

MINUTES  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF EDGEcombe COUNTY  
MAY 6, 2019 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, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. William Wooten and Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Ralph Webb.

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

**2. SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.**  
Mr. Evans provided safety instruction for all present.

**3. PRAYER.**  
Rev. Hines provided the prayer.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.**  
Rev. Hines moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting with the correction noted by Mr. Wooten, where his name was left off of the list of members present. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**  
**A. Sarah Stroud, Eastpointe, provided an update on changes to Medicaid and Behavioral Health Services.**  
Mr. Evans stated that Ms. Sarah Stroud, CEO of Eastpointe was present to share an update with the Board on changes in Medicaid for behavioral health services. Her presentation will include seeking the Board's support as Eastpointe pursues its designation to serve the County and the rest of its region under the new Tailored Plan approach. Mr. Evans recommended that the Board approve the resolution in support of its continued affiliation with Eastpointe.

Ms. Stroud presented a power point presentation highlighting the following:

- Eastpointe Operational Update.
- Recognized leaders in member service.
- Provider Network update.
- Investing in Edgecombe County.
- Medicaid transformation.
  - ✓ Standard plan.
  - ✓ Tailored plan.

Rev. Hines moved to approve the Resolution in Support of Continued Affiliation with Eastpointe Human Services as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**B. Seth Ward, Premier Forestry, gave a presentation of Forestry Management Plan.**

Mr. Evans stated that the County contracted with Premier Forestry & Environmental Consulting to develop a forestry management plan for the County. He stated that Seth Ward with Premier Forestry will present on his finding and recommendations. He pointed out that the report includes four

stands of timber on property owned by Edgecombe Community College. We included these tracts in our assessment for the benefit of the Community College in knowing what potential timber value they may have. This report has been shared with the ECC president, and their board will decide if and how they want to proceed with the recommendations for these four stands of timber. Mr. Evans stated that there are 3 stands of timber at Kingsboro Industrial Park totaling 171.4 acres and 1 stand at the landfill totaling 90.3 acres that the consultant proposes we clear cut this year. He recommended that the Board authorize our consultant to proceed with marketing the timber on these tracts per the contract in place. Mr. Evans stated for FY-20 his plan is to include in the recommended budget to earmark 1/3 of the revenue from the sale of timber for replanting and other timber management activities.

Mr. Ward came forth to provide an update and recommendations for forest management for Edgecombe County timber lands:

- Provided his background information.
- Provided background on his consulting firm.
- Management activities.
- Initial planning.
- Forest Management Plan.
- Prescribed burning.
- Mid-rotation herbicide.
- Timber harvesting.
- Timber stand regeneration.
- 2019-2020 forest activities.

After discussion, Mr. Boswell moved to authorize Premier Forestry to proceed with marketing the timber. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.**  
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REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW.  
MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.  
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- A. Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order.
- B. Scheduled appointments (None.)
- C. Consideration of finalizing final values.  
Mr. Boswell moved to adopt the resolution finalizing values as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.  
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MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW AND RECONVENE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MRS. HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.  
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7. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**  
Kathy Williams, 2208 Robin Drive, Tarboro, stated that she came before the Board before begging for a new animal shelter and she was here to do it again. She stated that Mr. Boswell and Mrs. Powell were in the Citizens Academy that the Sheriff's Office did and saw a presentation on Animal Services. She stated that there is a bathroom at the training center that is bigger than the storage room at the animal shelter for food and supplies. She stated that the County is moving, the new jobs

are coming and it is embarrassing to walk people through that shelter that are not from around here. Ms. Williams stated that it is old and there is no fixing it. She stated that she did not know what happened to the Town trying to combine with the County, but something has got to give. It is not fair to the animals. It is not fair to Animal Services workers that actually care about the animals. It is not fair to the Sheriff's Office. She stated that we have people who are willing to donate. We have fund raising ideas, but we have to have a commitment because there have been too many other counties where money was raised and it disappeared. She stated that she could not, in good faith, ask people to donate to something if we don't know it's going to happen. She asked the Board to reconsider somehow finding money for a shelter. She stated there is grant money out there we just have to look for it and be willing to do it.

Mr. Wiggins stated, on behalf of the Board, stated that it is not something that we do not want to do and will ask the Manager during the budget process to look at the things we are able to do and if there is any way that the recommendation can come, but the Board cannot commit to the unknown and the unknown is what we are able to do and pay for. He stated to Ms. Williams that we hear you and we have to make decisions on what we are able to do.

Rev. Hines stated that the easiest way to do it is to find the land to build it on, get a plan for what the building should look like and ask somebody to help. You get your help by showing something and the complaint will go away and the work will start.

Mrs. Harris stated that she just found three grants by googling. She stated that when she goes to NACo she will ask about grants.

*Janice Thompson, 110 Rollingwood Drive, Tarboro, stated that the new animal shelter is not going to stop animals from being killed. Ms. Thompson read the following statement to the Board:*

*Honorable Commissioners, due to the numerous animal welfare complaints you established an Animal Welfare Advisory Council. I am deeply saddened to inform you that based on the way the Council members are selected, there will be no hope of real change for animals in Edgecombe County. The term is up for many council members and I sincerely hope that you will intervene and make sure the selection process is changed to best serve and protect the interest of animals in Edgecombe County. I am formally complaining about the selection of members, attendance of members, and attitude of one member. It appears the Council is stacked with members for neighbors, friends or acquaintances of Eugene Taylor, who is the lead Animal Control Officer. Several members are also government funded employees. With so many biased council members all votes will only be favor with what Animal Control proposes. When I inquired as to why one of our local Vets was not chosen to represent the veterinarian council member Eugene informed me that our local vet refused the position due to it having a negative impact on their business. After I investigated, I was informed that a local vet was never asked. Instead of choosing a local vet, they chose another government employee who knows Eugene very well and who always votes to promote his agenda. We were informed that many items, such as the authority to sell cats and the animal release form are part of the policies and procedures are easily changed without County ordinance. Kathy stated that policy and procedures are easily changed without having to go to the Commissioners. I made a motion that such an important issue such as the authority to sell/kill cats should be part of the ordinance. Whenever money is made by killing cats more cats will be killed. Everyone voted against my motion. Kathy Williams is also the neighbor of the lead Animal Control Officer and the main volunteer at Animal Control. I have attached an attendance record of all the members. Only three members have attended every meeting. The meetings are only 1 ½ hours once a month. Deborah Jordan only attended one out of nine meetings. Mandy Tolson and Clara Abrams Edwards only attended four out of nine meetings. I think it*

*is a great disservice to this County to reappoint anyone who has missed 44 to 88% of the meetings. Curmilus Dancy, who openly refers to himself as a public agitator intentionally tries to agitate me and prevent any constructive dialogue at the meetings.*

She further talked about threats she received from a council member; she voted no on the proposed changes to the ordinance that Mr. Evans is presenting tonight, which will not alleviate the numerous animals that are being killed in this County every year.

Mr. Wiggins asked if she was opposed to any of the changes being recommended to the Board.

Mrs. Thompson stated that the changes do nothing to help solve the problems of animals dying.

Mr. Wiggins asked Mrs. Thompson if her issue was with the animals dying. He asked her if she supported anything in the ordinance that is being recommended.

Mrs. Thompson stated there might be a few things, like an animal must have shade, but they are promoting chaining.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Approval of budget amendments.

Mr. Wooten stated that one of the budget amendments is \$75,000 in fees and penalties from the County Manager's office, associated with filing quarterly reports and monthly retirement contributions. He asked Mr. Evans to elaborate on why we are paying this.

Mr. Evans stated that we had some tax filings this current fiscal year that were late in their filing and these are penalties to cover those late filings.

Mr. Wooten stated that so we just failed to do our work on time

Mrs. Harris asked what steps did we go through for those who failed to do their job accurately and on time.

Mr. Evans stated that it is being addressed.

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

B. Approval of contract with Barnhill Contracting Company for the Kingsboro Training Center.

Mr. Evans stated that the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded the County with a \$10 million grant to construct a Training Center at Kingsboro Industrial park. The county has already contracted with Oakley-Collier Architects to design and oversee construction of the facility. He presented for the Board's consideration an agreement with Barnhill Contracting Company to serve as Construction Manager for the project. The services provided by Barnhill as the Construction Manager will include providing preliminary cost estimates, soliciting and vetting subcontractors and suppliers, and negotiating a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the construction of the building. For their services, this agreement provides for compensation to include a fee for preconstruction phase services in the amount of \$76,763, and a construction manager's fee of 5% of the GMP.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the agreement with Barnhill as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

- C. Approval of Change Order No. 4 for infrastructure work at Kingsboro. Mr. Evans presented to the Board for consideration Change Order #4 with TA Loving Company for the work to extend infrastructure onto the Kingsboro Megasite. The items as described in the change order will increase the contract by \$52,542, bringing the total contract to 44,983,815.75, with no changes to the substantial completion date. These additional costs will be covered by our grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the NC Commerce Industrial Development Fund.
- Mr. Wooten moved to approve Change Order #4 as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- D. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC-DHHS). Mr. Evans stated that the NC General Assembly passed Session Law 2017-41, also known as House Bill 630. This statute requires that all counties enter into an annual agreement with the NC Department of Health and Human Services for all programs except Medicaid. The MOU sets forth performance measures, reporting requirements, and actions to be taken if the performance requirements are not met. This will be the second year of the execution of the MOU.
- Mrs. Powell moved to approve the MO and authorize the Manager to execute the same. Mr. Wiggins seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- E. Approval of Resolution to Support the Current ABC Control System. Mr. Boswell moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- F. Approval of contract with S&ME, Inc. for 53 Acre Site Assessment. Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County is administering a DRA-16 grant for Princeville for the development of the 53-acre tract the Town recently purchased. The grant includes funding to complete site assessment for the project. A team, selected by Mr. Evans, that included representation from the Town of Princeville, reviewed the 12 proposals received and interviewed two firms. From that Mr. Evans recommended to contract with S&ME to complete the site assessment for \$191,700.
- Mr. Boswell moved to approve the contract with S&ME as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- G. Approval of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funding approval for FY 2019-2020. Mr. Evans stated that it is expected that the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will make available \$216,301 for FY 2019-2020 to support local programs. The Edgecombe County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has met and approved funding for seven local programs as well as administrative funds for the Council. This funding program requires a local match of \$21,630.
- Mr. Wiggins moved to approve the allocation of these funds, commit to the required match, and to authorize the Chairman and staff to execute the required documents. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.
- H. Approval of calling for a public hearing to consider the addition of a County Hazards Material Spill Cleanup ordinance.

Mr. Evans stated that part of the responsibilities of the Emergency Services office is to respond and coordinate resources during incidents involving hazardous material spills. However, the County does not currently have an ordinance that addresses such a response. NC statutes allow counties to adopt an ordinance to address hazardous material spill cleanup. Mr. Evans presented an ordinance that was prepared by the Emergency Services staff along with a committee of emergency responders from other agencies. This ordinance addresses, among other important things, provisions that will hold a responsible party accountable for hazardous spills, and a mechanism by which to recapture the costs associated with cleanup. Mr. Evans stated that changes to the County's ordinance require a public hearing.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**I. Approval of calling for a public hearing to consider changes to the Animal Services Ordinance.**

Mr. Evans stated that the Animal Welfare Advisory Council has reviewed the County's ordinance pertaining to animal services. They have voted to present the recommended changes. Changes to the County's ordinance require a public hearing and he recommended that the Board call for a public hearing at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing to consider changes to the Animal Control Ordinance at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**J. Approval of calling for a public hearing to consider the approval of the 2019-2020 budget.**

Mr. Evans stated that the budget committee will meet on May 9<sup>th</sup> to hear his first draft of the FY 19-20 budget and he will then present his proposed budget to the full board at the budget work session scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that before the Board can adopt the budget for next fiscal year, we must hold a public hearing and he recommended that the Board call for a public hearing on the FY 19-20 budget at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Boswell moved to call for a public hearing for the FY 19-20 budget at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**K. Approval of grant acceptance for the Local Capacity Grant award.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County has been selected by the North Carolina of Commerce to receive a Local Capacity grant award. The \$18,000 grant will allow the County to work with the UNC School of Government to conduct a study on the perceived barriers to employment. Dr. Jonathan Morgan with the School of Government and his team will work with staff at the NC Works Career Center to conduct surveys and one-on-one interviews. The goal of the project is to identify chronic barriers to employment so that we may target resources that help lower our unemployment rate.

Mr. Boswell moved to accept the grant by approving the grant agreement, project ordinance and budget amendment as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**L. Approval of soliciting Farm Lease bids for County owned property.**

Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County owns parcels of land that could generate income from farm leases. Based on his consultation with Art Bradley, Cooperative Extension Director, these parcels are identified as cropland and a

bid solicitation process would likely generate interest from farmers. Mr. Evans presented maps that displayed a total of 128.57 acres that have the potential for farming and he recommended that the Board authorize him to proceed with soliciting farm lease bids. Once the bids are received a recommendation will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Wooten moved to authorize the Manager to proceed with soliciting farm lease bids. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**M. Change Order approvals for Corrective Measures at the Landfill.**

Mr. Evans stated that there were corrective measures needed at the landfill. He stated that we knew the work would be costly, so we bid the work but with a phased approach in mind. The total contract price from the lowest, responsive bidder was \$1,003,606.92. To phase the work over three years, we treated it as a change order, and the first phase of work in FY-2018 was \$303,606.65. There were two change orders that increase that phase one contract to \$407,217.28. Mr. Evans stated that we originally planned, and budgeted, for phase 2 in the current fiscal year at \$400,000. However, our engineers at S&ME recommend that part of the work planned for phase three in FY-2020 needs to be included in phase two instead. Therefore, the Board approved change order #4 that increased the contract by \$100,008.85. The Engineer now recommends that that we can complete the work this fiscal year by way of change order #5. This \$42,115.73 change order will increase the final contract to \$949,341.96. Completing the project this year will allow us to realize a savings of over \$50,000 from the original contract agreement. Mr. Evans stated that advancing this work will also require a change order to the contract with S&ME for their engineering services for this project in the amount of \$70,184.50. He recommended that in separate action the Board approve Change Order No. 5 for Preston Contractors and Change Order No. 1 for S&ME.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve Change Order No. 5 with Preston Contractors as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve Change Order No. 1 with S&ME as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA.**

A. Approval of Authorizing Resolution Edgecombe County Kingsboro 2 Infrastructure Project Industrial Development Fund for the submission of an application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the resolution as presented and to authorize the County Manager to execute related documents. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**9. APPOINTMENTS.**

A. Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments.  
None.

B. Animal Welfare Advisory Council.

Mrs. Powell moved to reappoint Janice Thompson, Kathy Williams, Curmilus Dancy, II, Clair Abrams Edwards and Kelsey Lichtenwalner. Mr. Wiggins seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

**10. AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the afterlists and releases a presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

- A. Water Services.
- B. Financial Summary report.
- C. Hurricane recovery update.
- D. Midlakes Relocation Project.  
Michael Matthews, Water & Sewer Director, and Ola Pittman, Midlakes Relocation Project Coordinator, provided a detailed update on the project.
- E. Planning Board.
- F. Notice of LPA early closing on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

- A. Announcement of Department of Social Services Director.  
William Johnson, Assistant County Manager/Human Services Director, introduced Betty Battle, the newly appointed Director of Social Services.
- B. Workforce Indicators.
- C. Risk Management report.
- D. Certified Work Ready Community.
- E. NC Forestry Service Report.
- F. Parks and Recreation survey.
- G. Nash-Rocky Mount School Board joint meeting:  
May 13, 2019; East Carolina Agriculture and Training Center, Kingsboro Road. Lunch at 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m.
- H. Naming of the auditorium:  
June 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
- I. Macclesfield Fire Department Groundbreaking.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

None.


15. CLOSED SESSION.

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

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

16. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO RECESS MEETING UNTIL MAY 13, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. FOR A JOINT MEETING WITH THE NASH-ROCKY MOUNT SCHOOL BOARD TO BE HELD AT THE EAST CAROLINA AGRICULTURE AND TRAINING CENTER, 1175 KINGSBORO ROAD, ROCKY MOUNT, NC. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Approved June 3, 2019.

  
Frankie Mungo, Clerk to the Board