

November 19, 2012

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Monday, November 19, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the 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 called the November 19, 2012 meeting to order. Chair Manning added the Planning Board Recommendation to Oppose the Expansion of the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge to the agenda as item 3A. **Commissioner Sexton approved the addition to the agenda as mentioned above. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP): Mr. Lou Manring, Public Utilities Director spoke to the Board to request a public hearing on the Solid Waste Management Plan at the December 3, 2012 meeting. Mr. Manring told the Board that every three years the SWMP has to be updated. He noted that there are no material changes in the update except that the County now accepts electronics at the landfill.

HWY 308/45 TRAFFIC STUDY: Chair Manning told the Board that several citizens have requested a change to the intersection of Hwy 308/45 since there has been a rash of recent accidents there. Such a change can be made by a DOT doing a traffic study of the area. DOT needs to receive a letter from the Commissioners in support of this traffic study.

**Commissioner McCray made a motion to approve a letter to DOT requesting a traffic study be conducted at the intersection of Hwy 308 and Hwy 45. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

ALLIGATOR RIVER BRIDGE MEETING: Chair Manning spoke to the Board regarding a letter that was received regarding the planned closing of the Alligator River Bridge for repairs. There will be an open meeting at the Columbia Municipal Building, 103 Main Street, Columbia at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 29, 2012. (This was briefly discussed at the Southern Albemarle Association meeting in October.) Commissioner Sexton asked how long the planned closure is. Chair Manning stated the work is scheduled to be done during the January/February timeframe for approximately 2 weeks. Discussion ensued. Commissioners can attend the meeting if they so choose.

COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION: Chair Manning presented Commissioner Alexander with a plaque for her years of service as a Washington County Commissioner.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO OPPOSE THE EXPANSION OF THE POCOSIN LAKES WILDLIFE REFUGE: Ms. Ann Keyes addressed the Board. She thanked Commissioner Alexander for her being an asset to the Planning Board as the Commissioner Representative. Ms. Keyes then proceeded to read the recommendation from the Planning Board. The Planning Board expressed concern over the proposed expansion of the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge and felt that it would not

be in the best interest of the County, i.e., increase in exempt properties. The Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge currently owns 540 sq. miles and wants an additional 10,000 acres and the some of the area(s) they are looking at is prime farmland. The Planning Board would like the Commissioners to send a letter/resolution of opposition to the Wildlife Commission. Ms. Young will help Ms. Bennett draft the resolution to add facts and figures and have it ready for the December 3 meeting.

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve sending a resolution opposing the expansion of the Pocosin Lakes Refuge to the NC Wildlife Commission, Tyrrell and Hyde County Commissioners and our congressional and state representatives. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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

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

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the EMS Agreement between Washington County and Tyrrell County. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6). Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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

The Commissioners agreed to make an offer to a candidate for the position of County Manager.

**With there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

---

Chair

---

Julie J. Bennett, CMC  
Clerk to the Board