

February 17, 2014

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed meeting on Monday, February 17, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, Phelps and Sexton were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney Curtis Potter. Commissioner McCray was unable to attend the meeting.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE ALBEMARLE REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN: At their February 3, 2014, the Board of Commissioners agreed to adopt a resolution supporting the adoption of the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting the Adoption of the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SAFEKEEPING INMATE MEDICAL EXPENSES: Mr. Rhodes spoke of the bills received for medical inmate expenses, while the inmates were in the care of the Washington County, at external medical facilities. The County is eligible for discounts and the County is waiting to see what the final bill will be before asking for approval from the Board to pay these expenses. The pharmacy charges could be reduced \$25,000. Mr. Potter said there is a constitutional bill that says counties are required to pay for inmate medical expenses.

Chair Johnson asked if Southern Health Partners are supposed to pay part of this bill. Mr. Potter said his understanding is that it would be all ours (the County's) to pay. Chief Deputy Floyd spoke to the Board to say if there is an inmate with a medical condition that the County is unable to treat, beds have to be arranged by DOC for inmates to receive medical treatment.

Commissioner Sexton was concerned that the billing started back in the summer and grew over time. Commissioner Sexton said these cases need to be moved ahead so that the County is not responsible for these inmates and their expenses. Commissioner Phelps was curious about the communication between the Sheriff's office and the County Manager's office. Deputy Floyd talked to Finance about this issue before but was not aware of communications between the Sheriff's Office and the County Manager's office. Mr. Milazi said that he and Rosalyn Smith (Detention) starting talking about this when the cost was only \$5,000 back in August 2013. Ms. Smith was not in attendance to discuss this tonight. Chair Johnson asked where these inmates are now. Chief Deputy Floyd said she thinks one of these inmates is still in custody. Commissioner Sexton said the County needs to get a handle on this. Chair Johnson asked what is the insurance responsible for. Chief Deputy Floyd said that no matter where the inmates are located, the County is still responsible for them. Chief Deputy Floyd gave a handout to the Commissioners showing an inquiry made from the Sheriff today regarding inmate medical

budget protection. Commissioner Phelps would like the Board to talk to the County Manager and the Finance Officer to put a procedure in place so this doesn't happen again. Commissioner Phelps would like for the Board to be alerted and be able to move more quickly in a situation like this in the future.

Commissioner Manning made a motion that the jail administrator (Rosalyn Smith) and Sheriff Ross meet with the County Manager and the Finance Officer next week regarding this matter. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Albemarle Commission: Area Agency on Aging

The Albemarle Commission's Area Agency on Aging requires two representatives from our County. Gail Spiewak is one representative. Ms. Rene Collier, Administrative Assistant for the Senior Center has volunteered to be our second representative and will serve if appointed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve Ms. Collier as the second representative to the Albemarle Commission's Area Agency on Aging. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Steering Committee

The County Manager's Office has contacted various citizens to request their involvement on the Albemarle Commission's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Steering Committee.

These names were presented to the Board for approval:

Jerry Rhodes

Bill Sexton

Brian Roth

JD Melton

Larry Jones

Jonathan Taylor

Carolyn Jannise

Debra Lyle

Ann Keyes

Beth Floyd

Jack Barnes

Wesley Stokes* left a message (waiting for a call back)

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the abovementioned names for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Steering Committee. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Bennett noted that the State of the Region meeting will be held on Friday, February 28th at the Bob Martin Ag Center in Williamston. Commissioner Sexton stated he would like to attend.

Ms. Bennett also mentioned that the NCACC District Meeting will be held on April 9 in Bertie County. Please let Ms. Bennett know if you would like to go so she can register you.

Commissioner Sexton wanted to make the Board aware of the RPO issue regarding the tolling issue on the ferries. District 1 has 3 ferry routes out of the 10 member RPO Board. It will cost \$5,000,000 out of DOT funds to replace ferries or put the cost on the riders of the ferries. Commissioner Sexton said he may be coming back to the Board to ask their opinion since he will have to vote on this issue at the RPO meeting. The pot of money used to be \$60,000,000 but the program has changed and now we are only getting \$32,000,000 for our district. Putting money towards ferries cuts out funds for our road projects. The RPOs are being tasked with making more decisions than the elected representatives.

Chair Johnson stated DOT met at the Vernon James Center today and it was stated that DOT will start construction of the 32 Connector road this summer. She also mentioned there was some discussion on the tolls for the ferries and folks were grumbling.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(1)(3) (attorney-client privilege), §143-318.11(a)(4) (economic development) and §143-318.11(a)(6) (personnel). Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

At 7:15 pm, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

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