

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
MAY 7, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Evelyn Powell and Mrs. Viola Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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 MEETINGS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2018 meetings as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a proposed action to close a portion of Harts Chapel Road for economic development activities.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans pointed out that the notice was posted for this public hearing but statute requires that the notice be posted once a week for three consecutive weeks, which was overlooked. He recommended that the public hearing still be held tonight for those who may want to speak on this matter, but recommended that the Board call for a second public hearing at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and he assured the Board that the proper protocol will be followed.

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

Rev. Hines moved to call for a second public hearing on this matter at the June 4, 2018 meeting. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

2. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen receive citizen input relative to the Board of Commissioners' proposal to enter into an agreement for the purchase and conveyance of land for economic development purposes.

Mr. Peters read the public notice as published.

Mr. Evans stated that there are two actions that are being recommended for the Board to take action on. He stated that the Board approved a purchase agreement a few months ago for the purchase of the property contingent upon other steps to be taken. Since then the owners of the property has changed. Originally it was Barnes Farm Incorporation and now it is Carson's Land LLC and the board will need to take action on that purchase agreement. Secondly, will be the inducement agreement. He stated that for the public's understanding the inducement agreement describes what the company, Corning, agrees to do as far as creating jobs and making investments in the County and what the County is offering as an incentive. In this case the County is to convey land and to offer some tax incentives over a ten year period of time. Mr. Evans stated that we just found out today that there will be a change on the inducement agreement that he will bring back to the Board, which he would like to discuss with the Board in closed session and once out of closed session then take this matter in consideration.

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

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(S).

A. Mr. Scott Power, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office discussed Rural Historic Districts.

Mr. Evans invited William Johnson, Assistant County Manager, to come forth and introduce the scheduled appointment.

Mr. Johnson stated that during the retreat in March he gave a short presentation on Rural Historic Districts. At the end of that presentation there were questions from the Board that he did not have the technical insight to answer. Mr. Johnson thought it would be a good idea to invite Mr. Scott Power, the Regional Supervisor of the Eastern Office of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, to give a more detailed presentation on what a Rural Historic District is and to answer any questions from the Board.

Mr. Power stated that his office covers 27 counties in Northeastern North Carolina. He stated that he is a State employee with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, where they administer both federal and state Historic Preservation Programs. The National Register Program is a federal program administered through the Department of Interior. Edgecombe County has 35 properties listed in the National Registry, including the large Historic District in the Town of Tarboro. He stated that he was asked to talk about the National Registry Program Rural Historic. He stated that the program is a volunteer program and does not require the property owner to be bound by any rules and regulations. This is a program that is initiated by either a property owner or a county or municipality. In terms of, of all the types or properties listed in the National Registry, Rural Historic Districts are typically the hardest case to be made to prove an area's significance and integrity, because you are looking at an area that has to be a well-defined in terms of its boundaries and it also has to have significance and integrity, meaning it has to look like it did from the period in which it was important.

After comments and questions from the Board Mr. Wiggins thanked Mr. Power and stated that if the Board decides to pursue they will have the resources needed.

B. Mrs. Carol Allen White, NEW Reentry Chairman and Ms. Sheneathia Hanson, NEW Reentry Program Coordinator presented to the Board of Commissioners the inaugural NEW Reentry Second Chance Award.

Mrs. White thanked the Board for taking the initiative of allowing returning citizens an opportunity to become employed. Mrs. White provided information on the NEW Reentry Program services. She presented an award to the Board that was awarded on April 24, 2018 at the State of the Reentry Luncheon for their encouraging of applicants seeking employment with the County with criminal backgrounds by adopting a resolution on March 21, 2017 the Guidelines for Hiring Former Offenders and charged the County Manager to implement them as part of the County Personnel Policy. Mrs. White commended Edgecombe County Government for always being proactive and thoughtful.

Mr. Wiggins thanked Mrs. White and stated that the Board believes that if they are going to ask private employers to hire ex-offenders it should start with the public sector, who should be the leaders. He stated that the passing of the resolution was the Board's statement.

C. Sheriff Clee Atkinson to discuss needs of the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Atkinson stated that his team, the Sheriff's Office, works 24 hours 7 days a week. He asked the Board to consider salary increases for his team. He provided law enforcement salary comparisons from surrounding areas. Sheriff Atkinson stated that 95 percent of his agency is working a second job. He stated that he currently has a 20 year veteran with a two year degree making \$41,500. He has lost two telecommunicators to other counties for more money. Sheriff Atkinson stated that they have a 2011 pay scale study versus a 2015-16 pay scale study that was done for deputies and detention officers that was never implemented. Steps would be good when bringing in skilled veteran officers. Constant turner is a problem because his department is training people so they can go to other agencies. People with experience are brought in at the same salary as a person with no experience. He stated that if steps were in place this would increase pay as well as morale. He stated that Deputies currently get comp time instead of overtime like other agencies.

Mr. Wiggins asked Sheriff Atkinson if he had discretion to bring in an experienced officer over the base starting pay.

Sheriff Atkinson stated that it has been past practice to start with base pay and he would like to bring them in at a higher salary.

Mr. Evans stated that the Sheriff has a different type of leeway than the rest of the departments. Over all he is constrained by the total he has available in his budget for salaries and he could eat up his budget if he did that too many times.

Sheriff Atkinson stated that what could help them was the use of steps for years of service and that way they can max out. He stated that currently they have some deputies that are making the same thing as someone just coming out of BLEET because of budget restraints. He asked the Board to consider this.

After discussion from the Board Mr. Wiggins stated that the Board would love to pay more depending on revenues and based on department head reviews with the Manager and then Board's review.

6. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.

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MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE. \*\*\*\*\*

A. Mr. Wiggins called the meeting to order.

Mr. Evans called on Tarasa Lewis, Tax Administrator, to come forward.

Mrs. Lewis stated that Mr. Wooten was not present to be sworn in at last month's meeting, but was sworn in earlier today by Mrs. Carol Allen White, Clerk of Court.

B. Scheduled appointments:

1. Mr. Norris Tolson - 347 NC 42-43 W.		
2017 Value	2018 Value	Recommend
\$648,446	\$601,589	\$554,294

Appellant's basis for appeal was his opinion of value. Taxpayer feels the value is more than 'Fair Market Value' and 'Is Not Equitably Appraised as Compared With Similar Properties'. Appraisal staff visited the property as well as documentation provided and was able to make an effective year adjustment, as well as correct PRC data on two outbuildings. Property is listed for sale in the amount of \$795,000, which includes personal property.

Mr. Tolson came forth to present his case. He stated that the last time the property was valued at \$405,000 and he has done nothing new to the property since that time other than paint it and standard repairs. Nothing has been added to the structure or to the property. The valuation showed a 70% increase and even with the three reductions that has been made it is still 36 percent more than the original valuation. Mr. Tolson stated that he did not think that was fair because the overall County values decreased by 5%.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the overall value for Edgecombe County decreased by 3.2 percent and that captured flood as well as market values. She stated that even though there was a decrease it does not apply to individual properties. Some properties increased, some decreased. Individually properties have to be looked at.

Mr. Tolson stated that he did not understand that with the overall value dropping 3.2 % and with nothing being done on his property to add value to investment, why an increase of 36%. He stated that he has had this property on the market for 4 ½ years and nothing has sold above \$500,000 in Edgecombe County in the last four years.

After further discussion and suggestions from the Board Mr. Wiggins asked Mrs. Lewis to continue working with Mr. Tolson and bring back a recommendation to the Board in June.

2. MidAtlantic- 2601 Anaconda Road

2017 Value	2018 Value	Recommend
\$2,110,353	2,110,363	2,110,353

Appellant's basis for appeal was his opinion of value. Taxpayer feels the value is more than "Fair Market Value". Appraisal staff visited the property as well as reviewed the documentation provided and felt no change was needed. Property is listed for sale in the amount of \$2,950,000.

No representative was present.

Mrs. Lewis recommended no change.

Mr. Boswell moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW UNTIL JUNE 4, 2018 AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MR. FELTON SECONDED TH MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

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7. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Janice Thompson, 110 Rollingwood Drive, Tarboro, came forth to ask the Board if they knew that Edgecombe County has a secret that they do not want the public to know. She stated that killed animals are sold. She stated that she has asked who buys them and has not received an answer.

Mr. Wiggins stated that these questions can be presented to the Animal Welfare Committee. He stated that recommendations for changes should come from that committee and changes be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Curmilus Dancy, II, 127 Midway Lane, Tarboro, came forth to stating that he is a member of the Animal Welfare Committee. He stated that he is totally disgusted. He stated that he hoped that the Board of Commissioners will put in place something in place to cut out crazy mess. He stated that he is strictly business.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

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

B. Approval of Authorizing Resolution Edgecombe County Corning Water/Sewer Project Industrial Development Fund.

Mr. Evans stated that the North Carolina Department of Commerce has indicated the possibility of the County receiving a grant through its Industrial Development Fund to support infrastructure improvements for the Corning project. To proceed, we must submit an application and give some assurances as to how we will administer the grant once received.

Mr. Felton moved to approve an Authorizing Resolution for corning Water/Sewer Project Industrial Development Fund as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Approval of calling for a public hearing to convey land to Edgecombe Community College.

Mrs. Powell moved to call for a public hearing for June 4, 2018. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D. Approval of the financing of vehicles for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing the County to Execute an Installment Purchase Contract for the Sheriff's Department vehicles. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Approval of acceptance of a grant award from North Carolina Emergency Management for the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Program.

Mr. Evans stated that the County has been awarded \$20,000 by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division under the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Program. The purpose of the grant is to purchase equipment and to perform training exercises related to hazardous materials emergencies. This grant is 100% grant funded and requires no local match.

Mr. Powell moved to approve the acceptance of the grant award as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F. Approval of a contract for Forestry Management Services.  
Tabled.

G. Approval of a contract for Employee Benefits Broker Services.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the contract for Employee Benefits Broker Services as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H. Approval of audit contract with Carr, Riggs and Ingram.

Mr. Felton moved to approve the audit contract as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. APPOINTMENTS.

A. Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee.

Mr. Boswell moved to appoint Minnie Dolberry. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Harris moved to appoint Clair Abrams Edwards. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton moved to appoint Kelsy Lichtenwalner. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees.

Mr. Felton moved to reappoint Gloria Wiggins-Hicks. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Boswell moved to reappoint Deborah Jordan, Robert Slade, Gloria Brown, Phyllis Talbot and Susan Freeman. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E. Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

No appointment made.

10. PLANNING BOARD REPORT. \*\*\*Received\*\*\*

Mrs. Cynthia Jones, Planning Director, presented the report.

1. Request for text amendment approval.

(Recommended Action: Call for a public hearing at the June 4, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting.)

2. Minutes of April 16, 2018 meeting.

11. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

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

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

A. Water Services.

B. Financial Summary Report.

C. Hurricane Matthew update.

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

A. Economic and Workforce Indicators.

B. Opioid Forum, June 11 at 10:00 a.m.

C. Proposed timeline for budget approval:

May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – Budget Committee

May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. – Budget Work Session

June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. – Public Hearing

D. Hometown Strong Project.

E. Joint meeting with Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education:  
May 14, 2018; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Booker-T Theater, 170 E. Thomas Street, Rocky Mount

F. Princeville's request for support to re-open ABC store.

G. Notice of awards from Golden LEAF Foundation.

H. Invitation to stakeholder meeting regarding raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction.

14. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

A. Recognition of Mr. William (Billy) Wooten on receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Boy Scouts of America.

B. Video of Mr. Wiggins' China visit.

15. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

16. CLOSED SESSION.

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

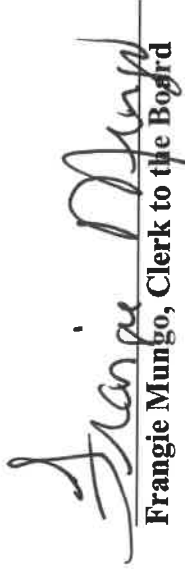
Mr. Wooten moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the agreement for purchase of property from Carson's Land LLC as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the Inducement Agreement for the Corning project as presented. Mr. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

17. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. MR. BOSWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved June 4, 2018.

  
Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board