

December 19, 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reconvened on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the County Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Alexander, Johnson, Manning and McCray were present. Also present were County Manager David L. Peoples, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young and Finance Officer Frank Milazi. Commissioner Collins was absent.

Chair Manning called the meeting to order.

SCUPPERNONG DRAINAGE BID PROPOSALS: Mr. Rufus Croom with Washington County's Soil and Water Conservation Office spoke to the Board. After the Board meeting on December 5, Mr. Croom and Mr. Wayne Howell sent out a request for bids for the snagging and dragging of the Scuppernong River to clean up the debris left from Hurricane Irene. Mr. Croom and Mr. Howell received six (6) bids, but they have not opened them. While Mr. Croom and Mr. Howell were in the process of receiving bids, it was brought to their attention that the scope of the bid request may need to be done differently to include clearing a 20 – 25' travelway on the riverbank to use for removing the storm debris. Mr. Croom and Mr. Howell are here tonight to talk to the Board about not opening the bids received, sending them back, and re-advertising their request for bids to include clearing a 20 – 25' travelway on the riverbank to use for removing the storm debris. Mr. Croom explained that some of the area they are looking at for this travelway is privately owned to a point and part of it is owned by the NC Parks Service. Mr. Croom suggested that they stop the bid process and regroup. Many agencies such as CAMA, Parks and Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, DENR and the Attorney General's office all would have to sign off on such a proposal before this can move forward. Mr. Archie Ray Spear, Creswell spoke to the Board regarding the damage from Hurricane Irene. Mr. Spear explained that 2" rain is now a devastating flood because of the blockage in the Scuppernong River. Mr. Buddy Cahoon, Creswell stated that Rep. Tim Spear told him Governor Perdue has allocated \$600,000 to be divided by Agriculture Commissioner Troxler for agriculture use. Discussion ensued. *(An e-mail is attached to and will become a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Cahoon also wants the 1 cent drainage tax put back in the budget in July 2012.

Mr. Peoples said the Commissioners can support this project but they can't approve the 1 cent drainage tax because it has to go through the budget process.

Mr. Peoples suggested that the Board direct Mr. Croom and Mr. Howell to return the bids unopened and with a letter saying that the scope has changed and all bids are being returned.

Mr. Croom said he has asked this question but not received an answer: "If the bids are opened and the project is started, would Washington County be eliminated from the funding that could be coming from the State?" Mr. Croom suggested that the County wait and see what the guidelines are for the money possibly coming from the State. Mr. Croom suggested waiting until the first meeting in January to see if any more information is available.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to return the unopened bids with a letter stating the issues that have been discussed and let the bidders know they will have the opportunity to bid again and make sure they are aware that the scope of work may change depending on the permits. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McCray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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Buster Manning  
Chair

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Julie J. Bennett  
Clerk to the Board