

June 26, 2017

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a recessed session on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 5:00 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 June 26, 2017 meeting to order. Chair Walker thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

ADDITIONS: Ms. Bennett added the appointment of the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor at Item 5A and the appointment to the Jury Commission as Item 5B. Commissioner Sexton added a JLUS discussion as Item 5C.

WASHINGTON COUNTY 2017-2018 BUDGET ORDINANCE: WASHINGTON COUNTY 2017-2018 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Mr. Potter told the Commissioners that the only changes made at the last meeting were to cut the MTW Health Department's budget by approximately \$3,000 and to place that savings back into the Sheriff's Dept. which was previously cut and that we were still at a 5 cent tax increase.

Commissioner Phelps said under the Professional Services budget, he would like to cut the hospital pension in half from \$279,097 to \$139,549. The consensus of the Board was to make that cut. Commissioner Johnson asked what the tax decrease would be. Mr. Potter said ~1.6 cent is what would be cut. Take 1.6 cent off of 5 cent which would leave 3.4 cent. The Commissioners said to round the increase to 3.5 making the ad valorem tax rate .845. Mr. Potter stated this would leave \$7,970 to be appropriated, and he would like to put it into contingency. Commissioner Phelps said he would like to put \$5,000 to contingency and the \$2,970 to the library for toner cartridges for their printer. Mr. Potter stated he would actually recommend that the \$7,970 go back into the pension fund since it had been cut so drastically. Commissioner Sexton said to put the \$7,970 in the hospital pension fund. Commissioner Phelps said he would still like a portion of it to go to the library. Chair Walker stated he would like to follow the recommendation of Mr. Potter. Discussion ensued and Mr. Potter confirmed that the consensus of the Board was to follow Commissioner Phelps recommendation to put \$5,000 in contingency, and \$2,970 to the library.

Commissioner Johnson commended her fellow Commissioners and staff for their job on this budget.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Potter and Ms. Dixon for all of the work they did on the budget. He said they did an excellent job.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Washington County 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance at a level of 3.5 cent ad valorem tax increase + 1 cent for watershed improvement tax for a total of 4.5 cent increase. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONTRACTS: Mr. Curtis Potter, ICM, spoke to the Board on the following contract:

Curbside Collections Contract with Republic Services (*Documents are attached to and hereby made a part of these minutes.*)

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion approve Mr. Potter to sign the contract with Republic Services. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

DSS Contracts with Other Counties/Agencies (*Documents are attached to and hereby made a part of these minutes.*)

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Chair Walker to sign the DSS Contracts that Washington County has with other Counties/Agencies. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

911 MOU: Mr. Potter spoke to the Commissioners regarding the 911 MOU between Washington County and Beaufort County for 911 services if Washington County's primary PSAP becomes disabled. (*Document is attached to and hereby made a part of these minutes.*)

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion approve the 911 MOU between Washington County and Beaufort County. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

TYRRELL COUNTY EMS: Mr. Potter spoke to the Commissioners about the Tyrrell County EMS contract. (*Document is attached to and hereby made a part of these minutes.*)

**Commissioner Riddick made a motion approve the Tyrrell County EMS contract. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

INSOLVENTS, REFUNDS AND RELEASES FOR JUNE 2017: (*Documents are attached to and hereby made a part of these minutes.*)

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion approve the Insolvents, Refunds and Releases for June 2017. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

VOTING DELEGATE FOR 2017 NCACC CONFERENCE: Ms. Bennett, Clerk to the Board, noted that four of our Commissioners are planning to attend the upcoming NCACC Conference being held in Durham on August 10-13, 2017. One of the attendees needs to be appointed to be the voting delegate for Washington County while at the Conference.

**Commissioner Johnson nominated Commissioner Riddick to be the Washington County voting delegate for 2017 NCACC Conference. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT TO THE DSS BOARD:

Mr. Gordon Davenport, Roper, stated he was here representing the DSS Board, along with members Ms. Spruill, Ms. Phelps, Ms. Cahoon and Commissioner Walker. The request

from the DSS Board is for Jerry Rhodes to be put up for election to fill Mr. Davenport's place on the DSS Board when his term expires.

Chair Walker allowed Mr. Jack Webb, 1252 Jones White Road, Roper, to speak. Mr. Webb said he would like to see diversity on the DSS Board, mainly younger people on the Board to represent the County who could identify with their needs. Mr. Webb said he also thought it might be a conflict of interest if Jerry Rhodes is on that Board since he may be voting on something he initiated when he was the DSS Director.

**Commissioner Sexton nominated Mr. Jerry Rhodes to be appointed to the DSS Board to replace Mr. Gordon Davenport when his term expires.**

**Commissioner Phelps nominated Ms. Paulique Horton to be appointed to the DSS Board to replace Mr. Gordon Davenport when his term expires.**

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion that the nominations be closed. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion passed unanimously.**

**Chair Walker called for the vote by asking all in favor of Paulique Horton being appointed to the DSS Board please show the sign of affirmation by raising their hand. Commissioners Johnson, Phelps and Riddick raised their hand. Commissioner Sexton voiced his opposition by voting nay. Chair Walker did not vote, but his non-vote counts as affirmative according to the rules the Board of Commissioners' follow. Based on this vote, Ms. Paulique Horton was appointed as the new DSS Board member, with a vote of 4 - 1.**

APPOINTMENT OF TAX COLLECTOR AND TAX ASSESSOR: Mr. Potter told the Board that according to GS 105-294, the Tax Collector and the Tax Assessor must be appointed every two or four years, at the July meeting.

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion approve Sherri Wilkins as Tax Collector and Tax Assessor for a two year term. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT TO THE JURY COMMISSION: Ms. Bennett, Clerk to the Board, told the Board she contacted the Creswell Town Clerk and asked her to put the appointment to the Jury Commission on their next agenda. Ms. Chapman, Town Clerk, did and informed Ms. Bennett that Ms. Syble Spruill was nominated for re-appointment to the Jury Commission.

**Commissioner Phelps made a motion re-appoint Ms. Syble Spruill to the Jury Commission. Commissioner Sexton seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS): Commissioner Sexton said the JLUS Policy Committee met a few weeks ago. He said he did not attend that meeting because they were going to vote on the study, and our "place at the table" doesn't allow Washington County to have a vote—just to gather information. Mr. Potter said he attended by teleconference and said there wasn't a buy-in from the counties on the plan. Each of the individual Counties can look at the plan and decide if they want to approve any portion of the plan for their County. In the beginning, it was known that having "a place at the table" did not mean an endorsement. Mr. Potter said that he and Ms. Keyes spent the most time looking into this study.

**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.**

Back in Open Session, **Commissioner Phelps made a motion to appoint Curtis Potter as County Manager/County Attorney effective July 1, 2017 for 1.5 years until December 1, 2018. Commissioner Riddick seconded, motion passed unanimously.**

At 6:00 PM, with no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting to their regular meeting on August 7 at the Creswell High School Band and Drama Room. Commissioner Phelps seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

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Julius Walker, Jr.  
Chair

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