

August 5, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, August 5, 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 and Interim County Attorney Wendel Hutchins. Finance Officer Frank Milazi was unable to attend.

Chair Manning called for a motion to adjourn the July 1, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the July 1, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Manning called the meeting to order. Commissioner Sexton gave the invocation; Dylan Spruill, home-schooled student in Roper, 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) Washington County FY12 Community Development Catalyst Housing Grant #12-C-2473 – Grant Project Ordinance

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Anna Armstrong of Plymouth, told the Board that the Queen Esther Jewel and Carthegenia Masons will host a friends and family day on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Carthegenia Lodge on 308 Madison Street from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm and extended an invitation to the Board and the public.

Attorney Venus Boston introduced herself and stated that she represents Washington County Schools. On behalf of the Board of Education, she invited the Commissioners and the public to the first “Back to School” Community Festival to be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Roper behind the Washington County Annex Building (formerly Windows of the World) at the James L. Roper Heritage Park.

Rhonda Woolard, Washington County’s DSS Director, invited the Commissioners to a Work Support Strategies meeting at the DSS offices at 1:00 pm on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dylan Spruill, Roper, stated that he is a Washington County 4-H student and he will be attending the Horn of Plenty on August 23 in Greensboro at the NCACC Annual Conference.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION—PERMANENT MASONRY FOUNDATION/UNDERPINNING REQUIREMENT: Ms. Keyes spoke to the Board and stated that the Planning Board's recommendation was in their agenda packages. She introduced Julius Walker, Steve Barnes, Charles Sharpe, Wayne Lilley and Vanessa Joyner from the Planning Board. Discussion ensued regarding how surrounding counties handle the underpinning for mobile homes, for example, Pasquotank allows vinyl and masonry as does Camden. Washington County has 509 double-wide mobile homes and 2 triple-wide mobile homes. Ms. Keyes read over the two amendments that the Planning Board came up with along with the associated costs for doing various underpinning.

Mr. Sharpe, Planning Board member, stated that the original ordinance was created for safety reasons and appearance and he feels the masonry underpinning should be attached to the structure.

Chair Manning allowed Bobbie Allen, Hwy 32, Plymouth to speak. She asked what makes brick underpinning safer. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Keyes stated that the Planning Board has currently given Ms. Allen a 60 day extension to get the underpinning completed and the Planning Board has offered for Ms. Keyes to give Ms. Allen an additional 60 days if needed to get the underpinning in place on her double-wide.

Chair Manning stated that his problem is with the cost of the masonry. He wants to find a way to help the citizens with single-wides and/or double-wides.

Mr. Sharpe reminded the Board that when someone owns the trailer and land, they are required to do the masonry according to the current ordinance. Chair Manning replied that he thinks that discourages home ownership.

Commissioner Phelps stated his concern over the fairness of making such a change to the ordinance to the citizens that have complied with the current ordinance for the past 14 years.

Mr. Walker stated that the Planning Board was open to granting Ms. Allen an extension based on her economic situation, that's why she was given an extension.

Mr. Barnes said his take on the existing ordinance is that if you own the land and the trailer, rationale would say that you are going to stay there. It's then an asset for you and your neighborhood. The safety factor is a real kicker. He feels that the trailer should be anchored to the masonry.

Commissioner Sexton stated that he sees the hardship this ordinance can cause. He doesn't like to see the Commissioners cause hardship for folks trying to get started.

Ms. Allen spoke again saying that she wants the ordinance changed for everyone, not just for her. She said she appreciates the extension, but it is embarrassing to have to tell everyone her financial situation.

Mr. Al Joyner, citizen, spoke up and said that when wild animals start taking up under her trailer she would wish she had brick underpinning.

Chair Manning stated that the Commissioners need to look at what's best for the County as a whole.

Commissioner Phelps asked why (in the current ordinance) is there a distinction between single-wide vs. a double-wide and why only double-wides need masonry. Ms. Keyes stated the new amendment to the ordinance would affect all mobile home—both single-wides and double-wides.

More discussion ensued.

Chair Manning asked the Planning Board to go back and work on this issue some more and come back to the Board with a solution at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Commissioners meeting.

Attorney Venus Boston stated that more research needs to be done.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to table this issue until the Board of Commissioners meeting on September 3. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

TYRRELL COUNTY TRANSPORT: Mr. Rhodes told the Board that himself, David Clary and Frank Milazi have had several conversations with Ken Windley, Tyrrell County's Interim County Manager about starting a Medical Transport Service in Tyrrell County. Mr. Rhodes spoke of the proposed budget for the 10 months remaining in the current year 2013-2014. Tyrrell County is proposing to start this service effective September 1, 2013. Tyrrell County has already purchased an ambulance to be used for the transport service and if approved, Tyrrell County will provide Washington County with 2 months operating funds to get the service off the ground. Tyrrell County will cover all related expenses related to the service. Tyrrell County will share revenues with Washington County 50%/50% up to a maximum of \$75K per year.

Mr. Clary has done research on patients in Tyrrell County. Currently local transporters are filling this need of medical transport in Tyrrell County. This transporter could also be a backup to Washington County when needed. There is guaranteed money in transport. They have a high volume of Medicare/Medicaid patients which is guaranteed money for transportation.

Mr. Clary said that he would like the Commissioners to look at the current Franchise Agreement in the County. Mr. Hutchins said he has been in contact with Tyrrell County about this also.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Tyrrell County Transport budget. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

BOND ORDER—WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWER REVENUE BONDS: Mr. Bob Jessup, Sanford Holshouser LLP spoke to the Board regarding the Washington County Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds. (County Bond Council). Mr. Jessup has worked with Frank on these documents and Mr. Hutchins has had a chance to look at them and concurs with them.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the resolution supporting an application to the Local Government Commission for its approval of revenue refunding bonds in an estimated amount of up to \$5,000,000. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the bond order for the issuance from time to time of Washington County Water Revenue Bonds, including initial revenue bonds in the maximum aggregate amount of \$5,000,000. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

EAST CAROLINA BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH (ECBH): Commissioner Johnson stated that the ECBH Board got together and held a lottery for the 3 positions available on the ECBH Board. There will be staggered terms. Washington County will start their 3-year term in 2014. It seemed that the only fair way to get all of the counties represented was to set it up this way. One of the attorneys came up with the idea that the Board will also be the Finance Committee using one Commissioner from each County represented.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve Commissioner Johnson as the member of the ECBH Finance Committee. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

TAX EXEMPTION REQUEST: Mr. Chip Main, Tax Administrator spoke to the Board about the following request.

1. Mr. Main received an application for Property Tax Exemption or Exclusion on July 16, 2013 from Riverside Baptist Church. The listing period normally ends on January 31, 2013, but this year it was extended to March 31, 2013, therefore the Tax Collector cannot approve this—it must go to the Commissioners. Mr. Main is seeking the approval/disapproval of this request from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the late listing tax exemption request from Riverside Baptist Church. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried. (Commissioner Phelps voted nay.)**

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT  
IN SETTLEMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2012 - 2013

The attached report represents ad valorem tax collection status as of June 30, 2013 for the 2012 levy and prior years' taxes collected in the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.

Wendell R. Main, II  
Wendell R. Main, II  
Tax Collector

SETTLEMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2012

CHARGES

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Levy of RMV & Property          | \$ 6,487,549.93 |
| Refunds & Releases                    | \$ (50,019.43)  |
| Adjusted Total Levy of RMV & Property | \$ 6,437,530.50 |
| Penalties & Interest                  | \$ 68,913.79    |

TOTAL \$ 6,506,444.29

CREDITS

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Real & Personal | \$ 438,639.53   |
| RMV             | \$ 193,583.81   |
| Funds Deposited | \$ 5,874,220.95 |

TOTAL \$ 6,506,444.29

| Tax Year | Beginning Balance | Adjustment  | Payments      | Balance         |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 2011     | \$ 869,305.88     | \$ 3,786.48 | \$ 397,989.19 | \$ 475,103.17   |
| 2010     | \$ 452,860.24     | \$ 808.44   | \$ 123,454.73 | \$ 330,213.95   |
| 2009     | \$ 244,457.54     | \$ 920.71   | \$ 19,507.71  | \$ 225,870.54   |
| 2008     | \$ 204,783.65     | \$ 349.16   | \$ 32,305.60  | \$ 172,827.21   |
| 2007     | \$ 159,838.24     | \$ 46.98    | \$ 29,341.79  | \$ 130,543.43   |
| 2006     | \$ 137,690.35     | \$ 68.87    | \$ 26,373.03  | \$ 111,386.19   |
| 2005     | \$ 110,641.41     | \$ 10.01    | \$ 17,145.13  | \$ 93,506.29    |
| 2004     | \$ 97,034.18      | \$ 2.71     | \$ 15,962.41  | \$ 81,074.48    |
| 2003     | \$ 83,118.09      | \$ -        | \$ 8,739.53   | \$ 74,378.56    |
| 2002     | \$ 75,339.43      | \$ -        | \$ 7,054.86   | \$ 68,284.57    |
| TOTAL    | \$ 2,435,069.01   | \$ 5,993.36 | \$ 677,873.98 | \$ 1,763,188.39 |

ENFORCED COLLECTIONS

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Debt Setoff      | \$ 129,694.47 |
| Garnishments     | \$ 54,944.99  |
| Bank Attachments | \$ 4,264.24   |

Mr. Hutchins commended Mr. Main on his job by saying that Mr. Main is better than any of his predecessors.

Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Main if he had an update on the DMV “Tax and Tag”. Mr. Main replied that some folks are starting to receive the new bill where they will be required to register their vehicle and pay their property tax.

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

Chair Manning congratulated Commissioner Johnson on reaching Mentor Status with LELA.

Mr. Rhodes commented that Congressman Walter Jones, Jr. will be in Washington County on August 17 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. There will be a small luncheon at The Garden Spot. The Commissioners will receive an invitation to attend. This will be the same Saturday as the Plymouth drag boat races downtown so there should be folks around to talk to him.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she attended the NACo conference in Dallas, TX. She also attended a media relations workshop (held by Todd McGee, of the NCACC). Commissioners Johnson and Phelps will be attending the NCACC conference at the end of August in Greensboro.

Commissioners Johnson and Phelps asked that a discussion on the Recreation Advisory Committee be put on the September agenda.

**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.**

**At 8:30 pm, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner McCray made a motion to recess the meeting. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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Buster Manning  
Chair

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