

October 1, 2012

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM in Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Alexander, Johnson, Manning, McCray and Sexton were present. Also present were Interim County Manager/County Attorney Cheryl Young, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Frank Milazi.

Chair Manning asked for a motion to adjourn the recessed September 17, 2012 Board of Commissioner meeting. **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the recessed September 17, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER: Chair Manning asked for a motion to appoint Cheryl Young as Interim County Manager effective October 1, 2012.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Cheryl Young as Interim County Manager effective October 1, 2012. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: Ms. Bennett added two items to the Consent Agenda:

- d) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund—
Gym Floor Renovation at PHS—\$12,000
Gym Floor Renovation at WCU—\$9,750
- e) Award to Low Bidders—Clearance and Reconstruction Bids for the
Washington County Scattered Site Housing Project
CDBG #10-C-2132

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund—New
Sidewalk —Creswell Elementary School—\$3,730.00

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the additions requested. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Gregory Boston, 206 Latham Ave, Plymouth, spoke to the Board on behalf of Concerned Citizens for Hope for Washington County. Mr. Boston stated that the Town of Plymouth is trying to improve recreation by having a recreation park. He has heard concerns from citizens of the other towns about recreation and wants to know why the Commissioners aren't doing more to support recreation county-wide. Commissioner Johnson explained to Mr. Boston that the grant that the town is applying for can only be done by one entity. Chair Manning stated that Randy Fulford is our recreation director. Chair Manning also stated that the County made some changes to the recreation budget due to a request from Town of Roper Mayor Sanders this year, but the proper channel is to go through Mr. Fulford regarding recreational issues and Mr. Fulford can bring requests to the Board. Mr. Boston stated that the current facilities need a lot of work. Commissioner Johnson stated that by statute the County doesn't have to provide recreation. Commissioner Johnson went on to explain that other counties are funded by grants not by County money. Commissioner McCray reiterated that Mr. Boston should talk with Mr. Fulford. Commissioner Johnson commented that the Booster Club was created to help with recreation funding. Mr. Boston feels that the Commissioners need to look for grants. Mr. Boston also asked who goes to Raleigh to lobby for our County to try to get funding for our County. Chair Manning stated that Congressman Butterfield actually comes to see us to see what he can do to help us or the County Manager has gone to Raleigh to help secure funding for the County. Commissioner McCray said our strongest lobbyists are our voters--they should also talk to their representatives.

PUBLIC HEARING—NC CATALYST GRANT FOR NEW LIBRARY ROOF:
Commissioner Johnson made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frank Milazi spoke to the Board about the NC Catalyst Grant that Washington County is applying for to redo the roof at the library. The application is for up to \$50,000 and will be submitted by the end of this month by Ms. Laurie Raynor, HR Director. Mr. Milazi requested that the Board recess until October 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm to have a second public hearing on this grant.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Chair Manning also mentioned to Mr. Boston that Ms. Raynor is attending school to learn how to write grants and he could talk to her if he finds any recreation grants the County could apply for.

RUNWAY 21 TAXIWAY TURNAROUND BIDS: Jason Elliott, LPA Group spoke to the Board about rebidding the Runway 21 Taxiway Turnaround project. Bids were opened on Tuesday. There was only one bid received and it was for \$486,082. Mr. Elliott recommended rebidding in the Spring of 2013. He feels confident that more bids would be received at that time. Commissioner Johnson asked if the Division of Aviation will still provide funds if the County delays the bidding process. Mr. Elliott stated this would not be a problem. Commissioner Sexton asked why more companies didn't bid. Mr. Elliott believes it was time constraints for doing the work and that there are only a few contractors able to do this type of work. Also, Mr. Elliott stated that for some contractors it's considered a small job so someone across the state wouldn't bid on it.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to rebid the Runway 21 Taxiway Turnaround project in Spring 2013. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson requested earmarking the funds for this project. Ms. Young stated that she will be making a presentation regarding the airport funds at the next meeting and funds for the taxiway turnaround will be covered.

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRISCIENCE (NERSBA) DISCUSSION: Mr. David Peele, President, NERSBA School Board gave the Board a brief update on the school operations to date and discussed a potential use of the Washington County Roper Annex building in the future.

Mr. Peele stated that NERSBA opened on August 13 with 60 students from five different counties. The plan is to add a 7th grade and 9th grade next year which will be another 120 students. Partners with the school are working on funding for modular units. However, NERSBA is looking at a fallback position such as the Washington County Roper Annex building (formerly the Windows on the World building) to be able to have class there if the modular units are not in place by August 2013. Mr. Peele feels that facility could be a stop-gap method. Mr. Peele asked the Commissioners to consider withholding renting the building until talking to NERSBA. Mr. Peele said his Board will know in two months if they will have adequate facilities and would like the consideration of the Board to hold off for two months before renting the Washington County Roper Annex building. Ms. Young said that Beaufort County Community College toured the facility last week with an interest but could possibly co-exist with NERSBA if they both need the building.

Mr. Peele stated there are six faculty members and the word so far is all students love the school. Chair Manning asked when the Commissioners can take a tour of the new school. Mr. Peele suggested he should call Principal Hal Davis to set up a tour. Commissioner Johnson stated she has been invited to the NERSBA board meetings. Mr. Peele went on to explain that students could potentially finish with 2 years of college courses paid for by the state of NC rather than parent's pockets. Mr. Peele mentioned that NRSBA has been approached by the state of OH to see how our school is run and setup. The plan in NC is to have more regional schools, possibly 3-5 agriculture STEM schools in NC in the future. Commissioners will take into consideration Mr. Peele's request to hold off on renting the Washington County Roper Annex building until talking to the NERSBA Board.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OR EXCLUSION: Mr. Chip Main, Tax Administrator, spoke to the Board regarding a property tax exemption/exclusion he received from the Cherry Church of God. Every year the Tax Office accepts these exemptions. This particular request arrived in August which is after the period of time that Mr. Main has authority to approve such requests so Mr. Main brought it to the Commissioners for approval. The regular listing period is during the month of January.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the property tax exemption of Cherry Church of God as presented. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion passed unanimously.

CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS: Ms. Young, spoke to the Board about two class action lawsuits received by the County regarding the sale of municipal derivatives by Wells Fargo and other companies and by JP Morgan and other companies.

Ms. Young stated that she has worked with the Finance Department to try to identify what these lawsuits are referencing but has not found anything yet. The records being searched go back to 1992 and staff has to conduct the search by hand because our computer software can't search back that far. Ms. Young would like the County to stay under the class action lawsuits.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve Ms. Young to keep the County under the class action lawsuits as presented. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Milazi distributed his Finance Report to the Commissioners. Commissioner Johnson asked if the funds have come in from the Stotesberry purchase. Ms. Young said the Division of Aviation is looking for their award hopefully in October and our name is in the hat but there was no commitment made as for when the funds would arrive.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER, CLERK, COUNTY ATTORNEY, ETC.:

- Ms. Bennett told the Commissioners that a presentation will be made at the October 15th Board of Commissioners Meeting on the airport renovation.
- Ms. Bennett told the Commissioners of two letters that Commissioner Johnson received from the NCACC. One letter thanked Commissioner Johnson for agreeing to serve as a member of the 2012-2014 NCACC Legislative Goals Committee and the other letter invited her to serve on the NCACC 2012-13 President's Mentoring Initiative.

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

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to come out of Closed Session and back into Open Session. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve two part-time positions in Finance. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to recess the meeting until Monday, October 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Buster Manning
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC
Clerk to the Board