

September 11, 2019

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina. The meeting was immediately recessed to the Superior Courtroom on the second floor of the Governmental Center.

ASSEMBLY

Chairman Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard, Finance Director/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange, and County Attorney Richard James were present.

Commissioner Ronnie Smith participated via telephone.

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom. Due to an expected large amount of people at the meeting, the meeting was immediately recessed, to resume in the Superior Courtroom on the second floor. Commissioner Bond made a MOTION to recess, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers.

Once in the Superior Courtroom, Commissioner Bond made a MOTION to come out of the recess, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Ayers. The invocation was provided by Commissioner Lilley.

Chairman Bowen recognized those public/elected officials in attendance: Mr. Glen Cowan – Town of Robersonville, Sheriff Tim Manning, Ms. Charlotte Griffin – Bear Grass Mayor, and Ms. Glenda Barnes – Town of Parmele. Chief Deputy Drew Robinson was also in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the agenda as revised, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Vickey Manning, 1020 Corey Drive, Williamston expressed her concerns about the closing of the inpatient OB unit at Martin General Hospital. Ms. Manning voiced her concerns about the well-being of pregnant women and unborn children in Martin County should Martin General Hospital discontinue obstetrics services. Ms. Manning expressed concerns about pregnant women having to find new providers to continue their prenatal care, women with transportation and financial issues, and women with emergency issues arising during their pregnancy. Ms. Manning ended her address to the Board, stating, “It’s a sad day in Martin County”.

Ms. Guenilla Blow, 19733 NC 903 Hwy, Robersonville spoke of several issues she recently experienced with her water service and billing. Ms. Blow expressed her dissatisfaction in how a recent situation was handled when her water service was disconnected.

Ms. Tami Spence expressed her concerns about the decision to discontinue obstetrical care at Martin General Hospital. Ms. Spence cited low staff turnover rates and high patient satisfaction scores have led to a declining maternal and infant mortality rate in our area. Ms. Spence stated there would likely be an increase in preterm infants, delay in prenatal care, and increased rate of infant mortality in Martin County should obstetrical care be discontinued. Ms. Spence expressed her dissatisfaction about how the decision was made “in secret, behind closed doors”. Ms. Spence also pointed out how the OB unit at Martin General Hospital provided care far beyond deliveries. Ms. Spence shared a story about a patient from several years ago that delivered premature twins at Martin General Hospital and spoke about the care that was received. Ms. Spence expressed her concerns about what would have happened to the mother and babies had the OB unit not been there. Ms. Spence asked the Board of Commissioners to please consider not approving the amendment, or at least considering a delay in voting for the safety and well-being of pregnant mothers and unborn children in our county.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the consent agenda as revised, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

- 1. **Minutes** for August 14, 2019 Regular Session
- 2. **Financial Report** for July 2019 included for informational purposes.
- 3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – August 2019**

Ms. Gloria Davis was requesting a refund for year 2019 (1 year) for a solid waste availability fee that was paid on her parcel. Ms. Davis’s mobile home was moved from the property in 2018. She also had a receipt from Waste Industries from the can being turned in during the 2018 tax year. There was no dwelling on the property for 2019 and should not be assessed a solid waste availability fee for 2019. Per Martin County Landfill Ordinance, Ms. Davis was allowed up to 2 years to be refunded/adjusted. If approved, the refund amount would be \$172.00 for year 2019 plus an addition for fees or interest. Ms. Davis was requesting the refund be applied to any outstanding taxes that she may owe and any remaining to be refunded back to her.

The above tax refund request was APPROVED as part of the consent agenda.

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders –August 2019

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2019	Syfan Manufacturing, Inc.		Personal		761.36
2019	Batts	Dexter Andrew	Charge corrections		38.56
2019	Branch Banking & Trust Company		Personal Property		248.54

2019	Bradshaw	James	Out of County		68.25
2019	Cannon	Justin Lee	Error in Listing		31.99
2019	Cypress Grill		Error in Listing		45.61
2019	Davis	James D	Sold Vehicle		64.41
2019	E L Wagner Inc.		Double Billed		202.93
2019	First Pentecostal Holiness Church		Governmental exemption	½	1409.97
2019	Garner	Jessie Lee	Sold Vehicle		4.46
2019	Gilliam	Jackie Bennett	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2019	Gray	William T	Error in Listing		11.02
2019	Harrison	T G Heirs	Clerk Error		28.35
2019	Holliday	Terry Samuel	Error in Value		66.02
2019	Jones	Herman	Double Billed		423.78
2019	Jones	Michael Holliday	Sold Vehicle		32.21
2019	Little Casears		Double Billed		540.84
2019	Lock	Bertha	Double Billed		185.34
2019	Parker	Kenneth	Double Billed		4.25
2019	Parmele	Alfretia Jane	Error in Listing		38.57
2019	Parrish	Jimmy Mack Heirs	Sold Vehicle		28.07
2019	Speller	Cody Allen	Sold Vehicle		75.13
2019	Wadsworth	Alvin P	Sold Vehicle		75.64
2019	West	Patty Lynn J	Out of County		108.19
2019	Wynn	George Jr. Heirs	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
			Total Real & Personal Releases		\$4,837.49
2019	Barber	Jaya Danielle	Situs Error		135.70
2019	Bland	Vernon Lamont	Over Assessment		57.74
2019	Cashie Auto Parts Inc.		Mileage		46.94
2019	Crandall	Thomas Alton	Situs Error		1.46
2019	Edmondson	Jackie Scott	Situs Error		0.70
2019	Franklin	Thomas Doyal Jr.	Situs Error		382.43
2019	Harrell	Elizabeth Harrison	Adjustment		160.22
2019	Heath	Shalonda Ronita	Situs Error		89.09
2019	Hines	Walter Earl	Situs Error		192.38
2019	Jones	Daniel Brian	Mileage		23.72
2019	Lacroix	Joshua Michael	Situs Error		47.56
2019	Myrick	Henry Jr.	Over Assessment		39.15
2019	Pierce	Mckenzie Leigh	Situs Error		136.96
2019	Sharpe	Leshon Dontez	Situs Error		26.63
2019	Tucker	Craig Allen	Mileage		79.11

2019	Vieyra	Jose Isabel	Situs Error		40.13
2019	Warren	Ruby Ahlefeld	Situs Error		130.50
2019	York	David Wells	Mileage		43.70
			TotalVTS Refund Requests		\$1,634.12

5. Tax Collector's Report –July 2019

	Category	Aug-19	Aug 19 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$1,322,152.95	\$1,503,530.70
Personal Property	25	444,724.68	461,712.86
Total		\$1,766,877.63	\$1,965,243.56
Motor Vehicle	30	370.04	383.53
Total MV		\$370.04	\$383.53
All Total		\$1,767,247.67	\$1,965,627.09

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Martin County Nursing Home / Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

Ms. Laura Jett, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman sent a letter on September 5, 2019 with an appointment recommendation to the Martin County Nursing Home / Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Jett recommended the appointment of Ms. Cynthia Manning to serve on this committee. If approved, Ms. Manning's initial term would be for 1 year in accordance with G.S. 131E-128.

The appointment of Ms. Cynthia Manning was approved, as part of the consent agenda.

7. **Clerk Report** included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S) -- NONE

PRESENTATIONS

County Manager Bone recalled Mr. Glen Cowan had recently retired from the position of Medical Investigator for Martin County. Mr. Cowan served in various roles of leadership over the last 30 years and has shown true dedication and professionalism to the citizens of Martin County. A resolution of appreciation was prepared.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adopt the resolution of appreciation, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

The resolution was read aloud by the Clerk to the Board. Mr. Cowan thanked the Board for their support and recognition, citing he had a lot of support from his wife and family. Mr. Cowan stated he appreciated the citizens of Martin County throughout the years. Each Commissioner provided their own remarks to congratulate Mr. Cowan and to thank him for his many years of service.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Glen E. Cowan

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners recognizes the humbling career of Glen E. Cowan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cowan served the citizens of Martin County in many different capacities over the last thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cowan displayed exception leadership in various ways throughout the years, and served on many Boards and Committees, exemplifying his true dedication to Martin County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cowan displayed professionalism and compassion throughout his tenure as Medical Investigator for Martin County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cowan further displayed his expertise and confidence while serving at the Captain of Robersonville Rescue and EMS for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cowan has been honored for his service and dedication to the citizens of Martin County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognized Mr. Glen E. Cowan for his many years of dedicated public service to the citizens of Martin County.

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to enter a public hearing, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

DSS Deputy Director Frank Halsey explained Martin County Transit is a public transportation agency and receives outside funding from multiple sources, including:

- The Community Transportation Program (CTP)
- Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP)
- Medicaid Transportation

Deputy Director Halsey further explained Martin County Transit is also supported financially through the collection of customer fares, sale of disposed transit vehicles, and county funding.

Martin County submits applications and holds the required public hearings annually for the CTP program. The Board of Commissioners was being asked to hold a public hearing on Martin County's CTP / Section 5311 grant application for **2020-2021**.

The Community Transportation Program (CTP), a combination of federal and state funds, provides the majority of funding for North Carolina's rural transportation systems. The CTP application incorporates the following three programs into a single program / application:

- Non-urbanized Area Formula Program (FTA Section 5311)
- Rural Capital Program (Composed of three programs that have been consolidated and entitled "Consolidate Capital Call for Projects Program")
- Human Service Transportation Management Program

The Section 5311 program is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program. The Section 5311 program provides funding for public transportation projects serving areas that are outside of an urban boundary with a population of 50,000 or less. Funds may be used for capital, operating, planning or technical assistance projects.

NCDOT was accepting CTP applications from designated sub-recipients. In preparation for submitting an application, each applicant must hold a Public Hearing on the proposed project to allow members of the community the opportunity to comment on public transportation needs and the grant application.

The Martin County Transit (MCT) grant application has two parts:

1. The **Administrative Budget** covers salaries and fringe benefits of management and office staff, drug and alcohol testing, first aid supplies, office materials, travel expenses, telephone and internet service, marketing, and other expenses associated with the running of an office. These administration dollars are 80% Federal, 5% State and 15% local share. The total amount requested for **FY 21** is **\$137,107** of which the **local share is \$20,566**. This does represent a decrease in Federal and State funding for the Administrative Budget.
2. The **Capital Budget** request includes:
 - Renovation of the old MCCA storage building for transit storage.
 - Metal shelter for the bus washing station.
 - Cement driveway for the entrance.
 - Replacements of three MCT vehicles that have high mileage. These replacements will have ADA lifts on them for wheelchairs.
 - Additional outdoor cameras to be mounted on the front of the Ray Street building.
 - Electronic trip scheduling software, IPADS and mounts for drivers.
 - Security system for both buildings.
 - Conference room television and television stand for trainings and presentations.

These capital dollars are 80% Federal, 10% State and 10% local share. The total capital amount requested for **FY 21** was **\$374,756** of which the **local share was \$37,476**. The total estimated amount requested for the period **July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021** was:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>LOCAL SHARE</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$137,107	\$20,566 (15%)
CAPITAL	\$374,756	\$37,476 (10%)
TOTAL PROJECT	<u>\$511,863</u>	<u>\$58,042</u>

The Board of Commissioners was asked to hold a public hearing on this item and:

1. Approve the attached Public Transportation Program Resolution to approve the grant application and authorization of the submittal of the application, as presented.
2. Adopt the Annual Conflict of Interest Policy, as presented.
3. Individually sign a copy of the Annual Conflict of Interest Policy the Board adopts pertaining to grants and procurement.
4. Designate the delegation of authority to sign these grant application documents.

There were no comments from the public during the public hearing session. Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to end the public hearing, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adopt the Public Transportation Program Resolution, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the Delegation of Authority form, Local Share Certification of Funding, and Annual Conflict of Interest Policy, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RESOLUTION

FY 2021 RESOLUTION

Section 5311 (including ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.

Applicant seeking permission to apply for Public Transportation Program funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances and the required local match.

A motion was made by (*Board Member's Name*) Commissioner Lilley and seconded by (*Board Member's Name or N/A, if not required*) Vice Chairman Bond for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of

Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering federal and state public transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will apply for a grant from the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for rural public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these transportation funds is to provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services consistent with the policy requirements of each funding source for planning, community and agency involvement, service design, service alternatives, training and conference participation, reporting and other requirements (drug and alcohol testing policy and program, disadvantaged business enterprise program, and fully allocated costs analysis); and

WHEREAS, the funds applied for may be Administrative, Operating, Planning, or Capital funds and will have different percentages of federal, state, and local funds.

WHEREAS, non-Community Transportation applicants may apply for funding for "purchase-of-service" projects under the Capital budget Section 5310 program.

WHEREAS, (*Legal Name of Applicant*) Martin County hereby assures and certifies that it will provide the required local matching funds; that its staff has the technical capacity to implement and manage the project(s), prepare required reports, obtain required training, attend meetings and conferences; and agrees to comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, Section 5333 (b) Warranty, and all administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the Federal Transit Administration, as well as the provisions of Section 1001 of Title 18, U. S. C.

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the State of North Carolina required for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the County Manager of Martin County is hereby authorized to submit grant application (s) for federal and state funding in response to NCDOT's calls for projects, make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services.

I Tommy Bowen Board Chairman do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 11th day of September, 2019.

FY 2021 Delegation of Authority

Date: 11-Sep-19

I David Bone
(Authorized Official's Typed/Printed Name)

County Manager, Martin County
(Authorized Official's Title and Agency)

as the designated party Martin County Board of Commissioners
(Grant recipient/Applicant Agency)

with authority to submit funding applications and enter into contracts with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and execute all agreements and contracts with the NCDOT Public Transportation Division, hereby delegate authority to the individual(s) filling the positions as indicated below:

Primary Designee: Janice Young, Assistant Finance Director
(Name and Primary Designee's Position Title)

Martin County
(Primary Designee's Agency)

Reimbursement Requests: Yes No
Budget Revisions: Yes No
Budget Amendments: Yes No
Period of Performance Extensions: Yes No
Other _____: Yes No

Alternate Designee #1 Cindy Ange, Finance Director
(Alternate Designee's Name and Position Title)

Martin County
(Alternate Designee's Agency)

Reimbursement Requests: Yes No
Budget Revisions: Yes No
Budget Amendments: Yes No
Period of Performance Extensions: Yes No
Other _____: Yes No

Alternate Designee #2: Frank Halsey Jr.
(Alternate Designee's Name and Position Title)

Martin County Transit/Martin County DSS
(Alternate Designee's Agency)

Reimbursement Requests: Yes No
Budget Revisions: Yes No
Budget Amendments: Yes No
Period of Performance Extensions: Yes No
Other _____: Yes No

Signature:

FY 2021 LOCAL SHARE CERTIFICATION FOR FUNDING

Martin County
(Legal Name of Applicant)

Requested Funding Amounts

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
Administrative	\$137,107	\$ 20,566 (15%)
5311 Operating (No State Match)	\$ 0	\$ 0 (50%)
5310 Operating (No State Match)	\$ 0	\$ 0 (50%)
5307 Operating	\$ 0	\$ 0 (50%)
5307 Planning	\$ 0	\$ 0 (20%)
Combined Capital	\$ 374,756	\$ 37,476 (10%)
Mobility Management	\$ 0	\$ 0 (50%)
5310 Capital Purchase of Service	\$ 0	\$ 0 (10%)
_____	\$ 0	\$ 0 (___%)
_____	\$ 0	\$ 0 (___%)
_____	\$ 0	\$ 0 (___%)

Funding programs covered are 5311, 5310, 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities, 5307 (Small fixed route, regional, and consolidated urban-rural systems)

TOTAL	\$ 511,863	\$ 58,042
	Total Funding Requests	Total Local Share

The Local Share is available from the following sources:

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Apply to Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>County Contribution</u>	<u>5311</u>	<u>\$ 58,042</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL		<u>\$ 58,042</u>

**** Fare box revenue is not an applicable source for local share funding**

Martin County Transit Conflict of Interest Policy

Date this policy was adopted: September 11, 2019 addressing grants and procurements.

In accordance with Board policy and related legislation, no employee, officer, agent, immediate family member, or Board member of the agency shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Federal and/or State funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when any of the following has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award:

- The employee, officer, agent, or Board member,
- Any member of his/her immediate family,
- His or her partner, or
- An organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the above.

The agency's officers, employees, agents, or Board members will neither solicit nor accept gifts, gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to sub agreements.

Grantees may set minimum rules when the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value. To the extent permitted by state or local law or regulations, such standards of conduct will provide for penalties, sanctions, or other disciplinary action for violation of such standards by the grantee's officers, employees, or agents, or by contractors or their agents.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges, understands, and agrees to abide by this policy.

OLD BUSINESS

County Manager Bone recalled at the August 14, 2019 Board of Commissioners' meeting, volunteer Intern Ms. Sadie Tice presented a proposed ordinance to the Board of Commissioners regarding the prohibition of dangerous weapons in County buildings. The motion was passed 4-0 at that meeting.

After the meeting, it was determined that ordinance cannot become effective on the first reading in this situation. NC G.S. 153A-45 states, “To be adopted at the meeting at which it is first introduced, an ordinance or any action having the effect of an ordinance (except the budget ordinance, any bond order, or any other ordinance on which a public hearing must be held before the ordinance may be adopted) must receive the approval of all the members of the board of commissioners. If the ordinance was approved by a majority of those voting but not by all the members of the board, or if the ordinance is not voted on at that meeting, it shall be considered at the next regular meeting of the board. If it then or at any time thereafter within 100 days of its introduction receives a majority of the votes cast, a quorum being present, the ordinance is adopted.”

Due to the absence of one of the Commissioners, a second vote must be taken. The ordinance could be effective after a simple majority vote on the second reading.

County Manager Bone highlight one revision to the proposed ordinance to include updated language on the exceptions in the ordinance, particularly related to the Assistant District Attorney or an Investigator employed by the office of the District Attorney.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to adopt the ordinance as revised, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

CHAPTER 20

ARTICLE V. - ORDINANCE PROHIBITING WEAPONS IN COUNTY BUILDINGS

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

Deadly weapon means any tool such as a gun, rifle, shotgun, knife, blade, stun gun, or explosive that has the potential and intent to cause harm. The only weapons in exception are ordinary pocket knives (as defined and permitted by NCGS 14-269), which are defined as small knives designed for carrying in a pocket or purse that have their cutting edge and point entirely enclosed by the handle, and may not be opened by a throwing, explosive, or spring action.

County government building means any building or office owned and/or operated by Martin County, and includes, but is not limited to, the Martin County Governmental Center, Social Services/Annex Building, Building Inspections/Veteran’s Services, Martin County Transit, and Martin County Adult & Aging Services.

SECTION 2 – PROHIBITION

It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to carry a deadly weapon within a Martin County government building. As part of this prohibition, it is unlawful for anyone to carry a concealed handgun, regardless of if they have been issued a concealed handgun permit.

Deadly weapons are only permitted on county property if they are properly stored in a locked vehicle, and any firearms are contained within a closed compartment of the vehicle or in a carrying case affixed to the vehicle.

SECTION 3 – EXCEPTIONS

The following persons are exempt from this prohibition:

- (a) Law enforcement officers of the county, state, or nation while in discharge of their official duties;
- (b) Any judge or magistrate, with the proper concealed handgun permit;
- (c) The district attorney, assistant district attorney, or an investigator employed by the office of the district attorney, with the proper concealed handgun permit;
- (d) Members of the U.S. Armed forces and other federal employees while in discharge of their official duties;
- (e) Members of the National Guard or militia when called into actual service and within the discharge of their official duties.

SECTION 4 – ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Any person in violation of this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unlawful, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to Martin General Hospital Lease

County Manager Bone thanked the citizens that provided comments, and stated it was understood that this was a tough issue, and their input was appreciated. County Manager Bone stated the reality was that healthcare was changing, and hospitals (especially in rural areas) were facing many challenges. Those changes in the industry and challenges in healthcare in general required hospitals and communities to assess which services would best meet the needs of the citizens.

County Manager Bone stated the birth rate in the United States was on the decline, and Martin County's rate of deliveries at Martin General Hospital had decreased substantially over the last decade.

County Manager Bone stated Martin County owns the hospital buildings and grounds. On October 29, 1998, Martin County entered into a 30-year lease agreement with Community Health Systems for Martin General Hospital. County Manager Bone further explained the agreement included provisions regarding specific services that would be provided. The Martin County Board of Commissioners was asked to approve an amendment to the lease agreement which would allow the elimination of obstetrics services.

County Manager Bone stated Martin General Hospital had been a good partner, and working proactively together in this situation would ensure the hospital would be well poised to serve the community now and in the future.

Martin General Hospital would continue outpatient and inpatient gynecological services and women's health services. This included mammography services and breast biopsies at the hospital. Roanoke Women's Health Clinic would also continue to provide gynecological and women's health services.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the amendment to the Martin General Hospital lease as presented, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

CLOSED SESSION – NC G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development

At 7:37 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to enter closed session pursuant to NC G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

At 7:45 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to end the closed session, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

No action was taken in open session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board