

M I N U T E S
AGENCY PRESENTATIONS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
APRIL 4, 2011 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN WIGGINS AT 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. Charlie R. Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton and Ms. Evelyn Powell and Ms. Viola Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Donald Boswell

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager and Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk to the Board.

2. PRAYER

Invocation provided by Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

AGENCY PRESENTATIONS:

TRI-COUNTY INDUSTRIES:

Ms. Brenda Cogdell, President of Tri-County Industries requested a \$10,242 appropriation which was the same as requested the previous year. She said that these funds assisted with their transportation cost. She said 38 of the individuals receiving transportation benefits were from Edgecombe County. She said they also do fundraisers to assist with the transportation cost. She said they were on a 4-day workweek and the staff had taken a 10% pay cut to keep operating costs under control.

THE BEACON CENTER

Ms. Karen Salacki, Area Director thanked the Board for the opportunity to present her request. She said they served 3,184 Edgecombe County citizens and they expected they would exceed that number this year. She requested the same appropriation as the previous year's request of \$214,416 and she stated that it was essential that they receive the funding. She said their proposed budget reflected almost a 4 million dollar reduction. She said they had several positions that they have left vacant in an effort to cut expenses. She said they were expecting a minimal of 15% reduction in funding from the State.

She also said the State was looking at further mergers or affiliations if the unit was as is the case with The Beacon Center. She said they must decide who they wanted to collaborate with by April 2013. She said the State now has 23 Local Management Entities and they plan to reduce it down to 10 -12.

She said The Beacon Center has a current fund balance of \$10 million for retiree health care insurance and they only had about 7% of their budget allocated for administrative costs.

THE WRIGHT CENTER

Ms. Doris Howington, Director thanked the Board for the opportunity to present her request. She said the Wright Center was licensed for 51 participants per day but only had 36 per day. She said 26 of their clients were Edgecombe County residents. She requested the same funding amount as last year of \$2,910.

DOWN EAST PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Henrietta Zalkind, Director thanked the Board for their past support. She said that her request was the same as the previous year for \$2,000. She said the State funding cuts was proposed to be about 5% which would affect the More at Four and Smart Start programs.

She said they had several fundraising functions to support childhood education. She said they had laid off six people leaving the remaining staff level at 32.

THE ARTS COUNCIL

Mr. Ellis (Buddy) Hooks, Director requested the same funding as in the previous year at \$35,431. He said they would continue with the outreach programs and fundraising activities and add volunteers in an effort to keep the facility open. He said they provide art camps that require tuition but they have some people that pay the tuition for other less privileged children.

EDGECOMBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Mr. Roman Leary, Director thanked the Board for the new personal computers. He requested the same appropriation as the previous year of \$358,850.

BRASWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Ms. Anne Edge, Board member of the Library representing Edgecombe County thanked the Board for their support throughout the years. She said that 20,000 library users were from Edgecombe County.

Ms. Alice Thorp, Chairperson said they just wanted to come and personally thank them for their continued support. She said they were requesting the same appropriation as the previous year of \$185,658.

She said the Library offered an array of services including AARP tax assistance, small business advisory, adult literacy and passport acceptance.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HOME

Mr. Kirk Scott, Director thanked the Board for their support. He said the Christian Fellowship Home started in 1975 and is one of the primary resources for addicted

men in the Edgecombe County. He said his request was the same at \$4365.

He said they held a telethon and participated in a fun run to supplement their funding. He said there is a new IMPACT study they have to implement which will require funds to develop the tools and perform drug testing.

He said they had received computers from Wesleyan College and Coastal Plain had donated a van. He said the Food pantry had turned into a primary resource serving about 150 homes. He said that 13 of the residents in the home were from Edgecombe County.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Ms. Mary Beth Moore was present to represent Ms. Tammy Murphy, Unit Manager. She said their request of \$16,257 was actually a decrease from last year's request. She said out of the 131 Edgecombe County cases they had 25 were successfully closed. She said that some participants take longer to close out based on their circumstances. She said that for every dollar spent in their program seven revenue dollars were produced.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Ms. Theresa Shaw, Executive Director and Mr. Tony Ward, Director of Operations presented their budget request of \$5000.00. Ms. Shaw thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Ward provided a brief overview of the program activities stating that they had three sites in Edgecombe County with 1,190 youth from Edgecombe County. He said that 97% of the students in the club were promoted to the next grade and they had zero pregnancies among participants in the club.

IT STARTS WITH YOU

Mr. Taliferro Blue, Operating Director of the Ex-offender Reentry program. He said they have 119 clients with an additional 19 at the Tillery Correctional Facility. He said they had an agreement with the prison that allowed them to go into the facility to prepare inmates for reentry. He said they had found employment for 44 of their clients and another 40 either were enrolled or had completed the skill set development program at Edgecombe Community College.

He said that Edgecombe County and the City of Greenville were the only entities east of Raleigh that offer the reentry program. He requested a \$50,000 appropriation. He said that in the prior year, they had received 100% state funding but in light of state budget cuts, he did not anticipate continued funding.

He said that this program promotes county safety and if the money is not spent here, it will be spent for incarceration. He said they also deal with juveniles from 15
- 17.

PERRY WESTON EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Mr. C. Rudolph Knight, Chairperson requested \$1500.00. He thanked the Board for funding in the past. He pointed out the nine projects that they accomplished in the current year.

ROCKY MOUNT EDGECOMBE CDC

Ms. Joyce Dickens, Director thanked the board for the opportunity to present her budget request. She reviewed the current projects developed by RMECDC including Douglas Block Restoration, Neighborhood Stabilization and others totaling \$30 million in leveraged investment.

She requested \$40,000 to support economic development activities and \$45, 000 to support Foreclosure Mitigation program.

Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk