

**MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
FEBRUARY 6, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Rev. E. Wayne Hines and Mr. William Wooten.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mr. Michael Peters, County Attorney and Ms. Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

2. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.

A. Cliff Harvell, NC Conference of the United Methodist Church Disaster Response Superintendent, was present to discuss UMC's plan for Disaster Recovery Efforts in Edgecombe County.

Mr. Evans stated that there are two different faith based organizations in the County that are going to be doing work to help the citizens rebuild from Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Harvell, Superintendent of the organization United Methodist Church Disaster Response Team.

Mr. Harvell came forth and stated that the organization is a disaster response ministry that will go into areas after a disaster and be involved in early response, bringing in volunteers to do the clean-up, clean out and tear out. Once it is recognized that a disaster is large enough they go ahead and plan on moving forward with long term recovery by looking for opportunities for housing their volunteer teams, setting up an operation so that they will have everything they need to be able to run an operation to bring in their workforce. He stated that the volunteers set-up here after Hurricane Floyd and were here for over two years rebuilding homes. Mr. Harvell stated that they are currently operating out of Saint James United Methodist Church but have been talking to Mr. Evans about the possibility of the County helping with facilities.

Mr. Evans stated that they have looked at the Old Health Department Building, where FEMA is housed and there is plenty of space to be used for the UMC volunteers and asked for the Board's support in the use of that space for the volunteers. He stated that the County has been actively marketing that whole campus to sell, but the stipulation would be that the County would not actively market that particular building. The County would also cover the cost of the utilities.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Board would support it, but asked if the County had any other facilities they could relocate to in case an offer to purchase is received. Mr. Wiggins suggested that Mr. Evans work out an agreement for the Board to review.

Mr. Wooten suggested dividing the parcel in three separate parcels and incorporate a ninety day notice and the County will do its best to relocate them to another location.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to work with the volunteers and all the details as discussed by the Board.

B. Dr. Glenda Lawrence-Knight, Edgecombe County Human Relations Commission Chairperson, present to present the HRC Annual Report.

Dr. Lawrence-Knight stated that the annual report provided to the Board in their agenda was pretty much self-explanatory, but she would answer any questions from the Board. She thanked the Board for their ongoing support. She stated that in 2017 the HRC is

anticipating doing more events in the community and partnering with entities in the community.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners Mr. Wiggins thanked Dr. Lawrence-Knight and the Commission and pledged continued support.

C. Recognition of the Boys and Girls Club of the Tar River Region for their service to Edgecombe County Citizens following Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Ron Green, Chief Professional Officer.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mrs. Harris, a Boys and Girls Club Board Member to make the presentation.

Mrs. Harris presented a plaque to Mr. Green on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Green thanked the Board.

5. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mr. Calvin Sherrod, King Ave., Princeville, stated that he had debris in his yard from Hurricane Matthew that he placed beside the road for pick-up and some was picked up. He stated that he had several tires that washed up on his property that have been there for three months. He asked if the County would remove the tires. He stated that he had spoken to Mr. Evans about this.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to explain what he had already told Mr. Sherrod.

Mr. Evans stated that tires are not considered storm debris. Vegetative and house debris are the items picked up at curbside. Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Sherrod can take the tires to the landfill and they will accept them free of charge.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the County cannot change the policy just for Mr. Sherrod.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Harris moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of final Approving Resolution for Installment Loan regarding the Purchase of Land at Kingsboro.

Mr. Evans stated that the Board, at their last meeting, selected Southern Bank and its terms for financing the capital to purchase land for economic development and for renovations at the County's courthouse. Now it is necessary that the Board adopts the Final Approving Resolution noting Southern Bank as the lender with the terms offered. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the resolution. This will be contingent upon approval of the Local Government Commission.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of a Resolution Approving NC Department of Transportation Funding for a road extension at Edgecombe Community College.

Mr. Evans stated that as a part of Edgecombe Community College's Long Range Master Plan, they propose the extension of an existing road on their Tarboro Campus to provide better access and future growth options. The estimated cost of the project is \$500,000, and the NC Department of Transportation has agreed to request that funding. Though the Community College is not seeking funding from the County for this project, it does require the approval of the Board. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution in support of NC DOT funding this road extension project for Edgecombe Community College.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of a request for appeal by Roberson School, LLC.

Mr. Evans stated that Roberson School, LLC is the current owner of a facility that formerly functioned as Roberson Elementary School. The owner has appealed the

property value, as is their right to do so with the property going from a tax exempt to a taxable status. Mr. Evans stated that he supports the Tax Administrator's recommendation to adjust the 2016 value.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, to come and provide an explanation.

Mrs. Lewis stated that Roberson School, LLC is the current owner of the property, which was purchased from Edgecombe County Board of Education on January 20, 2016. The 2016 assessed value is \$2,548,537.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the owner did not get notice of any taxes due until he was presented with July 31, 2016 tax bill. This bill was issued long after the adjournment of the Board of Equalization and Review, so the taxpayer did not file a petition for a change in valuation prior to that meeting. She stated that their office went out and viewed the property and recommends: Review the change in use and condition of the structure while applying the 2009 Schedule of Values. A recommendation for adjustment is as follows: Apply a 50% functional (utility) and economic (design) depreciation to the main structures. All other structures, asphalt, fencing, etc. have been adjusted from an average condition to a fair condition. Finally, the effective year (remodeled) date was changed to match the year built, which is 1950. She stated that her recommendation is to adjust the 2016 value to \$505,266.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the property tax appeal from Roberson School, LLC as recommended by the Tax Administrator. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of the Authorizing Resolution for Infrastructure Development Project at Kingsboro Mega-site.

Mr. Evans stated that Carolina's Gateway Partnership has been awarded a \$7 million grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation for Kingsboro Industrial Park. He stated that the County has also gotten a verbal commitment from the NC Department of Commerce for another \$1,704,700 to be granted to the County through the Industrial Development Fund. Both funding agencies have agreed to collaboratively invest in Kingsboro in order to extend infrastructure onto the site, and to make it even more attractive for industrial prospects. Mr. Evans stated that an agreement is needed to govern our partnership with Carolina's Gateway in using these two grants for this project and he recommended that the Board approve the resolution.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the authorizing resolution as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of Assistance and Procurement Policies for the Essential Single Family Rehab Loan Pool.

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County has been awarded \$175,000 under the Essential Single Family Rehab program (ESFR), funded by North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. With these funds, we will be able to assist approximately four low- and very low-income homeowners with repair needs throughout Edgecombe County, with the exclusion of the corporate limits of the City of Rocky Mount. A condition of the grant award is the adoption of an Assistance Policy and a stand-alone Procurement Policy. The ESFR Assistance Policy describes who is eligible to apply for assistance, how applications will be processed and ranked, what the terms of assistance are, and how the ESFR process will be managed. The Procurement Policy describes how repair work will be procured for the program. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the ESFR Assistance and Procurement policies.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the ESFR Assistance and Procurement policies as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of Grant Award for the Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool – Disaster Recovery.

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County has been selected to receive \$150,000 under the Essential Single Family Rehab-Disaster Recovery Loan Pool program from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. With these funds, the County will be able to assist homeowners affected by Hurricane Matthew with repair needs. Once the \$150,000 reserved for Edgecombe County has been used, the County can reserve additional funds

as long as they are available in the state-wide loan pool, which has \$15 million appropriated. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the grant project ordinance and budget amendment for this project.

Mr. Boswell moved to adopt the grant project ordinance and budget amendment as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of a change in mileage reimbursement rate.

Mr. Evans stated that it is the County's practice to follow the standard mileage reimbursement rates set by the Internal Revenue Service. Recently, the IRS issued a notice that it is decreasing the rate from 54 cents to 53.5 cents. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the mileage reimbursement rate at 53.5 cents.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the 53.5 mileage reimbursement rate of 53.5 cents. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of the transfer of property to the Town of Speed and Speed Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Evans stated that the County currently owns property located near the corner of NC 122 North and Mill Pond Road. He stated that he was approached by both the Town of Speed and the Speed Volunteer Fire Department requesting the use of these two parcels to expand their facilities. The County has an elevated water storage tank on a separate parcel adjacent to this site. However, their use of the properties requested will not hinder the County's access to that tank. Mr. Evans stated that for the Board to convey property to the Fire Department, a ten day notice is required. Therefore, staff will post that notice, and bring it back for consideration in March. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the transfer of parcel #4861-11-8595 to the Town of Speed.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the transfer of parcel #4861-11-8595 to the Town of Speed. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

J. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Condemnation for Speed Sewer Project.

Mr. Evans stated that the County has secured the funding to construct a wastewater transmission line in and around the Town of Speed, which is in Water and Sewer District No. 4 and also involves District No. 6. Like all such infrastructure projects, it is necessary to obtain utility easements for the sewer lines to cross private property. We are attempting to contact all of the necessary property owners to offer the opportunity to voluntarily execute these easements. In some cases, the owners are not responsive or are not willing to sign such an agreement. Mr. Evans stated that this project is needed to address environmental health concerns in the area, and to provide development opportunities. However, the County cannot proceed until receipt of all the utility easement for the project. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board adopt the resolution which will allow staff to proceed with condemnation to acquire the necessary easements.

After discussion by the Board regarding making sure each landowner is contacted and fully informed, Mrs. Harris moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

K. Mr. Felton moved to recess the Board of Commissioners meeting and convene as Governing Body of Water and Sewer District No. 5 to consider approving a Resolution for the Issuance of Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds for Water and Sewer District No. 5. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Evans stated that now that the sewer project for Hwy 33/Logsboro Road is complete, it is necessary that the County convert the project's temporary financing to permanent financing. Mr. Evans presented a resolution for the issuance of \$393,000 in Water & Sewer District No. 5. This will replace the Bond Anticipation Notes previously issued. Mr. Evans recommended the Governing Body for Water and Sewer District No. 5 approve the resolution to proceed with the issuance of the bonds.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to adjourn the meeting of Governing Body of Water and Sewer District No. 5 and reconvene as Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. **AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**
Mr. Wooten moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
8. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.*****Received***
 - A. Water Services.
 - B. Financial Summary Report.
9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.*****Received***
 - A. Economic and Workforce Indicators.
 - B. Hurricane Matthew update.
 - C. Eastpointe's consolidation update
 - D. Grant Deobligation – Wada Farms Building Reuse Project.
 - E. Suddenlink.
 - F. Note from West Edgecombe Baptist Church Prayer Ministry.
 - G. Edgecombe Landfill Gas Project.
 - H. Update on Sheriff Knight's replacement.
10. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**
11. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**
12. **CLOSED SESSION.**
 - A. Mr. Boswell moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
13. **REV. HINES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved March 6, 2017
Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.