

December 2, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, McCray, Phelps and Sexton were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney Curtis Porter.

County Manager Rhodes called for a motion to adjourn the November 4, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the November 4, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

County Manager, Jerry Rhodes called the December 2, 2013 meeting to order.

ELECTION OF CHAIR: County Manager Jerry Rhodes called for nominations for Chair of the Washington County Commissioners. Commissioner Manning nominated Commissioner Johnson for Chair for December 2013 - 2014. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Phelps made a motion to close the nominations; Commissioner McCray seconded. Commissioner Phelps made a motion to elect Commissioner Johnson as Chair. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson assumed presiding over the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR: Chair Johnson called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Washington County Commissioners for December 2013 - 2014. Commissioner McCray nominated Commissioner Phelps as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Commissioner McCray made a motion to elect Commissioner Phelps as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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:**

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) 2014 County Commissioners' Meeting Schedule
- d) 2014 County Holiday Schedule
- e) Closing of County Offices for Employees' Christmas Luncheon
- f) Resolution: Purple Heart County

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Larry Jones, Plymouth told the Board he had a concern about the Community Arts Council. He asked who is in charge of that council. Chair Johnson said that is a separate entity that meets in the Arts Building, and is not under the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Keyes noted that Mr. Jones should contact the Town of Plymouth.

Ms. Rose Simpson, 123 Martin Luther Road, Plymouth, told the Board that GDS didn't pick up their trash and they were not informed. They maintain their own road. It is a little over 1 mile long. It is hard for residents to haul their trash to the main road. Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Potter, County Attorney, to speak on this matter. Mr. Rhodes said that he and Mr. Potter have checked out the road and it does need a lot of maintenance—there are many potholes. Mr. Potter said GDS is using some new trucks with lower axles/sides and have run into issues with this road. They are willing to service it once repairs have been made to the road. For the time being, GDS is only going to pick up trash from the main road. Mr. Potter has talked to Ms. Simpson and the residents are working with Keith Davenport (general contractor) to repair the road. Mr. Potter stated that it is a private road and the County cannot require GDS to service it. Ms. Simpson felt the residents should have been given notice that their trash was not going to be picked up. Chair Johnson did agree that the residents should have been notified. Mr. Rhodes said he would be happy for him and Mr. Potter to meet with Ms. Simpson to share info with her about options and how they could petition DOT to possibly get their road paved. There are 24 houses on Martin Luther Road. Mr. Potter will pass along to GDS the request to use the different truck that was able to pick up their trash. Mr. Rhodes suggested that once the road is repaired that GDS send someone down there to inspect the road before sending their truck on trash day.

Ms. Lois Clark, Roper, an advocate for children and citizens of Washington County, spoke to the Board regarding her concerns of how money is being spent in the school system. She also stated that the school doors are locked and parents can't get in the school. Ms. Clark stated that Supt. Davis has a chauffeur and wants to know why he needs one when he is provided with a car. She feels the schools funds are being misused. Ms. Clark said her next step is going to the Legal Aid Office. Ms. Clark said there are teachers working without credentials. She feels that local money is being misused and the children are not being taught correctly.

Latoya Howell, Roper, told the Board that students have to go to school to use internet if they don't have it at home while the parents sit in parking lot and wait for them. She stated there are people in Washington County with degrees that can teach but aren't given jobs. Ms. Howell said that all of the people being hired are coming from Wilson Co., where Dr. Davis is from.

Mr. Roy Hines, Roper, spoke to the Board regarding the Plymouth High School football team. He reminded the Board that the Vikings have won two State Championships. The County needs to do something more spectacular for them if they go to State Championship this year. Whether they win or lose, he would like to see the team stay over and watch the Panthers and Saints game. Mr. Hines has some contacts, but would still need additional money for hotel/food for the players. Mr. Hines will be asking for other sponsorship from Domtar and Colony Tire. He said don't leave out the parade but let's try to do something spectacular.

Cassandra Brown, retired school teacher, said she teaches from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm and is concerned about a lot of empty classes at Pines Elementary and some classes are being taught in the cafeteria. There needs to be more lighting out there. Ms. Brown is concerned about teachers leaving the area because of lack of support from the administration. She is concerned because people who have been hired from Wilson Co. have the best jobs at the central office. They are being paid \$40,000/\$50,000/\$60,000. Ms. Brown thinks the Commissioners need to earmark the money given the School Board from the County to be spent on certain things for the students/schools. Chair Johnson suggested that the Board of Commissioners meet with the Board of Education to see if the County can understand what is going on.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO WASTE SUPPLY AND DISPOSAL AGREEMENT: Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board regarding the First Amendment to the Waste Supply and Disposal Agreement between Washington County and Republic (who serves as successor-in-interest to East Carolina Environmental, Inc.) The original contract was signed in 1993 with a 20-year term. Ms. Tracey Nestor, from Republic Services, manages the contracts. Ms. Nestor was in attendance and spoke to the Board and said she noticed the contract was 20 years old and was rolling into a yearly rollover. This is just a renewal for the next 5 years rather than an annual renewal. Commissioner Phelps asked why Washington County is paying more than surrounding counties. Ms. Nestor said it based on volume and market (how close they are to competing landfills). Commissioner Phelps and Commissioner Manning asked if Washington County's rate could be renegotiated. Ms. Nestor said yes, but it could also be renegotiated to be higher. Mr. Potter stated that in 1993 the contract was for a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of 30 years. There are some archaic financial provisions that could be amended. Mr. Potter would rather Washington County stay with the annual rollover plan and negotiate a lower rate. The map shows members of the local regional authority. Washington County is outside the regional authority which gets those counties a better rate. Commissioner Phelps wants to explore getting a lower rate before signing the contract. Mr. Rhodes said that the original amendment was to clean up the old language. Mr. Rhodes stated that the Board could approve the technical changes while negotiating a new rate. Commissioner Manning would like to table this until we have all the information. Other sites are in Waverly, VA and Sampson, NC and it could cost \$3M to use them. Ms. Nestor said that if the County chooses to do a 1 year contract and another group comes along and wants to sign a 5 year or more contract, Republic could displace Washington County and the County would have to find another place to take its trash. Discussion ensued.

**Commissioner Manning made a motion table signing this First Amendment to the Waste Supply and Disposal Agreement between Washington County and Republic. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Larry Jones, Plymouth, asked to Ms. Nestor to consider adding convenience centers in Washington County.

PUBLIC HEARING: AMENDMENT TO ADD “PARKS” TO AN ORDINANCE DESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY RECREATION BOARD:

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion to open the public hearing on the Amendment to Add “ Parks ” To an Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Al Joyner, Plymouth, said the success of this committee is a matter of how its run since it’s going to be out of the same existing budget.

Ms. Rose Simpson, Plymouth, asked if it was going to be like a Boys/Girls Club or YMCA. Chair Johnson said it is a separate group trying to get new programs going in Washington County and helping with existing programs.

Mr. Lloyd Jones asked why the County wants to add “Parks” to it. Chair Johnson stated the word “Parks” needs to be added to the current Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board so that the County can apply for state and federal grants for recreation.

Kim Cotton-West, Plymouth asked who will oversee this new Board. Commissioner Johnson stated that it will fall to the Board of Commissioners.

Latoya Howell, Roper, asked which parks the County is in charge of. Chair Johnson stated that right now, only the one in Pea Ridge.

**Chair Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing on the Amendment to Add “ Parks ” To an Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion to the Amendment to Add “ Parks ” To an Ordinance Describing the Duties of the Washington County Recreation Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD NOMINATIONS:

The following citizens stated that they are interested in serving on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board.

Commissioner Phelps’ District

Wayne Rodgers  
Corrine West  
Sammy Norman  
Rona Norman  
Oressa Moore

Commissioner Johnson’s District

Amy Barsanti  
Ann Freeman

Clifford Phifer  
Renea Swain Price  
Rev. General James

Commissioner McCray's District

Bunny Sanders  
Rev. Daniel Gillam  
George Puckett, Jr.

Commissioner Manning's District

David Clary  
Tommy Peed  
Rex Stotesberry

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion to nominate Rona Norman from his district to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Chair Johnson made a motion to nominate Clifford Phifer from her district to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner McCray made a motion to nominate Bunny Sanders from his district to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Manning made a motion to nominate Rex Stotesberry from his district to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to nominate Tommy Peed as the At-Large representative to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Manning made a motion to nominate Commissioner Phelps as the Commissioner to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Manning made a motion to nominate Randy Fulford, Recreation Director as an Ex-Officio to serve on the Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Phelps and Ms. Bennett will work together on setting the terms for the members and on setting up the first meeting.

Mr. George Puckett, Roper, told the Board that folks need to be on the Recreation Board who know about recreation, not just because someone knows someone and not just because they are in politics. Chair Johnson and Commissioner Manning spoke of their nominees and felt they picked ones who were interested in recreation in the County. Mr. Puckett asked if all municipalities will be treated equally. Chair Johnson said that once the Recreation Board meets, the public is invited to attend their meetings and voice your questions to them.

ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL, INC. ANTI-POVERTY PLAN

SUMMARY: Ms. Wendy Hedgepeth from the Economic Improvement Council, Inc. spoke to the Board regarding the Anti-Poverty Plan Summary. They are required to submit this to the Board of Commissioners each year. Commissioner Phelps asked if this funding is just for Washington County. Ms. Hedgepeth replied that the funding is for all 10 counties.

HEALTH DEPT/SENIOR CENTER ROOF BIDS: Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board regarding the bids he received for repairing the roofs on the Health Dept./Senior Center.

Mr. Rhodes explained that the roofs are the original roofs on the buildings in question. They are over 30 years old and minor maintenance performed on them for years. There is a continuing problem with mold in the Health Dept. Mr. Rhodes worked with Louis Boone, Facilities Director, to acquire these bids. Mr. Rhodes discussed his summary sheet of the bids.

Commissioner Phelps asked how would the County pay for new roofs. Mr. Milazi has looked at financing options and only one bid (Centimark) qualified for the County being able to get a loan because of the materials being used for the roofs. Commissioner Johnson suggested that Mr. Rhodes talk to the bidders to see if they can adjust their bid materials to qualify for the financing if they were chosen to do the work.

RESOLUTION CLARIFYING A STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY'S CAMA LAND USE PLAN REGARDING COUNTY TO COUNTY MITIGATION: Ms. Ann Keyes, Emergency Management Director spoke to the Board on the abovementioned document.

The reason for the clarification in the CAMA land use plan is so the NC 32 connector road (which the Board recently approved) can go forward.

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion to approve the Resolution Clarifying a Statement in Washington County's CAMA Land Use Plan Regarding County to County Mitigation. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION: SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB LAND USE STUDY: Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board regarding the abovementioned resolution. He and Curtis Potter, County Attorney, attended a meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup> where this was discussed. All counties involved were in attendance except Bertie. The meeting was sponsored by the Department of Commerce. The Department of Agriculture and DENR were also in attendance. Mr. Rhodes said they heard several presentations. Seymour Johnson AFB wants a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) to protect our County's interest and theirs. A plan would be facilitated by the Department of Commerce with input from the affected counties. Seymour Johnson AFB would also like a Board of

Commissioners representative to be on the Policy Committee. Once the plan is developed it will be distributed to the affected counties for their input and approval. Mr. Rhodes does not want Washington County to do a match, but an in-kind contribution. The plan is to be completed in 18 months.

Commissioner Sexton asked is Seymour Johnson AFB trying to do this to stop the windmills. Mr. Rhodes said they were trying to find training routes that would not interfere with potential windmill farms.

Commissioner Manning asked about the meeting that Mr. Rhodes and former attorney Cheryl Young had before she left, with a company that was interested in putting windmills here. Originally the company said that they would be able to work with the military. Mr. Rhodes said he had asked Ms. Young to follow up on that, but that didn't happen.

Commissioner Manning talked about Invenenergy trying work with Seymour Johnson AFB and that Washington County wouldn't be considered. Commissioner Manning wants to hear what Beaufort County says at their meeting tonight before making any decision.

Bunny Sanders, Mayor of Roper, said that the counties named are the ones that get 'mashed' when the Department of Commerce wants something. Mayor Sanders feels a public meeting needs to be held on this since it will affect the whole county. She said it sounds like the OLF, just coming from a different direction and feels that we need to be very careful in what we let come into our county. The County needs to make ourselves more appealing for economic development.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to table the resolution.

Ms. Kim Cotten-West, Plymouth, liked the idea of the public forum but needs more information.

Mr. Larry Jones, Plymouth, asked if this would bring in some jobs for Washington County. Chair Johnson said no, this is just for taking County airspace, not stopping here, not getting jet fuel, just flying over. Mr. Jones said they are flying right now. If they get what they want this time, the next time they will want our ground.

Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON COUNTY 20 YEAR PLAN DISCUSSION: Commissioner Phelps spoke to the Board regarding the Washington County 20 Year Plan and its need to be updated. A lot of constituents want to know where the County is on this plan and how is it being updated. The County is 7.5 years into the 20 years. Commissioner Phelps stated that the Board can't continue to do nothing. Chair Johnson said the condos (which were part of the 20 year plan) fell through because of the economy. Chair Johnson suggested that Mr. Rhodes go through the document and pull items that are no longer feasible. Commissioner Phelps would like to see a blueprint for the future. Chair Johnson said the Commissioners had some input in the original document and other ideas were the former County Manager's vision. Commissioner Manning

said the Commissioners need to make a list of why industry is not coming here so the County can figure out what it needs to do better. Chair Johnson suggested that Mr. Rhodes revisit the old plan and maybe go in a new direction. Commissioner Phelps asked that the Commissioners talk to their constituents about what their visions are. Mr. Rhodes thought the County could put a survey out on the web page and the Facebook page for comments. Mayor Sanders said it would be a good idea to meet with all the municipality leaders--to sit down every couple of months to figure out the strategic direction. Chair Johnson suggested having one of the Commissioners' meetings in Roper and one meeting in Creswell to have these discussions. Commissioner Sexton said years ago the towns and the County had a dinner (nothing formal) meeting to discuss such things.

#### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

##### **Albemarle Commission**

**Commissioner Manning nominated Commissioner Sexton to serve on the Albemarle Commission. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

The Albemarle Commission meets every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 pm.

##### **Coastal Resources Commission**

**Commissioner Sexton nominated Commissioner Manning to serve on the Coastal Resources Commission. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

##### **Joint Long Term Care Advisory Committee**

The terms of Brenda Hill and Burl Walker on the Albemarle Commission's Joint Long Term Care Advisory Committee will expire on December 31, 2013. Both have agreed to serve if reappointed.

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion to approve the abovementioned recommendations for the Joint Long Term Care Advisory Committee. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion ensued regarding other committees that the Commissioners serve on.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to move Commissioner Phelps to the Fire Commission and Commissioner Manning to the Planning Board. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:** Mr. Milazi did not give a report tonight. He will give one at the December 13<sup>th</sup> recessed meeting.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER OR CLERK:

- Commissioner Phelps asked Ms. Woolard, DSS Director) about the Toys for Tots program. Ms. Woolard explained that Washington County DSS gets their toys from Washington. She has been told there will be a decrease in what Washington County receives this year. Commissioner Phelps asked how people can contribute. Ms. Woolard said people can contact Andrea Alexander at the Washington County DSS office.
- Reminder: The Commissioners (and spouses) who have RSVP'd to the Plymouth Fire Department's Christmas Party ---it is Friday, December 6, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Plymouth Church of Christ Family Life Center.
- The Washington County Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 13, 2013 at 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm at the First Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall. Please let Ms. Bennett know if you will be attending.

**Commissioner Manning made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) (personnel) and NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4) (economic development). Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**At 9:40 pm, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sexton made a motion to recess the meeting to Friday, December 13 at 2:00 pm. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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Tracey A. Johnson  
Chair

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