

December 3, 2012

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 3, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the County Commissioners room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, McCray, Phelps and Sexton were present. Also present were Interim County Manager Cheryl Young, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Frank Milazi.

The Honorable Regina R. Parker swore in Commissioners Buster Manning, Bill Sexton and D. Cole Phelps and Register of Deeds Elaine Vann.

Interim County Manager, Cheryl Young called the meeting to order.

ELECTION OF CHAIR: Interim County Manager Cheryl Young called for nominations for Chair of the Washington County Commissioners. Commissioner Sexton nominated Commissioner Manning for Chair for December 2012 - 2013. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the nominations; Commissioner Johnson seconded. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to elect Commissioner Manning as Chair. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chair Manning assumed presiding over the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR: Chair Manning called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Washington County Commissioners for December 2012 - 2013. Commissioner Sexton nominated Commissioner Johnson as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Chair Manning called for the vote. All Commissioners voted aye.

Reverend Don Phelps gave the invocation; Mayor Roth led the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Manning welcomed Commissioner Phelps to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) 2013 County Commissioners' Meeting Schedule
- c) 2013 County Holiday Schedule
- d) Closing of County Offices
- e) EMS Interlocal Agreement between Washington County and Tyrrell County
- f) NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund—Walk in Freezer—Pines Elementary School—\$32,985.75

Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Various people in the audience spoke to the Commissioners about new Commissioner D. Cole Phelps.

Gwen Wilkins, Rocky Mount, NC first vice chair of 1st Democratic Party wished the best for Commissioner Phelps and Washington County.

Rose Glover, Mayor Pro-Tem of Greenville stated that Commissioner Phelps is her godson and asked the Board to be patient with him.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Mayor Roth, Senator Don Davis and Representative-elect Paul Tine for coming to the meeting.

Senator Don Davis, Greene County wished many blessings to Washington County as we prepare to move forward.

Lloyd Jones, Roper, thanked the Commissioners for all they did in 2012 and welcomed Commissioner Phelps to the Board and said he was looking forward to them serving in 2013. Mr. Jones also stated he would like to see an agenda where we forget about being a Democrat or Republican and work towards the good of the business of the County.

Commissioner McCray welcomed all the visitors and told them they were in the land of the Mighty Vikings!

Mayor Roth told everyone that the Viking victory parade will be at 11:00 am this Saturday. He also went on to say that he is proud of all of the County Commissioners and supports them all.

Michelle Phelps, Creswell (Commissioner Phelps' mom) told everyone that there is a room reserved at the Golden Skillet and invited everyone to join in the celebration of Commissioner Phelps.

Melissa Hill congratulated Commissioner Phelps.

Lisa Morgan, Assistant Dean at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) law school was in attendance to support Commissioner Phelps.

PUBLIC HEARING: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to go into the public hearing for the Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lou Manring, Public Utilities Director spoke to the Board and said that he is responsible for the Solid Waste Management Update every three years. The first step in the process is a Public Hearing. As Mr. Manring noted at the meeting on November 19, 2012, there have been no material changes to the SWMP except that the County now accepts electronics at the landfill for recycling.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the public hearing for the Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2013-2014 SECTION 5311 PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION (COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM):

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into the public hearing for the FY2013-2014 Section 5311 Program Grant Application (Community Transportation Program). Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jerry Rhodes, DSS Director will speak to the Board regarding the abovementioned grant application. Washington County is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5311 Program (Community Transportation Program) for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2013. The first step in this process is a public hearing.

Commissioner Manning asked about the grant match. Mr. Rhodes stated that it will be in next year's budget

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the public hearing for the FY2013-2014 Section 5311 Program Grant Application (Community Transportation Program). Commissioner McCray seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve submitting the grant application for the FY2013-2014 Section 5311 (Community Transportation Program). Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion passed unanimously.

ACQUISITION OF FLOOD PLAIN PROPERTY: Ms. Ann Keyes, Planning and Safety/Emergency Management Director spoke to the Board regarding the County acquiring a piece flood plain property from Mr. Carl McCray as a result of Hurricane Irene. Ms. Keyes explained that she will apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant for the purpose of acquiring this property. Once the property is acquired it will always be used as open space. Ms. Keyes requested approval of a resolution appointing her as the Primary Agent for dealing with the NC Division of Emergency Management and FEMA for applying for these funds.

Ms. Keyes stated that the grant money will be used to demolish the existing structure on the property and give Mr. McCray the market value of the property and pay off any liens and allow him to purchase another home.

Commissioner Manning asked about the value of the structure. Ms. Keyes stated that is already valued at less than market value.

Lloyd Jones, Roper asked how big the lot is. Ms. Keyes replied that it is not even one acre.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve resolution appointing her as the Primary Agent for dealing with the NC Division of Emergency Management and FEMA so she may apply for grant money to be used to acquire the abovementioned property. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

ALBEMARLE AND PUNGO DRAINAGE DISTRICT DISCUSSION :

The commissioners of the Pungo River Drainage District and the Albemarle Drainage District sent letters requesting that the Washington County Board of Commissioners direct the Washington County Tax Collector to place the annual maintenance assessments on the tax notices of landowners within the district.

Chair Manning stated that these two districts went before the Beaufort County Commissioners and are working to do this with them also. This should save money from a dual billing system that is in place now.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve Washington County Tax Collector to look into placing the annual maintenance assessments on the tax notices of landowners within the Albemarle and Pungo drainage districts. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COUNTY MANAGER: Chair Manning stated that the Board has been in the process of trying to obtain a new county manager for the last 5 months. He thanked Ms. Young for being the Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to appoint Jerry Rhodes as the new Washington County Manager effective December 16, 2012 with a 3 year contract. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rhodes spoke to the Board saying that he was originally from Tyrrell County but lived most of his life in Washington County. Mr. Rhodes has spent 37 and ½ years in the Department of Social Services. He thanked the Commissioners for this opportunity. Mr. Rhodes told everyone that he has an open door and will do best to serve the county and its interest.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Washington County Boards & Committees—Commissioner Seats

Commissioner Manning noted that the Commissioner had been given a list of Boards & Committees that they have seats on. The ones that list 'Indefinite' under the expiration date allow a Commissioner to continue to serve on that Board or Committee as long as they are an elected Commissioner. Some other Board & Committee appointments do have expiration dates as noted.

Commissioners Johnson, Manning, McCray and Sexton opted to stay on all of their existing committees and Commissioner Phelps will take Commissioner Alexander's place on the committees that she was a representative (Washington County Planning Board, Lake Phelps Advisory Board, Washington County Drainage Committee and the MTW Health Department Board).

Albemarle Commission—Washington County Joint Community Advisory Committee

Commissioner Manning stated that The Albemarle Commission sent a letter requesting the reappointment of Ms. Teresa McNair and Ms. Faye Phelps to the Washington County Joint Community Advisory Committee. Both have agreed to serve if reappointed.

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

The Albemarle Commission also has three more vacancies on the Washington County Community Advisory Board. If the Commissioners know of anyone who would be willing to serve on this Board, please let Ms. Bennett know.

Commissioner Johnson said that the Board needs to bring forth new members at the next meeting.

Creswell Planning Board

Chair Manning told the Board that Ms. Syble Spruill, Chair of the Creswell Planning Board requested the reappointment of Ron Sawyer to the Creswell Planning Board. Mr. Sawyer has agreed to serve if reappointed.

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

Washington County ABC Board

Chair Manning noted that with the recent passing of Mr. Wilbur Sessoms, ABC Board member, the ABC Board is requesting the appointment of Mr. Tim Spear to fill the unexpired term (ending June 30, 2013) of Mr. Sessoms. The effective date will be January 1, 2013. Mr. Spear has agreed to serve if appointed.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the appointment as presented above. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Milazi told the Board that the Finance Office closed late today and he will provide a full report in January.

Mr. Milazi discussed the following Budget Appropriation Amendment/Adjustment:

- 13070 –Fire Prevention and Safety Grant +\$2,578.00

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 13070. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Young distributed a copy of the resolution opposing the Pocosin Lakes expansion. She noted that the resolution contained only the Washington County data. She has not yet received the numbers from Tyrrell or Hyde County yet. Ms. Young will send Washington County's resolution to the NC Refuge office with an explanatory cover letter.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve sending out the resolution opposing the Pocosin Lakes Expansion. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bennett mentioned to the Commissioners that the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference will be held in Raleigh on January 24-25, 2012. If any Commissioners would like to attend, please let Ms. Bennett know.

Commissioner Johnson has been appointed as Risk Management trustee for the NCACC.

Commissioner Phelps thanked folks near and far for attending tonight's meeting. He noted that he counted 18 students from Creswell High School in the audience and he also said he looks forward to serving the citizens.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-381.11(a)(3) and G.S. 143-381.11(a)(6). Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve Jerry Rhodes' contract. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to recess the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Buster Manning
Chair

Julie J. Bennett
Clerk to the Board