

January 7, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 6:00 PM in the County Commissioners' room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, McCray, Phelps and Sexton were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young and Finance Officer Frank Milazi.

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) Approval of Register of Deeds Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

**Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. JOE DAVIS, WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT: Chair Manning introduced Dr. Joe Davis, the new Washington County Schools Superintendent. Dr. Davis spoke to the Board saying he grew up in Wilson County, NC but more recently moved here from Chicago. Dr. Davis introduced two of his staff members, Mr. Kenneth Bowen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Davis stated he has been in education for 21 years and is excited about the potential of Washington County schools. He believes that Washington County has some great teachers. He also mentioned that his wife teaches at Pines Elementary School and he has a second grader there also. Dr. Davis wants the County to have a good working relationship between the School Board and Commissioners so everyone makes the best decisions for the County's kids.

PLYMOUTH MUNICIPAL AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): Jason Elliott, LPA Group, spoke to the Board regarding the Plymouth Municipal Airport Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that has to be approved by DOA each year. Mr. Elliott stated that there are not a whole lot of changes. The sketch shows the alignment of upcoming projects one of which is the taxiway turnaround which is being rebid this spring. Commissioner Johnson asked about the sale of the land last year. Mr. Elliott said paperwork has just been submitted so it is in the process of being reviewed. Chair Manning asked when the taxiway turnaround will be completed. Mr. Elliott stated hopefully there will be a 60 day turnaround in the May/June timeframe. Commissioner Phelps asked about the priority

of projects out to 2018. Mr. Elliott said these are just projects that are out there and that not as much attention is paid to these at the current time. Commissioner Phelps asked about the electronic submission. Mr. Elliott stated that the LPA Group enters all the information and sends to Mr. Rhodes for approval then it goes to DOA. Commissioner Sexton asked would DOA money be available in the future for these projects. Mr. Elliott replied that we get Vision 100 grant money every year for our airport projects. Chair Manning asked who the Commissioners should talk to about future funding, our state or federal officials. Mr. Elliott said the Commissioners should talk to both. Mr. Knapp Brabble, PMA Manager, added that if another airport turns down money before the end of the fiscal year, then Washington County can apply for their funds and be able to move onto the next project. This TIP is a guideline for the next 5 years.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the electronic submission of the TIP. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.**

EXTENSION OF TAX LISTING: Mr. Chip Main, Washington County Tax Administrator, spoke to the Board regarding extending the date that Personal Property Tax Listings, and Business Personal Property Tax Listings are due in Washington County because the Tax Office is busy with revaluation and other projects and would like an extension until March 31, 2013. In an 8 year revaluation year the tax listing date can be extended 60 days. Chair Manning asked if the revaluation is on schedule and Mr. Main stated that the revaluation is on schedule and should wrap up in mid-February.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Extension of Tax Listing resolution. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ON USING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ROPER ANNEX: Mr. Joe Landino, NERSBA School Board and Ms. Jean Woolard, NC School Board of Education spoke to the Board regarding the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience using the Washington County Roper Annex. Mr. Landino stated that NERSBA was not here to ask for money, but to ask Washington County to lease NERSBA the Roper Annex building for two years at a reasonable cost. Mr. Landino wants external classrooms to remain as close to the Vernon James Center as possible. NERSBA is preparing to start a new class of 60 students and the Vernon James Center can only support 60 students, so more space is needed for the additional students. NERSBA is aware that they will need to build accommodations in the future, but the Roper Annex would give them time to procure money for sewer and for new buildings to accommodate new students. There is a lot of pressure on NERSBA from the State to keep things going. Mr. Hal Davis, NERSBA principal, spoke to the Board regarding his visit to the Roper Annex building in October and about the faculty's visit in November. They felt that it would meet NERSBA's needs for the immediate future and he would appreciate any consideration to work out a lease agreement between NERSBA and Washington County. Mr. Landino said he was not asking for an answer tonight, but would like to have a lease agreement draft by January 16, if possible, for NERSBA's upcoming Board meeting. Mr. Landino stated it is possible they might like to start leasing as early as April due to maintenance issues. Carpet cleaning and internet connections will also be needed. Ms. Woolard spoke to the Board stating that there are five partnering counties that make up NERSBA and that NERSBA is not taking the place of any other school, just providing students the opportunity in the specific field of Biotechnology and Agriscience. Ms. Woolard also said NERSBA is not trying to run an elitist school, but provides another choice for our kids to make. Dr. Davis is also on the NERSBA

board and said he does support NERSBA. Dr. Davis stated that funding is still an issue since 30 students from Washington County schools attended NERSBA this year which means that the ADM money followed them. Mr. Landino stated that NERSBA is funded by the Golden Leaf Foundation and the ADM money that follows each student. Chair Manning asked Dr. Davis what percentage of Washington County's school money has been lost due to students attending NERSBA. Dr. Davis replied that the amount is less than 1% of their \$17,000,000 budget. (There are approximately 1,730 students in Washington County schools). Principal Davis invited the Commissioners to come out to visit NERSBA any time.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE: The NCACC's bi-annual Legislative Goals Conference will be held on January 24 – 25, 2013 at the Sheraton RTP in Durham County. Commissioner Johnson will be attending the meeting.

Each Board of County Commissioners is requested to designate a commissioner (or other official) as a voting delegate.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to appoint Commissioner Johnson as the voting delegate for Washington County at the 2013 Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION—TALENT ENHANCEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING (TECB) GRANT COURSE COMPLETION: Mr. Frank Milazi, Finance Officer presented a plaque from ECU to Chair Manning for Washington County's participation in the TECB grant program.

Mr. Milazi also noted that Ms. Laurie Jones, HR Director was presented a certificate commemorating her completion of courses at ECU for the Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building Grant.

Mr. Milazi mentioned that 66 organizations applied for the NC Catalyst grant and nine (9) will be chosen. The County should know something by the end of the month.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) DOCUMENTATION: The Economic Improvement Council, Inc. has announced the continued funding of the Community Services Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The Community Services Block Grant Program is funded by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity in Raleigh, NC. Funding for the fiscal year 2013 is as follows:

Family Self-Sufficiency: \$371,909

The Grant Application is provided to the County Commissioners for informational purposes and notification of the EIC's intent to apply for the funds. It does not require a written response from the Board of County Commissioners.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

**Albemarle Commission—Washington County Joint Community Advisory Committee**

At the last Board meeting, Commissioner Johnson asked the Commissioners to be thinking of names to provide to the Albemarle Commission to fill the three vacancies on the Washington County Joint Community Advisory Board. No new names were given at this time.

**Rural Planning Organization**

Jerry Rhodes is currently on the RPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and would like to continue to be on this committee.

The Board needs to appoint a Commissioner to be on the RPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Jerry Rhodes to the RPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Commissioner Sexton to the RPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Senior Center Advisory Committee**

Michael Todd-Stone, Director of the Senior Center requested to make new appointments to the Senior Center Advisory Committee (according to their bylaws). Mr. Todd-Stone asked to appoint the following members and all agreed to serve if appointed.

Ms. Sadie White  
Ms. Linda Sermons  
Ms. Pennie Gregory  
Ms. Jeanette Papineau

Ex-Officios:

Michael Todd-Stone (Director)  
Dianne Bennett (Nutrition Site Manager)  
Renee Collier (Assistant to the Director)  
Ms. Shonita Gibson (Transportation Director)

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Senior Center Advisory Committee appointments as presented above. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Milazi handed out his report as of December 31, 2012.

Commissioner Sexton asked about our EMS billing. Mr. David Clary, EMS Director said our collections are up but there is still some discrepancy in the Medicaid money. Mr. Clary said there is still some money out there that has not been collected from uninsured patients.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIRPERSON, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY  
MANAGER, CLERK, OR ATTORNEY:

Chair Manning asked Mr. Clary to give an update on EMS and Tyrrell County. Mr. Clary mentioned that Washington County does need to focus on a transport and franchise agreement. Mr. Clary stated that he went over the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on December 31, 2012 from 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm with all of EMS. Mr. Clary is also expecting a new ambulance in a couple of weeks. Washington County/Tyrrell County has run 14 calls. Creswell has answered an additional 4 calls and Plymouth 1 call for a total of 19 calls since January 1, 2013. All equipment for Tyrrell County EMS has been ordered. All employees have been retrained for both counties. Washington County is the first county in the State to comply with State rules (done in Nov 2012). Washington County transitioned in 30 days to become Washington/Tyrrell County EMS. Mr. Clary hired 7 of 8 employees needed by January 1, 2013. The last one will be on board in February. Mr. Clary is spending two (2) days a week in Tyrrell County. Mr. Rhodes stated that Mr. Clary held a community session in Tyrrell County in December regarding the new EMS service. Commissioner Phelps attended that session along with Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Clary is also scheduled to speak at Tyrrell County's Rotary Club meeting.

Ms. Bennett asked the Commissioners to check their calendars for February. There will be a need to have a second meeting for the auditors to give their report. The Commissioners agreed on a second meeting in February on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Phelps noted there will be a Martin Luther King Day celebration at 11:00 am, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pentecostal Temple Church of Christ on Rankin Lane.

Commissioner Phelps also mentioned that the Senior Center needs volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

Commissioner Phelps commended Ms. Ann Keyes, Planning/Safety and Emergency Management for the County being certified Storm Ready. This is a community program for hazardous weather preparedness by the National Weather Service.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-381.11(a)(3). Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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

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Buster Manning  
Chair

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Julie J. Bennett  
Clerk to the Board