

August 1, 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, August 1, 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, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and Assistant County Manager/County Attorney Cheryl Young.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Manning gave the invocation; Commissioner Alexander led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: On the Consent Agenda, Chair Johnson did the following: added appointment of Frank Milazi as Finance Officer as Item 2B; removed Item C (Approval of Agreement for Fire Protection between Washington County and the Town of Plymouth) so the exhibits could be cleaned up and presented at the next meeting; added Property Tax Exemption to the Consent Agenda as Item C; deleted Item 10 (Closed Session).

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with changes noted above:

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Resolution to Reject Merging Beaufort County Community College with Another Community College
- c) Property Tax Exemption
- d) Approval for County Attorney Signature Authority for Release of CDBG Promissory Notes for Recording Purposes

Commissioner Collins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

APPOINTMENT OF FRANK MILAZI: Commissioner Collins made a motion to appoint Mr. Milazi as Finance Officer effective August 1, 2011. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

EAST CAROLINA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (ECBH) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: Mr. Roy Wilson, CEO and Ms. Leza Wainwright, COO of ECBH were in attendance. Mr. Wilson told the Board that ECBH has received the nod from the State to begin work on managing the care of Medicaid recipients. ECBH will be in position to build a network of doctors who accept Medicaid and ECBH will manage the quality of the network and authorize services and provide payment to those doctors. This will begin in April of 2012. Mr. Wilson also stated that there are no more value options. Mr. Wilson stated that historically ECBH could not

do anything to help citizens once they chose their providers; however, with the waiver in place, now ECBH can provide assistance and they will be accountable.

Ms. Wainright went over the Monitoring Report with the Board. *(The report is attached to and will be become a part of these minutes.)*

Commissioner Johnson told Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wainright how much the County appreciated the \$10M and thanked them for the Explorer program.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION YOUTH SUMMIT: Laura Sutphin introduced herself as the 4-H agent for Washington County. Ms. Sutphin explained that there will be a Youth Summit at the Horn of Plenty event during the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference being held in Cabarrus County August 18 – 21, 2011. The Youth Summit's mission is to provide a youth voice to the County Commissioners. Each county is asked to send a youth to this Conference. They will sit together and pick ten of the issues discussed during the Conference to see if they can come up with ways to solve those problems. Akila Pettiford (age 14) is a rising freshman at Plymouth High School and is the participant chosen to attend this year's Youth Summit. Ms. Sutphin suggested that Ms. Pettiford attend a future Commissioners' meeting to give a report after the Conference. Chair Johnson commended Ms. Sutphin and the County's 4-H program.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HOSPITAL UPDATE: The new CEO of Washington County Hospital (WCH), Mr. Harley Smith spoke to the Board. Mr. Smith extended his thanks to the Commissioners for the opening of the Medical Clinic. Mr. Smith stated that the Medical Clinic opened today and three (3) patients were seen. Dennis Wood is the Physician's Assistant (PA) working there. Mr. Wood was in the military for over 20 years and he has a lot of experience; however, he will be looking to hire someone to assist him in the future

Regarding the financial situation of the hospital, Mr. Smith stated that the hospital still has some debt. WCH is working to get everyone paid as fast as they can. Mr. Smith also said they are working on things to increase revenue and reminded everyone that the debt didn't just occur overnight, so it won't get fixed overnight. Mr. Smith said WCH is trying to pay off local debt first and those debts should be taken care of in the next 3-6 months. Mr. Smith noted that WCH has had four (4) straight months of profit on paper. WCH is starting to work with Martin General in Williamston and their specialty clinic. Martin General will be bringing in a pediatrician, two (2) orthopedic doctors, two (2) obgyns and two (2) surgeons to work in their new clinic. Dr. Smith from Martin General and Larry Watson who is fresh out of school will be running this new Clinic. Martin General's future plans for their clinic include adding a woman's care clinic, a sleep lab, C-arm and harmonic scalpel, and a dexu scanner (for osteo patients). The Martin General clinic is conducting pulmonary rehabilitation now and will be starting cardiac rehabilitation in the future.

Mr. Smith stated that there are still a couple of areas that need work. Mr. Smith told the Board that the Emergency Room staff will be going through customer service training. Mr. Smith would like for the staff to walk with the patients from place to place so they don't get lost. The hospital is in the "people caring" business and Mr. Smith is trying to make a good image for the hospital.

Mr. Smith spoke to the Board about the new hospital. Mr. Smith remarked that the corporate office said a bank in Greenville has approved 80% of the funding, but HMC/CAH is still looking for a partner with the 20% still needed. Mr. Smith noted that HMC/CAH is aware that they have an important date coming up in September.

Mr. Smith re-emphasized that WCH is working on teambuilding, education, caring and billing properly.

Mr. Smith also commented that Washington County has a great ambulance service and WCH works with them often.

Chair Johnson and the other Commissioners asked about things they heard regarding the new hospital, such as WCH was one of four hospitals that HMC/CAH were planning to build at one time. Discussion ensued. Ms. Young spoke about the reversionary interest of the deed to the hospital and that none of the steps have been taken to get through that part of the deed and that the steps will take longer than 30 days (from now to Sept) even if the process was started today.

Commissioner Collins told Mr. Smith that he did a good job of reporting, but he doesn't have the answers to the questions they are asking about the funding. There is a \$700K bill coming if the new hospital has not been started. The Commissioners requested that someone from HMC/CAH contact our county staff and answer these questions.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES: Chair Johnson spoke to the Board regarding the following Board and Committee appointments.

Washington County Senior Center Advisory Board

Ms. Barbara Harris and Ms. Mattie H. Downing are scheduled to expire on August 31, 2011 from the Senior Center Advisory Board. Mr. Michael Todd-Stone, Director of the Senior Center would like for the Board of Commissioners to re-appoint Ms. Harris and Ms. Downing.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Downing have agreed to serve on the Washington County Senior Center Advisory Board if re-appointed.

Creswell Planning Board

Mr. Jon Barnes is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2011 from the Town of Creswell Planning Board. Ms. Syble Spruill, Chair of the Town of Creswell Planning Board would like for the Board of Commissioners to re-appoint Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Barnes has agreed to serve on the Town of Creswell Planning Board if re-appointed.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve these appointments as presented. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT :

Mr. Bencini spoke to the Board about North Carolina's unemployment rate which was at 9.9% in June and showed a list of the county's top employers.

Mr. Bencini stated that he has meet with the Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) regarding sustainable energy. North Carolina has the second highest number of homes that were not required to have insulation in their homes prior to 1975. Mr. Bencini spoke about a green training program for people who want to learn more about greening things. NWDB will be seeking out those companies who may be able to hire people to do this type of work. Also, Mr. Bencini noted that there will be a SymmeTree Business Management, Strategic Planning, Decision-Making business simulation experience on September 28 & 29 at the Vernon James Research Center sponsored by NWDB Business Training Series.

Mr. Bencini reminded the Commissioners that the ribbon cutting for Roanoke Farm Supply will be at 5:00 pm tomorrow afternoon. Please attend if you can.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Milazi discussed the following Budget Appropriation Amendment/Adjustments:

- Budget Amendment 12001 Senior Health Insurance Information program (+\$6,093) Grant to Cooperative Extension from NC Department of Insurance
- Budget Amendment 12002 Community Development Block Grant (+\$400,000) Grant Agreement 10-C-2132 between Washington County and NC Dept. of Commerce
- Budget Amendment 12003 Crisis Intervention (-\$31,951), DSS Administrative Reimbursement (+\$874)
- Budget Amendment 12004 Homeland Security Grant Extension (+38,711)

Mr. Milazi noted that he will give an EMS report to Board at the September meeting.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve these amendments as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Milazi also stated that his transition is going well. One of our own employees (Catherine Bowen) stepped in and assisted with getting payroll processed and employees received their checks as scheduled. A new Human Resource Manager has been hired and will start on August 16.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER, CLERK, ETC.: Commissioner Manning stated that he is concerned about the hospital; he thought things were moving along, but that doesn't seem to be the case after hearing Mr. Smith's report.

Commissioner McCray spoke to the Board regarding the closing of the Gateway Bank in Roper saying it will be a hardship for the citizens who live there. Mr. Bencini said it was a business decision and he would be talking with the company that owns them.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McCray made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously

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

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

Julie J. Bennett
Clerk to the Board