

August 6, 2012

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

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

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: None.

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

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts

**Commissioner Alexander seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC FORUM: Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Roper stated that he was having a problem with nature: bears are messing with his diesel fuel tank. Mr. Jones said he cannot find the number for the Wildlife Commission. Chair Manning recommended that Mr. Jones put an electric fence around his tank. Mr. Jones gave Ms. Bennett his phone number so she can call him with the number to the Wildlife Commission. Commissioner Sexton said he thinks that bear season needs to be moved up to September/October to help the farmers. *(Note: When Mr. Jones finished his comments, Chief Deputy Floyd gave Mr. Jones the number to the Wildlife Commission.)*

Laura Sutphin, 4-H Coordinator for Washington County, introduced Dillon Spruill, from Pea Ridge, who will represent Washington County youth at the Youth Summit at the NCACC Annual Conference August 16-18, 2012. Mr. Spruill will also be at the Horn of Plenty event. Mr. Dillon told the Board that he has attended the 4-H Electric Congress for 3 years and 4-H State Congress for 1 year. Ms. Sutphin also added that Mr. Dillon is quite active in the community.

Al Joyner, Plymouth spoke to the Board regarding Mediacom, the cable provider. Mr. Joyner stated he is paying for channels that he is not getting. Mr. Joyner said when Mediacom changed their signal from analog to digital it didn't work. Mr. Joyner said he has been to the local office but doesn't get any answers. Commissioner Sexton asked Mr. Peoples if the County can do anything about this and Mr. Peoples replied that the County doesn't have anything to do with the cable providers. Chair Manning suggested that Mr. Joyner change cable provider.

Commissioner Sexton also suggested that Mr. Joyner should speak to someone higher than in local government, such as someone with the State.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING: EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL DISTRICT/MAP: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Ann Keyes spoke to the Board regarding the expansion of a commercial district. Mr. Julius Walker and Ms. Carol Stokes of the Planning Board were also in attendance. Ms. Keyes explained that the area being discussed extends to the town of Plymouth line and the Planning Board is recommending changing it from residential zoning to industrial/commercial zoning. The roadway itself is not included. Mr. Larry Jones, Plymouth asked what brought this change on. Ms. Keyes replied that she had calls asking what would be needed to make this an industrial/commercial zone. One citizen asked would city limits be extended and Ms. Keyes replied that this change would have nothing to do with the city limits. Ms. Keyes also noted that there is no proposed industry at this time for this area. A citizen asked if this change would affect property values. Mr. Chip Main, Tax Administrator answered that it would depend on what is put on the property.

**Commissioner Alexander made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning Board for an expansion in the commercial zoning district located off of Morratock Road in Plymouth. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

NC-20 PRESENTATION: Tom Thompson, Chairman of NC-20 spoke to the Board. Mr. Thompson said that NC-20 is a 501(c)(4) organization and represents government. NC-20 was created originally to help storm water regulation. NC-20 is a standing committee to fight such things as creation of highways that no one uses (that are created for possible growth in an area). NC-20 is also fighting insurance companies because of sea-level rise projections. 2,000 sq mi of CAMA counties would be in a flood zone. NC-20 helps to save folks money with the insurance companies. Mr. Thompson noted that Washington County is a member of NC-20 and thanked the Board for being a member. NC-20 will continue to protect the CAMA counties from regulatory bureaucracy. Mr. Larry Jones, Plymouth asked Mr. Thompson who says what is considered 'inner coastal' or 'outer coastal'. Mr. Thompson replied that the insurance director sets the area for what is considered inner coastal or outer coastal. Mr. Thompson mentioned to the Board that he is going to register as a lobbyist for NC-20 next legislative session.

WATER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION: Mr. Lou Manring, Public Utilities Director spoke to the Board and gave them some history of the Water Department. In 1986, three phases of the Water Department were constructed: water lines, tanks and the treatment plant. Currently the County has over 2600 customers and pumps approximately 372 gallons per day (GPD). Over the years, the County has installed new systems to save water also. There is 135 mi of pipeline in the County--all PVC. The County has five water tanks--they provide the pressure of 55 lbs. per sq. in. The County has 142 hydrants (not a rated fire system). In 2001 the water treatment plant was built and three wells were drilled all ¼ mile from the water treatment plant concurrently with the construction of the plant and tapped into the strongest aquifer in the

country—Castle Hayne. Once the treatment plant was online Mr. Manring realized more hydrogen sulfide was in the water than anticipated. Mr. Manring tried various treatment solutions but they didn't help much. The solution was changed to hydrogen peroxide (35%) and that worked along with chlorine and the water is almost odor free now. In 2008, the Water Department began an aggressive flushing program to try to turn the water over in the tanks to get fresher water into the system. Complaints dropped to about 3 a year (rather than monthly as before). Mr. Manring went on to explain that the County water is hard and that's why you see the white substance in your hot water heater and on the heating elements—it's calcium carbonate. Make sure to flush your hot water tank out to make it last longer. Mr. Manring mentioned that a softening system has been created because of the hardness in the County's water but have not been able to use them due to the hydrogen sulfide in our water. Softening water is also expensive. Mr. Manring went on to discuss the County's water meters saying that 13% of the water meters are not working. Water Department personnel are in the process of testing those that are not working and hopefully replace 700 meters this year. The Water Department can account for \$75,000 in lost income due to the meters not working. Mr. Manring said that there is \$20,000 in this year's budget for meter replacement. The County's meters are currently manually read meters and cost \$36/ea. Electronically read meters are \$150/ea. Commissioner Alexander asked if there were any grants available for meter replacement. Mr. Manring commented that grants will address 50% of the cost and the rest would be a loan and the County doesn't make enough money at this point to have a loan. Mr. Manring stated that he did file an application for a grant last year but 200 entities scored better than Washington County. Mr. Manring mentioned that an upcoming project is to remodel the water treatment plant building. He hopes to do a major renovation in the future. The building has mold in it and water comes in when it rains hard—so much so that the water treatment plant employees have to mop up the water. Commissioner Alexander said that taking care of the water treatment plant building should be a number one priority.

TIMBER CUTTING RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Peoples recommended that the Board make a motion to accept the bid from Seaboard Timber Company, Inc. and approve the Timber Cutting Agreement between Washington County and Seaboard Timber Company for cutting the timber at the Plymouth Municipal Airport as previously discussed.

**Commissioner Alexander made a motion to accept the bid from Seaboard Timber Company, Inc. and approve the Timber Cutting Agreement between Washington County and Seaboard Timber Company for cutting the timber at the Plymouth Municipal Airport. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Alexander asked Mr. Peoples when the work would be started on the airport remodeling. Mr. Peoples replied that the building will be painted by September 28. Commissioner Alexander asked about replacing the furniture inside the airport. Mr. Peoples stated the County must pay the match of \$40,000 to the DOA for the taxiway turnaround first and then work can be started on remodeling the inside of the airport terminal.

TAX COLLECTION REPORT: Mr. Chip Main, Washington County Tax Assessor/Collector spoke to the Board about the report below.

SETTLEMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2011

CHARGES	
Total Levy of RMV & Property	\$ 6,326,657.44
Refunds & Releases	\$ (21,088.94)
Adjusted Total Levy of RMV & Property	\$ 6,305,568.50
Penalties & Interest	\$ 49,354.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,354,923.46</b>

CREDITS	
Real & Personal	\$ 439,096.54
RMV	\$ 142,819.94
Funds Deposited	\$ 5,773,006.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,354,923.46</b>

Tax Year	Beginning Balance	Adjustment	Payments	Balance
2010	\$ 687,291.12	\$ 3,923.92	\$ 333,991.72	\$ 357,223.32
2009	\$ 302,374.87	\$ 524.64	\$ 91,601.57	\$ 211,297.94
2008	\$ 165,161.37	\$ 165.79	\$ 37,472.57	\$ 127,854.59
2007	\$ 151,523.16	\$ 135.76	\$ 26,141.35	\$ 125,517.57
2006	\$ 134,254.89	\$ 79.59	\$ 19,539.37	\$ 114,795.11
2005	\$ 107,406.00	\$ 47.48	\$ 14,321.86	\$ 93,131.62
2004	\$ 94,029.63	\$ 6.32	\$ 11,816.11	\$ 82,219.84
2003	\$ 85,336.55	\$ 6.42	\$ 12,116.02	\$ 73,226.95
2002	\$ 75,766.70	\$ -	\$ 8,513.89	\$ 67,252.81
2001	\$ 71,134.57	\$ -	\$ 6,432.71	\$ 64,701.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,874,278.86</b>	<b>\$ 4,889.92</b>	<b>\$ 561,947.17</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,221.61</b>

ENFORCED COLLECTIONS	
Debt Setoff	\$ 90,971.39
Garnishments	\$ 49,605.11
Bank Attachments	\$ 19,621.81

8/6/2012

Settlement 2011 - 2012.xls

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Main what percent of collection is the County at now. Mr. Main replied that the County is at 80% because of indirect collection of taxes.

Mr. Main also mentioned that beginning in July 2013, when citizens renew their tags at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) they will have to pay their vehicle taxes at that time. It is

anticipated that the collection level on motor vehicles should go up to 99% as a result of this change

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Order for Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF 2013 SCHEDULE OF VALUES: Mr. Main spoke to the Board regarding the 2013 Schedule of Values to be used for the revaluation. Washington County is on an 8 year revaluation cycle. The last revaluation was done in 2005. Mr. Main went on to say that the Tax Administration must create a manual of values which are the tools that the appraiser needs to come up with the values. *(This manual was distributed to each of the Commissioners.)* There needs to be a public hearing on the proposed Schedules, Standards, and Rules to be used in appraising real property in Washington County for 2013. The Commissioners agreed to have this public hearing on Monday, August 20 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Room. Commissioner Johnson reminded the public that this information is available for them to look at in the Tax Collector's office.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND/OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS: Ms. Ann Keyes spoke to the Board regarding the mutual aid agreement with emergency management agencies and/or other governmental functions. Ms. Keyes noted that this document functions as a pre-determined plan that each County involved in the agreement can render assistance to each other as needed. Ms. Keyes also noted that in order for FEMA to reimburse the Counties, the document has to be signed by the Commissioners.

This is a new agreement between the counties of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

**Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the mutual aid agreement with emergency management agencies and/or other governmental functions. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

**Southern Albemarle Association**

Ms. Bennett stated that Ms. Jennifer Arnold, Washington County Vice President for the Southern Albemarle Association is requesting the Board's approval of the 2012 Southern Albemarle Association Delegates (listed below) for Washington County as representatives for the County at their annual meeting.

Denise Moulden  
Cheryl Young  
Elaine Vann  
Julie Bennett  
Knapp Brabble  
Charles Sharpe  
Ruffin Gill

JD Melton  
Mayor Bill White  
Jennifer Arnold  
Commissioner Buster Manning  
Mayor Brian Roth  
Ann Keyes  
Mayor Estelle Sanders  
Darrick Lee  
Commissioner Jean Alexander  
Ernest Burden  
Gene Roberts  
Dr. Zeb Taylor  
Tom & Kay Pruden  
Cheryl Byrum  
Keith and Pat Sawyer  
Commissioner Raymond McCray  
Commissioner Tracey Johnson  
Rep. Tim Spear  
Lorenza and Vanessa Palin  
Commissioner Bill Sexton  
Jean Woolard  
Frank Milazi  
Megan Sexton Spain  
Beth Foster  
Cole Phelps  
Justin Allen  
Jerry Rhodes  
Keith Phelps  
Matt Noles  
April Stotesberry  
John Jarvis  
Alan Phelps

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the 2012 Southern Albemarle Association Delegates as presented for Washington County as representatives for the County at their annual meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

**Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (RC&D)**

Ms. Bennett stated that Mr. Peoples has been on the Board of the RC&D Council since the passing of Commissioner Collins. With Mr. Peoples' impending re-retirement, the Board needs to appoint a Commissioner to replace him as a Washington County representative.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Commissioner Manning as representative for the County on the Board of the RC&D Council. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Milazi distributed the following report on the General Fund 2011 – 2012.

GENERAL FUND 2011 - 2012 SUMMARY

General Fund Expenditures			\$ (13,065,422.00)
<b>Revenues</b>			
General Government	\$	11,862,247	
Cost Allocations, Grants & Appropriations	\$	595,451	
Total Revenues	\$	12,457,698	\$ 12,457,698.00
Shortfall			\$ (607,724.00)
Delayed revenues:			
Sales Tax			390,000
Day Care			65,859
DSS Admin			165,391
			<u>\$ 13,526.00</u>

SANITATION 2011 - 2012 SUMMARY

<b>Total Sanitation Expenses</b>			\$ (1,354,300)
<b>Revenues</b>			
Contractual Disposal Fees	\$	51,389	
Rural Solid Waste Fees	\$	891,887	
Town Solid Waste Fees	\$	120,624	
White Goods Waste Fees	\$	8,000	
Solid Waste Disp Tax	\$	7,000	
State Tire Tax Revenue	\$	35,000	
Penalty and Interest	\$	1,000	
Private Commercial Disposal Fees	\$	144,900	
Capital Appropriation	\$	94,500	
Net Revenues	\$	1,354,300	\$ <u>1,354,300</u>
			<u>0</u>

WATER OPERATION - WATER TREATMENT  
2011 - 2012 SUMMARY

Water Treatment Expenditures		(565,730)
Water Operation & Maintenance Expenditures		<u>(757,751)</u>
<b>Total Water Expenses</b>		<b>\$ (1,323,481)</b>

<b>Revenues</b>		
Utility Base chages	\$ 680,384	
Utility Consumption charges	\$ 568,512	
Tap and Connection Fees	\$ 14,215	
Reconnection Fees	\$ 47,040	
Penalty and Interest	\$ 4,320	
Capita Appropriation	\$ 9,010	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,323,481</b>	<b>\$ 1,323,481</b>
		<u>0</u>

**EMS / TRANSPORTATION 2011- 2012 SUMMARY**

<b>Total EMS Expenses</b>		<b>\$ (1,540,637)</b>
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<b>Revenues</b>		
Grants (Weyerhaeuser)	\$ 8,000	
EMS/Transport	<u>\$ 774,624</u>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 782,624</b>	
Less:		
7% Billing fees	\$ (54,224)	
Refunds	<u>\$ (12,589)</u>	
<b>Net Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 715,811</b>	
Add:		
Medicaid Reimbursement	<u>\$ 223,550</u>	
<b>Grand Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 939,361</b>	<b>\$ 939,361</b>
Transfer from General Fund		<b>\$ 601,276</b>
		<u>0</u>

Chair Manning told the public that the Commissioners are looking into ways to improve the situation with EMS funding.

Mr. Milazi mentioned that Washington County (Frank Milazi, Finance Officer) received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in

Financial Reporting (#16). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

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

- Ms. Bennett mentioned that a plaque commemorating the Smithson's and their donation of land for the Washington County Medical Clinic in Creswell has been purchased and will be put in place at the Clinic tomorrow.
- Commissioner Sexton mentioned he received a letter about the library roof leaking. Commissioner Sexton asked the Board if they knew if it leaks. Chair Manning stated he received a call a couple of months ago about it. Mr. Peoples said it has not been repaired yet; he is waiting on bids. Commissioner Sexton stated that he dealt with this years ago. He was told at that time that the flat roof could have been redone (coated) but that an A-line roof couldn't be done without engineers being called in. Mr. Peoples noted that the roof started leaking after Hurricane Irene. There has been a delay in receiving funding from insurance and FEMA for doing the repairs. Mr. Peoples told the Board that he will ask Facilities to get an estimate on an A-line roof.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5) (negotiation) and §143-318.11(a)(6) (personnel). Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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

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Buster Manning  
Chair

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Julie J. Bennett, CMC  
Clerk to the Board