

January 8, 2020

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

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

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ayers led the Pledge, and Commissioner Smith provided the invocation.

Chairman Bowen recognized those public/elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Tim Manning, Mr. Tommy Hester from Vance County, NC, Parmele Mayor Jerry McCrary, Board of Education Member Barbara Council, Hamilton Commissioner Judith Stewart, Hamilton Commissioner Patricia Moring, and Hamilton Commissioner Linda Goodrich. Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin and Chief Deputy Drew Robinson were also in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Linda Goodrich spoke to the Commissioners regarding her idea of the towns in Martin County sharing the cost of the Hyper-reach alert system in order for the towns to be able to benefit more directly from the service.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. Minutes** for December 11, 2019 Regular Session
- 2. Financial Report** for November 2019 included for informational purposes.
- 3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – December 2019**

There were no refund requests for December 2019.

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders –December 2019

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2019	Alliance and Association Financial Services		Error in Listing		116.28
2019	Dansereau	Pierre	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2019	Elliott	Murray S	Error in Listing		43.46
2019	Revels	William Eugene	Sold Mobile Home		13.87
2019	Tim Con Wood Products Inc		Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2019	Wynne	David E	Error in Listing		11.74
2019	Roberson	Donnie G	Correction		42.50
			<i>Total Real & Personal Releases</i>		\$571.85
2019	Ogarro-Brown	Kelly Shakira	Change of county		300.92
2019	Sales	Kiplin Gray	SLVG or RBTL TTL		88.76
			<i>Total VTS Refund Requests</i>		387.68

5. Tax Collector’s Report –December 2019

	Category	Dec-19	Dec 19 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$2,997,451.28	\$7,465,103.03
Personal Property	25	<u>3,233,658.23</u>	<u>4,247,876.52</u>
Total		\$6,231,109.51	\$11,712,979.55
Motor Vehicle	30	<u>214.52</u>	<u>1,112.87</u>
Total MV		\$214.52	\$1,112.87
All Total		\$6,231,324.03	\$11,714,092.42

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Martin County Transportation Advisory Board

The Martin County Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) shall be composed of the following representatives. One voting representative from each of the following agencies:

- Martin County Department of Social Services (Core Agency)
- Martin Enterprises (Core Agency)

- Martin County Board of Commissioners or its designee
- Martin-Washington-Tyrrell District Health Department (Core Agency)
- Martin County Department of Aging (Core Agency)
- Trillium Health Resources
- One voting representative from the following user groups: Martin County Community Action Head Start, Martin Community College, Martin County Schools, Martin County Emergency Management, consumers and transportation vendors.
- NC Works Career Center
- Church Leader
- Business/Industry

The TAB asked the Board to appoint/reappoint the following TAB members for two-year terms as specified below. Terms would expire January 31, 2022.

Member	Agency	Term	Term Expiration
Krista Wood	NC Works Career Center	2 yr.	1/31/2020
Eric Manning	Martin Enterprises	2 yr.	1/31/2020
Bernadette Rodgers	Smiling Faces Day Care	2 yr.	1/31/2020
Diana Ortega	DSS TAB Hispanic Representative	2 yr.	1/31/2020
Jerry McCrary	Church Leader	2 yr.	1/31/2020

The MTW Health Department position was vacant as Ms. Natalie Wiggins was no longer able to fill that position.

The Board APPROVED the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

Fireman’s Relief Fund Trustee – Griffin’s Township FD Representative

Mr. Kenneth Perry was reappointed as a Fireman’s Relief Fund Trustee as a representative of Griffin’s Township Fire Department in November 2018, with the term set to expire December 31, 2020. Chief James Nicholson recommended the appointment of Mr. Andy Griffin to fulfill the unexpired term of Mr. Kenneth Perry, set to expire December 31, 2020.

The Board APPROVED the appointment of Mr. Griffin as part of the consent agenda.

7. Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

There were no new employees to introduce in January 2020. There would be several to introduce at the February 2020 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

FY 2018-19 Martin County Audit

Mr. Chris Burton of Carr Riggs & Ingram provided a report of findings from the 2018-19 Martin County Audit. The full CAFR and the Audit Presentations were given to the Board for review. The audit presentation gave a synopsis of the findings of the audit.

Mr. Burton commended Martin County for starting and maintaining the OPEB trust which was very beneficial to Martin County. Mr. Burton also mentioned a letter that was received from the Local Government Commission regarding the finances of the County's water districts, which he states was something that was done each year. Mr. Burton reviewed Water District 2 owed the General Fund \$1,256,529 at year end and Water District 1 owed the General Fund \$379,145 at year end. Mr. Burton reported both water districts have been supplemented by the General Fund since their inception, and neither district had any reserve for future projects, capital items, or emergencies.

Next, Mr. Burton reviewed revenues by source and comparisons from the previous year. Mr. Burton discussed ad valorem tax revenues and growth in sales tax. Mr. Burton then highlighted the expenditures by function and fund balance calculation (available for Martin County was 26.84%, which was very good. Mr. Burton stated the tax collection rate for Martin County was 95.18%, which was good.

Mr. Burton offered a clean opinion regarding the audit for Martin County. There was one prior period adjustment made dealing with an agreement with the Town of Williamston regarding outset of formulating water funds. It ended up being a capital lease. The issue happened twenty years ago. Management fees that were being collected had been being treated as revenues but this issue was fixed.

Commissioner Smith asked for clarification regarding the situation twenty years ago, specifically what was not done then and what was done to fix the problem (regarding the initial loan). Mr. Burton directed the Board to page 60 in the CAFR under "Notes Receivable". This statement reads "On December 6, 1999, Martin County Water and Sewer District No. 1 entered into Water System Management Agreement with the Town of Williamston. Under the terms of this agreement, the County constructed the water lines and collected initial tap fees and deposits from customers. Upon completion of construction, the Town manages certain assets and customers of the Water District including maintaining and repairing water lines, reading meters, providing insurance, billing customers and collecting water revenues. The Town shall pay to the County a proportionate share of the County issued debt for this project. The note payments including principal and interest are equal to the proportionate share of loan proceeds used for the construction of the project (19.1%). The term of this agreement is 40 years or until the debt has been paid in full by the County. Ownership of the project improvements and customers will transfer to the Town at the end of the lift of the project financing loan (upon final payment of the loan).

On December 2, 2005, the Martin County Water and Sewer District No. 2 entered into Water System Management Agreement with the Town of Williamston. The terms of this agreement are essentially the same as the agreement for Water District No. 1 described in the preceding

paragraph, except that the Town will pay to the County a proportionate share equal to 48.1% of the County's debt service payments."

Mr. Burton highlighted a schedule for debt payout. The amounts were set up as an amount receivable on the County's books and as an amount payable on the Town's books to make everything match and ensure each entity was in compliance.

Commissioner Smith questioned the reason for the letter that was sent to the Local Government Commission regarding the water districts. Mr. Burton stated the issue was brought to the attention of the LGC to ensure the County was in compliance with the agreement. Finance Officer Cindy Ange stated for the last twenty years, the lease had been being handled as an operating lease but should have been being handled as a capital lease. County Manager Bone reiterated the joint project that was taken on by the Town and the County at that time and explained how various joint projects work. Because of grant money being involved, the County was listed as the lead agency on the project and the Town was paying a prorated share for their fair share of the project. The wording simply needed to be edited in order to keep the financial aspects in compliance.

Commissioner Smith stated if there was a change in wording or method of the payments, he was unaware of those changes. Commissioner Smith stated the elected officials should be aware of any changes in the event they are questioned by a member of the public. Vice Chairman Bond stated he was unhappy about the situation, as well. Vice Chairman Bond stated the Town of Williamston has a two mile ETJ, and those customers were paying money to a system that wasn't helping the County's situation. Vice Chairman Bond stated there were customers and monies that were being "given up" by the County and he feels someone made a bad judgement twenty years ago with this project. Vice Chairman Bond stated no one had explained this situation to him before.

Commissioner Ayers clarified that the Town of Williamston and Water Districts were paying a portion of the debt to the County each year.

Commissioner Smith did thank Mr. Burton and his agency for their good work each year.

Explorer Post Cadet Presentation

Christopher Haines is a member of Explorer Post 911 chartered through Martin County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Haines was promoted to Cadet Captain on October 30, 2019. Mr. Haines came before the Board to speak about law enforcement exploring and some of the things he had learned since being in the program.

Mr. Haines distributed informational brochures to the Board with supplemental information regarding the Explorer program. Mr. Haines stated he planned to complete the program and become a law enforcement officer.

Commissioner Smith stated it was hard to find good people for law enforcement, and stated the Explorer program was key in being able to find good candidates for that career.

OLD BUSINESS

Former Williamston Middle School Property

The Board of Education directed Superintendent Chris Mansfield at its August 7, 2017 Meeting to send a letter to the Board of Commissioners to ask if the County is willing to assume ownership of the former Williamston Middle School.

The disposition of school property is governed by NC General Statute § 115C-518 (attached). Part of this statute states:

“...Provided, when any real property to which the board holds title is no longer suitable or necessary for public school purposes, the board of county commissioners for the county in which the property is located shall be afforded the first opportunity to obtain the property. The board of education shall offer the property to the board of commissioners at a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two boards. If the board of commissioners does not choose to obtain the property as offered, the board of education may dispose of such property according to the procedure as herein provided...”

The statute requires the Board of Education to offer the property to the Board of Commissioners at a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two boards.

A price of \$40,000 was negotiated for the former Williamston Middle School property, and the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase for the property at its January 16, 2019 meeting; however, Martin County’s desire was to firm-up a plan for the property before taking ownership. A plan never fully materialized, and Martin County never took over the property.

Superintendent Mansfield sent Martin County a letter on October 8, 2019. In this letter, Dr. Mansfield stated the Board of Education requested a closing date on the property by October 31, 2019. Furthermore, if a closing date could not be established, the Board of Education requested the Board of Commissioners release the property for public auction by the Board of Education.

The Board of Commissioners discussed this matter at its October 9, 2019 meeting, at which time, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to request the Board of Education provide the County until January 10, 2020 to work on finding a positive use for this property before proceeding with selling it through public auction. This additional time was requested to provide the County the opportunity to investigate additional options for the property.

County Manager David Bone reached out to the Town of Williamston about its potential desire to develop a partnership with the County in regards to the property, as was similarly done with the Town of Hamilton (with the former Edna Andrews School in Hamilton) and the West Martin Alumni (with the former West Martin School in Oak City).

Williamston Town Administrator John O’Daniel followed-up to this conversation through an email dated November 5, 2019 in which he stated, “At our meeting last night, the Board of Commissioners discussed the proposal for the old school property. The Board of Commissioners gave a unanimous consensus to not accept the offer at this time.”

With no other plans for the property materializing, the Board of Commissioners was asked if it wanted to release the property for public auction by the Board of Education, as requested by the Board of Education.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to decline the purchase of the former Williamston Middle School building, sending it back to the Martin County Board of Education, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Lilley stated the Board of Commissioners and County staff made a genuine effort to find a community use for the building, but unfortunately there were no good results. Chairman Bowen echoed Commissioner Lilley, adding the County did not have any need for the building to own and maintain.

NEW BUSINESS

Spec Building for NC Rail & Commerce Park

Martin County EDC President Jason Semple stated he wanted to begin discussions about a new building in the Industrial Park. With information received from Mr. Vann Rogerson of the NC East Alliance, President Semple stated there was an increased demand for smaller, ready-to-go buildings in the 10,000-50,000 square foot range.

President Semple stated after the sale of the Martin County Quick Start 1 shell building to Weitron for \$1.9 million, the County's portion of the funds - \$1,062,692.8 – was returned as unrestricted funds. The MCEDC retained \$610,536.50 in Golden LEAF funds restricted for future shell building construction and \$226,770.70 in the US CAIP funds allocated to the MCEDC for economic development purposes.

Cost estimates were sought out from A.R. Chesson and a potential location was discussed. Lot 1 of the NC Rail & Commerce Park, located directed to the east of the call center (about 7.2) acres was discussed as to not take away from any potential rail users in the future. The estimate of the building, including earth and site work, with concrete masonry and stucco was \$1,243,865. The estimate of the building without masonry and stucco was \$1,034,006. A.R. Chesson provided three different expansion scenarios depending on future opportunities. President Semple wanted to note that this would be a finished building, not a shell building.

Commissioner Lilley stated there had been interest for this type of building out there. President Semple stated there would be a diminishing return over time for larger buildings, but there was a large market for smaller buildings (more sustainability and not quite as expensive). President Semple stated he was looking for feedback from the Board. President Semple stated depending on the style of building the County would have a responsibility of anywhere from \$300,000-\$500,000.

Chairman Bowen clarified cost estimates whether they include site work. President Semple confirmed the cost estimates included all site work. County Manager Bone stated with spec buildings, the chances were better to be able to make money on the investment. Commissioner

Ayers stated he liked the sound of the proposal and felt it was not as risky as a bigger shell building. Commissioner Ayers stated putting the left-over funds towards a smaller building would be smarter. County Manager Bone stated the spec building could be supportive of local businesses.

Commissioner Smith expressed concerns about the number of shell buildings that were sitting vacant across eastern North Carolina. Commissioner Smith stated Martin County needed to look at the big picture and be diligent in decision-making due to the prime location of the North Carolina Rail & Commerce Park. The park was is a strategic location, has a rail system, and is located on the future I87, and decisions needed to be made that would be the most beneficial long-term.

Commissioner Lilley stated at the EDC Board meetings, the Board had given a lot of due-diligence towards this potential project. Commissioner Lilley stated the project would not be completed in the next 6 months, it would be at least a year. Commissioner Lilley stated the County would be in a good position strategically with this potential project.

Commissioner Smith stated he had asked the owner of Weitron why that company came to Martin County, and the owner stated Martin County was the only location in the eastern part of the county that could handle their needs. Commissioner Smith stated we should do our homework before committing to building a spec building in the park and selling of partial pieces of land. Commissioner Lilley stated the lot that had been selected left a lot of other potential lots for future development. Commissioner Ayers stated the potential lot was small and could not accommodate a larger building.

President Semple stated he would do some additional research and come back with a more detailed proposal at a later date, possibly the February 2020 meeting. Commissioner Smith stated he was not comfortable supporting this project just yet. Commissioner Lilley stated there was limited availability in Martin County and asked President Semple to consider that in his research, as well.

The Board thanked President Semple for the information.

Resolution Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and founding of the League of Women Voters

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution giving women the right to vote. Leagues across the country, along with numerous other organizations, would be commemorating this 100th anniversary throughout 2020. The League of Women Voters invited local governments to be a part of the commemoration by adopting a resolution honoring the anniversary.

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

Resolution in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Founding of the League of Women Voters

Whereas; an organized movement to enfranchise women began in July, 1848, at a convention in Seneca Falls, NY; and

Whereas; through the efforts of brave and courageous women referred to as suffragists who sacrificed family, their personal life and their financial resources for over seventy years to gain equal rights for women, especially the right to vote; and

Whereas; women and men, black and white, supported the woman's suffrage movement for women to gain the constitutional right of having a voice in making the laws that govern them; and

Whereas; the woman's suffrage movement led to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1919; with ratification by the states by the summer of 1920; and

Whereas; the National Woman's Suffrage Association dissolved in 1920 to create the League of Women Voters of the US to register voters and educate all voters; and

Whereas; the League of Women Voters of North Carolina was launched on October 7, 1920, on the steps of the Guilford County Courthouse by Gertrude Weil, a politically active and tireless young woman from Goldsboro, NC; and

Whereas; More than 120,000 women were registered to vote in North Carolina by 1920; and
Whereas; women today constitute a majority vote in our state and the US and are running for office in higher numbers and more active in the election process than ever before in history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote and the founding of the League of Women Voters in the United States and in North Carolina is recognized in Martin County, NC for the impact these historic accomplishments have on citizen engagement and the civic life of the community, the state and the nation.

Adopted this 8th day of January, 2020.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board

FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan

County Manager Bone stated the objective of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is to organize long-term capital needs in a manner to promote discussion regarding priority, feasibility, timing, potential costs, financing options and future budgetary effect.

Two major functions of a capital improvement plan are the identification and prioritization of capital projects over a specified amount of time (in this case 5 years) and the financing choices used to fund planned capital projects. Projects included in the plan were limited to those costing \$25,000 and over (including capital outlay).

The development of this CIP is only one step in the maintenance and development of county-owned facilities and infrastructure. The CIP provides a guide for decision makers and the citizens. By fully examining alternatives and funding options during the planning process, the Board of Commissioners and management are able to make more fully informed decisions and maximize county resources.

County Manager Bone stated adoption of the CIP does not constitute a commitment to appropriate the funds, but rather signifies the board’s goal to fund capital at the indicated level during the annual budget process. Ideally, the preparation / update of a capital improvements plan are performed on an annual basis.

The draft 2021-25 CIP was developed to reflect the current assessment of capital needs of Martin County. The CIP included General Fund improvements / large capital outlay with a total estimated cost to the county of \$3,644,284 over the next five years.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adopt the 2021-25 Capital Improvement Plan, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Martin County Capital Improvements Plan 2021-25 – Department/Office Totals							
GENERAL FUND							
	Totals	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
Department							
Buildings & Grounds	\$655,000	\$290,000	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$240,000	\$0	
Elections	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	
Emergency Management	\$70,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	
Finance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Information Tech./Commun.	\$150,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Landfill	\$595,000	\$440,000	\$115,000	0	\$40,000	\$0	
Sheriff’s Office	\$930,000	\$180,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	
Social Services	\$156,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	
Tax Assessor	\$125,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$	
Transit	\$788,284	\$248,284	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	
General Fund Total	\$3,774,046	\$1,131,546	\$1,017,500	\$860,000	\$465,000	\$300,000	

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment #10

Effective December 1, 2019, 16 and 17 year-old individuals who commit crimes in North Carolina would no longer automatically be charged in the adult criminal justice system. This adjustment in the law was referred to the “Raise the Age” legislation.

The Board of Commissioners accepted additional State funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) community programs due to the “Raise the Age” expansion at the December 11, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting.

The original 2019-20 Budget for the Martin County JCPC is \$137,439, of which, \$114,943 was State funded, and \$22,496 was County funded.

The “Raise the Age” expansion funds for Martin County were \$14,273. No local match was required for this additional funding for this fiscal year, but the State would increase the local match in 2021.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #10, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously,

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-10

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Martin County, North Carolina, that the following amendments be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Human Services		
Office of Juvenile Justice	\$ 14,273	

This will result in an increase of \$14,273 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 14,273
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Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

Budget Amendment #11

The Martin County ABC Board awarded \$3,000 to the Sheriff’s Office for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. In addition, the Jamesville Methodist Church donated \$100 for the DARE program.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #11, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-11

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Martin County, North Carolina, that the following amendments be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Public Safety		
Sheriff	\$ 3,100	

This will result in an increase of \$3,100 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 3,100
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Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

Budget Amendment #12

Law enforcement positions across our region of the state continue to be difficult to fill with qualified individuals. Fewer individuals are choosing law enforcement as a career, given the scrutiny and dangers of the position.

Additionally, a number of cities and counties have recently raised law enforcement salaries in order to attract personnel. Below is a list of some of our surrounding jurisdictions and their current minimum salary for a deputy sheriff/police officer.

Town of Williamston	\$37,493
Bertie County	\$40,000
Town of Windsor	\$42,000
Beaufort County	\$36,943
Washington County	\$30,489
Town of Ahoskie	\$43,600
Pitt County	\$46,000

Martin County's current minimum salary for a deputy sheriff was \$34,900. Budget Amendment #12 would appropriate the funds to raise the minimum salary to \$38,500 in order to stay competitive within the region and to attract and retain quality personnel. Each law enforcement officer (LEO) would receive a salary increase of \$3,600. Non-LEO personnel in the Sheriff's Office would receive a \$1,500 annual increase. The estimated annual cost of the salary adjustment was \$183,580. The cost for the six months remaining in 2019-20 was \$91,790.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #12, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Smith pointed out that programs like the Explorer program were necessary to train people for the law enforcement profession, but salaries were important in being able to keep staff.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lilley offered no comments, just stated he was looking forward to another good year.

Vice Chairman Bond spoke about the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly renovated ABC Store in Robersonville and stated it was a good event.

Commissioner Ayers offered no comments.

Commissioner Smith spoke about the opportunity for the county to participate in a fellows program in cooperation with LEAD of NC. The fellows program would involve a sponsorship/partnership between the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, League of Municipalities, and the UNC School of Government.

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

At 8:18 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to enter a closed session pursuant to NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

At 8:29 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to go out of closed session, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board