

January 5, 2015

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Washington County 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, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney Curtis Potter.

Chair Sexton called the January 5, 2015 meeting to order. Commissioner Walker gave the invocation; Mr. Potter led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Delete Item 6: Primary Health Care at MTW Health Department (move to February 2, 2015) Delete Item 1A: Approval of Minutes

CONSENT AGENDA: **Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with changes:**

Consent Agenda

- a) ~~Approval of Minutes (Remove)~~
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) Accept the Sheriff's Bond
- d) Special Election Resolution
- e) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund: Boiler and Burner Replacement—Pines Elementary School \$49,508.55

Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Jimmy Jones, 51 Cardinal Lane, spoke to the Board regarding the paving of his road. Mr. Jones said he has been talking about this since 1989. There are gravesites on that road that date back to 1918. Mr. Jones stated that road was already there way back then. Mr. Jones said Ms. Keyes gave him information on this road. He doesn't understand why he can't get the road paved. Chair Sexton acknowledged that Mr. Jones has been before the Board on a number of occasions on this subject, but that this is a state issue. Ms. Keyes told the Board that she was able to pull up information that looked like a road that dated back to 1974. The information was given to Derrick Lee with DOT but Mr. Jones hasn't heard anything from DOT. Ms. Keyes asked Mr. Jones to come by her office tomorrow and she and Tim Esolen, Register of Deeds/former GIS/Mapping Director) will call Derrick Lee with DOT tomorrow.

Lloyd Jones, West Mill Pond Road, Roper has been banking at the building on the other side of the County's Administration building for as long as he can remember. It is the only place he's ever banked. Mr. Jones received a notice that PNC is closing its doors. He said he doesn't like change. Mr. Jones asked if the County can talk to them and get them to stay. He thinks it's beneficial to Washington County.

Gail Baker, 1051 Albemarle Beach Road, told the Board that in the past several months she has come to downtown Plymouth and in doing so she ate at Stella's and went to the consignment shop. Ms. Baker said she likes to frequent the local businesses; however, every time

there were hordes of people hollering up and down the street. She was scared and intimidated. Ms. Baker said she can't imagine what a visitor to this town would think to see this kind of behavior. She said she doesn't know what the answer is, but knows that commerce is needed in Plymouth. We can grow food and we have water. Other towns around us are being fixed up. What is wrong with Plymouth? Why can't we have reformation? Chair Sexton explained to Ms. Baker that she should go and relay this message to the Plymouth Town Council.

Larry Jones, Golf Road, received a water bill that he is upset about. Mr. Jones feels that reports are being skipped and meters are not being properly read. Mr. Jones said he wants the Commissioners to check on this. Mr. Jones said he also heard that 25 people were laid off from the hospital. This concerns him. Is the hospital closing down? Chair Sexton asked Mr. Jones if he was on County or Town water. Mr. Jones stated he is on Town water. Chair Sexton suggested Mr. Jones go speak with the Town regarding his water bill concerns. Chair Sexton stated that the hospital administration has told the Board that the hospital would remain open.

Rhonda Woolard, DSS Director, introduced the new Senior Center Director, Vanessa Joyner. Francine Hines will be Ms. Joyner's mentor. Ms. Joyner will continue to send out the calendar and the newsletter from the Senior Center. Ms. Woolard also noted that members of the Explorer Post did some volunteer work and painted the doors to the Senior Center.

PROCLAMATION: PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM: For the third year in a row, the Plymouth High School football team, the Vikings, advanced to the State 1A Championship game. Ms. Bennett read aloud a proclamation citing the team's achievement and Chair Sexton presented it to Coach Cody. Chair Sexton thanked Coach Cody on behalf of the Commissioners and congratulated him on the team's accomplishments.

BIDS ON THE STOTESBERRY TRAILER: County Attorney Potter reminded the Board that the first time the Stotesberry trailer was put out for bid the County didn't receive any bids, so it was put out for re-bid. This time, one bid was received on the Stotesberry trailer. The sealed bid was opened at 2:00 pm Friday afternoon, January 2, 2015, but did not include the deposit as required. Mr. Potter explained to the Commissioners that they can chose to accept the bid or put it out for bid again. The sole bid was for \$5,000. Commissioner Phelps asked what the assessed value of the trailer was. Mr. Potter said that he didn't have that information with him tonight. Mr. Potter explained that the \$5,000 bid includes moving the trailer and the debris. There is permanent brick underpinning and brick foundation. Commissioner Manning mentioned waiving the landfill fees. Commissioner Phelps asked why the County didn't receive more bids. Mr. Potter said most people do not have the means to move the trailer, break the foundation and separate the trailer into its doublewide components, put wheels under it and then set it back up on a piece of property. Chair Sexton asked about separating the trailer from the garage. Mr. Potter said the contract will stipulate not damaging the attached garage when separating it from the trailer.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to accept the bid of \$5,000 for the Stotesberry trailer subject to the contract being acceptable and waive the landfill fees for brick underpinning. Mr. Potter mentioned that this trailer is not useable as a residence where it currently sits because of safety factors with the airport runway. Commissioner Johnson said she doesn't understand why the Board would waive the landfill fees. Commissioner Manning said it was previously discussed to waive the landfill fees. Mr. Potter said bidders were informed to include the request for waiving of tipping fees if they desired this. **Commissioner Manning**

removed waiving the landfill fees for brick underpinning from his motion. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion to accept the bid of \$5,000 for the Statesberry trailer subject to the contract being acceptable. Commissioner Phelps asked what was not included with the bid. Mr. Potter said the security deposit was not included which was \$100. Commissioner Phelps said he would like to know the value of the trailer before accepting a bid. Mr. Potter asked the clerk what was the advertising cost if the trailer were to be put out for bid again. Ms. Bennett said the last advertising bill for the trailer was \$125. **Motion carried unanimously.**

BUDGET AMENDEMENT FOR SOIL AND WATER: Mr. Milazi gave the Board some background information on the one-cent drainage fund. Some years ago the Board decided to collect one-cent/year for drainage. Over the years, the entire fund was used. More recently, the one-cent drainage money that has been collected has been put in the General Fund. Mr. Milazi proposed that this money needs to be moved from the General Fund and put in a separate fund (similar to how the County handles Travel and Tourism). Mr. Milazi would like for the Board to authorize him to open a separate account for the one-cent drainage fee. Mr. Milazi said Keith Sawyer, Soil and Water, will be asking the Board for more money than what was in his Soil and Water budget. Mr. Sawyer reminded that Board that he came before them last year and was given permission for the Kendrick's Creek Project; however, Mr. Sawyer did not ask specifically for the funds (~\$47,000). Mr. Sawyer noted that Kendrick's Creek will be easier to maintain now since the work has been completed. Mr. Sawyer mentioned that the State has some additional funding available for counties in the Northeast, but they require matching funds. Mr. Sawyer said the State would give Washington County \$4,000 if the County could match that. Mr. Sawyer said he would like to ask the Board for a budget amendment for \$51,000 from the one-cent drainage fee.

Commissioner Phelps said he remembered the conversation from a previous Board meeting regarding Kendrick's Creek and thought that the Board was told that money was available for this project. Mr. Sawyer said he didn't take into account the Kendrick's Creek budget when doing his Soil and Water budget.

Mr. Rhodes said there has been considerable discussion about drainage. A committee was created many years ago from citizens in the County from the existing drainage committees. Mr. Rhodes said he will be proposing a drainage ordinance in the future that will mirror the fire commission ordinance and will set responsibilities and how the funds can be dispersed and the process for doing so. This should clear up some of the issues the County has had in the past. Mr. Rhodes said, if the Board approves it, the one-cent will be pulled out of the General Fund and made into a separate fund (like a trust account) for use by the drainage committee.

Mr. Sawyer told the Board that if Washington County gets hit with a hurricane or a big storm the chances of getting 'free' money are nil. The County would then have to have matching funds for any money from the State. It has taken several years to get the Kendrick's Creek work done. This money will help to keep it open and the work needed on the Scuppernong and for also setting up new service districts--for Kendrick's Creek and Scuppernong Creek.

Mr. Rhodes explained to the Board that this money has already been collected and designated for drainage purposes.

Commissioner Manning made a motion for a budget amendment of \$51,000 to pay for projects already completed and open a separate account for \$118,641 for the Washington County Drainage Fund. Commissioner Walker seconded, motion carried unanimously.

EDMUNDS SOFTWARE UPDATE: Ms. Sherri Wilkins, Tax Administrator, gave the Board an update on the issues that the Tax Office has been having with Edmunds software.

Ms. Wilkins also noted that one of the Commissioners had some questions this morning about the insolvents reports that were in the Commissioners' Board package. Ms. Wilkins said she was unable to print out reports that were requested but she will get them to the Commissioners as soon as she can. Ms. Wilkins stated that in the past, each year the tax office would write-off the taxes that went over the 10-year threshold but that ended before she was hired and does not know why. The tax office is currently making the effort to write-off the amounts that are past the 10-year threshold and that cannot, by statute, be collected through enforced collections. The tax office is trying to catch up the records so the balance that is due is within the 10 years.

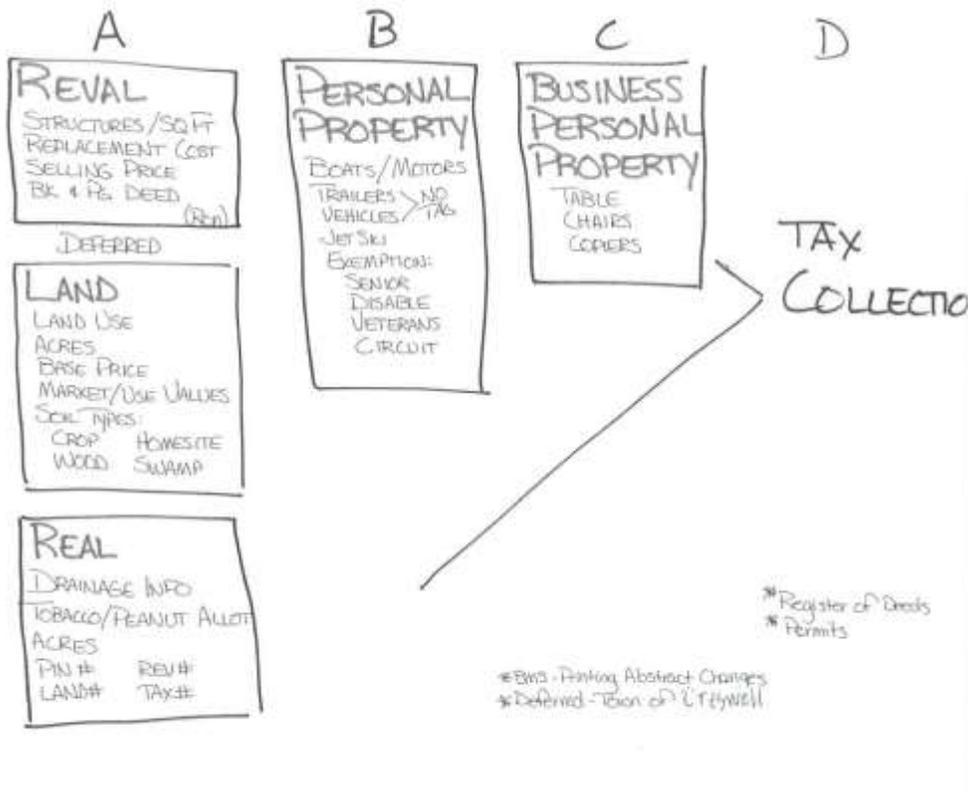
Ms. Wilkins said the tax office staff worked diligently for several months to get social security numbers on accounts.

Ms. Wilkins noted that Ms. Darlene Harrison, Delinquent Tax Collector, is currently working mainly with wage garnishments and bank attachments. She also just mailed the employer letters where we request a listing of employees that work for them that have an address in Plymouth, Roper, Creswell or Pantego. The tax office uses these lists to try and find delinquent taxpayers and set up wage garnishments.

Today was the last day to pay taxes without interest. The tax office will send a 2nd notice letter out in February. The delinquent taxpayer's list will be advertised in March. Debt set-off letters will be mailed for the 2014 delinquent taxes in March. In February Ms. Wilkins said she will present the Tax Collector's report giving the Board a balance due as of January 31st. Looking at what she has reported on the Statistical Report as of November month-end the tax office collected \$2.2 million in taxes, \$2 million for the current year; in December alone the tax office collected \$2.4 million in taxes, \$2.3 million for the current year. For the first two days of January the tax office collected \$776,000 +. The tax office has been very busy. The tax office is also receiving calls and visits about the BPP listings and PP (Abstract) listings.

Regarding her Edmunds update, Ms. Wilkins told the Board that she sent the Commissioners a copy of her notes that she was going to present in December. Basically, Edmunds is still working on the payment process, the payment window. Ms. Wilkins said that Jeff, who is the head of the project, is coming January 21st to go over the changes Edmunds has made. They haven't moved on to any other changes that the tax office has requested in tax collection or assessment. The tax office staff told Jeff that we were told by Edmunds that they would make the changes we requested to make the software work in a tax office. Jeff said he was not told that. Edmunds programmers will make some changes but they are not going to be making all the changes. Our current programmer (for Elite) is available after hours and on weekends if needed. He has backup here in Washington County. Edmunds closes at 5:00 pm and they are gone. The tax office's experience has been that although the tax office was told we were first priority, if we call we talk to Jeff or Jennifer. We are not handled that way. They take

our number and we get a call back when they are available. My understanding from them is they don't have a Machinery Act which is issued by the Department of Revenue (DOR). The software that the tax office needs has to be in compliance with the Machinery Act and Edmunds doesn't have one. Ms. Wilkins said it is her understanding that they haven't reached out to the DOR. Edmunds isn't learning about the laws of taxation for North Carolina so how can they create a software package for the collection and assessment of taxes for the state of NC? If the tax office is being required to get new software, it needs collection and assessment software--it is 2 different needs. Ms. Wilkins gave the Board the information below and apologized for not having it in a better format but explained how the system is supposed to work.



Commissioner Phelps said he knows that Ms. Wilkins and her staff are frustrated and so is the Board. **Commissioner Phelps made a motion requesting Ms. Wilkins ask someone from Edmunds to come to the February Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Manning seconded.** Commissioner Johnson asked Ms. Wilkins if she knows of any other software that is used in other counties. Ms. Wilkins said she will do some research to find out what other counties use. Commissioner Johnson said that the County may need to make a change. Commissioner Manning asked Mr. Milazi's opinion on whether or not it would be a problem to find something new for the tax office and make it work with the Edmunds software that the Finance office is using. Mr. Milazi deferred to Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes said he was not a software person. The tax office is still using the Elite system. Mr. Rhodes said that this new software contract was put in place before he became County Manager. Mr. Milazi said that the president of Edmunds has said there is resistance from the tax office. Mr. Rhodes said he hasn't talked to Ms. Wilkins about this. Mr. Rhodes said Edmunds initially said they could build a tax program to work. Commissioner Manning said the Board needs to see a copy of the contract between the County and Edmunds to know what Edmunds is

supposed to be providing to the County. Mr. Milazi will make sure the President of Edmunds attends the February Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Johnson asked about the current programmer (of the Elite software) since he is one person. Ms. Wilkins said he does have a back-up person that can be called if needed. Mr. Rhodes asked Ms. Wilkins if Elite gives the tax office everything they need. Ms. Wilkins said if Elite doesn't provide something the tax office needs then the programmer can create something. Ms. Wilkins said the programmer can create a program for reports that can be incorporated into Edmunds, but that has not been accepted by Finance. Mr. Rhodes said he thinks the Board needs to hear from Edmunds before making any decisions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NCFAST UPDATE: Ms. Rhonda Woolard, DSS Director, along with Caroline Gurganus and Tammy Nixon gave the Board an update on the NCFAST system's Medicaid Conversion.

Medicaid Conversion Update

January 5, 2015

- Hard Launch was implemented on November 3, 2014.
- All cases have been transferred into the NCFAST system as of December 14, 2014.
- No longer doing any cases in the old EIS legacy system.

- Each case has to be converted and processed all the way through on the same day, which means all information must be turned in and the case must be ready to go before it can be processed in North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NCFAST).
 - Prior to Hard Launch into NCFAST it took an average of 1 to 1 ½ hours to work a simple case from start to finish in the old Eligibility Information Systems (EIS) legacy system.
 - At first touch of each case has to be converted prior to processing (remember this all has to be done in the same day), then the case has to be certified/processed for a certain period of time in NCFAST once conversion is done. This takes an average of 3 to 3 ½ hours for a simple case to be certified and receive benefits. Unlike when Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Hard Launch in November 2012, their cases could be converted into the NCFAST system and then processed later when all the information was available.
 - The conversion of all Medicaid/Cash Assistance cases which is approximately 3,024 cases (these cases could include 1 person up to 8 persons) will take one year to complete. The cases that were just certified in October 2014 for November benefits will not be up for review until October 2015.
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- The Medicaid workers are working over an average of 2 to 4 days per week just to try to get as much done as they can, during this overwhelming endeavor.
 - Caseworkers remain committed to doing everything possible to see that clients receive their benefits in a timely manner. They continue to work very diligently to do their very best, however we have 3 new workers for Medicaid currently at this time.
 - This is a barrier for the new workers, as far as their ability in being able to really help the other workers in these processes as they are still learning the basic information.
 - Another barrier is the day to day challenges that NCFAST presents, with system slowness and changes in processes that don't always work.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the NCFAST help desk is available 24 hours a day. Ms. Gurganus said that it was not. Mr. Rhodes asked how long has NCFAST been in development. Ms. Gurganus said NCFAST has been in development for more than 5 years. Mr. Rhodes asked if the programmers had to write the programs as they go along. Ms. Woolard said yes and they have lessons learned from when going through the food stamp system. Mr. Rhodes said that the State is having the same issues as the County is having with Edmunds. Commissioner Manning asked

what Ms. Woolard wants the Commissioners to do. Ms. Woolard said this was just an update to let the Board know what is going on.

Larry Jones, Plymouth asked about the food stamp program. Can someone coming out of prison get them? Ms. Gurganus said it depends on the circumstances of the person's incarceration.

Carrol Carraway, DSS, who handles IT for DSS, suggested that the Board request a technician from Edmunds to answer these questions about what the system can and can't do instead of the President or someone giving a marketing/sales pitch.

SHERIFF'S UPDATE: Sheriff Johnny Barnes spoke to the Board and updated them on activities that have taken place since he took office on December 1, 2014. Sheriff Barnes said he is in the process of setting up an audit for evidence storage lockers/bins. He is also working with IT on getting e-mail access for all officers and a CJ Leads access, and getting RMS and JMS for training. Sheriff Barnes has also implemented some security changes for Court. They are now using metal detectors and closing off one side entrance of the courtroom which also means they will only need one bailiff. Sheriff Barnes is considering using a keypad access for the closed off side for officers, judges and specific staff. Sheriff Barnes is implementing new policies and procedures that are provided by the Sheriff's Association but can be tailored for our Sheriff's office. These policies and procedures cover what the County policy does not (i.e. pursuits, etc.) A jail inspection found rust around a sink and no hot water in one sink. He is in the process of getting these items fixed before deadline of January 18, 2015. The Sheriff said he wants to set up an audit of jail paperwork policies and procedures. There is a retired jail administrator from Greenville that has offered to assist our Sheriff's office. Sheriff Barnes said he is trying to set up a schedule for auxiliary officers for training to keep current (i.e. for parades, ballgames) which will allow for more officers on the street. The Sheriff has re-launched Washington County's Most Wanted Facebook site. The site shows people who are wanted and sometimes if someone sees their picture on Facebook they will actually turn themselves in. Starting Wednesday, the Sheriff will have a radio program on Magic 95.9--a 10 minute update with a Most Wanted plug at the end of the program.

Personnel changes are as follows:

Arlo Norman is Chief Deputy

Brock Harris is Lieutenant of Patrol

Lew Hellickson is Lieutenant of Investigations

Charles Arnold is Sergeant of Investigations

Lee Vance Mitchell is Chief Detention Officer

Debra James is Detention Officer

Taundra Morgan is Detention Officer

Stavonna Blount is 911 Dispatcher

EMS UPDATE: John Flemming, EMS Director, spoke to the Board and gave them a handout on the Washington County EMS Standard Policy on Transport.

Mr. Flemming said that he had a visit from the State Office of EMS on December 16, 2014 regarding a request from Washington County Hospital (WCH) to Washington County EMS for their assistance when something happens at WCH. The State Office of EMS told WCH that Washington County EMS is not certified to do this. However, EMS did assist WCH two times

and reported it to the State Office of EMS. The life/death of a patient was at stake. Mr. Flemming has been trying to find ways for EMS to help WCH, but there is no way to do so at this time even in a crisis situation. Mr. Flemming relayed the information to Cameron Highsmith at WCH from the State Office of EMS and stated that having EMS assist WCH would cost EMS to lose its certification.

Mr. Flemming spoke about WCH requesting IV line sets today to administer fluids. WCH did not have any in stock. Mr. Flemming said he gave WCH 30 sets and noted that they only cost \$2.79 each. Mr. Flemming was concerned that WCH did not have the IV line sets in stock in the ER. Mr. Rhodes asked how long would 30 IV line sets last WCH. Mr. Flemming said if the ER has a busy night they could go through all 30 sets in one night.

Mr. Flemming stated what his staffing level is as of right now: 4 full time employees on Worker's Comp with no return known at this time; 2 on FMLA, 1 out for surgery, 1 out on maternity leave; 1 open paramedic position and 2 open EMT positions.

The 2 out on FMLA cost high overtime because part-timers cover these positions along with the 3 open positions.

Mr. Rhodes said he knows there is concern over the pay for part-timers. He noted that if one EMS staff member stays out till March, they will have been out on Worker's Comp for a full year and one will soon be out for 6 months and one may need surgery and be out approximately an additional 9 months. There are numerous reasons why the part-time cost is as high as it is. The EMS budget was based on the best estimate at that time. Additional costs will be incurred if things continue as they are now with staff out on Worker's Comp.

Mr. Rhodes said the EMS budget through the end of December was right at 50%--on overall budget. Transport is at 49%. The good news is that EMS is on budget. The bad news is that there is no wiggle room for unforeseen circumstances. The Board has had numerous discussions on EMS schedule and overtime pay. EMS went to 24/48 after changing from a 12 hour fluctuating schedule. The County spent over \$1M on EMS and additional funding had to be pulled from the General Fund last year.

Mr. Rhodes met with some EMS staff to discuss the current schedule and overtime pay. He has discussed with the Board going to a 24/72 schedule but he wasn't comfortable changing schedules so soon because of the lack of data for just 5 months. Mr. Milazi gave a report in December to say that it would cost over \$100,000 to go to 24/72 now. If the EMS schedule changes in July, it would cost \$192,000.

Mr. Rhodes said that if the overtime rate is changed for the remainder of this fiscal year, it would give more time to evaluate the 24/72 possible change and how to pay for it. Mr. Rhodes feels it would be more prudent to change the hourly rate now then look at changing to 24/72 schedule next fiscal year without dipping into the general fund.

Commissioner Phelps asked if he was correct in hearing that changing the hourly rate and going to 24/72 was about the same cost. Mr. Rhodes said that cost doesn't lock us into that schedule for a full year—it is for the remainder of this fiscal year. Commissioner Phelps asked why can't the County try to change from 24/72 now through end of fiscal year. Mr. Milazi said 4 people would have to be hired (for an additional shift) and if the 24/72 schedule didn't work

then 4 people would have been let go at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Flemming corrected Mr. Milazi in saying that he would have to hire 8 people, not 4. Chair Sexton said he is still concerned about the overtime. He would like to work with the schedule we currently have and pay them a base rate of pay.

Mr. Flemming stated he mans 3 stations, 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Allen Smith, EMS EMT, said the issue is pay, but it is not the most important issue. He stated he sent an e-mail to all EMS staff and they all said it was the hours. Washington County has lost some people due to the 24/48 schedule and would like the Board to seriously consider the 24/72 schedule.

Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Flemming to see what other counties EMS schedules are.

Mr. Flemming understands that 24/72 is taxing on his employees. Mr. Rhodes said the decision is up to the Board. The two issues are overtime pay and 24/72. Mr. Rhodes said he would like to tackle the overtime pay now and the 24/72 schedule for the next fiscal year. It would cost an additional \$292,000 in next year's budget to go to 24/72—where will the money come from?

Allen Pearson, EMT, said he saw a line item on his tax card that has three-cent on there for EMS. He asked why the three-cent is on the tax notice and where is the money going. Mr. Rhodes said there is a four-cent tax for the Fire Commission designated by an ordinance, but the three-cent for EMS is not designated in the same way.

Chair Sexton said EMS is getting out of hand in the County but we have one of the best EMS groups around. Chair Sexton said the Board will have to talk about trying to do something different during the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Johnson talked about how EMS has been difficult to fund since the County took over EMS.

Discussion ensued regarding the 24/72 schedule, overtime pay and a “Kelly day” (which is offered in some other counties and is a guaranteed extra day off each month).

Chair Sexton asked the EMS staff in attendance if 24/48 with a “Kelly day” guaranteed (an extra day off each month) would be something that EMS would accept. Allen Pearson spoke for himself and said yes.

Mr. Flemming said the problem with the “Kelly day” is having the part-time staff to cover those days.

Deborah Jalali and Jennifer O’Neal spoke to the Board about their concerns. Ms. O’Neal said that EMS is not managing their part-time and full-time staff correctly. Chair Sexton asked Mr. Flemming if what Ms. O’Neal said is correct. Mr. Flemming explained how he schedules the EMS staff.

Commissioner Johnson said she has been told that some full-time staff have left and said they would entertain the idea to come back part-time, but they have not been called back. Mr. Rhodes said he made that decision to not call them back due to their negativity and how they left.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to pay the full-time employees time and a half for overtime after the 41st hour for the remainder of the fiscal year, beginning January 16, 2015, out of the fund balance. Commissioner Walker seconded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Milazi said the personnel software may need to be adjusted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Flemming said he is waiting on background checks for the 2 open positions he has available. He also just received approval to replace the 1 employee on FMLA, so he will soon have 3 full-time people which will cut down on part-timers.

Ms. Woolard, DSS Director, told the Board she has respect for all departments. She thought that the purpose of the personnel study that Mr. Rhodes was having done was to decide who gets overtime and who does not. As an advocate for her staff, she has staff who works overtime too. What about compensation for other staff?

E911 DISCUSSION: Mr. Rhodes reminded the Board of the joint meeting held in September with Martin County to discuss the merging of Washington County's and Martin County's E911 Center and gave a brief synopsis of that meeting. Mr. Rhodes noted that if the County doesn't have a back-up system in place by July 2016 the County will be out of compliance with the State.

Mr. Rhodes said the question is does Washington County want to move forward with the feasibility study to see the benefits of merging. Washington County's cost for the study would be estimated at \$26, 250. Chair Sexton asked was there money in E911 funds to cover this. Mr. Milazi said no, E911 funds are in the negative so the funding for this study would have to come from the General Fund. Commissioner Johnson asked is this something we are required to do now or at some point in the future. Mr. Rhodes reiterated that by July 2016 we will have to have a back-up E911 system. Mr. Rhodes said if Washington County decides to consolidate there would be more grant money available to us. Chair Sexton asked Sheriff Barnes what are his thoughts on E911 consolidation. Sheriff Barnes said he is not for it at all. He doesn't want to see all of E911 end up in Martin County. He doesn't want to see Washington County be the back-up system. Commissioner Phelps asked Delisa Johnson, E911 Director, what her thoughts are on E911 consolidation. Ms. Johnson said she is against it also. She said the response time would drop because Martin County would not be familiar with Washington County. Chief Deputy Norman agreed and doesn't want to see Washington County lose employees due to consolidation.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to NOT move forward with the E911 consolidation feasibility study. Commissioner Walker seconded. Chair Sexton asked what the alternative plan is. Commissioner Phelps said the County will have to come up with a plan. Commissioner Johnson said that the statute says we will have to have a back-up system but how will the County fund it. Mr. Milazi said in the past, then County Manager David Peoples, thought to use the airport as the place for a back-up system since the back-up system has to be 5 miles away. Ms. Johnson said the grant is still available for funding a back-up system. Chair Sexton asked Ms. Johnson to look at the grant and bring information back to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson would like a copy of the statute mandating the E911 back-up system.
Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Washington County ABC Board would like to re-appoint Mr. Jack Faulk to their Board. Mr. Faulk's three-year term ends December 30, 2014.

Mr. Faulk has stated he would be willing to serve if reappointed.

Albemarle Rural Planning Organization

Angela Welsh, of the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization sent a letter to the Commissioners stating that the RPO needs to have the Commissioners appoint an alternate to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). Mr. Rhodes stated that he had an interest in being appointed, however the alternate must be an elected official. Commissioner Manning volunteered to be the RTAC alternate for Washington County.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the appointments as mentioned above. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Milazi updated the Board on the audit. The County got a clean audit. Filing to the State will be done by January 15 and thereafter the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) is due to the GFOA before the end of the month. Mr. Milazi is working with auditors, the County Manager and Finance Staff on the CAFR. The report becomes official after filing with the State.

Mr. Milazi said the Commissioners will have a chance to ask questions about the audit when the auditor attends the Board meeting in either February or March.

Mr. Milazi went over his report. Mr. Milazi said the County will need to have a policy on what the County will pay for the WCH employee retirement funding commitment. Commissioner Johnson asked to be reminded of this item at budget time.

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

Ms. Bennett mentioned the EIC grant application that was in the Commissioners' package. It is for information only, but the EIC is required to make sure that the Commissioners are given a copy of it.

Commissioner Phelps asked what the next step for the strategic plan is. Mr. Rhodes said that Ms. Liverman is putting together all the pieces and the second strategic plan meeting should be in February.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Board for approving the Special Election Resolution. After several discussions with Commissioners from other counties, she will take this resolution to the General Assembly from Washington County as a single county instead of from the NCACC as previously discussed. Commissioner Johnson is meeting with Representative Paul

Tine tomorrow. Commissioner Johnson will take the resolution to the NCACC after she gets it to the General Assembly. The Board agreed with this.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned to the Board that she would like to attend the Legislative Goals meeting in DC in February. She will be staying with relatives so she is asking the Board to consider paying the registration fee. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Phelps attended inaugural events for Erica Smith-Ingram this past weekend. Chair Sexton said the Board should try to get a meeting with her and Representative Tine in the near future. Commissioner Phelps said Senator Smith-Ingram's aide will be checking with the 8 counties she covers and will be setting up meetings with each one.

Mr. Potter said the Waterworks Review Committee (WWRC) is holding hearings this week.

Mr. Potter said he received a call from the lawyer with Republic Services and he said the County should soon be receiving a contract to review on disposal services.

Mr. Potter said some residents will be receiving letters from the Town asking to be allowed to come on their properties for the water/sewer extension.

Mr. Potter said the County has received some complaints about dilapidated structures. One on Pelican Lane is too close to other structures to be used as a training opportunity for the fire departments.

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

At 10:00 pm, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Manning made a motion to recess the meeting. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

William R. Sexton, Jr.
Chair

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