

February 1, 2021

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM by using ZOOM—virtual meeting software (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) for Facebook Live Streaming and in person in the Commissioners’ Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Tracey Johnson, Ann Keyes, Carol Phelps, Bill Sexton and Julius Walker, Jr. were present. Also present were County Manager/County Attorney Curtis Potter, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Missy Dixon.

Chair Sexton called the meeting to order. Commissioner Walker gave the invocation; Commissioner Keyes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: NONE

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

*Items listed under Consent are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Board.*

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) Proclamation: Black History Month
- d) NC Education Lottery School Building Capital Fund Requests  
Boiler Replacement Washington County HS \$ 87,406.85
- e) FY22 Budget Preparation Guidelines

**Commissioner Phelps seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC FORUM: Mr. Jack Shute, 102 Cardinal Lane, Roper, told the Board he was hoping they could help with his road. He made packets of information for the Commissioners. He went on to say there are 2,000 roads in NC. Chair Sexton asked Mr. Shute to leave information with Ms. Collier and she will give it to the Commissioners.

Mr. Jimmy Jones, Cardinal Lane, Roper, stated he had a meeting with Senator Steinburg about his road. He says he has proof the road was there in order to meet DOT’s standards.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION UPDATE—SENIOR CENTER: Ms. Vanessa Joyner, Director of the Senior Center, gave the following presentation.

# Washington County Senior Center



## Washington County Senior Center

- ▶ Hours: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm (Currently Closed)
- ▶ 50 years or older to join
- ▶ Line Dancing for Beginners - Advanced
- ▶ Yoga
- ▶ Dance Fitness
- ▶ Caregiver's Support Group
- ▶ Craft, Sewing, and Art Classes

## Senior Center Staff

- ▶ Director
- ▶ Administrative Assistant
- ▶ Nutrition Site Manager
- ▶ Title V
- ▶ Volunteers

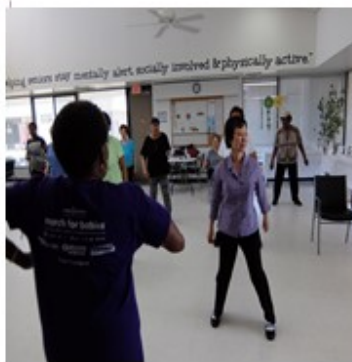
## The Reception/Lobby Area



## The Multi-Purpose Room



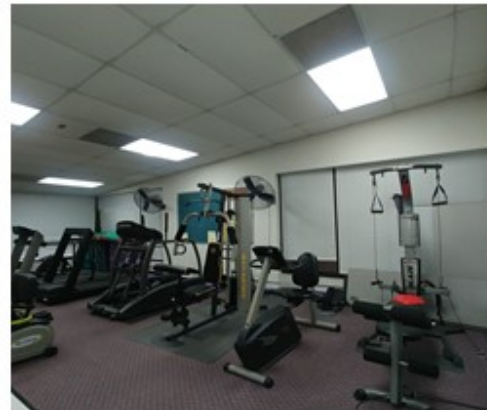
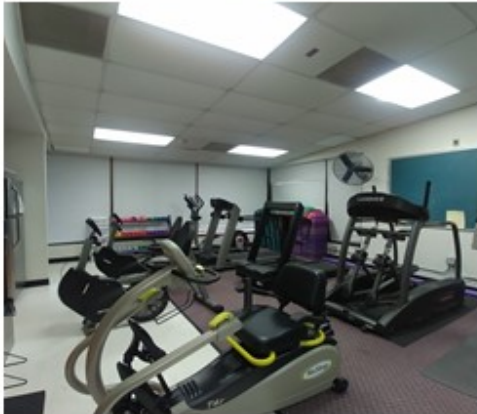
## Multi-Purpose Room Activities



## Craft Room



## Exercise Room



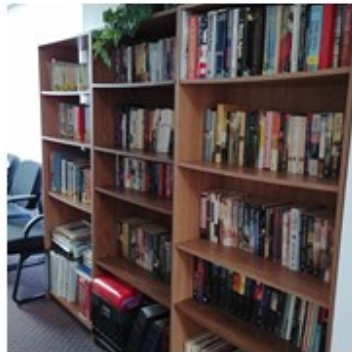
# Conference Room



## The Kitchen



## Information Center



## Meals-On-Wheels



## Preparing the Boxes





## Delivering Meals



## Gifts for Meals-On-Wheels Participants



## Multi-Purpose Room Events



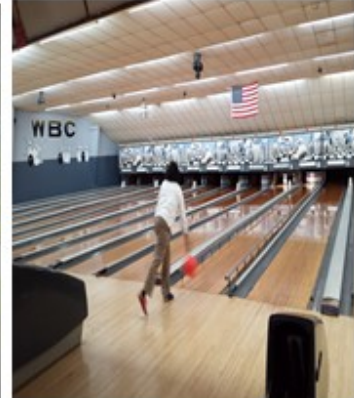
## Event Men's Night Out



## Activities



## Day Trips



## Day Trips



## Day Trip - Senior Games



## Day Trip Tyrrell County Senior Center



## Day Trip – Pines Elementary School



## Multi-Day Trips



## Multi-Day Trips



## Certification Requirements



Commissioner Keyes commended Ms. Joyner for all that she has done with and for the Senior Center.

Ms. Joyner said she uses the vehicles from Tax Office and County Manager's Office to deliver approximately 95 meals 3 times a week.

Commissioner Johnson said Ms. Joyner does a wonderful job with the Meals on Wheels and Rep. Paul Tine enjoyed visiting the Senior Center with her to do Meals on Wheels when he assisted years ago. Washington County was the first county to start Meals on Wheels and keeping the 100.0 Sanitation rate is awesome.

Commissioner Walker said he has been an active participant of the Senior Center's weight room. He said before COVID-19, the room was usually full. He enjoyed talking to the seniors and it's a good social outlet for them. He told Ms. Joyner to continue to do what she is doing.

Mr. Potter expressed his appreciation to Ms. Joyner as our first Department Head to participate in the Commissioners meeting and he appreciates all the work she does.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Sherri Wilkins, Tax Office Administrator spoke to the Board and presented the Unpaid 2020 Taxes that are Liens on Real Property.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT  
UNPAID 2020 TAXES THAT ARE LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY  
JANUARY 31, 2021

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 105-369(a), the following represents the total of unpaid 2020 taxes that are liens on real property to date:

\$ 793,959.48

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherri M. Wilkins  
Tax Collector

The Washington County Tax Collector is ordered to advertise unpaid 2020 taxes that are liens on real property, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 105-369(a).

Washington County Board of Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
William R Sexton, Jr., Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board

Ms. Wilkins stated that in accordance with NCGS 105-369(a) the following represents the total of unpaid 2020 taxes that are liens on Real Property as of January 31, 2021 - \$793,959.48.

Also in accordance with NCGS 105-369 (b1) letters will be mailed the first week of March to notify the taxpayers of their delinquencies and that the delinquent taxes will be advertised in April.

Ms. Wilkins stated that the Debt Set-off letter will be combined with the Notice of Lien Advertisement letter (also referred to as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice letter). The taxes have to be delinquent 60 days to send the Debt Set-off letter, so the letters will be mailed in March. After we advertise, we can refer the 2020 delinquent amounts for foreclosure.



The Delinquent Tax Coordinator/Deputy Tax Collector, Darlene Harrison, has already started wage garnishments and bank attachments on the delinquent amounts.

Taxpayers are coming in to set up monthly payments. We are setting up payment agreements to have the taxes paid by June 2021. If they default on their monthly payment we will enforce collections through the wage garnishment, bank attachment or foreclosure.

Chair Sexton asked how this year compares to last year. Ms. Wilkins said she didn't have the percentage but knew it was lower than last years.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to allow the Tax Administrator to advertise unpaid 2020 taxes that are liens on real property; pursuant to NCGS105-369(a). Commissioner Keyes seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COVID-19 AND VACCINE UPDATE:** Mr. Wes Gray, MTW Health Department Director gave an update on COVID-19 and the vaccines.

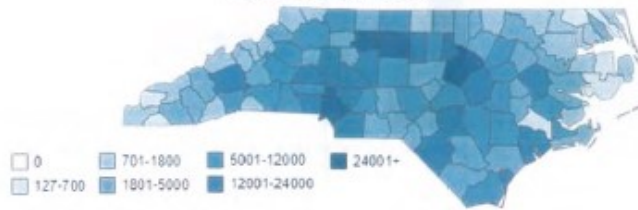
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

# Washington County COVID-19 Update

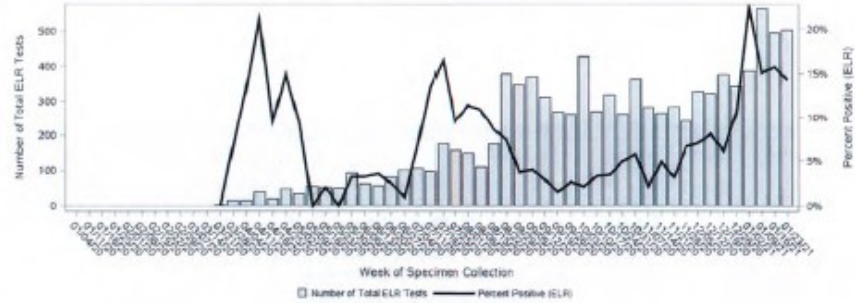
The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 218 countries and territories around the world.

North Carolina		United States		Global	
Total Cases	761,302	Total Cases	26,786,352	Total Cases	103,725,034
Deaths	9,342	Deaths	452,458	Deaths	2,242,291
Recovered	683,697	Recovered	16,453,991	Recovered	75,332,656

## NC Case Distribution



### # Tested and % Positive Rate in Washington County (per week)



## County Numbers

809 TOTAL CASES  
 512 RECOVERIES  
 287 ACTIVE CASES  
 .....  
 23 DEATHS  
 2 HOSPITALIZED  
 .....  
 44 NEW CASES SINCE  
 FRIDAY, 1/29  
 (AVG. OF 15 PER DAY)  
 .....

**DEC 23, 2020**  
 DATE OF THE FIRST VACCINE ADMINISTERED IN THE DISTRICT!

**700**  
 VACCINES GIVEN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11TH

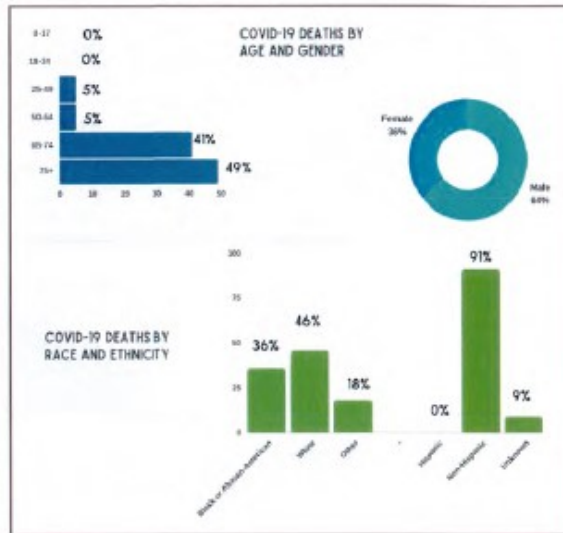
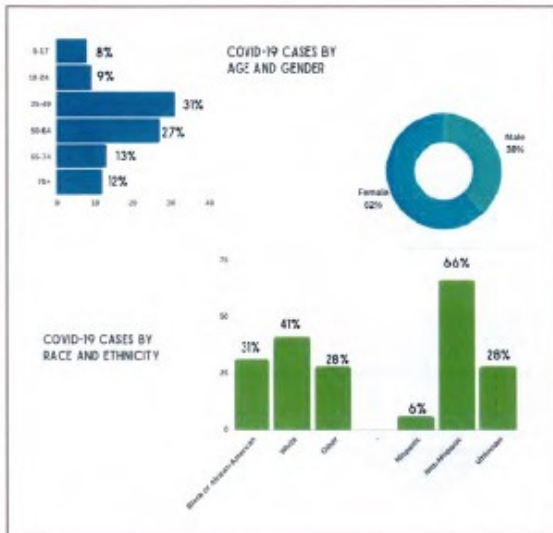
**1540**  
 VACCINES GIVEN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18TH

**250**  
 VACCINES GIVEN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25TH

**4,000+**  
 NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERED

**3300**  
 TOTAL NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS GIVEN

MARTIN COUNTY RECEIVED AN AVERAGE OF 300 DOSES PER WEEK FROM 12/21-1/11. WE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY NEW VACCINE THE WEEK OF 1/18 OR 1/25 (ONLY 2ND DOSES) AS THE STATE PRIORITIZED LARGE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS. WE ARE SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE 400 DOSES THE WEEK OF 2/1.



**Ongoing Outbreaks - 1/29 (these are total case counts since the start of the facility outbreak, not active case counts)**

Facility Type	County	Facility	Staff		Residents / Students		Total	
			Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Nursing Home	Martin	Roanoke River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	24	1	25	1	49	2
Nursing Home	Washington	Roanoke Landing Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	36	0	60	5	96	5
Residential Care Facility	Tyrrell	Tyrrell House	2	0	1	0	3	0
Correctional Facility	Washington	Washington County Jail	3	0	5	0	8	0
K-12 School	Martin	Williamston Primary School	7	0	0	0	7	0

**Vaccination Dashboard (Feb. 1: NC is currently ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the US for % of doses distributed)**

Location	Doses Distributed / Shots Given	% Used	% of population with 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose / 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
US	49,933,250 / 31,123,299	62%	7.6% / 1.7%
NC	1,423,475 / 951,657	67%	7.6% / 1.4%

**County Residents** (all sources including hospitals and health departments; these numbers are reported by NC DHHS and do not include all vaccines administered due to backlogs in the COVID Vaccine Management System. These official numbers are approximately 1 week behind actual numbers. As of 2/1, MTW has administered (or transferred to District congregate living homes) 3,300 doses of vaccine.

Martin		Tyrrell		Washington	
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose
1948	178	440	12	1281	59

Commissioner Johnson said she has had some constituents that have called the online system and not heard back from MTW. Mr. Gray said he has employees working on that every day. The Emergency Management office has been assisting also with these call backs.

Commissioner Keyes commended Mr. Gray on the clinic they held at the Senior Center. Mr. Gray said he had some county staff volunteer to help and it was really successful.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

**PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board has several seats that have expired or soon will expire. Ms. Rosalind Shields resigned due to her business moving farther from home so the Planning Board will be recommending someone to finish out her term.

The Planning Board recommends the following, each for a 3-year term:

Ms. Elizabeth Bradshaw to December 31, 2023 (expires at Ms. Shield's original date)

Ms. Katie Walker to December 31, 2023

Mr. Steve Barnes to March 31, 2024

Mr. David Clifton to March 31, 2024

All have agreed to serve if appointed or re-appointed.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the re-appointments as presented. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Dixon said the budget transfers and budget amendments were in the Commissioners' package.

**Commissioner Keyes made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Phelps seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Dixon did note that the County did have an increase in Sales Tax from November to December.

OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER/ COUNTY MANAGER OR CLERK:

Commissioner Walker noted that on Millpond Road there is a bad bump there in the road that needs to be looked at. He also asked how the salary adjustments went. Mr. Potter said he thought it went well. There are still some on the punch list that have to be worked on. Mr. Potter thanked Ms. Dixon and Ms. Moore and the Department Heads and the Board for being supportive of this action.

Commissioner Phelps asked for an update on the Board of Elections issue. Commissioner Phelps said the Census has to be completed first and then there will be a redistricting. He attended a meeting on the Census and redistricting last week. There are a lot of things to take into the consideration.

Commissioner Phelps said at the Creswell Town Meeting they asked for consideration to have DOT resurface Main Street. Commissioner Sexton said that would need to be brought up at the RPO meeting.

Commissioner Johnson said she was asked to join in a White House conference call addressing substance abuse during the pandemic. Also it was brought up that there is not rural broadband to assist folks reach mental health institutions for help.

Commissioner Keyes attended various meetings in the last month. She enjoyed the NCACC Legislative Conference the best.

Chair Sexton said he and Mr. Potter were in the process of joining the RPO meeting but something happened and connection was lost.

Ms. Bennett mentioned the upcoming NACo virtual legislative conference.

Mr. Potter said he is having a meeting on 2/10 with Pocosin Innovative Charter (PIC) School regarding leasing or other options dealing with the Veterans Field.

Mr. Potter reminded the Board that he has the Department Head Budget kickoff this Wednesday. They will have the remainder of this month to complete their budgets.

Mr. Potter will be attending (here in the office) 2 simultaneous virtual conference –one for County Attorneys and one for County Managers.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to applicable law including without limitation NCGS 66-152(3); NCGS§143-318.11(a)(3)--attorney-client privilege; NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area, et. seq and NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6)—personnel. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

Back in Open Session, at 8:35 PM, with no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Keyes made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Walker seconded. Ms. Bennett proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

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William R. "Bill" Sexton  
Chair

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

