

February 15, 2016

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Phelps, Sexton and Walker were present. Also present were County Manager Willie Mack Carawan, Jr., Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett, Finance Officer Frank Milazi and County Attorney/Assistant County Manager Curtis Potter. Commissioner Manning was unable to attend.

Chair Phelps asked the audience to please put their electronic devices on silent. Chair Phelps also deleted the Closed Session for tonight.

EMS TRANSPORT SCHEDULE SWITCH CHANGE: Mr. Andrew Coccaro, EMS Director spoke to the Board regarding the schedule that was provided to them in their packages.

COST COMPARISON FOR CHANGING EMS TRANSPORT TO BASIC LEVEL 16 HOUR SCHEDULE

	FY16 Adopted Budget	Actual YTD - 01/27/2016	Est EOY Expenses	New Proposed Transport Schedule Using Basic EMTs and Weekend PT	
				FT	PT
37-4376-010	S&W FT	\$111,538	\$86,061	\$147,513	\$93,499
37-4376-010	S&W PT/OT	\$23,794	\$23,684	\$40,601	\$4,676
37-4376-090	Social Sec	\$11,936	\$8,107	\$13,898	\$1,347
37-4376-100	Retirement	\$15,242	\$13,134	\$22,535	n/a
37-4376-101	401K	\$3,612	\$2,138	\$3,665	\$2,943
37-4376-130	Unemployment Ins	\$1,220	\$252	\$603	n/a
37-4376-140	Workman's Comp	\$9,872	\$19,548	\$33,511	\$6,810
37-4376-180	Ins. Health/Dental	\$29,971	\$15,719	\$26,947	\$32,440
	Current Totals	\$207,185	\$168,743	\$289,774	
	New Plan Sub-Totals			\$160,828	\$17,188
	New Plan Total Est. Cost			\$178,016	
	Est. Savings compared to New Plan	29,169	n/a	111,258	

* Figures above are rounded for ease of computation

* FT Employees to work only 40 hours per week, but 8 hours overtime per month built into estimate as safeguard

* Saturday to be covered by part-time employees

* During the discussion of this item at the 2/1/16 Commissioners meeting, some confusion arose over whether the \$178,020.68 figure shown on the spreadsheet distributed during the meeting, and created as a joint effort between the EMS Director and the Finance Department, reflected the estimated costs for salaries only, or for salaries plus the other ancillary expenses/benefits shown on that same spreadsheet.

The EMS Director and Finance Officer had met previously and agreed that the estimated costs for the new plan were well below the currently budget figures, but when asked during the meeting itself, the Finance Officer mistakenly drew the comparison between the \$178,020.68 estimated costs for the new plan and the \$111,538 currently budgeted in line item 37-4376-010 for FT Salaries only. This led to the misunderstanding that the new plan would somehow cost over \$50,000 more than the current budget. The EMS Director was prepared to address this and correct the misunderstanding during the meeting, but was cut short by the Assistant County Manager's suggestion that we table the item in order for management to conduct a more thorough review before bringing this back to the board.

The \$178,020.68 figure does in fact represent the total estimated cost of all salaries and related ancillary expenses/benefits needed to cover the M-F 16 hour shifts, as well as the additional part time wages and related ancillary expenses/benefits necessary to cover the Saturday part time shifts under the proposed new plan.

The various parts of this total \$178,020.68 figure have been broken out and lined up in the spreadsheet above to illustrate the correlating line items against which they should be compared within the current budget. The annual estimated costs of using the proposed new plan are approximately \$29,164 less per year, or \$2,430 less per month, than the currently budgeted \$207,185. Although the estimated year end expenses are on track to exceed the currently budgeted \$207,185 modifying the transport schedule as proposed will result in an immediate and ongoing savings of approximately \$2,430 per month moving forward which will help close that gap.

Conclusion: Based on the information and projected savings shown above, staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve changing the current Washington County EMS Transport schedule to a 07:00 AM - 11:00 PM 16 Hour per Week Day Coverage using 8 Hour Shifts, and using additional Part Time Employees to cover Saturday Transports as needed. The change should be implemented as soon as possible by the EMS Director working with the County Finance Department.

Mr. Coccaro said he is trying to cover more time, be more marketable and hopefully have a cost savings. Chair Phelps asked Mr. Coccaro if he will be hiring new people. Mr. Coccaro said he would be hiring 3 more EMTs. The positions have already been put in the budget. Mr. Coccaro said the County has not lost any people--they moved over to EMS out of Transport.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the EMS Transport Schedule Switch Change as mentioned above. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

EMS "ON CALL" GROUP: Mr. Coccaro spoke to the Board regarding the information that was provided to them in their packages. The historical information is listed below.

HISTORY CRESWELL AMBULANCE SERVICE
BY
LISA PATRICK FEBRUARY 10th, 2016

Creswell Ambulance Service was started in 1961 by Creswell Vol. Fire Department. They purchased a white 1960 Hearse from Walker Funeral Service in Creswell. They added a red warning light and siren to the vehicle and would respond to calls for medical assistance. You had to call the Fire Chief, Mr. Hilton Chesson at his business, Creswell Sales and Service, in the day time or his residence at night when you needed help. All that was required for the Firemen to work on the Ambulance was for them to take an American Red Cross First Aid class. The Ambulance was stationed at the Fire House. (See Appendix A)

In 1973 the State of North Carolina enacted the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1973. The purpose was to establish a statewide emergency medical program. They also created the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). Their goal was to regulate and develop EMS in the state of North Carolina. A regional county system was established with Washington County being one of 10 grouped together as Region "R". Each county was required to provide Emergency Medical Services to its citizens as regulated by the state. The Washington County Commissioners delegated operations of the Ambulance Service to Washington County Hospital. The Hospital purchased two used Ambulances placing one in Creswell and one in Plymouth. After the establishment of our local EMS system the Creswell Firemen, some of their wives and other concerned citizens took the necessary E.M.T. class and began working as part time EMT's for the Hospital. They became known as the Creswell EMS Squad. The Ambulance was kept by the EMT's at their residence rotating as needed to each person's home when on call. (See Appendix B)

From 1973 until 1981 they used the first Ambulance purchased by the Hospital. When the original truck split down the middle of its chassis the Hospital purchased another used 1978 Chevy Van. This one replaced the original Gold and White Van and was in use until 1984 when the engine blew up. The 1978 van was replaced with another used Ambulance from the Plymouth Squad.

In the fall of 1981 the Hospital came to realize that there was a shortage of EMT's on the Creswell Squad. Asking people to volunteer their time to take an EMT course, taking call shifts for such a small amount of compensation proved to be the down fall of the EMS system. Paid full time employees working at WCH stayed with their jobs because they had benefits while part time employees in Creswell did not. So, Mr. Keith Sykes the WCH Ambulance Supervisor with the help of Mrs. Syble Spruill began a recruitment program to find some new people who might volunteer their time to go to school and get there EMT Certification. About thirty volunteers were found and a class was set up to start in February of 1982. (See Appendix C)

From that class in 1982 we gained ten new EMT's for the Creswell Squad. Of those ten EMT's three of them Lisa Patrick, Elaine Lancaster and Mike Martin are still working today 33 years later.

When we began with the Creswell Squad our EMS Supervisor in Creswell was Mr. Howard Davenport. He was in charge of scheduling, payroll and general ambulance maintenance. He received a small supervisor stipend for being the Creswell Supervisor in addition to his call and run pay. Each new EMT was assigned to work one of the two 12 hour shifts from 06:00 am to 06:00 pm or from 06:00 pm to 06:00 am. We were paid 2.50 for each 12 hour shift that we took call. That equaled about .20 per hour. When we had a run to take a patient to the hospital we received a run fee of 9.42 for a one way trip. If we transported the patient out of Washington County we received .33 cents per mile for the out of county mileage. Once we had the patient at the hospital if for some reason after our paper work was finished the Doctor ordered the patient taken home by Ambulance we received additional pay for a round trip. That amount was usually double the one way fee.

As time went on we encountered problems like before with the call shifts and people dropping off the Squad. The problem was that we were tied to our home phones for 12 straight hours. We had no pagers in those days and no radio. You could not go anywhere with your family or friends. You had to stay by the landline telephone so you could receive the phone call from WCH ED telling you what type of call you had and where to go. We lost half of the ten new EMT's in the first few years. It became apparent that some type of radio was needed to free us from our residence especially in the day time. The ones they had in Plymouth would not work in Creswell so they approached Mr. Larry Woodley of Woodley Sales and Service and purchased two UHF radios that would work off of his radio tower on Ambrose Road. That gave us more freedom to move about while staying within our call district. We were now able to go to Church on Sunday, or to the grocery store or run errands when we needed to.

Mr. Howard Davenport retired from service and a new Creswell Supervisor was appointed. His name was Kenny Furlough one of the EMT's from the 1982 class. Mr. Furlough continued to hold the same responsibilities as before. From that time forward things stayed about the same. EMT's continued to leave and new ones came on the Squad. It was during the early 1990's that Cecil Jones came to work for us. He is still one of our active members with 20+ years of service.

We received some upgrades in the 1990's with newer radio's and finally pagers. No longer would we receive phone calls from the hospital Emergency Dept. giving us our calls. Now they would come from the Dispatch center. Around 1994 we got our first brand new Ambulance a Ford E 350. We were after all covering everything east of Simp BBQ to the Tyrrell County line, all of the Pea Ridge area over to Lake Phelps and down Newland Road and back of Lake Phelps. We were the First truck out covering one half of Washington County with 7/8 EMT's all part time employees of WCH. (See Appendix D)

It was around this time of 1994 that we began several fund raising projects to help raise money so we could advance to the EMT-D level and hopefully the EMT-I level. Both of these levels offer more lifesaving care and were needed in our rural communities. Our efforts were successful and in 1996 Washington County EMS and the Creswell Squad moved up to an Advance Life Support level of care. Under the guidance of Dr. Chang Oak and EMS Director Mr. Jerry Phelps we had achieved what was envisioned in 1973 by WCH and the Region "R" Council. (See Appendix E)

Mr. Kenny Furlough decided that he would not advance to the next level of certification and left the Creswell Squad in 1996. It was at this time that I, Lisa Patrick was appointed the Creswell EMS Supervisor by Dr. Oak and Mr. Phelps. I assumed the same responsibilities as the former supervisors taking care of scheduling, payroll and general maintenance of the Ambulance.

Our EMS system continued to grow in size and call volume. We became aware in early 2002 that we needed to advance once again to the Paramedic level. Under the leadership of Dr. Oak our EMS Medical Director we would proceed with getting people trained so we could be a Paramedic level county. With a lot of hard work our full time and some of our part time EMT's completed the necessary training so that in March of 2005 we were able to see this dream come true. Washington County now had "PARAMEDIC" level service. We were one of the few counties in eastern North Carolina to have this level of care in 2005. I am happy to say that we continue today at the Paramedic level serving the citizens of Washington County. (See Appendix F)

The Creswell Squad continues on in the traditions of our early leaders providing quality care to the people of Creswell, Washington County and now Tyrrell County. We are ever so thankful for the men and women who blazed the trail for us back in 1961 starting us down a path for success. They taught us when we came along as new EMT's how to take care of the people of our county and those that pass through it on a daily basis. May they be richly blessed for all their good works.

Appendix A

KEITH SYKES
303 HALL ROAD
WESTMINSTER, SC 29693
TELEPHONE (H) 864-647-6503 – (W) 864-885-7630

On a cold winter morning in January 1961, I was awakened by my mother's scream. When I got to the bottom of the stairs, I saw my father, lying in bed, unable to move or to talk.

What do you do? Whom do you call? Where do you get help?
The only person you knew to call was the Fire Chief of Creswell, Mr. Hilton.

In just a few minutes, which seemed like forever, Mr. Hilton drove up in the yard in that old white looking Cadillac vehicle with a red light and siren. He put dad in the back; he drove with mom and I in the front seat.

Well that is how it was. Take a Red Cross First Aid course and go at it.

Just a few years later, the state EMT program came into place. Many of you here tonight were in that very first class. The county purchased those two yellow/white vans and it was off to the races.

Appendix B

Washington County Hospital Emergency Medical Services

In April, 1973, the N.C. General Assembly enacted the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1973 which established a statewide comprehensive emergency medical services program in state government. A new state agency, the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) was created within the Department of Human Resources expressly for the purpose of carrying out both the regulatory and developmental functions of this program.

Additionally, a 17-member State EMS Advisory Council composed of physicians, nurses, hospital administrators, ambulance providers, local government officials and consumers was formulated to guide and ad-

vis the agency in implementing the program.

The focus of the program is on improving emergency medical care through the development of emergency medical services (EMS) systems. An EMS system is defined as a system which provides for the coordination of personnel, facilities, vehicles and equipment for the effective delivery of emergency care in an appropriate geographical area.

The state office of EMS is active in all components of the EMS system - education and training, communications, transportation, hospitals and evaluation.

Eighteen regional EMS councils have been established across the state to serve as the focal

point for the implementation of OEMS programs.

Washington County belongs to Region R with nine other counties in Northeastern North Carolina. The councils, each consisting of rescue squadsmen, hospital administrators, ambulance providers, physicians, nurses, government officials and other community bodies are associated with the Lead Regional Organiza-

tion (LRO) in each planning region.

The Washington County Commissioners and the Washington County Hospital are very active in the LRO.

OEMS relies on these councils for assessing EMS needs, setting priorities for the expenditure of available funds and coordinating EMS within their region.

Administrative support is pro-

vided to these councils and grants are awarded to them for improving EMS within their region.

To fulfill the diverse manpower needs of an EMS system, OEMS has taken the initiative to develop training programs for all types of EMS personnel. Regulations were promulgated in November, 1973, requiring at least one attendant on each ambulance must have completed an 81-hour training course and be certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Washington County Commissioners have delegated operators of ambulances in Washington County to WCH. The hospital through its board of trustees manages the service and presently covers the county with three ambulances and 21 EMTs.

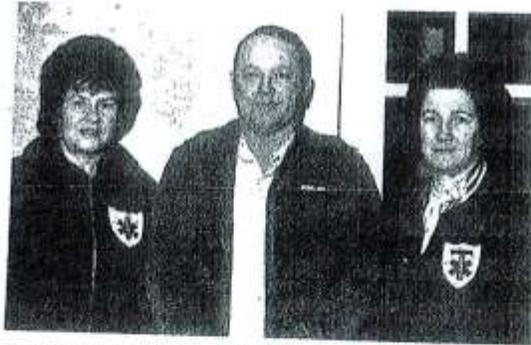
The hospital has a 1978 Chevrolet Ambulance in Creswell with five part-time EMTs on call 24 hours a day. There is currently an EMT class going on in Creswell so as to increase the

number of qualified people.

Plymouth has two 1981 Ford Ambulances. Plymouth is staffed with five full-time EMTs and 11 part-time EMTs. Full time employees work Monday through Friday and part-time employees cover the weekends.

PLANS

Region R EMS Council has set forth several goals for the region and Washington County Hospital has set objectives to meet these goals. These goals are: Training; 1) A continuing education program which would be run through the auspices of the Eastern Area Health Education Center in Greenville and the five ambulance services in Region R. This would be a program which would both refresh existing skills and knowledge as well as expand present knowledge. Washington County Hospital's Inservice Director is putting together a continuing education program for its EMTs; 2) Intravenous level; WCH has been looking at the Intravenous level and Paramedic training levels. It is



Pictured are the Creswell EMTs. They are: Deloras Alexander, Howard Davenport and Margie Davenport. Not pictured are: Victor Alexander, David Sykes, Rena Sexton, Doris Oliver and Hilton Chesson.

hoped that, if financial and personnel requirements permitting, we can advance into these two levels of care. Other areas of concern within the region and locally are public information; public access; disaster plan and communication.

Washington County Hospital EMTs work on a "scheduled call" basis. The hospital maintains this call list and it is posted at proper places in the hospital. To obtain an ambulance call 798-4135 (which is the hospital telephone number).

When the operator answers the

phone state that you need an ambulance. You will be quickly connected to the proper one to talk with. Please give your name, phone number, location the ambulance is to go, the expected problem and other needed information that you may be asked. Full cooperation on behalf of the caller will enable the EMTs to get to the location much quicker.

Washington County Hospital's ambulance service main goal is to provide quality care for those persons requiring an ambulance during an emergency. The EMTs are kept abreast of new skills that make this possible.

Appendix C

Washington County Hospital, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 707
PLYMOUTH, NORTH CAROLINA 27962

Telephone 919/793-4135 Ext. 215

February 1, 1982

KEITH SYKES
Director of Medical
Management

TO: Future EMTs
FR: Keith Sykes

Your EMT class will begin on February 16, 1982, 7:00 P.M. at the Mt. Herman Methodist Church. Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday night, unless changed by your instructors. Your instructors will be Mr. Murray Ashley and Mr. Douglas Belch of Chowan County. Both of these men are tops in Emergency Care.

As I have told you, Washington County Hospital will pay for the class. That means no registration fee for you. You will be required to purchase your text book. If you pass the state exam and work on the ambulance for six months, the hospital will refund the text cost to you.

Please make every effort to be at the first class. As you know we need you people on the squad. Work hard and you won't have any trouble with the course.

If you need any assistance, please call.

Appendix
D



Three emergency medical technicians stand in front of the two brand new ambulances purchased by Washington County Memorial Hospital. The EMT's from right to left are Kenneth Furlough of Creswell, Chris Lyle of Plymouth, and Lisa Patrick of Creswell. (Beacon Photo)

1993

Appendix
E

7-1-1996



After three years of laying groundwork and training for the Intermediate Level, Washington County Hospital's ambulance service is now offering citizens a higher level of medical care. Washington County had been one of four counties in the state to offer basic life support service only but is now able to provide advanced medical care. EMS Director Jerry Phelps thanked Dr. Chang Y. Oak, director of the County's emergency medical services, for his education and guidance and he congratulated EMTs for their hard work in achieving state requirements for the Intermediate Level. (Contributed photo)

APRIL, 1996

EMPLOYEES IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Emergency Department Nurses Ann Davenport, Virginia Hoggard, Mary S. Branning, Elaine Wilcox, and Chris Mizelle for a successful completion of their MICN (Mobile Intensive Care Nursing) certifications during February, 1996. These individuals worked very hard covering their full-time work schedules and class time consecutively; their families saw very little of them during the month of February. Three more nurses will attend an MICN class in April. Good luck to these guys & gals.

A special thank goes out to Linda Howlett, Denise Hurst and Diane Linton for working extra in the Emergency Department to help make this project a success.

Congratulations to the EMT's. They have all successfully completed EMT-D training. Beginning in July, they all hope to be EMT-I level. Good luck to all of you.

Also, the EMS Department passed state inspection on April 9, 1996. That's great!

Ms. Lisa Patrick provided the documentation above and said that they explain the history of the "on call" group. Mr. Coccaro said there had been some questions about this group from the Commissioners. Ms. Patrick spoke for the group. She stated she is the EMS supervisor for the Creswell squad ('on call' group). She does the scheduling for the 'truck'. The truck was used by Washington and Tyrrell counties. The truck is no longer in use in Creswell, but is in Tyrrell

County. The 'on call' group is a group without a truck so they go in their personal vehicles on calls. They turn in timesheets to Ms. Watters and get paid by Washington County. Commissioner Johnson asked if the names on the list were employees. Ms. Patrick said they are all part-time employees of the County and are covered under County policies. Mr. Cocco said this group helps to cover the County's football games that would otherwise not have coverage. Commissioner Sexton asked what the legal aspects are if this group continues. Mr. Potter said he would rather discuss that in Closed Session. Commissioner Sexton asked if Mr. Cocco would like to bring a recommendation before the Board on this. Mr. Cocco said if the 'on call' group is to continue it needs to be budgeted for. Commissioner Sexton said that the EMS Director needs to be in charge of this group. Commissioner Sexton asked Mr. Cocco to bring back a recommendation to the Board and work with Mr. Potter on the legal aspects. Chair Phelps said he sees the group as a benefit in that end of the County and that it needs to be budgeted for in the upcoming budget. Mr. Cocco was asked to bring back a recommendation to the March 7, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting.

DRAINAGE IN CRESWELL: Chair Phelps showed pictures of the flooding in Creswell from this past week. Chair Phelps is bringing this to the Board to help find a solution. Ms. Keyes said she has been working on this issue for years. The area is in the floodplain. Ms. Keyes is looking at elevating five (5) structures in that area. She has also been working on getting money to replace Cherry Bridge. Ms. Keyes wrote a Tiger grant for the funds, but did not get funded for it. The problems with Cherry Bridge have been going on since 1979. There are also problems with the Scuppernong River. Chair Phelps said the standing water creates a mosquito problem and also delays schools. Chair Phelps said he doesn't have the solution but no citizen should have to live like this in 2016. Mr. Keith Sawyer, Soil and Water, said he is trying to set up a service district—which is less paperwork and money than a drainage district. The County has had more heavy rains this year and there is no storage space left in Lake Phelps. Lake Phelps has to stay at a certain level. All of the runoff goes right through Cherry. Canals have not been cleaned out since the '70's. The water flowing through brings silt with it. There needs to be some work done to Lake Phelps and the Scuppernong River and that would help. If the County could get the Lake to add 6 inches to their current level that would help. Chair Phelps asked how a service district will help. Mr. Sawyer said that the individuals who live in that area, say with 10 acres, they would pay a certain amount to create a fund with a Board to manage it. There are USDA funds that could be had (as a loan) for some of the work that needs to be done.

Commissioner Sexton said he was at the Washington County Drainage meeting last week and it was well attended. Federal people were there and were put on the spot. They are to get back with the drainage committee in a couple of weeks. The County has had a high amount of water in the past year. Some of the regulations need to be relaxed so that the County can clean out the canals. Commissioner Sexton said the Army Corp of Engineers is trying to work with the County also. Commissioner Sexton said the County needs to use the pictures showed tonight and create a resolution and send to the various agencies to show what is going on down here. Mr. Sawyer said that state legislation sets the level of the Lake. Chair Phelps recommended that staff draft a resolution regarding changing the level of the Lake and bring back to the March meeting.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY/BUDGET AMENDMENT 2016-024: Chair Phelps reminded the Board that the courthouse security was discussed on November 2, 2015. Mr. Carawan has created a budget amendment for the expenses that will be incurred in making the changes needed to the doors of the courthouse.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2016-024 for Courthouse Security. Commissioner Sexton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

RCCHC LEASE AMENDMENT: Mr. Curtis Potter, County Attorney spoke to the Board regarding changes that RCCHC has requested in their lease. Below are the key changes that RCCHC has requested. Mr. Potter said has discussed them with the County Manager and staff recommends the amendments be made. Mr. Potter said he can discuss this with the Board in open or closed session, whichever is the Board's pleasure.

1. That RCCHC be given two (2) options to renew the lease for additional three (3) year terms per each option. This makes the total potential lease term a maximum of approximately nine (9) years.
2. That after the first initial lease term of three (3) years, RCCHC begin paying rent at the same rental rate that the hospital was paying under its old lease of \$30,000 per year or \$2,500 per month. Staff recommends that this amount also be increased annually by 1.5% or CPI inflation, whichever is greater starting with the first year of the lease.
3. That the lease clarify that RCCHC receive the same exemption from property taxes afforded to other nonprofit corporations by law.
4. That the lease clarify that the County will exercise good faith and expediency in making any repairs it is obligated to make pursuant to the lease without unnecessary or undue delay.
5. That the County will continue to keep the property covered under its casualty insurance policy against damage. Staff recommends that we do so as a matter of ensuring the building stays properly insured, but also recommends that we offset this request by asking RCCHC to cover all aspects of landscaping. Previously RCCHC had requested the county consider providing some landscaping. We have also suggested that RCCHC reach out to the Town of Creswell to determine if it can provide any landscaping assistance.
6. That if the Medicare rules of participation prohibit naming Washington County EMS Transport as the preferred provider for transport services, that this provision of the exhibit be deemed null and void.

Separately RCCHC has also requested permission to replace the furniture in the pharmacy area of the clinic, and has agreed that at the termination of the lease the newly installed furniture will remain with the facility.

Commissioner Johnson asked why Medicare would prohibit using Washington County EMS Transport as the preferred provider. Mr. Potter said RCCHC's attorney wasn't sure if this would cause a problem, so the County agreed that we could remove this item.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the pharmacy area renovation requested by RCCHC. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) FOR A FENCE AROUND THE PEA RIDGE PLAYGROUND: Chair Phelps spoke of the need for DOT to put a fence around the Pea Ridge playground. The new road coming through will create a safety hazard for the playground.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Resolution to DOT for a fence around the Pea Ridge playground. Commissioner Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS/E911: Dr. Michael Lowry showed a video regarding Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) to help citizens and the Board understand EMD a little better. Dr. Lowry stated that Ms. Johnson, Sheriff Barnes and Mr. Cocco have been instrumental in bringing EMD to Washington County. EMD will benefit Washington County citizens and Washington County EMS staff. Commissioner Sexton said he thought the County had already switched over to EMD. Ms. Johnson said she needs to hire one new person for the night shift before going to EMD. Budget Amendment #2016-026 was presented for hiring the extra person.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve an additional staff member on the EMD night shift and Budget Amendment #2016-026. Commissioner Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

BACK-UP PSAP DISCUSSION: Mr. Carawan spoke to the Board regarding conversations with David Bone, Martin County Manager about PSAP. Earlier this month, Mr. Carawan met with the Sheriff to discuss having a back-up PSAP and what was discussed in the past. The County has to have a plan in place by July or it will affect the County's future 911 funding. Martin County would like to include Washington County in their plan. Mr. Carawan explained that this would not be a merger. Martin County would have two (2) seats in their facility for Washington County if needed. Until Washington County can come up with another plan, we have to have a back-up plan in place, not just on paper. This is the best option for the near future. Mr. Potter stated that the primary benefit for Washington County is that Martin County is putting in for grant funds and the state has said that the more counties that band together the better chance of getting the funding. Mr. Potter said Washington County can always leave and build our own new center. Mr. Bone sits on the 911 Board and said that in the future, monies will be getting short. Sheriff Barnes said funds from the grant would fund consoles that would be a mirror image of what the County has here, but they would be in Martin County. The cost is \$200,000/console and we have to have 3 consoles. Mr. Potter said there are no other funds to cover those consoles. The plan has to be in and approved by July 2016. Commissioner Sexton asked about setting a surcharge on the phone bill for 911. Mr. Carawan said this is already on the phone bills and the County gets a portion of that. Commissioner Sexton wants to know if the County can adjust the 911 fee. Mr. Potter will check but since the funds are collected at the state level and then distributed, he doesn't think the County can adjust it. Discussion ensued. The Sheriff said he is going to apply for an additional grant after July, but if the County doesn't do something before July, the 911 Board can cut the County's 911 funds.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to use Martin County as a back-up and that if a match is required it may hinder the County's involvement with joining Martin County. Commissioner Walker seconded. Commissioner Johnson and Walker voted aye and Commissioner Sexton and Chair Phelps voted nay. Motion failed.

The Board directed staff to contact the 911 Board to see what viable options are available and bring information back to the March 7, 2016 meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Mr. Carawan spoke to the Board about the following Budget Amendments.

- 2016-012—EMS Transport BS/JW all approved
- 2016-017—PVFD Operational TAJ/BS all approved
- 2016-022—Commerce Center IDF Grant BS/TAJ all approved
- 2016-023—Trillium Playground Grant TAJ/BS all approved
- 2016-025—Ambulance Debt Service BS/JW all approved

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve budget amendment #2016-012 from the County Manager to cover budget shortfalls in EMS Transport. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve budget amendment #2016-017 from the County Manager to correct amount paid for PVFD Operational funds. Commissioner Sexton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve budget amendment #2016-022 from the County Manager for budgeting the Commerce Center IDF Grant and local match. Commissioner Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve budget amendment #2016-023 from the County Manager for budgeting the Trillium Playground Grant. Commissioner Sexton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve budget amendment #2016-025 from the County Manager for budgeting monies for Ambulance Debt Service payment. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONNECT NC BOND ACT: Chair Phelps asked Ms. Rebecca Liverman, Cooperative Extension Director to speak to the Board about what projects can happen as a result of this bond. Ms. Liverman said this will be on the March 15 ballot and there are 76 shovel-ready projects that will be supported. Washington County could get funds for Goose Creek Park and Pettigrew State Park. Mr. Potter presented the following resolution.

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS:
D. COLE PHELPS, CHAIR
JULIUS WALKER, JR., VICE-CHAIR
TRACEY A. JOHNSON
BUSTER MANNING
WILLIAM "BILL" R. SEXTON, JR.



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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONNECT NC BOND ACT

WHEREAS, North Carolina and its counties have a mutual desire to improve and enhance the quality of life for all of our state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Community College System is in need of new and renovated facilities to educate and prepare students and workers for the 21st century for the purpose of enhancing the economic development of the State; and

WHEREAS, Clean water and sewer systems are essential for attracting new and strengthening existing industry and to provide for the needs of the State and its growing population; and

WHEREAS, having parks and public facilities accessible to children and veterans with disabilities is essential to improving the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, Washington County will benefit from the \$1,477,500 for improving Goose Creek Park and the \$2,830,500 for improving Pettigrew State Park; and

WHEREAS, financing these costs through a bond is an economical and affordable way to address these infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the Connect NC Bond Act will provide funding for many critical needs facing North Carolina that will improve and enhance the quality of life in our counties;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Washington County that it does hereby express its support for the Connect NC Bond Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to all 100 counties with encouragement for each county to adopt a similar resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are transmitted to our members of the General Assembly and to Governor Pat McCrory to let them know of our support for this issue.

ADOPTED, this 15th day of February, 2016 by the Washington County Board of Commissioners.


D. Cole Phelps, Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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



Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the resolution supporting the Connect NC Bond Act. Commissioner Johnson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

KNOW THE FACTS/INFORMATION ABOUT THE ¼ CENT SALES TAX

REFERENDUM: Mr. Potter created a fact sheet for distribution throughout the County regarding the ¼ cent sales tax referendum. Twenty-seven (27) counties have already passed this referendum, even Martin County. This will be on the March 15 ballot.

KNOW THE FACTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ¼ CENT SALES TAX REFERENDUM

- In 2007 the North Carolina General Assembly authorized counties to levy an additional ¼ cent of sales and use tax on certain items upon the approval of the voters.
- At this time 27 counties including Martin County have approved the tax, and others continue to consider its approval as a source of additional revenue for local government.
- In 2015 the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution providing Washington County voters with the opportunity to approve the tax by placing a referendum question for voter approval on the March 15, 2016 primary election ballot.
- Tax Rate: The current local sales and use tax is set at 2 percent. When added to the state sales and use tax of 4.75 percent, the total sales and use tax in Washington County is currently 6.75 percent which is the lowest rate in North Carolina. If the ¼ cent sales and use tax is approved, the new rate will be 7 percent.
- Ballot Format: The referendum question on the ballot will read as follows:

[] For [] Against

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

- Taxed Items & Exemptions: The ¼ cent sales tax would apply to most items purchased in Washington County, but **THE TAX WILL NOT APPLY to several commonly purchased items including unprepared food (i.e. groceries), gasoline, prescription drugs, and motor vehicles.**
- Broader Tax Base: Unlike other kinds of taxes including property tax, the ¼ cent sales and use tax will apply equally to everyone in the county including travelers and tourists, and not just to residents or property owners.
- Tax Revenue: The annual revenue estimated to be generated from the ¼ cent sales tax is approximately \$177,000. To generate the same amount of revenue using the property tax would require an increase of over two (2) cents. In addition, unlike other sales tax revenue currently collected, the revenue from the ¼ cent sales tax would stay entirely within Washington County and would not be subject to redistribution by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

- Intended Use for Revenue: The resolution approving the referendum provides that the tax is intended to be used to help fund: “*Capital and operational costs associated with maintaining an adequate paramedic level EMS system, and an adequate emergency dispatching system*”.
- Voting: Voter Registration ends February 19th. Early Voting in Washington County starts March 3rd and ends March 12th. The March Primary Election will be held on March 15th. For more information about voting in Washington County contact Elections Director Dora Bell at (252) 793-6017, or by email at: washington.boe@gmail.com.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve ¼ Cent Sales Tax Referendum Fact Sheet. Commissioner Walker seconded; motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Johnson apologized to the Board for them receiving an invitation to an event hosted by the Commissioners before they even knew about it.

Chair Phelps recognized the Mayor of Creswell in the audience and also noted that the March 7 Commissioners meeting will be in Roper at WCU multi-purpose room.

Chair Phelps mentioned to the Board that he is on the Fire Commission and he is the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and they meet on the same nights. Chair Phelps asked the Board to name a replacement to be on the Fire Commission. **Commissioner Sexton nominated Commissioner Manning to replace Chair Phelps on the Fire Commission. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.** Chair Phelps noted that the next meeting of the Fire Commission is Monday, February 22, 2016. They meet the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Emergency Management Office (Ann Keyes’ office).

Ms. Bennett stated that there will be a ribbon cutting at the Beaufort County Community College Washington County Center on March 10, 2016 beginning at 3:00 PM. Tours will begin at 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. She asked the Commissioners to please try to attend.

Mr. Potter said he is working on the RFP for Trillium for the handicap playground. Mr. Potter also mentioned the redistricting that is being mentioned in the news and said that voting will be done as usual on March 15 in Washington County.

At 7:50 PM with no further business to discuss, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

D. Cole Phelps
Chair

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