

M I N U T E S
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
JUNE 6, 2011 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. Charlie R. Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Mr. Donald Boswell, Ms. Viola Harris and Ms. Evelyn Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rev. E. Wayne Hines

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 Ms. Harris.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the April 18, 2011, May 2, 2011 (12:00 p.m.), and May 2, 2011 minutes as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

4. PUBLIC HEARING (S):

- (1) Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments relative to a petition received by the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners from thirteen property owners requesting that the Board seeks legislation from the NC General Assembly to prohibit hunting from the Tar River in a boat or any floating device from Springfield Road to the Dunbar Bridge.

Mr. Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that he had received a petition from 14 property owners that represent 66% ownership of the properties located in the area. He also stated that the Board had made a similar request in 1983 relative to Fishing Creek Road, which the legislation had passed.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Ms. Olivia Kearney, 104 Crystal Lane, Rocky Mount stated that her family had many outdoor functions and her grandkids played in the yard and she was concerned for their safety. She said that a bullet does not know anyone and she did not think hunters should be allowed to shoot from a floating device on the river.

There being no other petitioners to come forward the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Harrell moved to the request to seek legislation to prohibit hunting from the Tar

River in a boat or any floating device from Springfield Road to Dunbar Bridge.
Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Carmon said the request will go to the legislative delegates but they probably would not act on it until their next session.

Mr. Wiggins further explained the process to the public.

- (2) Mr. Wiggins a called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments or questions relative to the performance of the County's Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Hookup Project funded by the North Carolina Department of Commerce for \$40,850. The funds was used to connect low to moderate income households located along existing water lines in the County.

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon said project had benefited 14 citizens and the remaining funds for six units that were not completed would be returned to the state.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the submission of Community Development Block Grant closeout documentation to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Ms. Powell seconded the motion.

Ms. Harris asked why the remaining six units were not completed.

Mr. Carmon explained that the units became vacant at the time of implementation and the project would not allow the funds to be switched to other units.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- (3) Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments or questions relative to the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notices as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that the Board had received copies of the proposed budget, which was balanced in accordance with the State Budget Control Act. He reviewed his budget message as follows:

He said the Budget is balanced in its entirety, as required by the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

The County's proposed General Fund budget for FY 11-12 totals \$59,198,052, which is a 1% increase from last year's original operating budget of \$58,396,773. The proposed ad valorem tax rate for the FY 11-12 is 86 cents per \$100 value. One cent will generate approximately \$285,541. The proposed budget includes a fund balance appropriation of \$5,124,579 of that amount \$550,375 is from restricted fund balance for school debt service leaving a \$4,574,204 appropriation from general fund.

Revenues are expected to remain flat along with a decrease in taxable values caused by depreciation, increased exemptions to county taxpayers and a reduction in motor vehicle registrations, which are down by 1,261 vehicles from last year.

This Budget was prepared in spite of all of the uncertainty surrounding the State Budget Proposals. Both the Governor and the General Assembly's Budget Proposals have revenue and expenditure recommendations that could have negative impacts on the County's Budget. Examples range from decreasing expected revenues such as lottery proceeds, shifting costs such as purchasing school buses, funding school employee workman's compensation and cutting funding to Health and Social Services, all of which must be taken into consideration.

General Fund Operational Highlights

- Departmental budgets have remained the same with only mandated increases.
- State Retirement increase of .65 % for all employees.
- All outside agencies remain the same as the current year.
- Employee Health Insurance increased by 5%.
- General Fund Debt Service increase of \$384,492.

Personnel

There was no salary increase included in the proposed budget. In addition there are vacant positions that will remain vacant and frozen unless required. Beginning immediately, all positions that become vacant with the exception of public safety and/or revenue producing positions will remain vacant and will be re-visited in January. We will explore all possibilities of consolidation and or elimination of positions throughout the year.

Health Insurance

The overall cost of employee health insurance increased by approximately 5%. We are proposing to deposit \$150 in a health care reimbursement account this year for all employees. The \$ 50 increase will be used to help offset the \$10 increase in co pay and \$400 increase in the deductible. We will implement the Health Risk Assessment program for all individuals covered by our health insurance in an effort to reduce our health insurance cost. Employee's who choose not to participate in the assessment will pay \$30 per month towards the cost of their health insurance.

Capital Outlay

The budget includes minimal capital outlay expenditures for servers and minor facility renovations. Funding for Sheriff cars will be revisited in January.

Solid Waste

The proposed tipping fee of \$46.50 remains the same per ton.

The landfill gas project continues to offer the possibility of generating additional revenue for the County by selling carbon credits &/or electric generation & sale. This project has been slowed by the national recession, however permitting and grant applications are underway for this project.

Water & Sewer

There is no water and sewer rate adjustment proposed in this budget. The average bill for customers using 4,000 gallons per month will be \$42.80 and the average sewer bill for the same will be \$43.00.

Conclusion

In addition to this budget falling short of addressing the many significant and critical requests from both internal and external providers, it appropriates our fund balance down to 11%. We must continue to remain vigilant in our effort to reduce our overall operating expenses by eliminating and consolidating positions whenever possible while having minimal impact on customer service. In addition, we must remain mindful of how the downturn in the global economy affects the citizens here in Edgecombe County and the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Carmon also presented a Budget Ordinance for consideration. He said that in the budget there were additional appropriations of \$2000 for Tarboro Edgecombe Airport and \$200,000 for Edgecombe Community College budget.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comments.

Mr. C. B. Daughtridge, 4460 Meadowbrook Road, Rocky Mount requested less spending, instruct Tax Assessor to use a broader scope of sales to determine assessed value. He asked them to reevaluate the unrealistic tax values.

Mr. Daniel Webb, 3908 Hwy 258, Edgecombe County Rescue Squad stated that the proposed budget appropriation was less than they requested. He said he wanted to educate Board on the cost of rescue operations. He reviewed a presentation via PowerPoint on the overall operations of the Edgecombe County Rescue Squad and the costs incurred over the previous year.

Ms. Harrell, Finance Director said their request was \$552,834 and the Manager's recommended amount was \$372,834.

Mr. Webb said that their request was actually \$ 2.2 million dollars. He said they provide paramedic coverage for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the county and mutual aid for rest of county and other counties.

Mr. Webb said they were also asking for an increase in rates from \$375.00 to \$458.00. He said the rates had not increased since 2001. He said they opened two new buildings and put paramedic coverage throughout the county.

He said their collections were \$1,044,158.51 and they needed to provide an increase in salaries so they would not continue losing experienced staff.

Mr. Carmon said that most of the information presented by Mr. Webb was the first he had seen it. He said he would have a conversation with Emergency Services Director to discuss the requests. He reminded the Board that the direction he had received from them previously was to begin consolidating the rescue squads under one umbrella.

Mr. Harrell told Mr. Webb that he commended the work done by the rescue squad, however, the request was equivalent to a 5 to 6 cents tax increase, which was unsustainable.

Ms. Harris also offered thanks to the rescue squad relative to a personal experience.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Carmon recommended that the Board take the comments presented into consideration and recess this meeting until June 28, 2011 at 12:00 noon to approve the budget and adopt the budget ordinance.

5. **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(s):**

(1) **Ms. Karen Salacki, The Beacon Center to discuss the proposed LME merger.**

Mr. Carmon stated that Ms. Salacki would not be present due to a conflict in schedule. He said that the Board had previously adopted an agreement for a proposed merger and all the counties included had agreed to the merger.

6. **PUBLIC PETITIONS:**

Ms. Eugenia Wade, Old Sparta came forward requesting to place a historical marker on the Civil War Trail in her community. She described the properties as having wonderful parking and stated that it was already on the Civil War Trail list with the State.

Mr. Carmon reminded the Board that we had participated in the marker program with the Arts Council and the Town of Tarboro.

Following Board consensus, Mr. Wiggins recommended that she meet with Mr. Carmon and Mr. Evans to work out the details on the project.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Budget amendments.**

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

B. **Request from the Edgecombe County ABC Board to adopt the Edgecombe County Travel Policy.**

Mr. Carmon said that the County had received a request from the Edgecombe County ABC Board to allow them to adopt and utilize the County's travel police. He said NC General Statutes required local ABC Boards to obtain written authorization

from the appointing authorities if the wanted any other travel allowance policy that exceeds the reimbursement allowed pursuant to General Statutes 138-6. He recommended approval.

Mr. Harrell moved to approve the request as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of declaring County vehicles as used surplus and authorize the disposal by listing on GovDeals.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the request as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Project ordinance and budget amendment for an emergency services grant from NC Emergency Management for training.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the project ordinance and budget amendment as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of an application for Public School Building Capital Fund North Carolina Education Lottery to replace bleachers at North Edgecombe High School.

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

F. Approval of \$20,924 required local match for the Edgecombe County Juvenile Crime Prevention funding for local programs and administrative funds for the Council.

Mr. Carmon said they expected the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to make available \$216,301 for FY 2011-12 to support local programs. He said the JCPC had met and approved funding for eight local programs as well as administrative funds for the Council. He said the funding program required a local match of \$20,924. He recommended that the Board approve the allocation of funds, commit to the required match and authorize Chairman and staff to execute required documents.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the recommended funding programs, commit to the local match of \$20,924 and to authorize the Chairman and staff to execute the related documents. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

G. Approval of a resolution authorizing the County Manager and Finance Director to set up and account with Citi Bank in order to process the self-insured health care costs for the Edgecombe County.

Mr. Carmon presented a banking resolution to authorize the Manager and Finance Director to set up an account with Citi Bank. He said the account is required by CIGNA in order to process the self-insured health care costs for the County. He said NCACC had administered this program in the past but as of June 30, 2011, they would no longer provide this service. He recommended approval.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the resolution as presented and authorize the Manager and Finance Director to open the account with Citi Bank. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of project ordinance and budget amendment for a \$60,000 grant from The Rural Center for a loan for the SePRO renovation project.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the project ordinance and budget amendment as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

I. Approval of intent to reimburse statement and budget amendment for the New Hope Church/Dunbar Road Wastewater project.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the intent to reimburse statement and budget amendment as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

8. PLANNING BOARD REPORT. ***** RECEIVED*****

Ms. Ola Pittman, Planning Director presented the report.

A. Action Items:

1. Naming of Lane off SR 1615 Stallings Road in Township No. 8.

Mr. Felton moved to call for and conduct a public hearing on July 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

2. Proposed Resolution for the Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (Update 2011)

Ms. Harris moved to approve the Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2011 as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Other Business:

1. Board attendance and combining Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.
2. Updated Flood Maps Public Forum.
3. Transportation Update – Daniel Street Extension.

C. Draft Minutes.

D. Next meeting scheduled for June 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Following discussion, The Board charged Mr. Carmon with updating the county website.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

- A. City of Rocky Mount Board of Adjustment. DEFERRED
- B. Edgecombe County Pollution Control Financing Authority. DEFERRED
- C. East Carolina Arena Board.

Mr. Felton moved to appoint Mr. Paul Drake. Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Agricultural Advisory Board

Mr. Felton moved to reappoint Mr. Tom Porter, Mr. Paul Drake, Mr. Ben Shelton, Mr. Fred Hampton, Mr. Joe dickens, Mr. John Grimes, Mr. Alton Skinner, Mr. Shane Varnell, Mr. Don Anderson, Ms. Renee Long and to appoint Mr. Joseph Suggs. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

10. CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.

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

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW. *RECEIVED*****

- A. Water Services**
- B. Veteran's Services**
- C. Pretrial Release Program**
- D. ABC Board's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget**

12. MANAGER'S REPORT. *RECEIVED*****

- A. Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market relocation feasibility study commissioned by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission recently completed by ACDS, LLC.**

Mr. Carmon stated that the Board had authorized submission of an application to Governors Crime Commission for radios and they initially denied the request. He said they have now offered us a \$10,000 matching grant and if agreed to 50% match then they would fund the \$230,000 grant.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

15. CLOSED SESSION ITEM.

Mr. Boswell moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Harris moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton said Mr. Bucky Moore of The Wooten Company would be working on the water and sewer project with the Town of Macclesfield.

Mr. Carmon provided an update on the Leggett substation project with an estimated cost of \$48,000 to erect a shell building. He said USDA was considering providing the funding for the shell building. He said another option to provide a stockade fence would cost \$4 -\$6 thousand dollars.

Mr. Harrell submitted his resignation on the Council on Aging and Juvenile Crime Commission.

Ms. Harris moved to appoint Ms. Powell as the Commissioner appointee on the Council on Aging. Mr. Felton seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

- 16. MR. FELTON MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011 AT 12:00 NOON. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk