

June 2, 2014

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, June 2, 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, County Attorney Curtis Potter and Finance Officer Frank Milazi.

Chair Johnson called the June 2, 2014 meeting to order. Commissioner Sexton gave the invocation; Commissioner Manning led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Johnson called for moment of silence in memory of Commissioner McCray.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: **ADD to the Consent Agenda F)** request additional information and modifications and giving budget back to the County Manager for information to be given during Budget Work Sessions on Thursday and Friday, June 5 and 6th.

ADD Item 4-A: Washington County Comprehensive Plan Health Component/Washington County Land Use Plan--Mr. Wes MacLeod with Holland Consulting Planners will be giving a brief presentation on this at tonight's meeting. (The public hearing on this matter will be held July 7, 2014).

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:

20 Ton HVAC Unit—Plymouth High School	\$24,500.00
HVAC Compressor & Expansion Valve—Creswell Elementary School	<u>\$22,543.00</u>
	\$47,043.00
- d) Resolution Appointing Review Officer
- e) Washington County Single Family Rehabilitation Program (SRFLP14) Procurement Policy, Disbursement Policy and Assistance Policy
- f) The Board requests additional information and modifications to the budget and gives the budget back to the County Manager for this information by June 5th & 6th when the Budget Work Sessions will be held.

Commissioner Manning seconded; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Ms. Latoya Howell, 6137 Hwy 32 N, Roper, spoke to the Board about her concern which is the school's budget. She would like to see accountability of where the school's money is being spent. She wants someone to make sure the money is going to the classrooms not to the Central Office. Ms. Howell also stated that there is mold in the schools and this problem needs to be fixed.

Mr. Robert White, 2998 Davenport Forks Road, complained to the Board about his water bill and the Water Department. His bill increased from \$20 from \$90. Mr. White stated that he called to speak to the County Manager and even came by the office to see the County Manager but was unsuccessful in his attempt. Mr. White did speak to Lou Manring about his problem; however, he was not happy with Mr. Manring's responses. Mr. Manring told Mr. White that he must've had a leak. Mr. White did not think this was the case. The next month Mr. White's bill was back to \$20, but he still had an outstanding bill of \$90. Mr. White was informed by the Water Dept. that half of the \$90 bill could be abated. Mr. White filled out the form for the abatement and paid what he currently owed. Commissioner Sexton asked what his bill has been lately. Mr. White said it was back to \$20. Commissioner Manning asked had the new water meters been put in place for Mr. White. Mr. Rhodes replied that Mr. White did not have one of the new meters yet.

Mr. Lloyd Jones, 842 Gourd Neck Road, told the Board that supports the Washington County EMS program. He wants to see the Washington County EMS program be #1 in the State. Mr. Jones talked to one of the County's EMS folks and was told that funding is their biggest problem. Mr. Jones said Washington County EMS needs to have the backing to hire qualified EMS people and good equipment.

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF COMMISSIONER McCRAY: Ms. Bennett, Clerk to the Board read aloud the following resolution. It will be sent to Mrs. Gloria McCray, wife of Commissioner McCray.

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND R. McCRAY

WHEREAS, Washington County Commissioner Raymond R. McCray departed from this life on Friday, May 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner McCray was a resident of Washington County and served our County with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner McCray began his term as a County Commissioner in December, 2006, and worked tirelessly for the citizens, serving as Vice Chairman from December 2012 until November 2013, he served on the Social Services Board from 2007 until 2014 and he served on the Albemarle Commission Board from May 7, 2007 until January 1, 2008, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner McCray demonstrated a deep and genuine love for the County and its citizens and earned the admiration and high regard of all those with whom he came into contact; and

WHEREAS, Washington County and its people have benefitted from Commissioner McCray's knowledge, leadership, and concern for his fellow citizens and his contributions will forever serve as an example of dedicated public service; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner McCray will be missed by all those whose lives he touched, especially the members of the Washington County Board of Commissioners who saw him as a dear friend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners mourns the loss of Commissioner Raymond R. McCray and extends to his family our sincere sympathy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners expresses their appreciation for Commissioner McCray's leadership, unselfish and dedicated devotion, and his significant impact on Washington County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be placed in the minutes of the Washington County Board of Commissioners as a perpetual memorial to Commissioner McCray's legacy.

Adopted this the 2nd day of June, 2014.

Attest:

Tracey A. Johnson, Chairman

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

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the resolution in memory of Commissioner McCray. Chair Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

NACo VOTING CREDENTIALS—2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Chair Johnson will be attending the NACo 2014 Annual Conference to be held July 11 – 14, 2014 in Orleans Parish, LA. It is important that each county participates in the association's annual election of officers and policy adoption.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve Chair Johnson as the delegate from Washington County with voting credentials at the NACo 2014 Annual Conference. Commissioner Phelps seconded; motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HEALTH COMPONENT /WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND USE PLAN—Ms. Ann Keyes introduced Mr. Wes MacLeod with Holland Consulting Planners. He gave a brief presentation to the Commissioners. The public hearing on this matter will be held July 7, 2014. Commissioner Phelps asked if there were specifics in the plan to advise the County to incorporate 'more active living'. Mr. MacLeod said yes there is and an example is having walkways along Hwy 64.

EMS PRESENTATION: Mr. John Flemming, EMS Director, made a presentation to the Board on the EMS and transport budget.

Commissioner Phelps asked the question to Mr. Flemming about going on a 24 hour shift rather than a 12 hour shift. Mr. Flemming said yes there would be a cost savings, and he has done research on surrounding counties and most of them do operate on a 24 hour shift. Mr. Flemming also said that with a 24 hour shift, there could be a potential of 8 hours downtime during a shift, but there is a possibility to investigate.

Commissioner Phelps said that in the presentation there is a difference in the amount staffing between last fiscal year and what is currently proposed. Mr. Flemming stated that some of the positions were unfunded.

Chair Johnson said the County was having difficulty with the budget with less staffing and now it looks as though Mr. Flemming wants to have more staff. Mr. Flemming said some that were previously intermediate were moved up to paramedics in unfunded positions. Commissioner Manning asked who made that decision. Mr. Rhodes stated that decision was made by the previous EMS director.

Commissioner Phelps asked how personnel positions are handled in EMS. He also stated that unfunded positions don't need to be happening every year. Mr. Rhodes said that whatever the fixed number of positions is for EMTs and Paramedics that they must stay the same for that budget year.

Chair Johnson asked Mr. Flemming if he fills one of the paramedic reserved positions does he fill the position with a new intermediate. Mr. Flemming said no. Chair Johnson said she felt that if that is the case then we will be low on EMT's. Mr. Flemming said when one of the paramedics leave (b/c there is turnover) then that position would be filled with an intermediate.

Commissioner Phelps said it looks like Mr. Flemming's budgets for transports are on the conservative side. Mr. Flemming said yes he does budget on the conservative side for transport.

Commissioner Sexton asked if every call gets billed. Mr. Flemming said that any call that receives treatment (even if it's just reading vitals) is billable.

Mr. Flemming also noted that \$58,000 is owed to Washington County EMS from Washington County Hospital (WCH) for transports. Commissioner Manning asked if the hospital gets paid for this service. Cameron Highsmith, CFO for WCH, said they bill for it, but it's not always paid. Commissioner Phelps asked Mr. Potter to check into seeing how the County can get its money from Washington County Hospital.

Mr. Flemming stated that if he can get staffing in place he hopes it will reduce fund overruns that EMS has had in the past. He also said that he hopes to surpass \$158,000 in revenues this month. 20% of EMS costs will usually have to be written off.

Commissioner Sexton asked Mr. Flemming how many total employees he has. Mr. Flemming replied: 9 full time paramedics, 6 intermediates, 4 full time for Transport, with 2 supervisors funded and 2 unfunded.

Commissioner Manning asked Mr. Flemming if he is confident he can track the Tyrrell County EMS costs. Mr. Flemming replied 'yes' he feels confident he can track the Tyrrell County EMS Costs.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

Washington County Department of Social Services Board Membership

Rhonda Woolard, DSS Director told the Board that the Washington County Department of Social Services Board would like to appoint Gordon Davenport to this Board.

Mr. Davenport has indicated he would be willing to serve if appointed.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to appoint Gordon Davenport to the Washington County Department of Social Services Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Frank Milazi, Finance Officer, distributed an updated draft of the Finance Policy that he would like to have this approved at the end of the month (June 23) when the budget is approved. This policy would take effect July 1, 2014. Mr. Milazi would like the Commissioners to review the policy during the next few weeks and contact him if they have any questions.

Mr. Frank Milazi distributed his report to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Phelps asked Mr. Milazi how much is in the fund balance today. Mr. Milazi said \$2.5M; however, if you take out Water/Sanitation, it would leave \$1.9M.

Mr. Milazi provided the Commissioners with an updated Washington County 2014 – 2015 Recommended Budget.

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

Commissioner Johnson stated that Budget Work Sessions will be from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on June 5 and June 6 in the Commissioners' Room.

County Attorney Curtis Potter informed the Commissioners that per the School Board's attorney, the Roper Grade School Resolution was revoked on May 27th, 2014 and there is no longer any need for the Board to take any action on that matter. It is Mr. Potter's understanding that the School Board will deal directly with the Alumni Association to facilitate their request to use the desired portion of their property for the monument.

Commissioner Phelps distributed information from the Senate's Friday night session that showed Forestry may need an increase from 35%, which is currently paid by the County to Forestry Services, to 40%. Commissioner Phelps has talked with Representative Tine to keep the rate at 35%. If the County can't afford such an increase, the leaders in our State (the General Assembly) needs to know this.

Ms. Keyes said that Forestry also assists the Emergency Operations Center during disasters.

Mr. Rhodes stated that Steve Keen, (Wayne County Commissioner) has been appointed as the Governor's Eastern Region Representative, and he will be here Wednesday at 1:00 pm to discuss any way he can assist Washington County.

Chair Johnson reminded the public that tonight's meeting will be recessed until June 9.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4) (economic development). Commissioner Phelps seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding various budgets.

The Board endorsed the County Manager's request to conduct employee evaluations.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sexton made a motion to recess the meeting until Monday, June 9, 2014 during which the public hearing for the Washington County Recommended Budget for 2014 – 2015 will be held. Chair Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Tracey A. Johnson
Chair

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