March 4, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, March 4, 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, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young.

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Chair Manning added Item 5A, Agriculture Update.

Commissioner McCray made a motion to approve the addition to the agenda as presented above. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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

Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Minutes
b) Resolution: Supporting the Development of An Alternative Energy Project in Washington County
c) Resolution: In Support of Legislative Goals Adopted by the Membership of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
d) First Petroleum Settlement
e) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund:

New Belco 30lb Athletic Washer—CHS	$6,830.47
Additional Carpet & Floor Renovation—CHS	$6128.55
New Electrical Panel and Service Trough—PHS	$8,700.00
New Ice Maker—WCU	$4,613.20
New Playground Equipment—CES	$2,278.05
Total:	$28,550.27

f) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts

Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Gary Blount, Hwy 45 N, Plymouth spoke to the Board regarding lack of drainage on Hwy 45. Mr. Blount asked what the status is of this since it was brought up at the last meeting. Chair Manning stated that Mr. Howell was supposed to have contacted Mr. Norman. Mr. Norman said Mr. Howell did call him but he has gotten no results. Mr. Rhodes said he asked Mr. Howell to follow up. Mr. Rhodes will talk to Mr. Howell again about contacting Mr. Norman.

Wade Rogers, 115 Virginia Pine Drive told the Board he had a 'laundry list' of items.
1. Recycle bins are too small. He would like a rollout bin with a lid on it.

2. Yard waste: operators should be using a shovel. Now they dig down too far taking too much dirt and leaving debris. Mr. Rogers also stated that people need to be notified what yard waste can be put out for pickup.

3. Mr. Rogers would like a water line run to the Weyco Credit Union. It would lower fire insurance.

4. He would like Natural Gas in other places in the County.

5. On Hwy 64 from the hotel to the hospital, the speed limit is too fast. He feels it is too congested an area for a 45 mph speed limit. He said it is long overdue for a very bad wreck in that stretch of road.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Rhodes to speak to GDS about Mr. Rogers recycling and yard waste concerns. Mr. Manring, Public Utilities Director was in the audience and addressed the cost for running the water line to the Weyco Credit Union and explained that the cost was prohibitive and is not cost effective. Mr. Manring will measure the distance for running it from Sandhill Road to the Weyco Credit Union and get back with Mr. Rhodes with the cost information.

PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF THE TALENT ENHANCEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING (TECB) GRANT: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Laurie Jones, HR Director and administrator for the TECB Grant spoke to the Board. A requirement of the Talent Enhancement Grant that we participated in the year 2012 was to submit a CDBG grant and we submitted a Catalyst Grant for Washington County Library Renovations. According to the NC Department of Commerce this grant is still in its 1st phase of review and it will be another 30 days before a decision is made. Once a final decision is made a funding letter of approval/disapproval will be mailed to the attention of Chair Manning.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

AIRPORT: TAXIWAY TURNAROUND BIDS: Mr. Jason Elliott, Michael Baker Engineering spoke to the Board regarding the bids that were received for the Plymouth Municipal Airport Turnaround. Last fall the contract bid and only one bid was received. The contract was rebid and bids were opened on February 21, 2013. Five bids were received this time and Barnhill is still the low bidder. However, the bid is outside the $400,000 state grant money allotted to the County for this project. Mr. Elliott stated that the county has two options: 1) dismiss project and turn in the money or 2) the County has over $300,000 Vision-100 funds for the airport that could be used. The cost to the County for this project would be $55,000. Chair Manning asked Mr. Elliott if he recommended putting this project off for a year and rebid it again. Mr. Elliott said he would be hard pressed to say that bids would come in lower and by doing that the County would lose the $400,000 state grant. Commissioner Phelps asked is there a deadline for using the funds. Mr. Elliott said the funds needed to be used within a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Milazi mentioned that the County has the $40,000 match in this year's budget. The County would still need to come up with $15,000. Commissioner Sexton asked if the County is guaranteed the $400,000 and Mr. Elliott replied yes. Commissioner Johnson then asked about the money from the Division of Aviation (DOA) for the Stotesberry property. Mr. Elliott said the DOA has paperwork in hand but they are waiting on the environmental

documents on the land. Discussion ensued regarding the County not getting paid for the Stotesberry property. Mr. Elliott tried to explain to the Board that he wasn't involved in that project and really couldn't answer the Boards questions on the holdup of the Stotesberry payment.

Mr. Elliott went on to say that the bids on the taxiway turnaround project are good for 90 days. Mr. Elliott also said that the County's Vision 100 money is good for 3 to 4 years meaning that the County still has time to use it.

Ms. Young noted that the taxiway turnaround project is on the list of airport projects as a safety issue. The County acquired the Stotesberry property through the DOA to help the County handle some air right issues and handle the taxiway safety issue.

Ms. Young also stated that the County has received the award letter from the DOA for the Stotesberry property. Mr. Elliott noted that he talked to Nancy Siegler, DOA, to see if the DOA would be able to complete the pay request after receiving this environmental report and she said yes.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to table this issue until the April 1, 2013 Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON 2013 REVALUATION: Chair Manning explained that Mr. Main was unable to make the meeting tonight due to a family illness, but Mr. Main sent a memo detailing the latest information on the 2013 Revaluation. (See below.)

Update on 2013 Revaluation Project

- Final field reviews completed last week.
- Completing Data Entry of Final Field Reviews
- Completing new construction additions of buildings built during 2012 (new houses, modulars, barns, garages, etc.)
- Updating agricultural tracts that have applied for Present Use value for 2013 so Revaluation notice will reflect that valuation
- Completing final analysis for error checking to find errors before notices are printed
- 2013 Sales Ratio Report already sent to NC Department of Revenue
  Should reflect a 96%-97% Assessment Ratio

These items will be completed within the week. Will then send data files to printing company to prepare, print and mail notices. This should occur sometime early next week or as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE UPDATE: Mr. Lance Grimes, Agriculture Agent gave the following PowerPoint presentation.

Washington County Agriculture

County Agriculture Importance

- Land Rent
- Employers
- Seed, Chemical, Fertilizer Companies
- Custom Sprayers, harvesters, etc.

NC State University
A&T State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People · Providing Solutions

2012 Crop Acreage and Yield Estimates

Crop	Acres	Yield	Total Production
Corn	26,295	145 bu./acre	3,812,775 bushels
Cotton	14,084	1,000 lbs./acre	14,084,000 lbs.
Soybeans	32,325	45 bu./acre	1,454,625 bushels
Wheat	17,615	70 bu./acres	1,233,050 bushels
Peanuts	1350	4,200 lbs./acre	5,670,000 lbs.
Tobacco	400	2400 lbs./acre	960,000 lbs.

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2011 Crop Stats

Crop	Acres	Yield	Production	Rank in the State
Corn	29,200	81	2,373,000	6
Cotton	16,600	535	18,500[1]	22
Soybeans	32,500	26	851,000	16
Wheat	18,000	75	1,350,000	8
Vegetables(Dollars)			15,642,000	12

[1] Production in 480 lb. Bales

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2010 Crop Stats

Crop	Acres	Yield	Production	Rank in the State
Corn	32,700	115	3,770,000	6
Cotton	13,000	945	[1]25,600	14
Soybeans	34,800	38.4	1,335,000	8
Wheat	[2]6,400	34.4	220,000	19

[1]Production in 480 lb. bales.

[2]Prevented planted acres 12,000 acres.

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Agriculture Building and Machinery

- Average Value of Farm and Buildings
  - $1,159,000
- Average Market Value of Machinery and Equipment
  - $160,000

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Agriculture Statistics

Year	Total Cash Receipts	Rank in the State
2009	$86,800,000	39
2010	$82,436,997	36
2011	$70,363,228	43

3 year average: $79,866,741

NC State University A&T State University COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Empowering People · Providing Solutions

Statistics

- Total Acres in County: 222,843
- Number of Farms: 187
- Total Land in Farms: 96,911 acres

NC State University A&T State University COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Empowering People · Providing Solutions

Agriculture Diversity

- Soil Types
- Crop Diversity

Contact Information

Lance Grimes

Washington County Agriculture Extension Agent

128 E Water St Plymouth, NC 27962

Office: 793-2163

Mobile: 531-3982

RESOLUTION: APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN: Mr. Lou Manring, Public Utilities Director spoke to the Board regarding the Water Shortage Response Plan. There are no changes in the plan from when the Commissioners approved it the last time (approximately 3 years ago). DENR requires that we authorize it every 3 years. This was in response to a 2007 water shortage. Washington County did not even come close to having to enact even the first phase of this. Washington County has a very stable water source.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the resolution approving the water shortage response plan. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MEETING WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY'S LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS NCACC PRIORITY GOALS AND HOT TOPIC ISSUES FOR THE 2013 LONG SESSION: Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board about scheduling a meeting with Representative Paul Tine and Senator Clark Jenkins to discuss the NCACC priority goals and hot topic issues that are important to the Counties during the 2013 long session. The County Manager's office will work on scheduling the meetings.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Washington County Planning Board

The Washington County Planning Board has requested the reappointment of Mr. Rufus Croom and Mr. Charles Sharpe to the Washington County Planning Board as their terms expires on March 31, 2013. Both have agreed to serve if reappointed.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve these reappointments to the Washington County Planning Board as presented. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH)

Commissioner Johnson stated that new statutes require the East Carolina Behavioral Health Board be restructured. Washington County can allow people interested to fill out the applications to be sent to ECBH. The Clerk to the Board can hold the applications for those that fill them out and send them in to ECBH. When the Commissioners meet with Senator Jenkins and Representative Tine the ECBH Board is an item that needs to be discussed so that we can have representation from our Board. ECBH has said they will try to make sure that all 19 counties are represented but representation may not be by a Board member.

Travel & Tourism Authority

Mr. Tom Harrison, Chair, TTA has requested the appointment of Raj Patel to finish out the term of Elise Coley.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve this appointment to the Travel & Tourism Authority as presented. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Milazi presented the following budget amendment:

- 13150—Cooperative Extension- Voluntary Agriculture VAD Grant +$4,000

  Ms. Rebecca Liverman, Cooperative Extension Director told the Board that this is a $4,000 reimbursable grant. Ms. Liverman also stated they have mailed out information about the Voluntary Agriculture District to Washington County landowners from here to Alaska.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #13150. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Manning asked Mr. Milazi how the fund balance compares to where the County was this time last year. Mr. Milazi replied that last year at this time the fund balance was at $1,450,659 and at the end of June 2012 we were at $814,303.

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

Commissioner Phelps reminded everyone that he is having community forum on March 28 at 6:00 pm at Creswell High School. He asked the Commissioners to let Ms. Bennett know if they are attending so the Board can comply with open meetings law.

Commissioner Phelps went on record to say his top priority for the budget is to expand recreation to the eastern end of the County.

Chair Manning gave Commissioner Phelps some background regarding discussions on recreation from last year. He mentioned that at that time Creswell was happy with how recreation was being handled in their area.

Commissioner Johnson stated she was asked if Washington County should have a recreation commission—a group of people from different areas in the County to bring ideas to the Commissioners. Commissioner Johnson said she thought it was a good recommendation. Commissioner Phelps also stated that he thought it is a great idea and he would like be on such a commission. Commissioner Phelps said that he can't address comments from last year from his area, his comments are based on calls he has recently received from parents in Creswell being upset about paying taxes and not getting any recreation in their area. Commissioner McCray thinks a recreation commission is a good idea. Chair Manning said that Randy Fulford should be on it too. Chair Manning asked what needs to be done to move forward. Mr. Rhodes, County Manager stated that Ms. Bennett had some information from the past Recreation Commission/Board that used to be in existence. Ms. Bennett stated that while looking up information for Mayor Sanders' last recreation request she found files that showed a Recreation Board/ Commission was in existence in the 1990's but was dissolved. Commissioners Johnson and Phelps requested copies of information from those recreation commission/board files. Ms. Bennett will get them that information.

Ms. Bennett mentioned to the Board that she needs their ideas on County Priorities for the Southern Albemarle Association brochure.

Commissioner Sexton asked when the Board will start to see budget numbers. Mr. Rhodes replied that budgets are due to Finance on March 15.

Commissioner Sexton spoke about permit fees for building handicap ramps. Volunteer groups usually like to build handicap ramps on the weekends and are held up since they can't get a permit on a Saturday. Discussion ensued regarding waiving the permit fees for building handicap ramps. Commissioner Johnson said she would worry that folks would just start putting ramps up themselves and they may not be done safely. Ms. Keyes, Planning & Safety

Director said requiring a permit for building the ramp is more of a zoning issue to make sure the ramp is not too close to the property line. Ms. Keyes also noted that the three towns and the county would have to agree on not having a permit fee for building handicap ramps.

Commissioner Johnson and County Manager Jerry Rhodes attended the State of the Region meeting in Williamston on Friday. The new Secretary of Commerce, Sharon Decker, spoke and seemed to be aware of rural issues. She lives in Rutherfordton so she can relate to the plight of small towns. Discussion was also on the Hyde County drone and the hoops they have to jump through.

Commissioner Johnson also noted that she is going to a NADO meeting next week and going to the White House.

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

Buster Manning
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC
Clerk to the Board

County Manager's Report
March, 2013

Southern Albemarle Association Resolutions: Following this report is a letter from the Southern Albemarle Association and four resolutions passed by the association during its January 17th meeting. The resolutions address:

- Dredging of the Hatteras/Ocracoke ferry channel
- Dredging of Oregon Inlet
- Closing of the Alligator River Bridge for maintenance
- Ferry tolls

New Department of Transportation Representative: According to the News and Observer newspaper and the Outer Banks Voice online news, Governor McCrory has nominated Malcolm Fearing of Manteo as the new District One representative to the Board of the NC Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Fearing is President of the Outer Banks Insurance Agency. The General Assembly's Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee must still review and approve the nomination. If approved, Mr. Fearing would replace George Wood of Camden County as the District One representative on the board.

DOT District One includes Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties. Members of the Board work with the Department of Transportation on road, bridge and other transportation needs throughout the state.

On February 8th I was contacted by Mr. Fearing who called to introduce himself. Mr. Fearing stated that he was calling all counties in his DOT district to talk about their DOT needs.

Southern Albemarle Association

Organized 1935

MEMBER COUNTIES:
BEAUFORT, DARE, HYDE
MARTIN, TYRRELL, WASHINGTON

RECEIVED
FEB 05 2013
Washington County Manager's Office

January 31, 2013

Mr. Jerry Rhodes
Washington County Manager
Post Office Box 1007
Plymouth, North Carolina 27972

Dear Mr. Rhodes,

Please find the enclosed four resolutions passed by the Southern Albemarle Association at the January 17, 2013 meeting.

The Southern Albemarle Association is comprised of six counties; Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington. As you can see by the resolutions, the issues are vital to our region.

If you would like to discuss any of these resolutions, please contact our President, Nathan T. Everett at 252-796-7033 or 252-796 1541.

Take you so much for your valued service.

Very truly yours,

Lora M. Byrd
Secretary

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSCIATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association has as its membership the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington; and,

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association is an organization of six counties located in the Southern Albemarle area of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, when one of its counties has a need, the entire organization supports that need; and,

WHEREAS, the organization was established in 1935 for the purpose of making our area a safe place in which to travel, work and live through promoting better roads, bridges, waterways and airports; and,

WHEREAS, a ferry is an extension of the highway system and the Hatteras/Ocracoke ferry is the vital route for services, jobs and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the lack of routine and maintenance dredging at Hatteras Inlet has made the operation of the Hatteras/Ocracoke ferry unpredictable and therefore a threat to the economic and physical wellbeing of local citizens;

AND, WHEREAS, the funding of dredging and maintaining the inlet is the responsibility of various State and Federal authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association strongly supports the expeditious completion of dredging the channel for the operation of the Hatteras/Ocracoke ferry and adequate funding of the continued maintenance of Hatteras Inlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to NC Governor Pat McCrery, leaders of the NC General Assembly, US Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagen, Congressman Walter Jones, and the Board of Commissioner's in the association's six county region.

This resolution is adopted this 17th day of January 2013.

Nathan T. Everett, President

ATTEST: Lora M. Byrd

Lora M. Byrd, Secretary

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association has as its membership the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington; and,

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association is an organization of six counties located in the Southern Albemarle area of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, when one of its counties has a need, the entire organization supports that need; and,

WHEREAS, the organization was established in 1935 for the purpose of making our area a safe place in which to travel, work and live through promoting better roads, bridges, waterways and airports; and,

WHEREAS, the importance of Oregon Inlet, the critical impact of the inlet's blockage on maritime industries and also on the environmental well-being of the inlet and surrounding areas is well documented; and

WHEREAS, that Oregon Inlet has an annual economic impact in excess of $650 million per year and generates almost $90 million each year in federal, state and local tax revenues; and that those revenues are directly contingent upon the navigational viability of the inlet;

AND, WHEREAS, the funding of dredging and maintaining the inlet is the responsibility of various State and Federal authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association strongly supports the complete and adequate funding of the dredging and maintenance of Oregon Inlet to a safe and continuously reliable passage to and from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean at Oregon Inlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Pat McCrory, leaders of the NC General Assembly, US Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagen, Congressman Walter Jones, and the Board of Commissioners in the association's six county region.

This resolution is adopted this 17th day of January 2013.

Nathan T. Everett, President

ATTEST: Lora M. Byrd, Secretary

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association is an organization of six counties located in the Southern Albemarle area of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the organization was established in 1935 for the purpose of making our area a safe place in which to travel, work, and live through promoting better roads, bridges, waterways, and airports; and,

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association has as its membership the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington; and,

WHEREAS, when one of its counties has a need, the entire organization supports that need, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation has determined that it is necessary to make major repairs to the draw span of the Alligator River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Alligator River Bridge provides vital access to opportunities for education, employment, and other business pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, the counties of Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington are Tier One counties and Beaufort County is a marginal Tier Two county as determined by the Department of Commerce and any hindrance of the transportation process would further challenge the pursuit of economic development for these counties; and

WHEREAS, the Alligator River Bridge repairs will result in closure of the transportation artery to vehicular traffic for at least two weeks, April 2 – 14, 2013, making it necessary for motorists traveling to and from the Outer Banks to undertake a detour of from 60 to 90 mile; and

WHEREAS, at least 51 Tyrrell County residents work for the Dare County government and more than 100 other individuals who live west of the Alligator River work for Dare County Schools, municipalities located in Dare County, and private businesses in that county; and

WHEREAS, ten Dare County residents commute to work in the Tyrrell County School system and others work west of the river in local, state, and federal government positions; and

WHEREAS, the added commuting cost of vehicular fuel and the extra commuting time will result in significant negative financial impact for all commuters, but especially those working minimum-wage positions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association that it:

1. Urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation to seriously explore all avenues of alternative transportation between Tyrrell and Dare Counties during the period of the Alligator River Bridge repairs.

2. Urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation to establish and maintain emergency ferry loading ramps at locations on both sides of the Alligator River so that they can be used immediately in cases of future bridge failure or damage that might prevent traffic crossing the Alligator River Bridge.

3. Requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation broadly communicate schedules for the Alligator River Bridge repairs and plans for detours or alternative transportation measures with the traveling public and with other governmental jurisdictions.

4. Requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation use every possible method to communicate the reopening of the Alligator River Bridge so that the public, commuters, vacationers, and commercial traffic will not be discouraged from traveling to the Outer Banks during the Spring and Summer of 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to members of the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives who serve at the pleasure of the citizens of this State and to the Secretary of Transportation.

This resolution is adopted on this the 17th day of January 2013.

Nathan T. Everett, President

ATTEST:

Lora Byrd, Secretary

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association is an organization of six counties located in the Southern Albemarle area of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the organization was established in 1935 for the purpose of making our area a safe place in which to travel, work, and live through promoting better roads, bridges, waterways, and airports; and,

WHEREAS, the Southern Albemarle Association has as its membership the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington; and,

WHEREAS, when one of its counties has a need, the entire organization supports that need; and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 200 proposes to increase ferry tolls where they presently exist and to add ferry tolls where there is none at present; and,

WHEREAS, the ferry system provides vital access to opportunities for education, employment, and other business pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, the counties of Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington are Tier One counties as determined by the Department of Commerce and Beaufort County is a marginal Tier Two county and such assessments of ferry tolls would further challenge the pursuit of economic development for these counties;

AND, WHEREAS, a ferry is an extension of the highway system and such proposed increases in existing ferry tolls and the adding of ferry tolls where there is none at present will constitute an unfair taxation burden upon residents of areas served by ferry service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association that it strongly opposes any increase in existing ferry tolls and the adding of ferry tolls where there is none at present, not only in the six counties listed above, but wherever ferries serve the citizens of the State of North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Pat McCrory, leaders of the NC General Assembly, the Secretary of Transportation, and Board of Commissioners in the association's six county region.

This resolution is adopted on this the 17th day of January 2013.

Nathan T. Everett, President

ATTEST:

Lora Byrd, Secretary

Department Head Reports to the Commissioners
for
March 4, 2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting

Geographic Information Systems
Tim Esolen

We have received the new 2012 Aerial Photography provided by the State of North Carolina 911 board (free to the counties) and have put them to good use on the computers in "Central" (911 dispatch); Emergency Management, Tax Office, Register of Deeds, and the GIS office. Work is continuing on remapping the county parcel layer as well as daily updates of transfers (12) and parcel splits (1). We have also assisted the public by walk-ins, phone, and email requests for various information to include flood zones and ownership as well as the various departments within the county government.

Cooperative Extension
Rebecca Liverman

Lance Grimes, Agricultural Agent, conducted 12 Winter Production Meetings for area producers in the Blackland (Tyrrell, Washington, Hyde, and Beaufort) area. These meetings involved specialists from the University and Research Station. There were roughly 800 people in attendance total. These meetings were commodity specific and included Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, Corn and Soybeans. In addition he worked with the Water Management workshops and the Aerial Applicator Convention in Raleigh.

Laura Oliver, 4-H Agent, hosted 4-H Achievement night and recognized youth and volunteers for their work throughout the year. She also supported three volunteers to attend state leaders' conference in Raleigh. She served as a volunteer for the Chili-Bee, which is a United Fund fundraiser that supports 4-H along with other county causes. A STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Fair is planned for the end of February for elementary and middle school youth.

Rebecca Liverman, Director, helped to mail out 800+ Voluntary Agricultural District brochures and applications to landowners. In the first week, 3000 acres were enrolled in the program. She taught a pressure cooking class for 18 participants. She is a trained Facilitator with Cooperative Extension and was asked to hold facilitation training for Community Catalyst workers. She worked with Plymouth Fire Department to conduct training on safe food handling for their department. Extension is hiring two interns for the summer through NCA&T University. One will deliver science curriculum (Robotics) to youth and the other will be shared with Martin County and conduct nutrition programming to youth. Applications for these positions are due first week of March.

EMS
David Clary

Washington-Tyrrell County EMS obtained their initial Teaching Institution approval from the State Office of EMS today. This will have a good impact on our EMS system and the citizens of Washington and Tyrrell County. This is a four-year approved teaching institution plan which will allow us to train our personnel on shift yielding a cost saving to the County. In the past we have ran all classes through Martin CC and had to pay employee's to attend on their shift off so they could be present for the entire class. Now this will allow us to do more training internal and we will continue to utilize MCC for the bigger classes.

In addition, this will allow us to re-credential our own employee's certifications through the State Office of EMS as I am a Level 2 OEMS Instructor/Coordinator. I feel this was a major accomplishment for a small system like us and I was able to do it off grant monies received over the past two-budget years for equipment and we have saved all our expired drugs and supplies over the past two-years and I had enough equipment and supplies on hand without having to dip into the budget to accomplish this. It will also allow us to do more scenario based training while personnel has down-time on shift and keep our employee's skill level and knowledge more up-to-date. All employees were provided a Continuing Education manual with a four-year coned schedule.

In other news, I finally have all units out of the shop and back on the road so we are in the best shape we have been in since December. The Tyrrell transition is going very smoothly and I provided the Tyrrell Commission and County Manager with a full statistical report for January. I will attach that report as you can share with Jerry and our Commission as well.

I am attending an EMS Conference next week in which I will receive some professional development and gather information on future changes and implementations for EMS systems Statewide.

The Centers for Medicare visited our base today and all seemed to be on track for our Medical renewal. We should be getting something over the next month on this process.

Recreation
Randy Fulford

Recreation is doing good. We are in the process of sending teams to the EAC and SWAC basketball tournament the second weekend in March. EAC will be playing in Washington and Gates County. SWAC will be playing in Greenville and Havelock. If we win, we will be going to the State. In the past 10 to 15 years we have been winning and looking forward to another victory.

Elections
Dora Bell

This month I have been working on signatures. About a year ago the State Board of Elections sent an email requesting all counties to start searching for voters without signatures attached to their application in the system. Washington County, at that time had about 6000. I have cut that number in half. The steps for this procedure are:

1. Program (Voterview)
2. Search for voters name
3. If no signature attach card with one to voter information
4. Scan card to attach signature
5. Save

Washington County Soil and Water
Wayne Howell

The Soil and Water has in the month of February encumbered all of the allocated funds for this fiscal year. Due to this the District is eligible to apply for additional funds prior to March 1, 2013. I have asked for an additional $40,000 for this fiscal year and at this point I can encumber this entire amount in the event the funds are allocated. Beaver trapping is continuing with a good number of beavers being trapped and several dams removed. Clearing and snagging has been completed for this fund year with the primary drainage areas being clear at this time. The County Drainage Committee has been scheduled to meet on February 28, 2013. Once again it has been stressed that the drainage fund is to be used on drainage for an area and not for private ditches. I feel that there has been some misunderstanding on this because of the grants received from Hurricane Isabel.

Veterans Service Officers Report
Burl Walker

During this period, the Veterans Service Officer assisted thirty-nine (39) Veterans and Dependents by telephone and office appointments by processing the following claims for benefits. Filed one (1) Notice of Disagreement for a widow to the Pension Maintenance Center; filed two (2) Unreimbursed Medical Expense Reports; made two (2) house calls to housebound widows; filed one (1) request of re-evaluation of s/c disability; filed one (1) request for VA Healthcare; ordered and received two (2) DD-214's and registered them with the Register of Deeds office; received one (1) marriage license and one (1) discharge from the Register of Deeds Office. Filed two (2) Property Tax Exclusions and one (1) for NCDMV Disabled Veterans license plate. Submitted two (2) responses to VCAA Notices; advised clients on using the VA Home Loan Guarantee; how to receive meds thru Express Scripts; filed two (2) claims for substitution of Claimant for burial benefits; processed three (3) Burial Benefit claims; met with two (2) Funeral Directors for Signatures and received (1) discharge from the Camden Co. VSO. I had six (6) appointment no-shows.

Tax Office
Chip Main

Monthly update to County Manager of Tasks ongoing in Washington County Tax Office:

1. Continue to collect Taxes for both Plymouth and County
2. Mailed out 2,400 Notice of Tax Liens to Delinquent Taxpayers
3. Initiated Debt-setoff to get delinquent tax payers income tax refunds
4. Continued to work with Town of Plymouth Tax Collection(this is 1st year we have done this)
5. Applied ¾ % interest to delinquent tax bills for 2012 on February 1st
6. Mailed out 1200+ Motor Vehicle Tax bills on February 15th
7. Staff spent 2 days of training on DMV Tax system to new system in Greenville, NC
8. Tax Administrator spent 2 days testing and error checking new DMV system
9. Continue to work to complete 2013 Revaluation being completed by our own staff and 1 contract appraiser and his assistants(myself, staff and appraiser have been and continue to work after hours and weekends to complete final adjustments on March 2, 2013)
10. Completed 2013 Sales Assessment for Reporting to Department of Revenue
11. Assistant Assessor spent 1 day Training on Real Property Deeds and maps
12. Had meeting with County Manager and others with NC Secretary of State Land Record Division
13. Attended meeting with Planning Director, GIS, 911, to receive new Ortho Maps
14. Attended Albemarle Regional Tax Association Dinner and Meeting
15. Having printed 2000 public relations brochure for 2013 Revaluation and Motor Vehicle Tax System
16. Working with both programmers and printing company to print and mail 2013 Reval Notices

These have been extremely busy times for me and my staff which consists of:

Chip Main	Tax Administrator
Phyllis Ange	Assistant Tax Assessor/Personal Property
Sherri Wilkins	Assistant Tax Collector/Delinquent Enforcement Officer
Darlene Harrison	Tax Clerk/DMV Specialist
Denise Jones	Tax Clerk/Permit Enforcement
Gary Piner & staff	Contract Appraiser for Reval 2013
Lonnie Baker	Contract Programmer for Tax Billing/Collections/Personal Property
Ron Painter	Contract Programmer for Reappraisal

Planning/Safety/Inspections/Emergency Management
Ann Keyes

An audit of the Community Rating System was conducted on February 6, 2013 by Ms. Katherine Todd of the Insurance Services Offices. The audit was scheduled for two days but because of the outstanding efforts performed by this office, and Tim Esolen in GIS, the audit was completed within 2 hours. The Community Rating System is a program that gives incentives for higher

regulatory standards when enforcing the National Flood Insurance Program. We have been participating in the CRS program since December 1993. This county started out as a Class 10 but because of our extra efforts we are at a Class 8 and all citizens located within a special flood hazard area will receive a 10% reduction in flood insurance premiums. The Towns of Plymouth, Roper and Creswell also receive this reduction because we enforce this ordinance within their jurisdictions.

There are only 82 communities (counties and towns) that participate in this program. Washington County and the towns are 4 of the 82.

We are also scheduled for a Building Inspections Grading Audit on March 14th and we feel very confident that we will get high marks on this audit as well.

I have attached a copy of the Inspections Department Revenue Report that we provide to the Planning Board for your review. As you will note, we have collected $38,786.00, from July l, 2012 through January 31, 2013 of this fiscal year.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BUILDING PERMITS FOR 2012-13															
	Commercial			Residential			Mechanical/Electrical			Mobile Homes			Zoning	Reinspect	Total
Month	No.	Cost	Value	No.	Cost	Value	No.	Cost	Value	No.	Cost	Value	Cost	Cost	Cost
July	1	1,180		12	1,744	163,700	12	1,095	46,900	2	300	13,000	250		4,569.00
August	1	195	2,500	11	1,806	173,221	26	2,176	40,896	1	175		125	50	4,527.00
September	3	2880	9,100,000	8	1,298	133,870	14	997	22,989	2	300	3,000	100		5,575.00
October	2	250	520,000	10	2,140	197,480	8	660	18,071	1	150	1,200	125	50	3,375.00
November	1	630	30,000	7	2,646	848,760	32	2,485	92,361				75		5,836.00
December	4	5,760	400,000	7	5,344	746,000	10	635	29,521	1	150	15,000	100	25	12,014.00
January				10	1,230	1,079,962	14	1,235	30,186	1	150	1,200	100	175	2,890.00
February															
March															
April															
May															
June															
Total	12	10,895	10,052,500	65	16,208	3,342,993	116	9,283	280,924	8	1,225	33,400	875	300	38,786.00

The Community Emergency Response Team (a group of 31 volunteers) in conjunction with this office continues to install carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms throughout the county to qualified households.

To qualify for this program you must be: 64 or older; or have children in the home under the age of 4; or handicapped. The volunteers have been trained on proper installation of the detectors and alarms and we have received numerous calls complimenting this office on this program. This office partnered with Public Health to acquire more detectors and alarms to assist the citizens with this need, thereby potentially reducing the number of fire related and carbon monoxide deaths in North Carolina.

Register of Deeds
Elaine Vann

One commissioner was interested in how many deeds I filed in a day/week/month. It is hard to judge or estimate how many deeds will be filed. It is all based on how the market is doing. As of February 21st we have recorded 62 documents 16 of which are deeds and as it worked out we have recorded 4 deeds per week. The amount of excise tax (or revenue stamps) collected on those deeds was $1,918.00. This represents $959,000 in sales so far this month. The major sales were farm land and a business in the town of Plymouth. Even though recording totals were down a bit from January we still collected more money in fees. This is due to what types of documents are filed and the calculation of recording fees per document. Final totals will be available on my monthly financial report which will be handed out at the meeting.

We issued 3 marriage licenses, 23 birth certificates, 14 death certificates, 10 marriage certificates and administered 3 notary oaths.

On March 3 – 5 I will be attending the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds (NCARD) Legislative/Education conference in Raleigh.

Public Utilities
Lou Manring

In the Water Department, we sold 7,523,000 gallons of water in January 2013 to 2567 customers. Total water pumped was 11,880,000 gallons. We are continuing with our meter testing project and are averaging an 86.6% accuracy rate of tested meters (any meter below 97% is being replaced). There were no significant breaks or outages.

In December, the Landfill took in 65.02 tons of leaves, limbs, etc., 98.57 tons of inert debris, .45 tons of scrap metal, 78.34 tons of construction debris and 8.74 tons of scrap tires. Our Phase II expansion at the landfill should begin in the next month or so as the weather dries out a little and we have less chance of snow. There were no significant incidents or problems at the landfill.

Sheriff's Office/Detention/E911
Chief Deputy Beth Floyd/Rosalyn Smith/Phyllis Peal

Since our last report dated January 25, 2013, Washington County Law Enforcement has responded to 740 calls received through our E911 Center. During this period, the E911 Center has dispatched 865 calls. Twenty-seven misdemeanor warrants and seven felony warrants have been obtained and served through our office. We currently have 19 unserved criminal warrants in NCAWARE. Thirty-two pistol purchase permits and 18 concealed handgun permits have been purchased. One hundred twenty-eight papers (criminal and civil combined) have been received by our office for service. Total number of criminal/civil papers were served/returned to the Clerk's Office at this point is 135 some of which were received in January of 2013.

On Wednesday, February 06, 2013, in our county courtroom, Special Agent Tom Goodman with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service conducted North Carolina Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) Training. The LInX initiative has enhanced the flow of law enforcement information between federal, state, county and municipal authorities at the regional level, with a focus on detecting and neutralizing all levels of criminal activity, including terrorism, at no cost to the county.

Since January 25, 2013, 70 individuals have been booked in the Washington County Detention Center. As of today, our current jail population is 20.

Information Technology
Darlene Fikes

Listed below are just some of the items worked on this month. The IT office receives requests ranging from cell phone, wiring and hardware issues to software, billing and connection issues. I may sit at a desk one day and the next day you may find me under a table or up in the ceiling. Every day is a new set of problems to resolve and challenges to meet.

1. Last month we started the implementation of NCIS (Naval Investigative Service) in the Sheriff's office and this month we have completed the training. An administrator has been assigned to be responsible for setting up user IDs and passwords. A security officer has been assigned to be responsible for yearly audits. Also setup the Deputy's PC to access LInX.

2. The Finance Office has given IT a list of minimum hardware requirements for clients for new software. I am in the process of updating the inventory list in order to determine if minimum requirements are met.

3. A new laptop was setup for the County Manager and a new laptop was setup to be used for PowerPoint presentations in the Commissioner's room.

4. The Accounts Payable PC crashed and was replaced with the County Manager's old PC. Also setup E-ZPay/Cobra Banker.

5. Request by Maintenance Department to maintain digital door locks since Tommy Allen, Maintenance, is retiring. Reset locks with new Master and Management codes.

6. Installation of the new VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) PC.

7. Discussions of the possibility of using 20+ surplus PC's from the Washington County Library.

8. Installation of wireless bridge between the Courthouse and EOC and troubleshoot.

9. Connection between Courthouse and County Manager's Administrative office failed. Replaced converter.

10. There were connection speed issues due to CenturyLink replacing server.

11. Multiple contacts with CenturyLink for the phone system at Cooperative Extension. Multiple contacts with Mediacom for bundle package at Recreation Center.

12. Request from Finance to check ITS bill for unknown phone numbers.

13. Cleaned spyware from Finance laptop.

14. Met with Sheriff's Office personnel. Discussed scanned documents for the DA.

DSS
Marianna Phelps

No report this month.

Airport
Knapp Brabble

No report this month.

Facility Services
Louis Boone

No report this month.