

February 4, 2013

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, February 4, 2013 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 County Manager Jerry Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Cheryl Young. Finance Officer Frank Milazi was absent.

Chair Manning asked for a motion to adjourn the January 7, 2013 meeting. **Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the January 7, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.** Chair Manning called the meeting to order. Commissioner Sexton gave the invocation; Commissioner Phelps led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Chair Manning deleted Item 7 from the Agenda (Washington County Roper Annex Discussion) and added NCGS § 143-318.11(a) (4), Economic Development to Item 12 (Closed Session).

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the addition and deletion to the agenda as presented above. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Resolution: Support of Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health District
- c) Resolution: American Heart Month Proclamation

Commissioner Phelps presented the Resolution: Support of Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health District to Kathleen DevoreJones, Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health Department Director. Ms. DevoreJones told the Commissioners that the MTW Health Department really appreciates the County's support. Ms. DevoreJones also stated that the MTW Health Department employees 40 people and invited the Commissioners to come visit them and thanked them again for their support.

Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Melvin Norman, Plymouth, spoke to the Board regarding his drainage ditch on his property on Hwy 45. Mr. Norman stated that he spoke to the Board last year about the big canal behind his property and the flooding issue with it. Chair Manning suggested that Rufus Croom and Wayne Howell take a look at this. Mr. Rhodes will ask Mr. Croom and Mr. Howell to get touch with Mr. Norman. Commissioner Sexton addressed the fact that the State won't let the County dig out the ditches.

SOUTHERN ALBEMARLE ASSOCIATION COUNTY PRIORITIES UPDATE:

Jenn Arnold, Vice President for the Southern Albemarle Association (SAA) for Washington County asked the Commissioners to review SAA brochure and update the Washington County priorities. Item 1 (resurfacing the deck of the Zeb Vance Norman Bridge on NC 45) and Item 3 (the part regarding increasing the airport runway length to 5,500 feet has been completed). Commissioner Johnson stated that the County needs to keep supporting modernization of the airport as a priority. The Commissioners will send updated Washington County priorities to Ms. Bennett.

REPORT OF UNPAID TAXES THAT ARE LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY: Mr. Chip Main, Tax Administrator spoke to the Board. Mr. Main will be sending out a second tax notice next week and if the taxes are not paid by the end of February, then the taxpayer's name gets put in the newspaper. Mr. Main did note that the amount of taxes not paid currently is \$57,000 less than last year.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the advertisement in the newspaper of unpaid taxes that are liens on real property. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON 2013 REVALUATION: Mr. Main spoke to the Board on the revaluation. Mr. Main said his office is on track for the revaluation. In 2005 (the year of the last revaluation), notices were mailed on March 15; this year they will go out on March 1, 2013. Mr. Main is analyzing the final values before mailing out the notices.

PHASE II CONSTRUCTION BID AWARD FOR THE LANDFILL: Mr. Lou Manring, Public Utilities Director spoke to the Board regarding bids for the landfill expansion. The low bid from Jones and Smith was \$47,187 which is well within the budget. The bids came in last Tuesday and the recommendation from the engineers came in Friday. The bids were for lining the expansion area and creating berms. Commissioner Phelps asked about the reputation of Jones and Smith. Mr. Manring said he received good reports when their references were contacted. Mr. Manring told the Board that this work has been budgeted and the expansion will add about 5 years life to the construction and demolition landfill (C&D landfill).

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the bid of \$47,187 from Jones and Smith for the expansion of the landfill. Commissioner McCray seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2013 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT INCREASES: Mr. David Clary, EMS Director asked the Commissioners to approve the 2013 Medicare reimbursement increases and the rate increases recommended by our EMS billing company. Mr. Clary stated that the County did get a slight increase because Washington County is a rural county and because Washington County is tied in with Tyrrell County and Tyrrell County is a super rural county (and they will receive a higher reimbursement).

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the 2013 Medicare reimbursement increases and the rate increases recommended by our EMS billing company. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION—FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) LEASE AUTHORIZATION:

Mr. Rhodes told the Board that it is time to renew the FSA lease. It is due on February 25, 2013. Mr. Rhodes stated that he has just begun putting the information together on the renovations that need to be done to the 2nd floor of the Strader building (where the FSA is located). Any renovation costs will be included in proposed lease amount.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve a resolution for the Farm Service Lease (FSA) Authorization. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Albemarle Commission—Washington County Joint Long Term Care Advisory Committee

Commissioner Johnson told the Board that she was able to get two people (Paris Small Jacob and Teresa Downing) to serve on the abovementioned committee, but there is still one additional vacancy that needs to be filled. Mrs. Kim Cotton-West, in attendance at tonight's meeting, volunteered to serve on this committee. Commissioner Johnson mentioned that in talking with Ms. Bennett about how to fill vacancies, she would like to advertise in the paper for citizens to apply for vacancies on County boards/committees.

Plymouth Planning Board

Mr. Landin Holland, Chair, Plymouth Planning Board requested the re-appointment of Richmond Smith to the Plymouth Planning Committee. Mr. Smith's current term expires February 28, 2013. Mr. Smith has agreed to serve if re-appointed.

Commissioner McCray made a motion to approve these appointments as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Chair Manning thanked Mr. Rhodes for the Department Reports. Mr. Rhodes replied that he hopes to make it a monthly report.

Chair Manning, Commissioners Johnson, Sexton, Phelps and County Manager Rhodes attended the Essentials of County Government course in New Bern last week.

Commissioner Sexton stated that the County needs to look at refinancing some of the County's loans (maybe the water loans). Ms. Young stated that the County is currently checking into the water loans to see what type of credit the County can get. Ms. Young also mentioned that the County still has debt on Commerce Building.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)—Attorney-Client Privilege and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)—Economic Development. Commissioner Phelps 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 Sexton made a motion to rent the Washington County Roper Annex (formerly Windows on the World) to the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience (NERSBA) for \$1800/month for thirteen (13) months beginning June 1, 2013 – July 30, 2014 with an option to renew and renegotiate a second (2nd) year. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Joe Landino, NERSBA School Board, stated that he would take this information to the NERSBA School Board meeting on February 20, 2013.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)—Attorney-Client Privilege and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)—Economic Development. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Buster Manning
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC
Clerk to the Board