

October 21, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Monday, October 21 at 6:00 PM in the Washington County Courthouse Courtroom, 120 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, Phelps and Sexton were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Frank Milazi. Commissioner McCray was unable to attend.

Chair Manning called the October 21 meeting to order.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Mr. Milazi requested adding a resolution for financing vehicles as Item 1A. Mr. Rhodes requested deleting Item 2: First Amendment to Waste Supply and Disposal Agreement.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion approve the additions and deletions as presented above. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: AN ORDINANCE DESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY RECREATION BOARD: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion to open the public hearing on An Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board stating that this public hearing is for the ordinance creating a Recreation Board that is advisory in nature and assists the Recreation Director with planning and administering activities and will help with the budget for Recreation.

Commissioner Johnson noted that she hopes the newly formed Recreation Board can find ways to obtain grant funding for activities. Commissioner Phelps stated that he hopes the new Board will create fundraisers.

Chair Manning asked what if the Recreation Board doesn't do what it is supposed to do, how do the Commissioners get rid of it. Mr. Hutchins stated the Commissioners have the power to get rid of it.

Mr. Lloyd Jones said he was in favor of something for the children and adults need something too. If the County is going to put money in the budget for maintenance, then keep things maintained. The Board needs to make sure if new things are built that they are maintained.

Mr. Al Joyner agreed with Mr. Jones.

Ms. Gloria Wynn asked how many people will be on the Board. Commissioner Phelps replied there will be seven members: one Commissioner and the Recreation Director, and the Commissioners will appoint the other five members. It would be ideal for each Commissioner to bring a name to the November meeting. Mr. Randy Fulford, Recreation Director is all for the new Recreation Board and agrees that things need to be

maintained. Mr. Fulford also mentioned that some places need to be fenced in to keep folks from stealing things.

Ms. Wynn asked how much money goes in this pot. Chair Manning replied: none. The funds for recreation are in the recreation budget.

Mr. Jones asked if this Board will have the authority to work with the school board and their gymnasiums. Commissioner Johnson noted that would be up to the Recreation Board and the School Board to discuss. Mr. Fulford said that currently Recreation can use the school's gym as long as the school is not using it. Mr. Rhodes said that Dr. Davis has said that they are interested in working with the County on recreation.

Ms. Wynn asked what happened to Boys/Girls Club. Mr. Rhodes replied that was more the town of Plymouth (years ago, in the 1990's).

Mr. Jones asked is this Recreation Board going to be the one to see that no drugs are being pedaled to kids and that there will be rules and regulations on how events are run. Commissioner Johnson said that a Deputy currently attends events and that the Deputy has done a good job at Washington Street events.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to close the public hearing on An Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve An Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Phelps would like the Commissioners to bring names to the December 2 Commissioners meeting to be on the Recreation Board so that Board can start up in January. Commissioner Phelps asked Ms. Bennett to put the information on the County Facebook page and ask for interested citizens to call Ms. Bennett if they would like to serve on the Recreation Board.

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS FOR VEHICLES:
Mr. Milazi explained to the Board that this resolution is for borrowing money at a low interest rate (for vehicles that are in the budget). The County will be borrowing from LGFCU. Mr. Milazi noted that information on costs for the roof repair for the Senior Center/Health Department will be presented at the November 4 Commissioners meeting. Discussion ensued between Mr. Milazi and Commissioner Phelps regarding the budget process. The Commissioners decided to table this resolution until the November 4 meeting.

HIKING/WALKING TRAIL AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MEDICAL CLINIC IN CRESWELL: Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board regarding an inquiry from Ms. Syble Spruill, a member of the Creswell Town Council, about having a hiking/walking trail at the Washington County Medical Clinic in Creswell. Ms. Spruill

said that Creswell was working with a CDC on a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield but didn't meet the deadline. Now the Town of Creswell is looking for funding from DOT for bike/pedestrian trails. The question is can this be done on the land that the County owns at the Washington County Medical Clinic in Creswell. This walking/hiking trail would be similar to the one around the MTW Health Dept. The Town of Creswell has looked at some other locations along old Highway 64 but their number one choice would be out at the Medical Clinic. The Town of Creswell is not looking for any financial commitment from the County yet but may need some help with maintenance in the future (mowing grass, keep lighting current). Mr. Rhodes is looking for direction from the Board to see if the Board would like to pursue this. Commissioner Johnson asked if the Town of Creswell has talked to the Albemarle Commission. Commissioner Phelps thinks it's a good idea to help all the citizens in Washington County and is all for conversations with the Town of Creswell. Mr. Rhodes raised the question would the lease with the hospital for the clinic be affected. Mr. Hutchins said the Washington County Hospital does a lot of promoting community health so they might be on board with this idea. Mr. Rhodes will read the lease agreement to make sure there are no conflicts and he will also look at the original land agreement for stipulations. Commissioner Sexton said he is not opposed to the walking trail, but the maintenance of 10 acres will be costly. Mr. Rhodes is still waiting on additional information and will bring that information back to the Board as it is received.

OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER, CLERK:

Commissioner Sexton to the Board that the Town of Plymouth had a public hearing on solar farms last week. There is a farm located in the ETJ (corner of Hwy 32 and Morrattock Road) where a company wants to put a solar farm. Commissioner Sexton spoke against it personally at the public hearing and spoke on behalf of citizens that called him were also opposed to the solar farm. The airport also has some issues with it-- solar glare is one. Commissioner Sexton noted that he did speak as a Commissioner (re: the airport) and as a citizen. Commissioner Sexton explained that he is not against solar farms, just against the location of this one and about what to do with it when it's not in use anymore (disposal of the solar panels).

Ms. Bennett provided the following information:

The NCACC has prepared a short video and requested that the Commissioners view it. This video includes an introduction from NCACC President Ray Jeffers and features NCACC staff updating commissioners on Steering Committees and how commissioners can participate. It also gives an overview of an upcoming seminar on the Affordable Care Act and how it affects counties as well as the Association's Risk Management Services.

The video is short – less than four minutes – and there are two ways it can be accessed. It is available for download via Google Drive and can be accessed on the NCACC YouTube channel. Direct links to both are provided below.

Direct Links:

GoogleDrive: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bx6fC1oKngQQbWN4Qi1POEJ3N1E/edit?usp=sharing>

YouTube: <http://youtu..be/eEeYhyLwh3Q>

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) (personnel). Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to come out of Closed Session and back into Open Session. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Johnson would like the new ordinance to be changed to “Parks” and Recreation. This will allow more opportunity to apply for grant funds. Ms. Bennett reminded the Board that they must have a public hearing to amend the new ordinance. The change to the ordinance will be on the November 4 Board of Commissioners agenda and the Public Hearing will be at the December 2 Board of Commissioners meeting.

The Board directed Mr. Rhodes to do some research on creating a solar farm ordinance.

At 7:50 pm, with there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Buster Manning
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board