

June 1, 2015

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in their regular session Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Washington County Commissioners Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Manning, Phelps, Sexton and Walker were present. Also present were County Manager Jerry W. Rhodes, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney Curtis Potter.

Chair Sexton called the June 1, 2015 meeting to order. Mr. Lloyd Jones gave the invocation; Commissioner Phelps led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Chair Sexton stated that the following additions/deletions are needed. DELETE Item 6—Plymouth, Municipal Airport—T-Hangars and Partial Parallel Taxiway (Preliminary Design). ADD to Item 9—Albemarle Commission: Long Term Care Advisory Committee appointment. ADD Closed Session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a)(6) (personnel).

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

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) 1st Amendment to “Resolution to Establish the Washington County Drainage Advisory Committee”
- d) Resolution Supporting the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center
- e) Adoption of Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Washington County
- f) Personnel Policy Revision—Employment of Relatives
- g) Waterworks Review Committee Recommendations

Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE NC PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN (NC 457): Mr. Milazi introduced Mr. George Davis of Prudential Retirement. Mr. Milazi pointed out that there is no cost to the employer for the plan that Mr. Davis will be talking about. Mr. Davis spoke to the Board regarding a new program offered to NC Public Employees called Deferred Compensation Plan. Mr. Davis said he has been working with county employees for seven (7) years. The 401K plan has been in effect for many years and is offered to full-time employees. The 401K plan does have an employer contribution. NC’s Retirement Plan is only one of five in the country that is stable. When a person retires, the 401K should provide 40% of what they made in their last working year. Social Security will provide about 20% of an employee’s pay. The average person needs 80% to live on after retirement. 401K is age based—a person has to reach a certain age to withdraw without a penalty. The NC

457 Plan (Deferred Compensation) is designed to fill in the gap and is not age based—it is based upon separation from service. It is designed to help those who leave employment early or retire early. An employee doesn't have to be in the State Retirement Plan like they do if they would like to be in the 401K plan. Any employee, full-time, part-time even Board members can participate in this plan. The NC 457 Plan is a wonderful addition to the County's plan. Pre-tax contribution is required and there is no minimum amount to be deposited. Commissioner Phelps asked if the employees want this. Mr. Milazi said yes, employees have been asking for it. Commissioner Phelps noted that it is a five (5) year contract. Commissioner Phelps asked if the County can get out of the contract if there isn't enough interest. Mr. Davis replied yes. Commissioner Manning asked about fees. Mr. Davis said fees are in the funds—Prudential doesn't use this as a moneymaker. Mr. Davis also mentioned that other neighboring counties participate in the NC 457 Plan.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the NC 457 Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion passed unanimously.

EDMUNDS SOFTWARE UPDATE: Mr. Jeff Stout, Edmunds Software, was in attendance and updated the Board on their progress. Mr. Stout said that the Tax Office staff received the latest conversion about 3 weeks ago. There are still some issues that need to be worked on. Mr. Stout said he feels that the Tax Office should use Elite to do the July tax bills. Commissioner Phelps asked when he thinks Edmunds will be completed. Mr. Stout said since the Tax Office will be busy in June and July he hopes that by September Edmunds and the County could get back on track together. Mr. Stout said he does not want the County to send out tax bills with the Edmunds system not being correct. Commissioner Phelps asked when is enough, enough? Commissioner Phelps reminded Mr. Stout that in March, Edmunds said they were close to getting things right. Mr. Stout said Edmunds will not quit--they want their product to work. Chair Sexton said the County's biggest concern is the time it is taking for the development of the software. Commissioner Manning said he hopes Edmunds is giving the County a cost break. Mr. Stout said the County hasn't been billed for the development of the software. Commissioner Johnson asked Ms. Wilkins how pre-payments are going. Ms. Wilkins said nothing has been done on that yet. Mr. Stout said he spends a lot of time on the phone with the Tax Office. Mr. Stout said if the Tax Office staff doesn't feel the calls are enough, he will come here to the Tax Office and work. Commissioner Johnson asked if Ms. Wilkins had given Mr. Stout a list of the continuing errors. Commissioner Johnson asked if Elite is still capable of running everything the Tax Office needs to run. Ms. Wilkins said yes. Chair Sexton asked if Mr. Stout was confident that Edmunds would get the items fixed. Mr. Stout said he wouldn't be standing here if he didn't think Edmunds could get the items fixed. Chair Sexton asked if the County uses Elite this year, will it be a whole year before the County can see if Edmunds works. Ms. Wilkins replied yes. Commissioner Phelps and Commissioner Manning said they would like to see Edmunds at the Commissioners' meeting every 30 days starting in July to give a progress report. Mr. Stout said he would like to talk to Ms. Wilkins first before committing to do that.

PLYMOUTH LIBRARY RENOVATION BIDS: Mr. Frank Milazi spoke to the Board regarding the bids that were received for the Plymouth Library Renovation for the interior of the Library. The bids were opened on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00 am. In looking at the bid sheet, A.R. Chesson Construction Company, Inc. is the apparent low bidder. Ms. Amy O'Neal,

Librarian, said the Library staff and Library Board are really pleased with the new roof and they are all excited about the project that has been outlined for the interior. Items such as new metal framing in the ceiling, new acoustic tiles, new public bathrooms and a new front entrance are in the plan. Ms. O'Neal said she is very thankful the County received the grant. Ms. O'Neal said the renovations are scheduled to be completed in 60 days if the bidder is approved tonight. Ms. O'Neal said she had found meeting rooms/buildings for the library services to be held during the renovation. Mr. Milazi said he would like a motion to approve awarding the bid for A.R. Chesson Construction Company for the Plymouth Library Renovation.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the bid for A.R. Chesson Construction Company for the Plymouth Library Renovation. Commissioner Manning seconded, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO PROVIDE NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION BY AMBULANCE FOR:

- (a) BERTIE AMBULANCE SERVICE
- (b) COASTAL MEDICAL TRANSPORT, INC.
- (c) MEDEX MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICE, INC.

Mr. Potter reminded the Board that they adopted an Ambulance Franchise Ordinance on August 4, 2014 pursuant to NCGS § 153A-250. The ordinance requires ambulance service providers to apply for and obtain a franchise to conduct point to point transport services within Washington County. Three ambulance service providers have applied for franchises pursuant to the Ordinance.

Franchises must be granted in the form of an ordinance only after such ordinance has passed two regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners pursuant to NCGS § 153A-46, which has now occurred (May 4, 2015 and tonight June 1, 2015). Additionally before any such ordinance is adopted, the Board of Commissioners must first hold a public hearing on the need for ambulance services, and after the hearing may adopt an ordinance if it finds that to do so is necessary to assure the provision of adequate and continuing ambulance service and to preserve, protect, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare, which occurred on May 4, 2015.

The Ambulance Service Board formed by the Board of Commissioners to administer the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance has met and reviewed the contents of the applications and discussed the current ambulance transport needs of Washington County. Based upon this review the Ambulance Service Board has determined that the applications are in order and that granting all three requested franchises is in fact necessary to assure the provision of adequate and continuing ambulance service and to preserve, protect, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

Mr. Potter said that three (3) transport services have applied for Washington County Ambulance Franchises.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to approve the Ambulance Franchises for MedEx Medical Transport Service, Coastal Medical Transport and Bertie Ambulance Service. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

NACo VOTING CREDENTIALS—2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Commissioner Johnson will be attending the NACo 2015 Annual Conference to be held July 10-13, 2015 in Mecklenburg County (Charlotte), NC. It is important that each county participates in the association's annual election of officers and policy adoption.

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to approve Commissioner Johnson as the delegate from Washington County with voting credentials at the NACo 2015 Annual Conference. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Washington County Board of Social Services requests that the Commissioners re-appoint Mr. Julius Walker, Jr. and Mr. Guy Davenport to their Board. Both have agreed to serve if re-appointed.

ALBEMARLE COMMISSION AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging (AAA) requests that the Commissioners re-appoint Ms. Gail Spiewak to their Regional Advisory Council (RAC). Appointment length to this council can vary based on the county preference, but should be no less than a two-year term. Ms. Spiewak also serves as the Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegate for Washington County. Ms. Spiewak has agreed to serve if re-appointed.

ALBEMARLE COMMISSION LONG TERM CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Albemarle Commission Long Term Care Advisory Committee requests that the Commissioners appoint Mr. John Fallon to their Long Term Care Advisory Committee. Mr. Fallon has agreed to serve if appointed.

Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments and re-appointments. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Milazi distributed the May Finance Report. Commissioner Phelps said it looks like the revenues have picked up on the tax side. Mr. Milazi said they have, but there are still some lagging behind.

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

Ms. Bennett noted that as is statutorily required, the Washington County ABC Board submitted their budget amendment to their annual budget document for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 to the Board of Commissioners along with their proposed budget for July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. This has been approved and adopted by the Washington County ABC Board.

Commissioner Phelps said he received ten (10) calls since Friday regarding an individual who is using crabs to fertilize their land and it is making a bad smell in Creswell. Commissioner

Phelps checked with NC Wildlife & Fisheries and they said there is no ordinance to cover such a thing. Ms. Keyes spoke with several people and no one had a law/ordinance to say that the farmer was doing anything illegal. Ms. Keyes said she would continue to check with different agencies.

Ms. Bennett mentioned the 1st Annual Washington County Bear Festival. It begins with the Miss NC Bear Festival Scholarship Pageant on Friday evening, June 5, 2015. There will also be activities on the waterfront for kids, helicopter rides, boat rides and people can sign up for the bear tours. All the information on the Bear Festival can be found at www.ncbearfest.com

Mr. Rhodes distributed his retirement letter saying he will retire on August 15, 2015. Chair Sexton said he was sorry to see Mr. Rhodes go, but knows that he is looking forward to retirement. Commissioner Manning said thank you to Mr. Rhodes for all he has done for the County in his 40 years of employment.

Mr. Lloyd Jones said that the Mayor of Belhaven should be walking through this area tomorrow on his trip to DC to raise awareness about rural hospitals.

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

At 7:41 PM, with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Manning made a motion to recess the meeting until June 8 at 6:00 pm for the public hearing on the budget. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

William R. Sexton, Jr.
Chair

Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board