

**M I N U T E S**  
**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY**  
**AUGUST 1, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**  
**TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**2. PRAYER.**

Invocation provided by Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Jonathan Felton moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2011, July 5, 2011 and July 13, 2011 meetings as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**4. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(S):**

**A. Mr. A. T. Ellis, District Engineer with North Carolina Department of Transportation** presented the proposed secondary road construction program for fiscal year 2011-2012. He said the program included the widening and strengthening of pavement on SR 1407 for 4.31 miles from SR 1415 to NC 97. He said the estimated cost of the program was \$743,000.

Following the presentation Mr. Felton moved to adopt the resolution in approval of the 2011-2012 Secondary Road Construction program for \$743,000 as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Dr. Jerry Weitz, Associate Professor of East Carolina University Urban and Regional Planning Program** presented the results from a Housing and Economic Development Study.

Mr. Carmon explained that Edgecombe County had participated in the Talent Enhancement Demonstration grant program through the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He said the county had received \$75,000 and technical assistance that was used to perform a housing needs survey and an economic analysis and feasibility study on the use of a shell building for industrial recruitment. He said that Dr. Weitz and his team had been working on the project and was present to review his findings.

**Dr. Weitz thanked the Board for allowing them to participate in the partnership. He said the first study focused on a shell building to determine if the county should build one and if so, where, what size and what industry type should be targeted.**

**He said the study concluded that they would not recommend the shell building program at this time based on the current state of the economy, also because shell building are targeted at manufacturers and this is a declining industry locally, regionally and nationally. He said the associated risk on the return of the investment was an obstacle and suggested that the money used to build a shell building could be put to better use in other areas such as retraining and education of the workforce.**

**He further stated that if a shell building were to be built he recommended building a low range size of 20,000 sq. ft. and to target wholesale trade rather than manufacturing. As far as location, he said the county had some great sites and the best two were in Tarboro Commerce Center and Kingsboro Industrial Development.**

**In response to several questions from the Board, Dr. Weitz stated the following:**

- He advised the Board to focus on retooling and retraining for unemployed citizens in accordance to the current trend.**
- He stated that he did not find that rail access was a major factor in constructing a shell building.**
- He said that the County should see some return in providing a shell building to a company but probably not the actual value.**
- He stated that the most likely method of attracting employers was the labor force and the quality of life in the County.**

**Dr. Weitz said the second phase of the survey was a housing needs assessment and the study revealed that the State projected Edgecombe County to grow by several thousand people over the next 20 years.**

**He presented four major projects with the first being in the City of Rocky Mount, which has some very concerning neighborhoods with boarded housing that is becoming a bigger problem than Rocky Mount Housing Authority can handle. He expressed concern that the problem will become an Edgecombe County problem as well. He recommended that the County adopt a prototype to inspect homes and bring them up to standards by focusing on one given area at a time to strengthen the neighborhoods. He also expressed problems in Princeville and Tarboro but most of all Rocky Mount.**

**Mr. Wiggins recommended that staff explore a partnership with the City of Rocky Mount to seek grants to rehabilitate homes in Rocky Mount.**

**C. Mrs. Gloria Lyndaker, Tax Collector presented the 2010 Annual Tax Settlement.**

**Ms. Lyndaker said the County's combined tax collection rate had decreased 1.99% from 92.47% to 90.48% due to bankruptcies, unemployment and primarily an industry discovery. She said the discovery resulted in a \$524,000 bill that if it had been paid the tax collection rate would have actually increased.**

Following discussion Ms. Harris moved to approve the Tax Collector's Settlement as of June 30, 2011 subject to the independent audit. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton moved to recharge the Tax Collector with the outstanding taxes and the responsibility for collection the same for the years 2001 through 2011. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS:**

No petitioners came forward.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of amendment of Edgecombe County's travel reimbursement rate.**

Mr. Carmon stated that at the last board meeting they discussed the county's mileage reimbursement rate. He said that with high gas prices and increased maintenance costs 40.5 cents per mile reimbursement was probably not adequate. He recommended increasing the rate to the 55.5 cents per mile in line with the Internal Revenue Services current rate.

Ms. Harrell moved to approve the mileage reimbursement rate to 55.5 cents per mile effective August 1, 2011 as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

B. **Approval of budget amendments.**

Ms. Powell moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of budget amendment in the amount of \$25,000 for two years for the participation in the Twin County Visioning and Strategic Planning Process.**

Mr. Carmon presented a Memorandum of Understand and a \$25,000 budget amendment per year for two years for participation in the Visioning Process for the Twin County Competitiveness Study in partnership with the City of Rocky Mount and Nash County. He recommended approval of both the Memorandum of Understanding and associated budget amendment and that the Board approves eight people to serve on the steering committee representing the following sectors:

Edgecombe Community College  
Cooperative Extension  
Rocky Mount/Edgecombe CDC  
County Commissioner  
Edgecombe County Public Schools  
Tarboro/Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce  
Edgecombe Arts Council  
Workforce Development Board

Ms. Harrell moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and the

associated budget amendment as presented and to appoint eight members to a steering committee. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to appoint Mr. Donald Boswell to serve as Commissioner representative to the steering committee. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**D. Approval of calling for and holding a public hearing on the proposed Edgewcombe County Commissioners' redistricting boundary map.**

Mr. Felton moved to call for and conduct a public hearing on September 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. to hear citizen comments and/or questions regarding the proposed Edgewcombe County Commissioners' redistricting boundary map.

Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**E. Approval of resolution in support of Firefighters Weeks.** )

Mr. Felton moved to adopt the resolution encouraging citizens of Edgewcombe County to observe Firefighters Week in Edgewcombe County during the week containing September 11. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**F. Approval of amendment to the County's fee schedule relative to charges for copies made on County copy machines.**

Mr. Carmon recommended the approval of a uniform County fee schedule amendment to cover the cost of making copies as follows:

- \$1.00 for color copies
- \$.20 for black and white copies
- \$.30 for front and back copies.

Following discussion Mr. Boswell moved to approve the fee schedule amendment as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**G. Approval of two applications to the Public School Building Capital Fund – Lottery Project for debt service payments for school projects of \$316,241 annually.**

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the applications as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

**7. APPOINTMENTS:**

- A. City of Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment. DEFERRED
- B. Human Relations Commission. DEFERRED

**8. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Felton moved to excuse Ms. Powell from the vote due to conflict of interest. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contracts as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

9. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mr. Harrell moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW. \*\*\*Received\*\*\*\*

- A. Water Services
- B. Veteran's Services
- C. PreTrial Release Program
- D. ABC Board budget for fiscal year 2012

11. MANAGER'S REPORT. \*\*\*Received\*\*\*

- A. Suddenlink
- B. CDBG Quarterly Progress Report
- C. NC Department of Revenue cancellation of lease at Fountain Industrial Park

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:

a. Consideration of approval of revised fiscal year 2011-2012 Edgecombe County Salary and Classification Plan.

Mr. Carmon said that in order to comply with the Occupational Group Classifications mandated by the Office of State Personnel eight-(8) job classifications have been amended on the current pay plan. With the exception of one classification, Coordinator of Health Services, the required changes have no effect on salaries for existing staff.

He said the change to the classification of Coordinator of Health Services would result in an increase in salary for two existing employees due to its move to a higher-grade classification. Edgecombe County policy requires that all persons employed in positions approved in the position classification plan be employed at the Minimum Rate for the classification in which they are employed

Mr. Harrell moved to approve the revised 2011-2012 Edgecombe County Salary and Classification Plan as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

12. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mr. Boswell said he received letter from a citizen in reference to a rabid fox and they had called the Sheriff's department and was told that they did not respond to such matters. He said that he had followed up with Captain Moseley and he said the response was a mistake and that they do respond to such calls. He asked that it be on record in the event this happens again, particularly since this is the second time this has happened.

The Commissioners discussed several constituent complaints and issues and the Manager and staff agreed to follow-up on the issues discussed.

13. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

14. **CLOSED SESSION ITEM.**

Mr. Felton moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development and a legal matter. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- a. Economic Development
- b. Legal matter

Mr. Felton moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to authorize further negotiations for the purchase of 372 acres of land at Kingsboro Industrial site from Ms. June Long and Mr. Wiley Long. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

15. **ADJOURN MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 AT 7:00 PM.**

---

Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

---

Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk