

October 6, 2014

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, Phelps, Sexton and Walker were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, County Attorney Curtis Potter and Finance Officer Frank Milazi.

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

Chair Johnson asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Carl McCray, Washington County Public Utilities employee who passed away last Tuesday evening.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Chair Johnson added Item 1A—Presentation to Jaunkerra Sanders from NCABCO for Outstanding Academics. Chair Johnson also added to the Consent Agenda Item D: National Long-Term Care Residents’ Rights Month Proclamation—Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care

Chair Johnson presented a certificate for Outstanding Academics to Jaunkerra Sanders from the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials (NCABCO). Ms. Sanders also received a check for \$1000. She is the first student from Washington County to receive this award.

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

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund:
Greenhouse Renovation—Creswell High School \$22,541.91
- d) Resolution: National Long-Term Care Residents’ Rights Month
Proclamation—Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care

Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Susan Outlaw, resident of Roper, with the Not One Tear Project (non-profit) on human trafficking spoke to the Board. This organization is based out of Elizabeth City. Ms. Outlaw told the Board that she hasn’t been able to get into Washington County to educate students, law enforcement, employees, etc. Gangs have learned they can sell a girl over and over again. She stated there are two gangs in Plymouth and more in surrounding areas. She works with other counties and wants to educate people in Washington County free of charge. Ms. Outlaw said she goes nationally to speak and is embarrassed that she can’t speak in Washington County. Commissioner Sexton asked who hasn’t let her speak. Ms. Outlaw said the Sheriff, the School Board and DSS.

Jerry Phelps, resident of Plymouth, who is on the Board of Education, said he will meet with Susan Outlaw.

Allen Smith, resident of Roper, and a Washington County employee, said he received an e-mail about Aflac insurance and asked the Board to reconsider their thought process.

Laura Ambrose, resident of Washington County and who works for Aflac, also asked the Board to reconsider. Aflac has been doing business with the County for many years as a voluntary benefit that Washington County employees can choose. There are eight agents in this County. They are offered the opportunity to pre-tax. Ms. Ambrose said that Aflac was never allowed to offer a bid to see if they can do what Guardian can do. She also noted that Aflac has never had a rate increase in 35 years. Ann Martin, Creswell, who has worked at Aflac since 1981, reiterated Ms. Ambrose comments.

Lloyd Jones, resident of Roper, said he heard a rumor that the hospital is laying off employees. What does this mean—that the level of service will decrease or the hospital will soon be closing the doors? Chair Johnson said, as reported on WITN, there will be a lay-off of ~25 employees out of 104. Cameron Highsmith, CEO of Washington County Hospital (WCH) responded by saying that lay-offs will be happening due to the Affordable Care Act and all hospitals are not getting the Medicaid funds and are being taxed. All NC hospitals are reducing staff due to the Affordable Care Act.

Mary Jones, Roper, asked what kind of service residents are going to be getting from the hospital. Ms. Roper told her own personal story about her experience with using the hospital. She needs to have it available to her so she doesn't have to go all the way to Greenville for tests. Usually WCH is quick to respond with test results etc. but not this week.

Angela Topping, Washington County employee, asked the Commissioners to reconsider switching insurance. Turnaround time with reimbursement is quicker with Aflac than with Guardian.

Jennifer O'Neal, Plymouth, asked Commissioners to reconsider switching insurance. Guardian doesn't pay for a lot of things. Aflac has paid tremendously on work she has had done, leaving her with little to pay which helps folks who are tightening their belt.

Mr. Milazi was asked by the Board to address these concerns. Mr. Milazi said the County is not asking anyone to withdraw from their current insurance. Washington County's health insurance is BC/BS and its retirement is through the State. The County contracted with Guardian (vision, dental life insurance) many years ago. We have eight different providers for supplemental insurance. Even though employees are pre-taxed, they are still paying a fee for paying the supplemental insurance premiums for employees. Some employees have supplemental insurance but it does not get paid through their payroll. Guardian will provide the same benefits and will be pre-taxed by the County with no administrative fees and premiums will be reduced. The County will have one payment to one provider. No benefits are being cancelled. It is the employees' option if they want to go with Guardian or keep the benefits they currently have (if they don't have Guardian.) Changes take effect January 1.

Allen Smith asked if his understanding is correct in that it is not cost-effective. Mr. Milazi said the County has a problem with the supplemental insurance companies paying the premiums. Mr. Smith asked will employees be paying more for the same service they have now. Mr. Milazi said no because they will not be paying an administrative fee.

Commissioner Manning asked about the administrative fee. Aflac reps said they don't charge an administrative fee.

Chair Johnson said that the Aflac reps need to meet with Finance and have a discussion to resolve this matter.

Commissioner Phelps asked to postpone going with Guardian. Mr. Milazi said the deadline is October 31 for coverage beginning January 1.

Mr. Rhodes said he believes Mr. Milazi is correct to say there is not a 'bidding process'. Mr. Rhodes read from a 2005 resolution regarding the 'cafeteria plan'. Delegation is for the proper management person (which has been the Finance person). Commissioner Manning said maybe the County needs to entertain other companies.

Mr. Milazi said the employees are not losing anything. Ms. Ambrose said it's hard to say employees aren't losing anything without comparing.

Mr. Rhodes recommended that to be fair and reasonable that the other companies have a chance to meet with the employees on either October 14 or 15.

Commissioner Walker asked how many employees have Aflac insurance. Ms. Ambrose stated ~80.

Below are the e-mails being referenced in the comments above.

Effective January 1, 2015, Washington County will be ending all payroll deductions for VOLUNTARY insurance products WITH THE EXCEPTION of Guardian insurance products.

For those of you with other voluntary insurance policies already in place, you will be able to keep your policies, with no change in premium, and will be billed directly. The county will notify all of the insurance companies; Allstate, Columbian Mutual Life, Provident Life, Colonial Life, Legal Shield, and AFLAC of this change. You should not have to do anything further until your invoice arrives in the mail at your home. If you have any questions or have not received an invoice from ALLSTATE, COLUMBIAN MUTUAL or LEGAL SHIELD by December 31, 2015, please contact Scarlette Bennett or Debbie Morris at The New Team Insurance Services at (252) 210-2201. For other products, please contact the following:

- *Provident Life (800) 275-8686*
- *Colonial Life (800) 325-4368*
- *AFLAC (800) 992-3522*

To reiterate, we will continue to process payroll deductions for voluntary products with Guardian. During open enrollment in October, you will have the opportunity to make changes to your existing dental, vision and life policies with Guardian. These changes will be effective January 1, 2015.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be offering short-term disability insurance as well as accident, cancer, and critical illness insurance plans through Guardian. These plans offer a wide range of benefits and we have been able to secure very low premiums for you with these products. If you elect any of these voluntary products the effective date will be January 1, 2015.

More information will be provided at the open enrollment meetings on October 14, 2014 and October 15, 2015. Don't forget to contact Missy Dixon at (252) 793-3523 to sign-up for a meeting.

Thank you.

Mr. Milazi also sent out the following e-mail to Commissioners to try and offer a better explanation after he began getting questions.

Good afternoon Commissioners,

I have been having phone calls from some of you wanting to know about the memo that was sent to employees last week concerning supplement benefits. This item is on my agenda tonight and to Department heads on Wednesday prior to our annual enrollment next week. Attached is the memo that went out. Here is a background of our benefits:

Our benefits are divided into two and here they are:

- 1. Retirement and health insurance provided by the State*
- 2. Life insurance, vision and Dental provided by Guardia*

The County has been providing these benefits to County employees through these providers over the years. These are the benefits that the County is required to process on behalf of all employees.

In addition to these benefits, some employees get supplement insurances from various providers including the following: Allstate, Columbia Mutual Life, Provident Life, Colonial Life, Legal Shield, and AFLAC. Employees find providers on their own, sign up for services they want. The County assists in making deductions on behalf of some employees to these providers. They are some employees with supplement insurances but they are making payments on their own with direct deduction from their checking or pay through invoice. This service is not required as in the case of submitting payments to State and Guardian but to accommodate employees. Employees who opt supplement benefits are responsible for submitting their monthly premiums. Every year we hear from the State and Guardian about changes and enrollments. We have no representatives' contacts or provide annual updates other than one or two and AFLAC being one of them.

No one is suggesting or asking employees who have supplement insurance to cancel their policies but that they will be responsible for submitting their own premiums as other employees

are doing. **But IF** they want the County to process their supplement premiums, they have to be under County chosen provider - they will keep all their benefits with the following:

1. The county will have only one check processed avoiding all delays from some of these providers
2. Current employees' premiums will go down as no administrative fees will be included in their premiums as is the case at present - save employees money with same benefits
3. Employees lose nothing **IF** they decide to switch but actually put more money in their pocket due to reduced premiums and with no administrative fee.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2014 – 2015 RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION: **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to open the public hearing on the FY2014 – 2015 Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant Application. Commissioner Manning seconded.** Ms. Zina Rhodes, DSS Adult Services Supervisor, spoke on behalf of Ms. Rhonda Woolard, DSS Director who could not attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Rhodes stated that the Public Transportation Division of the NC Department of Transportation has allocated county transportation funds to counties through the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) for FY2014 – 2015. These funds are used for the operating cost of trips, but not administrative or capital costs. Riverlight Transit has received disbursements of ROAP funds from the county for several years.

The Washington County Transportation Advisory Board met on September 24, 2014 and reviewed the county's ROAP application. The Transportation Advisory Board recommends the allocation of the EDTAP funds to be sub allocated as follows:

- Washington County Senior Center \$ 5,500
- Roanoke Development Center \$ 5,500
- Washington County Riverlight Transit \$35,316

One of the ROAP requirements is that the County conducts a public hearing in order to provide the general public with the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding the use and distribution of ROAP funds.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the FY2014 – 2015 Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant Application. Commissioner Walker seconded, motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF MS. ANN KEYES FROM NC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT : Ms. Diane Curtis, Eastern Branch Manager of NCEM, spoke to the Board. Ms. Curtis told the Board that she oversees 33 counties which means she works with 33 Emergency Managers. It's her job to call out the National Guard, chainsaw crews, etc. She makes sure they have a safe place to sleep. Every hurricane is different and she doesn't want to put the responders in harm's way. As you are aware, on July 4th, 2014 North Carolina received the first Category 2 Hurricane since 1858 to make landfall just one month into hurricane season. In preparation for this storm, North Carolina Emergency Management

pre-staged the National Guard, Urban Search and Rescue and Swiftwater resources in Washington County.

Because of Ms. Ann Keyes' outstanding efforts in assisting the teams, Ms. Curtis, presented a Recognition of Excellence Award to Ms. Keyes on behalf of the NCEM . Chair Johnson thanked Ms. Curtis for presenting the award and thanked Ms. Keyes for everything she does for the County every day.

PERMIT PRICING FOR CRESWELL SOLAR PROJECT: Chair Johnson told the Board that staff recommended this item should be referred to the Planning Board for further study.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to the item regarding permit pricing for the Creswell solar project to the Planning Board. Commissioner Walker seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson asked Ms. Keyes to please take this item to the Planning Board.

TAX FORECLOSURE AGREEMENT DISCUSSION: Mr. Rhodes noted that several months ago the Board of Commissioners directed county staff to start looking at ways to increase tax collections, especially in the area of delinquent taxes. Specifically, staff was asked to begin the process of foreclosures on properties that taxes were owed. Staff evaluated performing this function by having the County Attorney perform tax foreclosures but realized several concerns related to having him manage tax foreclosures.

For the following reasons, we are recommending that the tax foreclosures be contracted to an outside entity:

- Organizational autonomy
 - A contracted tax foreclosure attorney will ensure that politics and internal and external influences do not play into deciding which property owners to pursue through the tax foreclosure process. It is the best way to protect the county from any alleged discrimination or improper influences and to distance the county from errors or mistakes related to the process.
- Program Effectiveness
 - Tax foreclosures are essentially civil lawsuits which require extensive procedural and administrative processes. Tax foreclosure attorneys are experts in tax foreclosure laws and procedures and have years of experience in this area of practice. It would be difficult for the county to administer an in-house tax foreclosure program without additional staff assistance specifically by a paralegal that would perform much of the research involved in determining whether a tax foreclosure should be initiated and if it would involve short sale/mortgage style foreclosures or the more involved in-rem foreclosure.
- Financial Efficiency
 - The only out-of-pocket expense the county could incur would be when a property progresses all of the way through to a foreclosure sale in which case the county usually opens the bidding process based on the amount of taxes owed and fees related to the foreclosure. We do not believe that this will occur frequently. In

such cases the county would acquire the property and would sell it or use it if needed.

For these reasons, County staff agrees that using an independent contractor would not only be politically and legally safer, it would be faster, more effective and efficient.

Mr. Rhodes said that the Commissioners could grant the County Manager approval to enter into a contract on behalf of the county to begin tax foreclosure proceeding right away or could bring another recommendation back to you to consider.

Mr. Rhodes recommended that county residents, specifically those persons who owe delinquent taxes, be given a final public notice and a final opportunity to pay those taxes before foreclosure processes are initiated.

Mr. Rhodes stated that he has had conversations with 2 companies. No RFP is needed since it is a service contract, however they can be asked to submit proposals.

Chair Johnson asked if the cost for this service would come out of money collected. Mr. Potter said he can put that in the contract.

Mr. Rhodes had asked Ms. Wilkins to check with surrounding counties to see what companies they use for their tax foreclosures. Ms. Wilkins said Tyrrell, Gates and Hertford counties are pleased with company they are using (which is the one being suggested by staff).

Mr. Rhodes commented that someone with multiple properties would not have all of their properties turned over to be foreclosed. He said there would be some criteria as to what property would be considered.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to negotiate a contract for tax foreclosures and bring it back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS LISTING TAX AUDIT SERVICES DISCUSSION: Mr. Rhodes noted that in keeping with the Board's directive to investigate ways to increase tax revenues, staff (Tax Administrator and County Manager) are proposing a contract with a company to perform business personal tax audits. Specifically, Mr. Rhodes recommended a contract with County Tax Services, Inc. (CTSI) for this service.

The proposed contract with CTSI would encompass the following CTSI responsibilities:

- Make photocopies of business property tax listings according to the Tax Administrator's instructions on accounts selected for an audit
- Prepare an introductory letter on county letterhead under the Tax Administrator's signature informing selected businesses of the audit
- Make an appointment with the business owner to perform the audit
- Inform the Tax Administrator of the results of the audit with supporting documentation and whether there was a discovery or not
- Upon approval of the audit finding by the Tax Administrator, prepare a discovery letter pursuant to NCGS 105-312, or a no discovery letter or other letter as directed by the tax

Administrator together with a copy of the work papers for the Tax Administrator's signature and mailing to the tax payer.

- Accompany the tax office personnel, if needed, on any local audits to assist in training for ongoing audits
- Answer questions by county personnel regarding audits performed
- Maintain confidentiality of all tax payer information
- Attend meeting with taxpayers or their representatives concerning tax audits (no additional charge)
- Provide testimony and evidence at hearings before the County Tax Assessor, BOC, NC Property tax Commission or other appeals or hearings (no additional charge)

The proposed contract would also include the following county responsibilities:

- Make available to CTSI the business property tax listing for making copies
- Provide CTSI with county letterhead and envelopes
- Sign and mail approved letters in a timely manner
- Provide postage for all mailings to audited businesses
- Inform CTSI if any audits enter into an appeals or if a tax payer sends any information to the tax office that may be needed for the audit
- Provide CTSI a notarized letter giving CTSI authority to conduct audits on behalf of the county
- Compensate CTSI for its auditing services

Fees

- See attached (in the CTSI contract---put in minutes)
- Fees will be paid from taxes collected

Terms of the Agreement

- The agreement can be cancelled by either party upon 30 days written notice
- In the event of cancellation of the agreement, all audits assigned to CTSI as of the date of cancellation will be completed by CTSI and fees will be paid according to the contract terms

Mr. Rhodes stated he has met with representatives from CTSI and they have prior work experience in County and State levels of tax collection.

Ms. Wilkins commented that surrounding counties are working with this company: Martin, Gates, Edgecombe and Hertford counties all spoke highly of CTSI.

Commissioner Manning asked a question about the compensation schedule. Is there a fee listed for that account even if nothing was found? Ms. Wilkins said yes. Beaufort County pays for what is discovered. Ms. Wilkins will do some additional checking on the fees.

Mr. Potter said that the contract would continue until the County cancels it—he has it written into the contract. It's basically a performance based contract. CTSI has the incentive to find money.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to table this until November. Commissioner Phelps seconded. Commissioner Manning said lower taxes would draw more businesses

and collecting the money could help the County to lower our tax rate. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Johnson asked Ms. Wilkins to send the Commissioners an e-mail about what surrounding counties are doing.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AMBULANCE SERVICE: Mr. Potter spoke to the Board. In August the board adopted a franchise ordinance and then asked to create an ambulance service board.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners (the “BOCC”) adopted an “Ordinance Regulating Ambulance Services and Ambulance Franchises” (the “Ordinance”) on or about August 4th, 2014 for the purposes more particularly described therein; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance provides that the BOCC may delegate certain duties and responsibilities otherwise held by the BOCC under the Ordinance to an Ambulance Service Board (the “ASB”); and

WHEREAS, the BOCC now desires to create and vest within such an ASB, certain duties and powers held by the BOCC under the Ordinance in order to provide for a more efficient administration of certain provisions of the Ordinance in regulating ambulance services and franchises.

NOW THEREFORE, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners hereby ordains as follows:

1. ASB Created: As specifically described and provided for within the Ordinance, an ASB is hereby created by the BOCC to administer certain provisions of the Ordinance subject to the following terms, limitations, and conditions as the same may be subsequently amended by the BOCC hereafter:
2. Members: The ASB shall consist of a five (5) voting members , and two (2) ex-officio advisory members as follows:
 - a. Washington County Emergency Medical Services Director
 - b. Washington County Medical Director
 - c. Washington County Emergency Management Director
 - d. Washington County Manager
 - e. One Washington County Commissioner appointed annually and on a rotating basis by the BOCC unless otherwise agreed by the BOCC
 - f. Washington County Finance Officer* (Ex-officio advisory)
 - g. Washington County Attorney* (Ex-officio advisory)

3. General Purpose & Duties: The ASB shall endeavor to exercise the duties it has been granted with expedience and in the best interests of the citizens of Washington County. The ASB shall meet as often as may be necessary to carry out its assigned duties under this Resolution and the Ordinance, but not less frequently than once per quarter, and shall provide ongoing reports to the BOCC regarding the progress of its meetings and work.

4. Vested Duties/Powers: Except as to setting particular fee rates for initial and renewal application fees under Ordinance provisions 4.4 and 5.2 respectively (which shall be set exclusively by the BOCC), all other powers and duties of the BOCC that may be exercisable by an ASB as provided for in the Ordinance are hereby delegated to the ASB created by this Resolution, and for purposes of illustration only including, but shall not be limited to the following:
 - a. 4.1 – Establish/administer franchise applications
 - b. 4.2 – Establish/administer franchise service areas
 - c. 4.3 – Investigate/process application requests
 - d. 5.2 – Investigate/process renewal applications
 - e. 5.5.3 – Establish/administer minimum record reporting requirements
 - f. 5.7 – Establish/administer additional rules and regulations for franchise providers
 - g. 5.8 – Administer franchise transfer requests
 - h. Article 6 – Serve as the primary enforcement body for the Ordinance
 - i. 7.0 – Establish/administer minimum personnel, vehicle, and equipment standards
 - j. 8.5 – Establish/administer minimum telecommunications training standards
 - k. 9.2.4 – Approve any alternate insurance coverages (with Finance Officers approval)
 - l. 10.1 & 10.2 – Establish/administer minimum/maximum service rates/charges

5. Retained Duties/Powers: Notwithstanding the broad delegation of authority under the immediately preceding paragraph, this Resolution shall not be deemed to delegate to any ASB those certain duties and powers of the BOCC which are specifically described in the Ordinance as belonging exclusively and separately to such body and which are apart from those duties and powers that may otherwise be exercised by an ASB under the Ordinance (including but not limited to the following exclusive powers of the BOCC which are hereby expressly retained by the BOCC).
 - a. 3.1 – Granting of Franchises
 - b. 4.6 – Granting, renewing, extending, amending, or conditioning Franchises
 - c. 5.2 – Acting to prevent automatic renewals of Franchises
 - d. Article 6 – Exercise enforcement provisions independently from or together with ASB
 - e. 11.7 – Amendment of the Ordinance

6. Bylaws: The ASB is authorized to consider and adopt bylaws or other rules of internal governing procedure as deemed necessary or desirable by its members, provided any and all such instruments (and any subsequent amendments thereto) must be approved by the BOCC prior to becoming effective and binding upon the ASB. The BOCC reserves the right to waive any failure by the ASB to comply with this provision, and to retroactively approve any such instruments by ratification.

7. Amendment: The BOCC reserves the exclusive right to adopt subsequent resolutions that may amend, modify, limit, expand, or terminate any and all of the duties and/or powers vested in the ASB created pursuant to this Resolution, or may disband the ASB entirely.

Chair Johnson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Phelps to be on the Ambulance Service Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion approve the Ambulance Service Board resolution. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EAST CAROLINA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (ECBH): Chair Johnson stated that Washington County will have a seat on the ECBH board beginning October 1, 2014 for a three-year term with October 28, 2014, being the first meeting of the ECBH Board of Directors after that date. The position was previously filled by Chair Tracey A. Johnson.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion for Chair Johnson to serve on the ECBH Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded. Chair Johnson said that Mr. Rhodes sent out an e-mail that ECBH is joining with Coastal Care and will be increasing from 19 counties to add 5 more. The ECHB Board makeup may still be changing after the merger takes place. **Motion carried unanimously.**

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE: Ms. Bennett asked the Commissioners their availability of meeting dates for a retreat.

The Board met with Lydian Altman and her intern Maia Landey, from the UNC-SOG, on Friday, September 26. During the discussion, it was brought up to try and schedule a 1 day or 1 & ½ day retreat with the Commissioners and department heads. (This would be held away from the offices.)

Ms. Bennett gave the Commissioners the possible available dates listed below.

Weekend Dates:

October 24 and 25 (Fri & Sat)

October 31 (Fri)

November 21 and 22 (Fri & Sat)

December 5 and 6 (Fri & Sat)

Weekday Dates:

October 20 – 21 (Mon & Tues)

October 29 – 30 (Wed & Thurs)

*November 3 – 4 (Mon & Tues) (Maia is available on 11/3)

November 10 – 13 (Mon & Tues) (Maia is available on 11/10)

November 24 and 26 (Mon & Wed) (Maia is available on 11/26)

*December 1 – 2 (Mon & Tues) (Maia is available on 12/1)

December 9 – 12 (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri) (Maia is available on 12/11-12)

*There is a Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled that Monday night.

The Commissioners picked Friday December 12, 2014 as the date for a one-day strategic planning retreat. Ms. Bennett will contact Ms. Altman at UNC-SOG and handle the logistics.

EMS UPDATE: Mr. John Flemming spoke to the Board and gave an EMS update. Washington County EMS has received two grants for Quick Response Vehicles: \$25,000 from Vidant Health and \$35,000 from Weyerhaeuser. Each vehicle will be fully stocked. One vehicle will be a Ford Expedition and the other one will be a Ford Explorer.

Mr. Flemming gave figures on Cardiac Arrest: 50% success rate on bringing back circulation. EMS has had 4 cases—saved 2.

Mr. Flemming said EMS is fully staffed in Washington County. There is one open position in Tyrrell transport. Mr. Flemming stated that Mr. Milazi will give the EMS earnings info to the Board. Mr. Rhodes said EMS is right on target with their spending. There are some issues with folks out on Workman's comp which causes a slight rise in spending.

Chair Johnson told Mr. Flemming the Board would like to see what it would look like if EMS went to a 24/72 shift. Would this help with some issues in EMS? Mr. Rhodes said this would mean adding an additional shift. Mr. Flemming said it would put EMS employees on an hourly wage. Mr. Flemming said he will need to work up some figures to see if there would be a cost savings. Mr. Milazi said EMS would have to see if the adding of a shift would decrease overtime. EMS coverage will not change, services will not change. Morale would be increased in the EMS staff.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Milazi discussed the financial report. Mr. Milazi also reminded the Board that they just passed a grant for DSS and must make sure, if there is a local match, that there is money in the budget. Mr. Rhodes said the Board just approved DSS submitting an application for next year's budget, not for a local match.

Commissioner Phelps asked if the teachers have received their supplement. Mr. Rhodes said Mr. David Noell, WCS Finance Officer, said to distribute ½ in December and the other ½ in June.

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

Chair Johnson asked about what's next on the Stotesberry property. Mr. Potter said the County did not receive any bids. Mr. Potter will try to get the value of the trailer. If it's less than \$30,000 the County can try selling it without a competitive bid process, but if it's over \$30,000 the County would look into public auction.

Commissioner Manning said to auction it or re-advertise it. Commissioner Manning also asked if the County could donate it to House for Humanity. Mr. Potter said that Habitat for Humanity does qualify as one of the non-profits that the County could donate to. Commissioner Manning said that Mr. Stotesberry thought some items might be in his storage shed for moving it. Commissioner Manning suggested re-advertising. Mr. Potter said that the County did have some interest in it and some people did go look at it. Commissioner Manning wondered if a private individual bought it and donated it would they get a tax write off to pay for moving it.

Mr. Potter said the Water Committee has not been able to actively meet but hopefully will before the November meeting. Chair Johnson asked Mr. Potter to coordinate getting the meeting together.

Mr. Potter said the pre-construction meeting on library roof will be this Friday.

Ms. Bennett reminded the Commissioners of the Southern Albemarle Association meeting on Thursday, October 16 beginning at 10:00 am at the Vernon James Center in Roper.

Chair Johnson attended a steering committee on the Justice of Public Safety last Friday. 911 was brought up and how funding was distributed. Chair Johnson stated she did not realize that the telecom industry had so much to do with that. There was a lot of discussion about whether or not counties should find another avenue to fund 911 sources to be able to spend money as needed, because the telecom industry has tight restrictions on how money can be spent. Chair Johnson noted that the Education steering committee meets tomorrow.

Commissioner Walker congratulated Ms. Keyes again and said he is glad to hear something positive going on in the County.

At 7:55 pm, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walker seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

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