

July 19, 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the County Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Alexander, Collins, Johnson, Manning and McCray were present. Also present were County Manager Rob Bencini, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Deputy Finance Office Frank Milazi and Assistant County Manager/County Attorney Cheryl Young.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING--TALENT ENHANCEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT (TECBG): Commissioner Collins made a motion to open the public hearing for the Talent Enhancement Capacity Building Grant program. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson spoke to the Board regarding the TECBG. These grants are intended to address the challenge of developing talent in smaller, rural economies in North Carolina. The goal of the TECBG grant is to provide for local units of government and non-profits (in partnership with local units of government) the opportunity to build capacity in areas to develop appropriate and competitive CDBG grants, administer CDBG grants, grant writing, grant administration, economic impact analyses, community survey research and design, and feasibility study preparation. It is anticipated that fourteen (14) grants will be awarded in the amount of \$50,000 each with a duration of 15 months.

Mr. Bencini noted that it is a competitive grant and reiterated that as many as 14 jurisdictions may be awarded one of these grants. Mr. Bencini thanked Ms. Bennett and Ms. Young for their assistance in putting the grant together.

Commissioner Manning asked what will the County do with the grant if it is received. Mr. Bencini responded that the plan is to hire someone to do grant writing. This person will take training classes at ECU and then the County must apply for a CDBG grant within 15 months. The person coming into this job will be of the understanding that the job is over in 15 months, unless grants are received that include money for continuance of the position.

Mr. Bencini stated the CDBG covers a lot of areas and the grants the County applies for will be separate from the grants that The Wooten Company assists the County in applying for. Commissioner Collins asked if the position will be full time and if Mr. Bencini will be doing the hiring. Mr. Bencini replied 'yes' to both questions. Mr. Bencini also noted that the County's 20 year plan mentioned the County having a grant writer in our future.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to close the hearing for the Talent Enhancement Capacity Building Grant program. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to authorize the County to submit the application for the Talent Enhancement Capacity Building Grant program. Commissioner Collins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

POST EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT: Commissioner Alexander asked if the money to be used for Ms. Critcher's contract is unlimited. Ms. Young stated that the amount is limited by the budget. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the post employment contract with Ms. Critcher as presented. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TYRRELL-WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AS ADMINISTRATOR OF SMART START: Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve the resolution supporting Tyrrell-Washington Partnership for Children as administrator of Smart Start as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson said Judge Manning ruled that the "More at 4" had to be supported by the General Assembly. Hopefully the same thing will happen with Smart Start.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER, CLERK, ETC.: Chair Johnson discussed a resolution sent out today by the President of Beaufort County Community College whereby they want to keep from merging with other community colleges. Chair Johnson would like the Commissioners to read over this resolution and hopefully be ready to join in with the other entities in support of this resolution at the next Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Collins noted that the County will probably be asked to support Martin Community College with a similar resolution and it would be nice to approve these as a package.

Chair Johnson distributed maps of the new redistricting changes. These are probably not the final maps, but the current one has Washington County as a split county with Butterfield and Jones. In the Senate, Washington County has moved from District 1 to District 3 -- from Stan White to Clark Jenkins. In the House, Washington County has moved from District 2 moved to District 6 -- from Tim Spear to Bill Cook.

Mr. Bencini reminded everyone of Ms. Critcher's retirement party at 2:00 pm, Friday, July 29, 2011.

Commissioner Manning asked Mr. Milazi if things were going smoothly. Mr. Milazi stated "yes they are right on track".

Ms. Young said she attended the redistricting hearings at Chair Johnson's request and the significance of the proposed changes was provided. There will be other hearings in the future and they will be available on the web.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Keyes for her efforts in putting on the Public Officials Conference Monday night. It was a great event!

Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

Julie J. Bennett
Clerk to the Board