

April 3, 2017

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Johnson, Phelps, Riddick, Sexton and Walker were present. Also present were Interim County Manager/County Attorney Curtis Potter, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Missy Dixon.

Chair Walker called the April 3, 2017 meeting to order. Commissioner Sexton gave the invocation. Commissioner Phelps led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: NONE

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

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) Resolution Supporting SB76 Permit Nighttime Hunting of Coyotes
- d) Solar Farm Resolution

Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM: Ms. Zina Rhodes, 420 Pittman Drive, Greenville, supervisor at DSS, stated that one of her employees is retiring with 30 years in July. When that employee went to the Social Security office to see about her SS benefits, they told her that she could still work (she makes ~\$19,000/yr.) and still get her SS benefits. Ms. Rhodes said this employee only makes \$20,000 and has been working in DSS for 30 years. Ms. Rhodes said the Commissioners set the pay range and she is before the Commissioners for them to adjust the pay range. It is appalling to her to know that someone has been working in DSS for 30 years and still making \$19,000.

Mr. Jimmy Jones, 51 Cardinal Lane, Roper, came before the Board again speaking about the problem with his road that should have been paved since day one, since Mr. Sam Chesson bought it. Commissioner Phelps and Senator Smith-Ingram and Ms. Keyes have been working with him on it. Mr. Jones stated that he had talked to Paul Tine also. Mr. Jones said he doesn't understand why he can't get the road paved. Why does he have this problem with DOT?

NCACC MEETING IN A BOX: Ms. Bennett mentioned to the Board that every year the County receives a "Meeting in a Box" from the NCACC whereby the Commissioners are asked to set up meetings with their legislative representatives and discuss the goals of the NCACC with them. Ms. Bennett said she was able to set up a meeting with Senator Smith-Ingram to meet with the Board tonight. Rep. Beverly Boswell's office was contacted but Ms. Bennett did not hear back from her. Ms. Bennett said she will continue to try to set up a meeting with Representative Boswell before the District Meeting in Tyrrell County on April 27. Senator Smith-Ingram stated that there have been changes in the administration so we may need to wait for them to get in their offices so that we can bring them some of our goals.

Senator Smith-Ingram said that some of the goals are the same as last year. She is still a proponent of education, being an educator herself. She said she is glad to see that the Washington County Schools have applied for funds for Early College at Plymouth High School.

Senator Smith-Ingram said she knows that we don't want school boards to be able to sue Boards of Commissioners. She said she has support on a bill for turning Teacher Assistant's into Teachers. This bill includes 6 of the counties she serves. She also stated there are two calendar flexibility bills to align schools with community college schedules.

Senator Smith Ingram said she is in favor of some Public Safety bills—SB 564, SB 549, and SB 550—they are all in alignment with juvenile justice—trying to get the age changed for when juveniles can be tried as adults. Some states still say 16 year olds can be tried as adults.

Senator Smith-Ingram said she supports other bills on Broadband.

Regarding Health and Human Services, Senator Smith-Ingram cosponsored a bill on dementia. A large portion of our population has Alzheimer's.

Senator Smith-Ingram said the Budget Tax Center sent out a proposal; however, it looks like it will be on the backs of the poor and middle class and she is definitely against this.

Regarding the Sales Tax Distribution, Senator Smith-Ingram said she will stay neutral until she hears from her constituents on which way they would like for her to go on this.

Senator Smith-Ingram said she has also cosponsored SB542 for a bond for \$1.93B for every education agency to apply for funding to build schools and also a proposal to use lottery money to build schools and to pay principals. She asked the Commissioners which ones do they think are most beneficial? She said she is proud of the Governor's budget—he is putting money into community colleges.

Commissioner Phelps asked Senator Smith-Ingram to talk about the expungement bill. She said that NC has one of the strictest expungement bills—for 15 years you keep something on your record. Removal has to be requested by the offender. Some states have made changes—they have changed how long something stays on a record to 1 year, 2 years or 5 years.

Senator Smith-Ingram said she is also working with the opioid epidemic and co-sponsoring a bill on that. She doesn't want to over criminalize an illness.

Commissioner Phelps also mentioned that the drainage in the Cherry area and Lake Phelps area is still a problem. It's going to take the State to come in and help the County with this. Senator Smith-Ingram said they were able to get the \$750,000 for the Cherry Bridge project and she will check into where that money is. She also mentioned that EPA regulations are being revamped. A resiliency plan/study is being put together to study areas that flood even just with a rainstorm. Senator Smith-Ingram asked Ms. Keyes to forward her the pictures from the latest storms.

Commissioner Sexton said he talked to Reed Wilson, Chief Deputy from Cultural Natural Resources and Mr. Wilson said they had allotted \$300,000 to work on the canals around Lake Phelps. Commissioner Sexton said he doesn't understand why the work hasn't started yet since

the money is there. He also said he knows that there are gates at Lake Phelps that aren't working correctly. There needs to be better management on this issue. Commissioner Sexton said he hasn't heard back from Mr. Wilson yet and asked Senator Smith-Ingram to follow-up on this. Commissioner Sexton went on to say that Creswell farmers experience flooding when the Lake floods. Senator Smith-Ingram said that there is a new person in place in Cultural Resources and she will reach out to her and to Reed Wilson.

Chair Walker told the Senator that he liked that she is working on tuition grants for Teacher Assistants to become teachers. Teacher Assistants are a great asset.

Commissioner Johnson asked Senator Smith-Ingram if the General Assembly will bring back the Teaching Fellows Program. The Senator replied yes and that she is seeing that pick up traction since the State is facing a teacher shortage.

Senator Smith-Ingram said that a bill is being proposed to have law enforcement officers early retirement at 25 years instead of 30 years. She asked for the Board's feedback. She has signed on as a co-sponsor on this bill. The Senator stated that enlisted folks get to retire at 20 years and feels that the law enforcement officers should get to do the same.

Senator Smith-Ingram said there is a proposal (SB467 NC retirement reform bill) for anyone hired after July 1, 2018 to have all state employees to participate in a 401K plan. She also co-sponsored a 2% COLA for retirees.

Senator Smith-Ingram thanked Plymouth Mayor Roth—he has been working on PARTF grants. It is a 1-1 match and it is difficult for the County and the Town to make that match. The Senator is hoping to make the PARTF grants like the CAMA grants—only 50% match and considering a new tier system. Jobs Development Investment Grants--5% of those projects would go to metropolitan areas instead of Tier 1 counties. The General Assembly is looking at redoing the criteria for the program so counties that need the money, get the money.

The Board thanked Senator Smith-Ingram for attending tonight's meeting and for taking their goals and issues back to Raleigh.

INTRODUCTION OF SOIL & WATER TECHNICIAN: Mr. Potter introduced Ms. Gerda Rhodes, Chair of the Soil & Water Board who introduced Ms. Martha Prinsloo as the new Soil & Water Technician to the Commissioners. Ms. Prinsloo said she was glad to be here.

RFP UPDATES FOR SOLID WASTE AND INVESTMENT SERVICES: Mr. Potter said the Solid Waste RFP generated a lot of feedback therefore there was a need to extend the deadline to the end of April and he will bring info back to the Commissioners at the May 1, 2017 meeting. The County did not receive any bids on th RFP for our Investment Services. Mr. Potter said he will be revising the RFP and putting it out again. Because of the level of the assets of the plan, they cannot be reinvested in high risk accounts. Types of investments will be conservative with a lower rate of return. Funds were placed with the trust company as directed at the last meeting. The money was put in treasury notes which are low risk.

BI-WEEKLY PAYROLL DISCUSSION: Chair Walker noted that at the last meeting the Board asked staff to check into the surrounding counties to see how often they do payroll. Ms. Fetima Moore contacted surrounding counties and the general consensus was that they do

payroll once a month. Other counties staff worried about not having enough staff to do payroll more than once a month.

Commissioner Phelps said he appreciated the information and asked Mr. Potter to relay this information to the employee in DSS that made this request.

UPDATE ON TRILLIUM PLAYGROUND: Mr. Potter spoke to the Board and said that the parking lot is paved, striped and the parking bumpers have been installed. One trashcan has to be put in and there is a walkthrough planned on Wednesday with the Project Manager for any other punch list items that need to be fixed before having a grand opening. The consensus was to wait until all the punch list items have been fixed to plan the grand opening.

RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE BUILDING INSPECTOR SERVICES TO THE CITY OF GREENVILLE: Ms. Ann Keyes, Director of Planning/Safety/EM spoke to the Board and stated that Washington County hired Pitt County's Inspector to work for Washington County, leaving Pitt County without a Building Inspector. The following resolution was presented to the Board.

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS:

JULIUS WALKER, JR., CHAIR
TRACEY A. JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR
D. COLE PHELPS
JENNIFER C. RIDDICK
WILLIAM "BILL" R. SEXTON, JR.



ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

CURTIS S. POTTER
INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER/
COUNTY ATTORNEY
cpotter@washconc.org

JULIE J. BENNETT, CMC, NCCCC
CLERK TO THE BOARD
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100 EAST OFFICE BOX 1007
PLYMOUTH, NORTH CAROLINA 27962
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RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE BUILDING INSPECTOR SERVICES TO THE CITY OF GREENVILLE

WHEREAS, NCGS §160A-461 (Interlocal cooperation authorized), provides in relevant part: *“Any unit of local government in this State and any one or more other units of local government in this State or any other state (to the extent permitted by the laws of the other state) may enter into contracts or agreements with each other in order to execute any undertaking. The contracts and agreements shall be of reasonable duration, as determined by the participating units, and shall be ratified by resolution of the governing board of each unit spread upon its minutes”*; and

WHEREAS, NCGS §160A-413 (Joint inspection department), provides in relevant part:

“In lieu of a joint inspection department, a city council may designate an inspector from any other city or county to serve as a member of its inspection department with the approval of the governing body of the other city or county. A city may also contract with an individual who is not a city or county employee but who holds one of the applicable certificates as provided in G.S. 160A-411.1 or G.S. 153A-351.1 or with the employer of an individual who holds one of the applicable certificates as provided in G.S. 160A-411.1 or G.S. 153A-351.1. The inspector, if designated from another city or county under this section, shall, while exercising the duties of the position, be considered a municipal employee. The city shall have the same potential liability, if any, for inspections conducted by an individual who is not an employee of the city as it does for an individual who is an employee of the city”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenville desires to contract with Washington County for the provision of certain inspection services upon the terms and conditions more particularly described within the attached Interlocal Agreement which is incorporated herein by reference; and

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of WASHINGTON COUNTY HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the attached Interlocal Agreement is hereby approved; and
2. That the Interim County Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Interlocal Agreement in duplicate originals, and return one original copy thereof to the City of Greenville; and

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 20____

Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement to Provide Building Inspector Services to the City of Greenville. Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW: Ms. Bennett gave oaths to the Commissioners so they could convene as the Board of Equalization and Review.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Sexton seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sherri Wilkins, Tax Administrator explained that there was one appeal at this time, from Mr. Michael Bradshaw.

In addition to the information in the Board packages, Ms. Wilkins gave a summary of the Tax Office's interactions with Mr. Bradshaw.

- June 2016 - The property was purchased by Mr. Bradshaw
- February 10, 2017 – Received Appraisal from Mr. Bradshaw. He was informed that the County would have our Appraiser, Gary Piner, review the Appraisal and contact him.
- February 21, 2017 – Mr. Piner looked over the Appraisal and spoke with Mr. Bradshaw. Mr. Piner explained about the revaluation in 2013 and that the property is in line with the surrounding properties. Mr. Bradshaw stated that he was unhappy and he would appeal to whoever he needed to.

- February 24, 2017 – Mailed Mr. Bradshaw a letter, the Tax Office calls it a ‘New Construction Letter’; it stated that there would be no change in the value of his property. At that same time, Ms. Wilkins sent Mr. Bradshaw the ‘Appeals to Real Estate’ information. He was given 30 days to appeal.
- March 17, 2017 - Received the completed ‘Appeal to the Washington County Board of Equalization and Review’ form from Mr. Bradshaw.

The following are Ms. Wilkins comments and recommendation regarding this appeal.

As everyone is aware, the values on all real property were set as of January 1, 2013, the date of County’s last revaluation. Revaluations are completed every 8 years. The appraisers researched 2 years before January 1, 2013 for comparables. Washington County’s rate was appropriate for that neighborhood for that time. Washington County Appraiser, Gary Piner, looked at the doublewide mobile home and there are no issues with the value on the doublewide mobile home. Mr. Bradshaw’s land rate is consistent with the values in the neighborhood. Ms. Wilkins stated there is no justification for making a change. If the Board changes Mr. Bradshaw’s rate then they will need to change the rates for the whole neighborhood.

Per Ms. Wilkins’ conversation with the Real Property Division Manager of the Local Government Division of the NCDOR, if the County adjusts the values, the County creates uniformity issues, whereas now the values are in line for the neighborhood. They will not be in line if the Board allows a change due to a sale. Refer to NCGS 105-287.

Ms. Wilkins went on to say that another factor to consider is that per the appraisal this is a non-arms length sale; the sale was between family members. Being a non-arms length sale it is considered to be a disqualified sale. It will not be included in the Sales Ratio reported for the County.

Ms. Wilkins said she does not recommend a change in the value of Mr. Bradshaw’s property. Per NCGS, he does not meet any requirements for reconsideration.

Commissioner Sexton asked what Mr. Bradshaw paid for the doublewide mobile home. Ms. Wilkins said \$140,000. Mr. Bradshaw was not in the audience to answer any questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to leave Mr. Bradshaw’s assessment as is, because the Board would have to change everyone’s values, until the next revaluation is completed. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to recess the Board of Equalization & Review until May 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners’ Room. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY AUDIT—WAIVING OF PENALTIES: Before this topic got underway, Commissioner Phelps stated that he is related to some of the citizens asking for the penalties to be waived; however, he is not gaining financially from any of this.

Ms. Wilkins stated that the following citizens were asking for their Business Personal Property Audit penalties to be waived.



WASHINGTON COUNTY
P.O. BOX 1007
Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted March 6, 2017 establishing the guidelines for adjusting late tax listing penalties from audits of Business Personal Property taxes, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to release the following penalty amounts:

Account Name	Account #	Penalty Assessed	Penalty Released
Ricky D. & Denise Phelps	39789	\$3,334.32	\$2,734.32

This release of penalty will result in an adjustment of the interest that is due on the account. The penalty release does not include the applicable audit fee which is estimated at \$600. Pursuant to the requirements of the Resolution the taxes were paid March 14, 2017.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


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



Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the waiving of penalties as listed above for Ricky Phelps, Ricky D. & Denise Phelps. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1007

Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted March 6, 2017 establishing the guidelines for adjusting late tax listing penalties from audits of Business Personal Property taxes, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to release the following penalty amounts:

Account Name	Account #	Penalty Assessed	Penalty Released
Askew Brothers	2688	\$1,398.47	\$798.47

This release of penalty will result in an adjustment of the interest that is due on the account. The penalty release does not include the applicable audit fee which is estimated at \$600.00. Pursuant to the requirements of the Resolution the taxes were paid March 27, 2017.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


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



Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the waiving of penalties as listed above for Wayne Askew of Askew Brothers. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1007
Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted March 6, 2017 establishing the guidelines for adjusting late tax listing penalties from audits of Business Personal Property taxes, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to release the following penalty amounts:

Account Name	Account #	Penalty Assessed	Penalty Released
Askew's Farm, Inc.	2809	\$1,383.41	\$783.41

This release of penalty will result in an adjustment of the interest that is due on the account. The penalty release does not include the applicable audit fee which is estimated at \$600.00. Pursuant to the requirements of the Resolution the taxes were paid March 27, 2017.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


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



Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the waiving of penalties as listed above for Wayne Askew of Askew's Farm, Inc. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1007
Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted March 6, 2017 establishing the guidelines for adjusting late tax listing penalties from audits of Business Personal Property taxes, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to release the following penalty amounts:

Account Name	Account #	Penalty Assessed	Penalty Released
Seaboard Timber Co., Inc.	44884	\$8,042.65	\$7,042.65

This release of penalty will result in an adjustment of the interest that is due on the account. The penalty release does not include the applicable audit fee which is estimated at \$1,000. Pursuant to the requirements of the Resolution the taxes were paid December 5, 2016.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


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



Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the waiving of penalties as listed above for Grayson Barnes, Seaboard Timber Company, Inc. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1007

Plymouth, North Carolina 27962

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted March 6, 2017 establishing the guidelines for adjusting late tax listing penalties from audits of Business Personal Property taxes, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to release the following penalty amounts:


Account Name	Account #	Penalty Assessed	Penalty Released
South Fork Farms, Inc.	47396	\$7,886.83	\$7,286.83

This release of penalty will result in an adjustment of the interest that is due on the account. The penalty release does not include the applicable audit fee which is estimated at \$600.00. Pursuant to the requirements of the Resolution the taxes were paid January 19, 2017.

Approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Julius Walker, Jr., Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


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



Commissioner Riddick made a motion to approve the waiving of penalties as listed above for Todd Phelps of South Fork Farms, Inc. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Dixon presented Budget Amendments BA# 2017-022, BA# 2017-023, BA# 2017-024, BA# 2017-025, BA# 2017-026, BA# 2017-027, BA# 2017-028.

Commissioner Phelps asked about BT# 2017- #23: Ms. Dixon explained that this one is to address the comp time payout and would cause Recreation's retirement line to need money.

Commissioner Johnson asked about BA# 2017-22: Ms. Dixon explained that on BA #2017-22 the County received money from an insurance claim.

Commissioner Phelps asked about BT# 2017-25: Ms. Dixon explained that items were paid out of a supply line so a new line was created to account for tournament fees. Commissioner Phelps asked to hold off on this. Mr. Potter said that he has already approved this transfer with the authority given him by the Board. Mr. Potter stated that only ~\$360 has been paid but he will not spend anymore until clarified. The Board asked that the Recreation Director attend the next Board meeting to inform them about these tournaments.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Johnson stated that the fire in Raleigh affected the Quorum Center and the Albert Coates Center. The Quorum Center housed the NCACC's Risk Management Team offices. She is attending their meeting tomorrow and they will meet at the Holiday Inn. It will be between 12-18 months before the NCACC can get back in their offices. The Quorum Center also houses residents. This fire was very tragic for the NCACC.

Commissioner Phelps thanked Senator Smith-Ingram for coming tonight. Commissioner Phelps also stated that he had the opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels with the Senior Center Director, Ms. Vanessa Joyner and had a great time. Commissioner Phelps also said he enjoyed the Code Blue Exercise that Ms. Keyes did last week. He also thanked Mr. Potter for doing such a good job.

Commissioner Riddick stated that she is holding first Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting tomorrow night. She said she is looking forward to getting started on that.

Chair Walker also echoed Commissioner Phelps' 'thanks' to Senator Smith-Ingram. He said he is glad she always available. He, too, thought Ms. Keyes' mock exercise went very well last week and that everyone worked well on it.

Ms. Bennett informed the Commissioners that she will be out of office the remainder of this week at the 30th Annual Clerks Conference in Cleveland County (Shelby). This is her last act as President of the NC Association of County Clerks.

Ms. Bennett informed the Board of the following upcoming meetings:

- NCACC District Meetings (the closest one to Washington County is in Tyrrell County on April 27)

- NCACC “NC Stepping Up Summit”, McKimmon Center, Raleigh—May 9, 2017
- NCACC County Assembly Day, Raleigh—May 10, 2017

Ms. Bennett asked the Commissioners to please let her know which ones they would like to attend so she can RSVP for them.

Mr. Potter said he is working to get the leaks repaired in the Cooperative Extension offices.

Mr. Potter said he met with Mr. David Noell, Finance Officer for Washington County Schools and he may need to move the budget presentation out two weeks to be able to give a better budget that will include numbers from Washington County Schools. Magic 95.9 has done a service announcement regarding the broadband survey. Mr. Potter said he found two bills S331/H465 about wind energy and a 3 year moratorium. S366 speaks of universal permitting procedures for a wind energy facility—on or offshore in NC.

At 7:27 PM, with no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Julius Walker, Jr.
Chair

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