

March 29, 2017

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Chairman Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Vice Chairman Tommy Bowen , Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr., County Manager David Bone, Clerk to the Board Marion B. Thompson, and Finance Officer / Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange.

Commissioner Joe R. Ayers and County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen were not in attendance.

Chairman Lilley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bond. The invocation was provided by Commissioner Smith.

Chairman Lilley welcomed and commended those present for their participation in civic affairs. Elected officials Town of Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin and Martin County Sheriff Dan Gibbs were recognized.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS – Outside Agencies

Several outside agencies submitted budget requests to Martin County for FY 2017-18. The following outside agencies requested time to present individual requests to the Board.

Food Bank of the Albemarle

Director of Development Carolyn Anderson, of the Food Bank of the Albemarle (FBA), thanked the Board for the support received in past years. The appropriation requested for fiscal year 2017-18 (\$2,500) would enable FBA to provide approximately 12,500 pounds of food or the equivalent of more than 10,000 meals.

FBA’s fifteen (15) county service area includes: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

In March of 2017, FBA began administering the Commodity Supplemental Food Program in Martin County. Already, more than two hundred (200) seniors have been impacted by the program on a monthly basis. More seniors are on the waiting list. The boxes contain items such as: nonfat dry and ultra-high-temperature fluid milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, dry beans, canned meat, poultry, or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables.

Director Anderson stated that year, the FBA, with the help of Martin County citizens and following agencies, provided 487,142 pounds of food to the hungry men, women, and children of Martin County in FY 2015-16.

<i>Martin County Agency</i>	<i>Pounds Provided</i>	<i>Approx. Equivalent Meals</i>
Back Swamp Church of Christ	30,190	25,158
Bibleway Project Relief	149,088	124,240
Everetts Baptist Church	73,714	61,428
Faith Community Outreach	66,255	55,213
Full Gospel Way of the Cross	44,204	36,837
Friends of God Ministries	9,370	7,808
Heal Task Force	25,927	21,606
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	9,306	7,755
Liberty Christian Center	39,765	33,137
Martin County Council on Aging	6,888	5,740
Unlimited Care, Inc.	<u>32,435</u>	<u>27,029</u>
Totals	487,142	405,951

Highway 17/64 Association

Executive Director Marc Finlayson, of the Highway 17/64 Association, stated the Highway 17/64 Association greatly appreciated the support from Martin County over the years. For fiscal year 2017-18, the Association asked for a contribution of \$10,000.

Executive Director Finlayson stated the Highway 17/64 Association was encouraged by the projects listed on the 2018-2027 STIP. There were twenty nine (29) US Highway 17 projects listed on the draft 2018-2027 STIP, at a total worth of over \$2.2 billion. Of the twenty-nine (29), seventeen (17) were considered fully or partially deliverable. Six (6) US Highway 64 projects were listed at a total worth of almost \$750 million. Only one was considered deliverable.

Executive Director Finlayson reported the projects important to Martin County, (R-2511) Washington Bypass at Old Ford to four-lane south of Williamston, has been programmed, fully funded and deliverable.

Center for Family Violence Prevention

Court Advocate Shelby Klapec, a National Certified Counselor, presented the request for the Center of Family Violence Prevention, in the absence of Outreach Director Sandy Rhodes. Ms. Klapec thanked the Board for its support of the Center. Last year, the program brought \$107,825 in state and federal funds into Martin County. For fiscal year 2017-18, Ms. Klapec requested \$3,750, last fiscal year's amount. Ms. Klapec thanked the Board for all its does for Martin County and its citizens.

From July 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017, Ms. Klapec reported the Center for Family Violence Prevention served 36 unduplicated victims in Martin County with a variety of services. The Center for Family Violence Prevention continues to provide emergency shelter, transportation, court assistance with domestic violence protective orders (DVPO), case

management for job search and housing, counseling for adults and children and crisis intervention.

Ms. Klapec stated the Coordinated Community Response Team, consisting of law enforcement, Department of Social Services, Martin County court personnel and other agencies work together to assist victims of domestic violence in the Martin County community.

BHM Regional Library

Executive Director Hannah Easley, of the BHM Regional Library Board, thanked the Board of Commissioners for its continued commitment and support. The appropriation requested for fiscal year 2017-18 was \$103,000, an increase of \$3,768.

The additional funds requested would be used to expand the book budget for the Robersonville and Martin Memorial Libraries. Director Easley stated a survey and community analysis had been conducted, as part of its new Five year Plan, and the citizens in Martin County responded that books were important to them. Director Easley commented she would like to present the 5-year strategic plan to the Board of Commissioners at a later time.

Director Easley stated as of February 2017, librarians have helped 323 individuals apply for jobs, hosted literacy programs for over 1,953 kids, and circulated 19,210 books and 3,985 DVDs already this fiscal year.

Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

On behalf of the Martin County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board, President/ CEO Jason Semple thanked the County for its past support of its efforts to further the economic well-being of Martin County. The Martin County Economic Development Corporation requested appropriation for FY2017-18 was the same as last year, \$269,447.

EDC President/ CEO Semple stated the Martin County economy has been impacted through economic development assistance to businesses and industries. EDC President/ CEO Semple highlighted some recent announcements such as Metcore Industrial Solution (Williamston), AR Textiles (Robersonville), expansions and improvements for Penco (Hamilton), Syfan (Everetts), Ann's House of Nuts (Robersonville) and the Martin County Industrial Park (Everetts).

Through the efforts of EDC and other partners such as Martin County, since 2011, investments total \$142.5 million, jobs created or retained total – 1,022 and grants or low interest loans total \$15,279,000.

Martin County EDC continues to earnestly market the industrial shell building located in Everetts. The shell building has been submitted for more than 40 active projects, since the spring of 2015. The results have been nine on-site visits.

EDC President/CEO Semple stated the NC TeleCenter property requires substantial operational and maintenance expenditures, while it continues to provide value to the local and regional community. In 2016, the center hosted 12,483 individuals in one of its conference rooms, with more than 27,000 hours of training received in 261 instructional meetings. Additionally, the NC

TeleCenter houses 11 private, government, and nonprofit organizations including the NC Department of Commerce – NC Works Division, Martin County Schools, Martin County Tourism Development Authority, and the Martin County Chamber of Commerce.

Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department

Health Director Terrell Davis, of the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department, thanked the Board for its continued support in helping to provide public health services to the residents. M-T-W District Health Department provides the following programs: Food and lodging, Environmental Health, Communicable Disease/STD/HIV Control, Emergency Preparedness, Immunization, Child Health, WIC Client Services/Nutrition/Peer, Medical Assistance, and other services.

Health Director Terrell Davis stated the M-T-W District Board of Health voted to recommend a total of \$640,722 in funding from Martin, Tyrrell and Washington Counties. The requested per capita amount equals to \$16.03. Based on an estimated 2015 population of 23,746, Martin County's share of this request would be \$380,545 for FY 2017-18.

Martin Community College

On behalf of Interim President Dr. Kenneth Boham and the Martin Community College (MCC) Board of Trustees, Assistant to the President for Business and Industry Billy Barber, presented the budget request. For fiscal year 2017-18, the College requested \$1,051,454 for current operating expenses and \$254,478 for capital outlay.

The MCC budget requested additional housekeeping and maintenance staff, with the intent to enhance its appearance and curb appeal. The budget also included funding for two (2) full-time Security Officers through the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Barber reported MCC currently has approximately 823 students enrolled, mostly high school students. Of the total, approximately 250 are non-high school students. Additionally, MCC hosts a large number of government agency meetings at its facility.

Mr. Barber thanked the Board for its consideration and continued support of the Martin Community College and its efforts.

Martin Community Players

In the absence of President Dean McCall and on behalf of the Martin Community Players Board of Directors, Artistic Director Andy Weaver thanked the Board for its past generosity in funding. For fiscal year 2017-18, the requested continual funding was in the amount of \$8,000.

Martin Community Players continue to provide cultural and educational experiences through theater entertainment for the residents of Martin County and the region. Martin Community Players is a non-profit organization that relies on contribution in order to provide the entertainment /culture /educational experiences.

Artistic Director Weaver stated Martin Community Players have three performances each year, a children's production in September, a comedy, and drama or suspense play in November. The MCP end its season with a musical in March. MCP performed such plays as "101 Dalmatians – A Disney Jr. Musical, "Dearly Departed" – A Drop Dead Funny Comedy, and "In the Wood", with a live orchestra.

Martin County Arts Council Chairperson

Chair Judy Wobbleton, of the Martin County Arts Council, thanked the Board of Commissioners for its sustaining support and continued partnership in carrying out its mission. Chair Wobbleton stated during 2015-16 MCAC reached over 4,000 children and adults through art exhibits, performances and art educational programs. MCAC requested continued support in the amount of \$7,125 for FY 2017-18.

In 2015-16, MCAC partnered with the E. J. Hayes Alumni Association to offer Mike Wiley in "A Game Apart", a one man performance of the life of Jackie Robinson in a bygone era and leadership, and hosted TAMS in Concert (August 2016). Mike Wiley's "A Game Apart" (bullying) was also presented to all Martin County ninth grade students at the Martin County Auditorium.

Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Plains

Executive Vice President of Operations, Donyell Jones, of the Martin County Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Plains, requested the Board of Commissioners consider a continued allocation of \$25,000 for fiscal year 2017-18. The funding would support the Robersonville and Williamston Boys & Girls Clubs. The Williamston Club opened March 28, 2017.

Vice President of Operations Jones stated in 2016, the newly opened Robersonville Unit, located in East End elementary, enrolled 217 youth, grades K-5, and had an average daily attendance of 66 members. The goal is to serve one hundred (100) kids at the Williamston facility.

Vice President Jones thanked the Board for supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs in Martin County.

Metropolitan Community Health Services (MCHS) dba Agape

On behalf of Metropolitan/Agape Community Health Services, Dental Director Carol Taylor submitted two requests – one for the Health Center of \$275,000, and one for Dental Clinic of \$275,000 for fiscal year 2017-18, same as last year.

Metropolitan/Agape Community Health Services has committed to deliver service to anyone in the community, regardless of the income level. Those without insurance will receive service at a cost based on a sliding scale. The agency was established with the mission to provide high quality, comprehensive, coordinated, primary health and dental care to low-level income, unserved and underserved community members, and to improve the health of persons and communities with effective health interventions, patient education, and chronic disease management.

The illustration given by Dental Director Taylor showed a snapshot of the monthly medical and dental clinic expenses, which were operating in the negative. County Manager Bone suggested an average monthly expense or an annual expense for both clinics would be more factual. Dental Director Taylor stated she would provide the requested information.

Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)

CADA Executive Director Sallie Surface thanked the Board for the opportunity and for its support of the programs that CADA continues to implement in Martin County. For fiscal year 2017-18, CADA asked for \$36,145.

Executive Director Surface stated as an agency providing services in Martin County, CADA faces challenges since funding has been decreasing and other programs provided by CADA, such as EnergyShare do not cover the cost to implement the service.

In 2016, before officially becoming the designated Community Action Agency for Martin County, CADA leveraged and administered \$38,671 in EnergyShare funds to assist 126 families in Martin County. Executive Director Surface added CADA received \$1,000 to administer the program. Services cannot be provided without staff, travel, and supplies. In FY 2015-16, CADA leveraged \$493,896 to provide services to 250 families and 16 housing units in Martin County.

Additionally, since CADA became the designated Community Action Agency for Martin County, it has endeavored to secure and has secured additional services for resident through the following programs: the Urgent Repair Program (URP) – \$34,000, Disaster Housing Program (ESFR-DR) – funded but amount awarded to be determined, and Disaster Employment Program – one participant working with the Town of Jamesville.

Martin County Historical Society

President Jane Gray Benson thanked the Board for the opportunity to present her request. President Benson stated the historic Asa Biggs House (built circa 1831) was once home to 19th Century attorney, judge, and later U.S. Senator Asa Biggs. More than two-thirds of the renovations present on the house today were done during the period the Biggs' were residents there.

President Benson noted the Martin County Historical Society has owned and maintained the house through contributions and donations for nearly forty (40) years. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places list.

On behalf of the Martin County Historical Society, President Benson asked the Board to appropriate \$3,000 on a yearly basis for the preservation and upkeep of the Asa Biggs House.

COMMENTS

Throughout the presentations, the Board of Commissioners thanked the representatives of the various agencies for their contribution to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bowen made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The motion was unanimously APPROVED, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Elmo "Butch" Lilley, Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board