

MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY
DECEMBER 4, 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Evelyn Powell and Mr. William Wooten.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

2. PRAYER.

Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 and November 9, 2017 meetings as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2018.

Mr. Wiggins turned the Chair over to Mr. Peters for the purpose of electing officers for 2018.

Mr. Peters opened the floor for nominations.

Board of Commissioners Chairman.

Mr. Felton nominated Mr. Wiggins. There being no other nominations, Mr. Felton moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Wiggins as Chairman of the Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wiggins thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Wooten nominated Mr. Felton. There being no other nominations, Mr. Wooten moved to approve the nomination of Mr. Felton as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to the naming and/or renaming of state maintained roads and private lanes as required in the "Ordinance Establishing Policies and Procedures for Addressing All Public Roads in Edgecombe County."

Considered for adoption:

Journey Lane near the intersection of Stallings Road and Edgewood Church Road in Township 08.

Mr. Peters read the public notice.

Mr. Evans stated that the Planning Board forwarded this request with a favorable recommendation.

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

Mr. Boswell moved to approve "Journey Lane" road name request as recommended by the Planning Board. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a proposed Amendment to Article XIII – Solar Energy: Procedures and Standards of the Unified Development Ordinance. The proposed amendment would add the requirement of stormwater permit approval prior to Special Use permit application submittal.

Mr. Peters read the public notice.

Mr. Evans stated that the Planning Board forwarded the request with a favorable recommendation.

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

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the amendment to Article XIII – Solar Energy: Procedures and Standards of the UDO as recommended by the Planning Board. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT:

A. Mrs. Tarasa Lewis was present for her re-appointment as Tax Administrator for a two year term.

Mr. Evans stated that North Carolina General Statutes require that the Board of Commissioners appoint both a Tax Collector and a Tax Assessor for a term of at least two years. He stated that the County has a Tax Administrator, Mrs. Tarasa Lewis, who serves both roles and Mrs. Lewis does meet the statutory requirements for serving in that role.

Mr. Felton moved to reappoint Mrs. Tarasa Lewis in her capacity as the Tax Administrator, to serve as Tax Collector and Tax Assessor for another two-year term. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

7. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mrs. Janice Thompson, 110 Rowling Wood Drive, Tarboro came forth stating that citizens have reported several welfare checks to the Sheriff's Department by calling 252-641-7911 and animals have suffered and died because nothing was done. (1)She stated that she called about a Chihuahua baking in the hot sun and she witnessed Animal Control Officer, Amy Lynn, ride by without stopping. She stated that the officer's cousin-in-law dated one of the residents. Because Amy Lynn did not make sure that the Chihuahua was given proper shelter a concerned citizen contacted her and she attempted to make the contact with the owner. Unfortunately, this led to the filing of false charges against her, which were dropped and she incurred legal fees totaling \$945. (2) Animal Control Officer, Amy Lynn, was also commenting and laughing on Big Dog's Kennel's facebook page, who is currently under investigation with the Sheriff's Department. (3) Lane, a dog currently at the Animal Shelter was left in the cold all night without food, water or adequate shelter after the Sheriff's Department was called. (4) A puppy died due to the elements after the Animal Control Officer, Larry, went out there twice and did nothing. (5) We rescued a burned and paralyzed dog. Kathy Williams, a volunteer at the animal shelter, stated that they see a lot of burns that comes from motor oil. If they have seen a lot of burns, why has it not been reported? Our local Veterinarian stated that these wounds are usually caused by a thermal or chemical burn. (6) Tender Mercies Pet Organization has been lied on and bashed by Edgecombe County Animal Control's volunteers, friends and family because they have been exposing the abuse in the County. (7) Euthanasia is a cruel and inhumane method that can only be administered properly by IV.

I hope that you will resolve these current issues so no more animals will needlessly suffer. She stated that she has emailed the Sheriff numerous times and has not received a response.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the County Manager will take a look at the allegations made by Ms. Thompson.

Mr. E. L. Aldridge, 2730 US 258 South, Tarboro stated that he came before the Board over a year ago and asked when the land fill was going to be moved. Citizens were promised that it would be there ten years, and it's been there 45 years. It is a disgrace to go by Sara Lee, one of the largest employers and by his house and see what is out there.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he was not aware of any commitment to move the land fill. I cannot give an answer as to when the landfill will be moved. The Board has not discussed moving the landfill. He stated that what we plan for is closing landfills not moving them. He stated that if

we have a dirty highway issue it needs to be addressed and have the County Manager put a plan of action in place to try and keep the highway clean.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the cotton trucks are not covered and this needs to be enforced.

Mr. Wiggins stated that if they are required to be covered, DMV can enforce it and talk to the Sheriff about that.

Mr. Felton stated that this problem is something that really needs to be worked on. He stated that the Sheriff needs to dedicate some special attention to this issue, as well as the Highway Patrol.

Mrs. Harris stated that all over the County the roads need to be cleaned. She stated that the State is in charge of those roads and we cannot tell them when to come and clean them.

Mrs. Gladys Shelton, 3279 Colonial Road, Tarboro, stated that the roads in her area are terrible. She stated that it was very upsetting when the landfill was chosen to be put where it is located. She stated that the trucks do not cover their loads.

Ms. Gloria Moseley, Landfill Employee, stated that she has been picking up trash along some of the roads. She stated that she tries to work with the citizens as best as she can.

Mr. Evans stated that we have a part-time person who was hired a year ago to help address some problem areas that needs attention. He stated that even with Gloria and the part-time person helping there is no way that trash can be picked up on a regular basis. He stated that we can start with how we can prevent the trash from getting out there, like promoting the idea of not throwing trash out from vehicles and covering loads. We do have an ordinance in the County that says that you are supposed to show up at the landfill with your load covered.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

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

B. Approval of Disaster Case Manager position.

Mr. Evans stated that additional staff will be needed to administer the disaster recovery grant programs the County expects to receive. We will have both a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and a Community Development Block Grant program that together will total approximately \$50 million. He stated that a key role will be case managers to assist citizens making applications for programs and processing those applications. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the addition of a Disaster Recovery Case Manager position at a grade 13 to the County's Pay Plan. This will be a full-time, time-limited position. Mr. Evans provided a job description.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the addition of the position as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of Health Department fee change.

Mr. Evans stated that the Department of Transportation requires that anyone applying for a CDL must pass a physical exam. Anyone with a CDL must also pass this physical exam every two years. The physician at the Health Department is certified to conduct these exams, and the current fee established is \$150 per exam. Annually, we average about 10 exams. However, we have the opportunity to grow that number if we can lower our fees to be more in line with other service providers. One client in particular the County could gain is Edgecombe County School system. They have 281 employees with CDL's, but can currently get these physicals with another provider for \$90. Mr. Evans stated that after discussion at their last meeting, the Health Advisory Board recommended that the fee for DOT physicals be changed to \$90.00.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the fee change as presented and as recommended by the Health Advisory Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of Procurement Standards Policy and Plan for CDBG-Infrastructure.

Mr. Evans stated that during a recent review of the Community Development Block Grant program for the Speed Infrastructure project that is currently underway, it was noted that the County does not have in place a procurement policy specific to that project.

Though the county has its own procurement policy, this one includes language specific to a CDBG-Infrastructure program.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the Procurement Standards Policy and Plan for the CDBG-Infrastructure project as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of a Grant Agreement for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program.

Mr. Evans stated that the State has received \$198 million in CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding for Hurricane Matthew recovery, of which the County will receive \$28.5 million. Use of the funds must be according to the plan the State submitted to the US Department of HUD. The majority of the funding is to be used for housing related activities. He stated that the County has received a grant agreement and funding approval that will disburse approximately 2/3s of the funds initially for a two year grant award. Approval is needed before starting with program implementation.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the grant agreement and funding approval, as well as the budget ordinance and budget amendment as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

A. Approval of an application by Edgewcombe County Schools for the State Lottery fund for Capital Improvements. Project Title: Reroof SouthWest Edgewcombe High School building

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

9. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Edgewcombe County Rescue Board.

Mr. Felton moved to reappoint Mr. Boswell and to appoint Mr. Charlie Harrell. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.***Received***

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary Report.
- C. Sheriff's Office Internet Purchase Exchange Zone.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT.

- A. Economic/Workforce Indicators.
- B. Update on demolition grant for old DSS building.
- C. Hurricane Matthew update.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Mr. Felton in wake of the church tragedy in Texas his Pastor asked him to approach the Board and ask Mr. Evans to proceed, through Sheriff Atkinson and proper channels, to get whatever ordinances needed to legalize safety committees within churches in order to secure our churches. Mr. Felton asked for the Board's support.

Rev. Hines stated that information gathered from the meeting with the Nash and Edgewcombe County Sheriff's Departments, each individual church will be responsible and accountable for what they do and each church will have their own security plan and a deputy will come out and help with each individual plan.

Mr. Boswell suggested that the Board take a look at the dump sites in their areas and see if there is something that can be done.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

15. CLOSED SESSION.

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

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

Mr. Wooten moved to approve a Construction Agency Agreement with Carolina's Gateway Partnership to manage the development of the Kingsboro site for Project Diamond. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Harris expressed her concerns regarding not being elected an Officer of the Board of Commissioners.

16. MR. BOSWELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. REV. HINES SECONDED THE MEETING, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved January 2, 2018.


Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board