not growing as rapidly. She stated that she has 4.3 acres of land that would be really nice to have a Chick-fil-a, Zaxby's or a sit-down restaurant. She cannot do it without having help from the County and the Town. She asked the Board for help with supporting the fact that that they would like to see that area cleaned up by making phone calls or write a letter.

Mrs. Harris asked if she had approached Town of Tarboro already and if they tried to help her.

Mrs. Moore stated that she did approach the Town of Tarboro and they suggested that she talk to the Division of Highways.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he would ask staff to assist if there is anything that the County can do.

Curmilus Dancy, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, P O Box 1391, Pinetops, stated that there are people trying to see and hear the Board meetings and they asked him to tell the Board to talk into the microphones. He stated that he learned about how much money Rocky Mount City Manager is trying to pay Rocky Mount Police. He stated that it was strange that a local Police Department would make more than the Sheriff's Office when they cover the whole County. He stated he realize that the Board could not match the \$60,000, but should do something to bring them up closer to that.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Evans provided explanations on budget amendments 1-4a that required Board approval.

Mr. Evans stated that regarding budget amendment #4a from Sheriff Atkinson, requesting to move some funds from retirement, salaries and a few other lines to move in lines that will fall short before the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the last three lines, Capital Outlay and salaries, he is moving into to be able to purchase two vehicles and 15 body cameras. Mr. Evans stated that Sheriff Atkinson is also requesting extraordinary pay.

Mr. Thorne stated that budget amendment 4a is a large budget amendment to be received on the day of the meeting. He asked for further explanation.

Mr. Evans provided further explanation.

There was further discussion and questions from the Board and further explanation provided by Sheriff Atkinson.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve budget amendments 1-4a as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of Bad Debt Write-off from 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 on 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 as recommended by the Human Services Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of Franchise Agreement for Non-Emergency Medical Transport.

Mr. Evans stated that Bertie Ambulance Service DBA Eastern Medical Transport has submitted a franchise agreement to provide ambulance transportation in Edgecombe County. Bertie Ambulance Service is currently managed by Carol Atkins. Currently Bertie Ambulance Service has the capability to provide wheel-chair van and ambulance transportation. They currently service many of our surrounding counties and is well established as has a great track record. Edgecombe County could benefit from having another non-emergency ambulance transportation servicer to help meet the high

demand of transporting our bed confined patients to them in and out of county doctor's appointments, local hospital discharges, and routine recurring care appointments such as dialysis. Currently Edgecombe County EMS non-emergency division is maximizing all opportunities to transport patients. However, the demand is now beyond our capability to manage particularly considering our continuity of emergency call responses.

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

D. Approval of Recreation Mini-Grant Awards.

Mr. Evans stated that the Recreation Mini-grant program was created to offer grants of up to \$2,000 each to community-based organizations that provide recreational facilities and/or activities. The review committee met on April 4th to discuss and rank the fifteen 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 recommends the ten projects in the amounts listed in the attached document to receive funding.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the grant awards as presented and to authorize the Manager to execute the agreements. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of Resolution Designating a Map Review Officer.

Mr. Evans stated that NC General Statutes requires the Board to designate by resolution staff who will serve as our mapping and land records Review Officer as well as Alternate Review Officers. Presented for the Board's consideration a Resolution to designate G. Ray Wilson, our GIS Coordinator, as our Review Officer, and Tarasa Lewis, Kaitlin Keel, Katina Braswell, and P. Bryan McIntyre as Alternate Review Officers.

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

F. Approval of Resolution Recognizing National Day of Prayer.

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

G. Approval of Natural Gas Fleet and equipment as surplus.

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

H. Approval of amendment to the Pay Plan.

Mr. Evans stated that the Board recently approved adding a Community Paramedic position to our Pay Plan. This position will provide community-based healthcare with a focus on opioid overdoses. Opioid settlement funds will pay for this position and its related costs. Since advertising and interviewing candidates for the position, staff has recognized the need for two changes. First, staff recommends that the Community Paramedic position be moved to grade 19 from grade 18. Considering the uniqueness of the work of this position, and the skill level and experience needed for the program to be successful, a higher salary is needed to attract the right person. Secondly, considering that the additional funding we will receive for the second round of opioid settlements will enable us to hire more than one Community Paramedic in the future, we will need one to be in a supervisory role to better manage the effort in the field. Therefore, it is recommended to add a Community Paramedic Supervisor position at grade 20. Mr. Evans stated that he supports the recommendation of our staff and asked that the Board approve the revised pay plan and Community Paramedic Supervisor job description as presented.

Mr. Webb moved to approve the revised pay plan and the job description as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of resolution for LGC application by the Governing Board of Water and Sewer District 6.

Mr. Boswell moved to recess the meeting of the Board of Commissioners and convene at Governing Board of Water and Sewer District 6. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Evans stated that we have funds committed from USDA-Rural Development to renovate and improve the sewer system in District #6. The project includes \$2,619,000 in revenue bonds which must be approved by the Local Government Commission. Mr. Evans asked the Board approve a resolution that requests the LGC to approve the issuance of a debt through these revenue bonds.

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

Mr. Boswell moved to adjourn as Governing Board of Water and Sewer District 6 and resume the regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Carolinas Gateway Partnership.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint George Thorne (Public Sector) and to reappoint Richard Anderson (Private Sector). Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

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

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*Received*****

- A. Water and Sewer update.
- B. Monthly Financial Summary.
- C. Office on Aging – ARPA funded program.
- D. Sales Tax report.

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

- A. Introduction of new Chief Financial Officer, Linda Barfield.
- B. Update on upcoming meetings.
- C. TDA financial report.
- D. Update on State funding for Broadband.
- E. Update on County Vision and Strategic Planning.
- F. Call for Special Meeting on May 17th at 10 a.m. for Budget Work Session.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a Special Meeting on May 17, 2023 at 10 a.m. Mr. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mrs. Harris asked if there will be any information on the pay study at the May 17th meeting.

Mr. Evans stated that we will have some information not the full complete study.

Mrs. Harris:

- **NCACC asked that we utilize the NDA students they have acquired for any area that the County needs help in.**
- **Take advantage of Risk Management classes offered.**
- **She talked with Mr. Matthews regarding a water tap situation on Johnson Farms to find out why it was taking so long. She thanked Mr. Matthew for helping her with that.**
- **Democratic Convention next Monday night at 6 p.m.**
- **Congressional District Convention on May 20th at 9 a.m. at ECC.**

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.

15. CLOSED SESSION.

Rev. Hines moved to go into closed session to discuss:

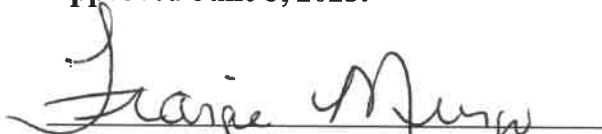
A. Economic Development. [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)]

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. Thorne seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

16. MRS. POWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved June 5, 2023.


Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board