

August 24, 2022

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Tracey A. Johnson, Ann C. Keyes, William R. "Bill" Sexton, Jr. and Julius Walker, Jr. were present in the room. Also present were County Manager/County Attorney Curtis Potter and Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett. Commissioner Carol Phelps and County Finance Officer Missy Dixon were unable to attend.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Potter said he would like to add to the agenda RESO 2022-032 Authorizing a Joint Application for the Needs Based Public Schools Capital Grant for Pre-K – 12 Schools.

FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR NEW PRE-K - 12 SCHOOL: Mr. Potter went over Mr. Bob Jessup's email and funding agreement documents. *(The documents are incorporated by reference and hereby made part of these minutes.)* Mr. Potter went over the SFLA project costs also (last page of document). The changes are in red in the document. Note the lower soft cost in the project costs.

Commissioner Keyes asked if the higher payment was already anticipated. Mr. Potter said the higher payment will be because Washington County Schools (WCS) can't pay over \$400,000 a year. The County will need to float the amount in the early payments. Commissioner Sexton asked how much the debt service is. Mr. Potter said debt service is set up for 20 years. The extra \$10M has been incorporated into the project funds--now \$50M instead of \$40M and gyms are included in the design. Last week, the School Board approved using their ESSR funds to pay the architect's fees which are currently at \$3.5M.

Chair Johnson asked if anyone in the audience would like to ask a question. Mr. Lloyd Jones, citizen of Roper, asked about WCS paying rent. Mr. Potter said that will happen when they move into the new school. The County will own the building and WCS will be paying \$400,000 as a "lease". Mr. Jones said he is still disturbed over Pines Elementary. He feels that some teeth need to be put into the new school to keep it better maintained. Mr. Potter said there will be terms in the lease for maintaining the school. At some point in time, the property will be conveyed to the school and then they become responsible for maintenance. Mr. Jones said if the new school isn't properly maintained it's going to end up like Pines Elementary.

Chair Johnson said these are unprecedented times where the County is basically being given a new school. The money can only be spent on a new school--nothing else. Chair Johnson went on to say that County staff is finally comfortable that the County can do this without raising taxes. All of the Commissioners agreed they are pleased at how things are going.

Mr. George Swain, citizen of Plymouth, asked where could someone go to see a similar school like the one to be built in Washington County. Chair Johnson said that Hoke and Jones County schools are similar.

**Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve RESO 2022-030 Authorizing Interlocal Funding Agreement for Pre-K – 12 School. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 4-0.**

RESO 2022-032 AUTHORIZING A JOINT APPLICATION FOR THE NEEDS BASED PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAPITAL GRANT FOR PRE-K – 12 SCHOOLS: Mr. Potter spoke to the Board to say that Dr. Carr has provided the abovementioned application and needs the Board of Commissioners signature. *(The application and resolution which is incorporated by reference is hereby made part of these minutes.)*

**Commissioner Keyes made a motion to approve RESO 2022-032 Authorizing a Joint Application for the Needs Based Public Schools Capital Grant for Pre-K – 12 Schools. Commissioner Sexton seconded. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 4-0.**

**Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Tracey A. Johnson  
Chair

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