

December 14, 2020

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Session on Monday, December 14, 2020 in the Commissioners' Boardroom and electronically, 305 E. Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Present in the Commissioners' Boardroom: Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner David "Skip" Gurganus, County Manager David Bone, Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange and Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard.

Present via Cisco Webex: Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, Commissioner Emily Biggs and Lead for North Carolina Fellow Elizabeth Mitchell.

County Attorney Richard James was absent.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Gurganus led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Smith provided the invocation.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7.05 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to enter a closed session, pursuant to NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

At 7:29 p.m., Vice Chairman Smith stated the Board was out of closed session and back in open session.

Appointment of an Interim County Manager

Chairman Smith stated the Board of Commissioners had selected Ms. Cindy Ange as the Interim County Manager. The current salary for Ms. Ange was \$72,624. The Board was granting a temporary salary increase during the Interim period to \$90,000. Commissioner Gurganus made a motion to APPROVE the appointment of Ms. Ange to Interim Manager and the temporary salary increase, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

Chairman Smith congratulated Ms. Ange on her appointment to Interim Manager and thanked her for accepting the position. Ms. Ange thanked the Board for having the confidence in her to do the job. Ms. Ange stated County Manager Bone had left the county in a great position, and staff would work together to get through the transition.

Approval to Hire a Part-Time Deputy County Clerk to Work on an As-Needed Basis

Chairman Smith explained the reason for this item was due to Clerk Jessica Godard's increase in work and responsibilities increasing over the past several months due to the pandemic. During the transition period of searching for a new manager, Clerk Godard would be working in a liaison type position, along with Interim County Manager Ange. The Board desired to increase Clerk Godard's salary based on the tasks during the interim period, and once a new County Manager was hired, ensuring a smooth transition.

Clerk Godard's current salary was \$44,575. Clerk Godard's salary would be increased temporarily during the transition period of finding a new permanent County Manager and helping them become acclimated and helping with many weekly tasks. The temporary salary would be re-evaluated at the end of the transition period. The temporary salary would be \$49,032, roughly a 10% increase.

Additionally, the Board desired to approve a part-time Deputy Clerk to work as needed. This would not be an employee that would be on-site daily, but would only be brought in when back up was needed. Ms. Ange and Ms. Godard would let the Board know when help was needed.

Vice Chairman Bond made a motion to APPROVE the part-time salary increase and approval of a part-time Deputy Clerk as needed, with a SECOND from Commissioner Biggs. Commissioner Ayers asked if Ms. Ange and Ms. Godard would choose/hire the part-time Deputy Clerk. Chairman Smith stated the Board would be responsible for hiring the Deputy Clerk and would do so when the request was made to the Board. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

Clerk Godard thanked the Board for their support and the opportunity to continue to serve the Board and the County.

COMMENTS FOR COUNTY MANAGER BONE

Chairman Smith thanked County Manager Bone for his hard work over the years as County Manager to Martin County and offered many positive remarks. Vice Chairman Bond also offered positive remarks and well wishes for County Manager Bone. Commissioner Ayers offered County Manager Bone well wishes in his transition to his new job. Commissioner Biggs stated County Manager Bone had helped her during her transition to Commissioner and offered her thanks. Commissioner Gurganus stated County Manager Bone had been so helpful in his transition to Commissioner and offered his sincere thanks.

County Manager Bone thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the community for nine years. He stated he had been blessed and had so many opportunities to serve with such a supportive Board. County Manager spoke highly of the staff of Martin County, as well as the elected officials, Board of Education and other partners.

Sheriff Manning stated he was looking forward to working with Ms. Ange and Ms. Godard during the upcoming transition. Sheriff Manning offered his thoughts and comments to County Manager Bone and wished him well in his transition.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to adjourn, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting would be Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, NC 27892.

Ronnie Smith, Chair

Jessica Godard, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board