

February 12, 2020

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom 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. Intern Andrew Brownfield led the Pledge, and Commissioner Lilley provided the invocation.

Chairman Bowen recognized those public/elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Tim Manning, Ms. Renee Purvis – Martin County Board of Education, Ms. Rachel Craddock – Town of Jamesville Commissioner, Mr. Alton Moore – Town of Williamston Commissioner, Williamston Mayor Joyce Whichard-Brown, Robersonville Mayor Tina Brown, Parmele Mayor Jerry McCrary, Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin, and Hamilton Commissioner Patricia Moring. 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 Vice Chairman Bond. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ethan Bacca spoke of his concerns regarding second amendment rights of local citizens and his support of a second amendment resolution.

Mr. Claiborne Holtzman stated he was running for District 23 House of Representatives and wanted to introduce himself.

Mr. David Draper spoke about his support of the second amendment and thanked the Board of Commissioners and Sheriff for bringing the resolution up.

Mr. Greg Rock spoke about his support of the constitution and the second amendment.

Mr. David Pomeroy spoke about his support of the second amendment and the rights of the citizens.

Mr. Robert Stalls spoke about his concerns with CloudWyze, such as their method of reaching out to people to collect information and the history of the company.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes for January 8, 2020 Regular and Closed Session

2. Financial Report for December

3. Finance Office – Request for Records Disposal

The Martin County Finance Office would like to request your approval to dispose of the following items:

- 2013-2014 Cash receipt files, original and duplicate copies – state requires retention of three years
- 2013-2014 Yellow copies of purchase orders, duplicated
- 2013-2014 Building inspector permit copies: originals kept in another office
- 2013-2014 Paid invoice file, original invoices and duplicate copies of checks – state requires retention for three years
- 2013-2014 PNC bank statements and cancelled checks – state requires retention three years
- 2016-2017 Computer generated printouts (supporting documents will be retained for five years)
- 2013-2014 Landfill billing statements, payments, daily ticket report and financial report
- 2014-2015 Budget amendments
- 2013-2014 Gasoline reports
- 2013-2014 Welfare drafts
- 2013-2014 Capital Trust Statements
- 2013-2014 Sales tax
- 2013-2014 Journal entries
- 2013-2014 Retirement & SS Backup Reports
- 2013-2014 Transit Invoices
- 2013-2014 Return Check copies
- 2016-2017 Computer generated printouts (supporting documents will be retained for five years)
- 2013-2014 PNC Bank statements and cancelled checks – state requires retention for three years
- 2013-2014 PNC payroll bank statements and cancelled checks: original corresponding reports kept on file in Finance office.

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

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – January 2020

Account # 23991 Personal Property Account # 2399104

Mr. Benjamin Shelton was requesting a refund for years 2018-2019 (2 years) for a 2004 Pursuit 2670CC 26ft boat that was listed and located in Onslow County for years 2018-2019. Mr. Shelton

provided a listing and payment receipt from Onslow County. Mr. Shelton had been double billed from two different counties for the same vessel. Per General Statute 105-381(a)(a), Martin County was allowed to refund/release the current year plus 5 additional years due to an error from within the Tax Assessor's office. If approved, the refund amount would be \$376.21 plus any applicable penalties or interest. Mr. Shelton was requesting the refund be applied to any outstanding taxes that he owed and any remaining be mailed back to him.

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

Account # 23884 Parcel #10-00961

Mrs. Kathleen Purvis was requesting a refund for year 2019 (1 year) for a solid waste availability fee that was paid on her parcel. Mrs. Purvis had just recently started caring for the property and there had been a solid waste availability fee assessed on the property for years, with the home being removed. There was no electricity feeding the property for many years and should not have been assessed a solid waste availability fee for 2019. Per Martin County Landfill Ordinance, Mrs. Purvis was allowed up to 2 years to be refunded/adjusted. If approved, the refund amount would be \$172.00 for year 2019 plus any additional fees or interest. Mrs. Purvis was requesting the refund be applied to any outstanding taxes that she or her deceased husband owed and any remaining to be refunded back to the estate.

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

5. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders –December 2019

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2020	Wynne Jr	Bobby Gene	Corrections		987.33
2020	Caballerro	Rodimiro	Out of County		2.81
2020	Caballero	Rodimiro	Out of County		4.68
2020	Caballero	Rodimiro	Out of County		4.79
2020	Everett	Edna S	Error in Listing		516.00
2020	Hardison III	John Ben	Error in Listing		352.99
2020	Keeter	Milton B	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
			<i>Total Real & Personal Releases</i>		\$2,040.60
2020	Barber	Jeffrey Taylor	Situs Error		90.83
2020	Daniels	Joseph Hudson	Situs Error		7.40
2020	Etheridge	Zachary Everett	Situs Error		57.15
2020	Gerrard	Paula Brannon	Situs Error		156.36
2020	Hardison	James Arthur	Situs Error		117.31
2020	James	Charles Wendell	Situs Error		152.10
2020	Lassiter	Sandra Brown	Mileage		3.53
2020	Mid-East Regional Housing Authority		Exempt Property		229.84

2020	P and H Services of Williamston, Inc.		Situs Error		4.33
2020	Patel	Keyurkumar Jagdish	Situs Error		5.56
2020	Patel	Nikunjuma R Ambalal	Situs Error		1.14
2020	Shipman	Stephanie Brehm	Situs Error		115.55
2020	St. Mark Church of Christ		Exempt Property		229.4
2020	Stotesbury	Jonathan Everett	Situs Error		162.21
2020	Williams	Jane Elizabeth	Situs Error		75.19
			<i>TotalVTS Refund Requests</i>		\$1,408.24

6. Tax Collector's Report –December 2019

	Category	Jan-20	Jan 20 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$1,114,228.97	\$8,579,332.00
Personal Property	25	<u>603,711.60</u>	<u>4,851,588.12</u>
Total		\$1,717,940.57	\$13,430,920.12
Motor Vehicle	30	<u>68.82</u>	<u>1,181.69</u>
Total MV		\$68.82	\$1,181.69
All Total		\$1,718,009.39	\$13,432,101.81

7. Tax Collector – Request to Advertise 2018-19 Liens on Unpaid Taxes

Tax Collector Christine Blevins submitted a formal request to the Board of Commissioners to request that all unpaid property taxes be advertised in the Enterprise Newspaper on April 7, 2020 or as soon as is possible thereafter according to G.S. 105-369 of the Machinery Act of North Carolina. Total of unpaid 2019-20 taxes that were liens on real property as of February 5, 2020 were \$2,204,764.87.

The Board of Commissioners approved the request to advertise unpaid property taxes in the Enterprise on April 7, 2020 as part of the consent agenda.

8. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Martin County Equalization and Review Board

In 2009, Martin County adopted a Resolution appointing a special Board of Equalization and Review to review tax lists and to hear taxpayer appeals. Each year, board members are to be approved and appointed by the County's Board of Commissioners for a one (1) year term.

As per NC General Statute 105-322 (e), Tax Assessor Elisha Hardison would like to start the Board of Equalization and Review this year on Monday, April 6, 2020 and adjourn on Monday April 20, 2020. Meetings will be held in the Martin County Commissioners' Boardroom at 5:00 p.m. The following five (5) Martin County taxpayers have been contacted and agree to serve, if appointed:

1. Jennie Rawls
2. Hugh Kennedy
3. Anita Whitehurst
4. Donald White
5. Will Griffin

The Board of Commissioners was asked to appoint the above-listed Board of Equalization and Review members to serve for the 2020 tax year. Furthermore, it was Tax Assessor Elisha Hardison's recommendation to appoint Hugh Kennedy to serve as chairman and Donald White serve as vice-chairman for the 2020 tax year.

The above listed appointments were APPROVED as part of the consent agenda.

Council on Aging, Inc.

The Council of Aging, Inc. recommended the reappointments of Ms. Eliza Waters to the Council on Aging, Inc. Advisory Board. Ms. Waters was appointed to fulfill an unexpired term. This would be her first full term. The term for Ms. Waters would expire February 10, 2022.

Council of Aging bylaws state members can serve only two (2) consecutive terms.

The Board of Commissioners APPROVED the above appointment as part of the consent agenda.

Child Fatality Prevention Team

The Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team requested that the Martin County Board of Commissioners appoint the following individuals to serve on the local Child Fatality Prevention Team, for a one-year commitment with no term limits on time served.

- Law Enforcement Officer – Sheriff Tim Manning or his designee
- EMS/Fire Fighter – Captain Stacey Pippin, Williamston Fire Department
- Parent Representative – Mrs. Jane Pacenta
- Other County Commissioner Appointee – Mr. James Ward, Department of Public Safety
- Other County Commissioner Appointee – Ms. Sandy Rhodes, Center for Family Violence Prevention

Terms would be ongoing until the individual no longer serves, vacates the position or replaced on the board.

The above listed appointments were APPROVED as part of the consent agenda.

Community Child Protection Team

Although the terms for the Community Child Protection Team are ongoing, the Board of Commissioners was asked to appoint/reappoint the following individuals, in an effort to keep the list of appointments current:

- County DSS Director – Letecia Erby
- Law Enforcement Officer – Drew Robinson
- Attorney – Seth Edwards
- School Superintendent – Dr. Chris Mansfield / Clay Wagner, designee
- County Social Services Board – Juanita Brown (was previously Rachel Craddock)
- Mental Health Professional – Hope Eley
- Guardian Ad Litem Coordinator – Michele Benson
- Public Health Director – Wes Gray / Vickey Manning, Designee
- Local Health Care Provider – Kristi Hassell, RN

The above appointments/reappointments were APPROVED as part of the consent agenda.

Choanoke Area Development Association Board

Ms. Callie Northern-Herring's term was due to expire on December 31, 2020, but she has moved outside of Martin County and is no longer eligible to serve that position. Ms. Charmaine Hardison has expressed interest in serving on the CADA Board.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to appoint Ms. Hardison to the CADA Board to fill the unexpired term, which would expire December 31, 2020.

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

MTW District Health Board

Ms. Laurie Irwin-Pinkley, RN had expressed interest in serving in the vacant Registered Nurse position on the MTW District Board of Health. Ms. Irwin-Pinkley was recommended for this position by MTW District Health Department staff.

The appointment was APPROVED as part of the consent agenda.

9. Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Ms. Kim Goodwin introduced several new employees for DSS. She introduced Ms. Keishonda Hughey – Income Maintenance Caseworker, Ms. Latoya Rogers – Data Entry Tech II, and Ms. Miyikia Harris – Income Maintenance Caseworker. Ms. Goodwin also introduced Ms. Deondra Brown who was recently promoted to a Supervisor position.

DSS Deputy Director Frank Halsey introduced Ms. Martha Lewis to the Board at the newest full-time transit driver. Mr. Halsey also stated the transit department was fully staffed.

Sheriff Tim Manning introduced two new employees for the Sheriff's Office. First, Sheriff Manning introduced Ms. Amy Williams, who was the new Shelter Tech at the Animal Shelter. Next, Sheriff Manning introduced Deputy John Kidwell.

Water District Supervisor Ed Warren introduced two new Water System Techs to the Board. Mr. Warren introduced Mr. Joshua Harrell and Mr. Zachary (Cole) Murphy.

The Board welcomed all of the new employees and thanked them all for choosing to work for Martin County.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM

Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Declaring Support for Protection of Second Amendment Rights

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed".

A number of counties in North Carolina had recently adopted resolutions in support of Second Amendment rights.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to consider adoption of a resolution in regards to Second Amendment rights.

The Board was presented a resolution in their agenda packets, but a revised copy was placed at their seats prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adopt the revised version of the resolution "Resolution Declaring Support for the Protection of Second Amendment Rights", with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously. Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard read the resolution aloud for the benefit of the audience present at the meeting.

RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION OF SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the right of the people to keep and bear arms is guaranteed as an individual right under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the right of the people to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty, and property is regarded as an inalienable right of the people of Martin County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Martin County Board of Commissioners, being elected to represent the people of Martin County and being duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate and Governor, being duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the people of Martin County, North Carolina do hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the rights of the people to keep and bear arms and consider such laws to be unconstitutional and beyond Legislative authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Martin County Board of Commissioners hereby express its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Martin County and that public funds, resources, employees, buildings or offices not be used to restrict Second Amendment rights or to aid or assist in the enforcement of the unnecessary or unconstitutional restriction of the rights under the Second Amendment of the citizens of Martin County to keep and bear arms.

Adopted this 12th day of February, 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

Cloudwyze Presentation about Its Intent to Apply for a GREAT Grant to Improve Internet Access in Martin County

Martin County EDC President Jason Semple introduced Mr. Chris Utesch and Mr. Adrian Wilson to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Wilson reinforced the goal of Cloudwyze was to provide high speed internet access to Martin County, especially those areas that have been unserved or underserved. High speed internet access supports education, telemedicine, and commerce.

CloudWyze is a company that has been delivering internet to the greater Wilmington, NC area since 2014. The company's internet services are built on a hybrid network that pairs fiber with fixed wireless systems. This enables the company to offer outstanding internet at a more reasonable investment and makes the opportunity to upgrade easier when technology advancements are available. Fixed wireless internet has low latency versus satellite internet and offers a good solution in rural areas.

Cloudwyze intended to apply for a Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant to expand internet access in Martin County. The company had current projects already underway in Nash and Halifax counties, with the company receiving a GREAT grant for the Halifax project in the previous funding cycle.

The GREAT grant funds eligible projects in economically distressed Tier One counties. The GREAT program is designed to expedite the terrestrial deployment of broadband within unserved areas of Tier One counties, with transmission speeds of at least 10 Mbps download, and at least one Mbps upload.

The company developed a survey to get information about broadband needs. The survey responses would help support the GREAT application. The survey was available online. Mr. Chris Utesch highlighted the methods Cloudwyze was using to identify the specific areas that were unserved or

underserved for high speed internet access in Martin County. Mr. Utesch also spoke about potential community partners such as fire departments.

Grant applications were due March 16th, 2020. There was no fiscal match required from Martin County.

Commissioner Smith asked about the maximum number of houses that would be able to be served with the Cloudwyze services. Mr. Utesch stated it was unlimited and explained how the fixed wireless service worked. Commissioner Smith stated the FCC data was not accurate enough to base the need for services on and expressed his concerns about not being able to reach all citizens. Mr. Utesch ensured that all citizens would be able to have access to the internet service.

Commissioner Ayers asked about the range for the service from each satellite. Mr. Utesch stated each satellite had around a 4-mile radius. Ideally, services would be installed on existing infrastructure such as water towers to prevent having to build new costly infrastructure. Commissioner Ayers also asked if there were any data or service caps, Mr. Wilson stated no.

Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns about whether or not the service that was promised would actually be what was received by the citizens of Martin County. Commissioner Smith further stated not much was known about the history of Cloudwyze, and there were other companies that provided similar services. Commissioner Smith stated he was all for trying to get internet access for Martin County, but felt like caution needed to be taken when applying for grants, to be able to maximize on any grant dollars received. Commissioner Smith felt more research was needed, and encouraged the Board to not be concerned with the March 16, 2020 deadline.

County Manager David Bone reinforced no local match was needed; Cloudwyze was just looking for support from Martin County. Commissioner Lilley stated there was a known need in the county for broadband. Since there was no match, Commissioner Lilley felt there was nothing to lose by supporting Cloudwyze's efforts. Commissioner Lilley stated the citizens of Martin County would determine if the services were sufficient.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to support a GREAT grant application from Cloudwyze to improve internet access in Martin County, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. Commissioner Smith stated there would be a lot of competition for the grant, and said Martin County needed to maximize any grant monies received. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

County Manager Bone reiterated the surveys were crucial in gathering supporting information for the GREAT grant for Cloudwyze. The surveys would provide more accurate information and encouraged all citizens to fill out the survey and spread the word about the survey to others in their community.

FY 2020-21 Community Services Block Grant Program – Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc.

The North Carolina Administrative Code [10A NCAC 97C.0111 (b) (1) (A)] requires each Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) grant recipient to submit its Community Anti-Poverty Plan (grant application) to the Board of Commissioners in each of the counties it serves.

For FY 2020-21, the grant total amount requested is \$428,745 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for all counties in the CADA service area.

Although a presentation was not mandated, CADA asked to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the FY 2020-21 Community Services Block Grant Program at the February 12, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Sallie Surface was present to report the FY 2020-21 CSBG work plan. Ms. Surface stated the main focus of the work plan was to assist family to increase their income to rise above poverty guidelines. This year, Ms. Surface reported that based on the allocation from Martin County, there was an increase in funding of \$11,569. However, the total amount was still small overall (\$59,587).

Ms. Surface emphasized that census numbers were important regarding funding and revenue. During the past year, Ms. Surface reported 30 families participated in the CSBG program and 10 of those clients gained employment. Ms. Surface stated there was a need for adult financial literacy classes, and CADA was working towards getting a grant to provide that service. Ms. Surface stated the grant application is due to the OEO by February 14, 2020.

No questions or comments from the Board were offered.

Child Fatality Prevention Team

Ms. Vickey Manning, from MTW District Health Department, presented the annual report for the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT). Ms. Manning stated the purposes of the local CFPT were to: 1) identify the causes of child deaths; 2) identify gaps or deficiencies that may exist in order to improve the delivery of services to children and families; and 3) make recommendations for changes and carry out changes that could prevent future child fatalities.

Ms. Manning recalled the mission of the CFPT was to review the deaths of children, ages 0-17 years, that were not due to suspected abuse or neglect and about which no previous report of abuse or neglect had been made to the county department of social services within the past 12 months. The local CFPT review child deaths due to homicide, suicide, fires, illness, prematurity and perinatal cause, among others, and search for ways to prevent child deaths.

Ms. Manning stated local CFPTs make recommendations related to any issues that may have contributed to the deaths, with the hope of preventing future fatalities. Those recommendations were then sent to the State Child Fatality Prevention Team coordinator who shares that information with the NC Child Fatality Task Force.

The Martin County CFPT meets at least four times per year. During those meetings, team members review child fatalities that occurred the previous year, determine if there were any system problems that caused or contributed to the fatality, make any recommendations or develop action plans to address the area of concern. Team members also review hospital discharge data relating to children from ages birth to 17 years of age.

The Martin County CFPT met four times during 2019. One fatality was reviewed in the March 2019 meeting; extreme prematurity with no systems issues identified. Two other cases were

scheduled to be reviewed at the November 2019 meeting, but that had to be postponed due to a delay in receiving medical records. Both of those children were less than 15 days old.

Ms. Manning stated the Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team, in conjunction with the Child Protection Team, participated in the Blue Ribbon Campaign in April 2019 and a bubble release held in October 2019.

Ms. Manning stated Wes Gray asked her to provide an update on flu cases in North Carolina, as he was asked to do that in Washington County. A copy of the report with the most updated information was provided to each Commissioner.

Annual Community Child Protection Team Report

An annual report of the CCPT is mandated by G.S. 7B-1406. This presentation involves the annual report for the 2019 calendar year. A copy of the written report was provided to each Commissioner. As Chair of the Martin County Community Child Protection Team, DSS Social Worker Supervisor Nancy Conner provided an oral presentation of the annual report to the County Commissioners.

The Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) was established by law (General Statute 7B-1406) in May of 1991 as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. The CCPT is an interdisciplinary group of community representatives who meet regularly to promote a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The CCPT is not a Department of Social Services team.

The CCPT Mission Statement is: “Recognizing that child protection is the responsibility of everyone, and responding to child protection needs is more effective before a child is harmed, the Community Child Protection Team, a team composed of agency representatives, child advocates and citizens-at-large, will take action to identify and address gaps of deficiencies in services and resources through the annual report of the Board of County Commissioners, collaboration with community partners, promoting public awareness, and advocating for action that addresses the child protection needs of each county.”

Duties and responsibilities of the Community Child Protection team include reviewing active cases in which abuse, neglect or dependency was substantiated, and identifying where resources may be lacking which as a result affected the outcome of the case. Cases may also be brought for review at the specific request of a team member or the Department of Social Services.

The purposes of these reviews are to identify gaps and deficiencies in community resources; to advocate for system improvements and needed resources; to promote collaboration between agencies; and to inform County Commissioners about actions needed to prevent child abuse, neglect and dependency.

The Martin County CCPT reviewed eight cases in 2019. Some of the contributing factors were mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence (those were the current major factors that were impacting the community). In 2019, Martin County DSS assumed custody of 11 children under the age of 18 (3 due to substance abuse issues, 4 were due to unstable housing/poor living conditions, 2 were physically abused, and 2 were found dependent). In 2018, Martin County DSS

established permanence for 21 children (7 were adopted, 7 received guardianship with a family member, 2 received permanence with foster parents, 3 were returned to their parents, and 2 were relocated to another state with family).

In 2019, Martin County DSS received 261 Child Protective Service reports; 190 were screened in and investigated. In December 2019, 33 children remained in foster care. 30% of the children in foster care were 5 years and younger, 27% were age 6 through 12, 34% were teenagers and 9% were 18 years old.

In April 2019, Martin County CCPT launched the “Blue Ribbon Campaign”. Also, the team participated in Kids Fest, had a pin wheel garden and passed out pamphlets. In October 2019, the CCPT sponsored a bubble release ceremony. In December 2019, the team assisted in the fourth annual Christmas party for the foster children.

Ms. Conner thanked the Board for their continued support. Ms. Conner stated the team was already coming up with goals for the next year. Ms. Conner stated substance abuse/opioid abuse was still a big issue in our community. Ms. Conner stated a detox unit was definitely needed in Martin County, and hoped that one day that would happen. Chairman Bowen stated a detox unit had been discussed in the past, but the cost to open and operate a detox unit was very high.

OLD BUSINESS

Spec Building for NC Rail & Commerce Park

Martin County EDC President Jason Semple was present along with Mr. Eddie Stocks from the Edgecombe-Martin Electric Membership Corporation to provide additional information to the Board of Commissioners regarding a proposed spec building in the NC Rail & Commerce Park. President Semple provided information regarding current spec and shell buildings that were listed on various website listings across the state. Also included was data regarding various projects and building demands. President Semple stated he was available to provide any other additional information and answer any questions regarding a possible spec building.

Commissioner Lilley verified the lot that would potentially be used. Commissioners Lilley asked if that particular lot would limit a potential tenant in expansion efforts. President Semple stated the lot in question was limited to about 30,000 sq. ft. total. The idea would be to take 10,000 sq. ft. segments and to have multiple tenants, or that space could serve as expansion space for one tenant.

Commissioner Smith spoke about companies and expansion efforts in other parts of the state and reiterated the importance of making wise decisions about what goes in the NC Rail & Commerce Park. Commissioner Smith stated Martin County had a very valuable asset in the NC Rail & Commerce Park. Commissioner Smith stated careful consideration was needed before deciding to sell or take up land that could never be gotten back. President Semple agreed with Commissioner Smith’s comments. He stated that asset was created by Martin County, and there was much potential for growth. President Semple reiterated the decision to not place this potential building on a rail site, so those sites could be available for larger companies that needed rail access that may come in the future.

Mr. Eddie Stocks shared a project in Edgecombe County that began many years ago and had lots of money and time invested. Mr. Stocks stated bringing in one large industry causes a county to have “all of its eggs in one basket”. Mr. Stocks stated the small assets in the NC Rail & Commerce Park brought the potential to bring in multiple smaller employers and the potential for future growth.

Mr. Stocks voiced his support for President Semple and the EDC’s concept of smaller spec/shell buildings for the NC Rail & Commerce Park. Mr. Stocks stated Mr. Vann Rogerson with NC East Alliance had a good pipeline for some foreign companies that were looking for space in the United States and had established a good rapport with these companies. The current interest was from South Africa and Australia, and Mr. Stocks stated there was a need for 10,000-20,000 sq. ft. buildings. Even though 50,000 sq. ft. was the ideal size, there was a lack of good quality smaller buildings available for companies in which to invest. Mr. Stocks spoke of the success with the Weitron building.

Vice Chairman Bond voiced his concerns that companies would not want to locate in Martin County until the school system is improved. Vice Chairman Bond stated with the jobs becoming available in Edgecombe County, Martin County needed to focus on preparing our citizens for those jobs. In the meantime, Vice Chairman Bond stated there needed to be emphasis on repairing the school system and stated the need for an early college in Martin County.

Commissioner Lilley echoed the comments of Vice Chairman Bond, stating the issue of the failing school system did need to be addressed. Mr. Stocks stated workforce was an issue in Edgecombe County, as well. Along with repairing the workforce, Mr. Stocks stated emphasis needed to be placed on improving the local tax base; Commissioner Ayers agreed with this comment.

Update on Standalone Website for the NC Rail & Commerce Park

EDC President Jason Semple showed a brief update of the new website for the NC Rail & Commerce Park that was anticipated to be fully functional by March 2020. President Semple highlighted a few of the features that would be available on the new website.

NEW BUSINESS

Banking Services

County Manager Bone stated Martin County’s current banking relationship with PNC/Centura dated back to 2000. For a number of years, Martin County enjoyed a relationship that did not require the County to pay banking fees, and Martin County earned a small amount of interest on its deposits.

The banking industry changed to more of a fee-based system, and Martin County was notified in 2014 that PNC would not renew the banking contract that was not based on fees.

In 2014, the County sought informal bids from local banks and received responses from PNC, First Citizens Bank and Wells Fargo. Based on the proposed monthly fees, Martin County kept its banking business with PNC. County staff recommended putting the County’s banking business

out for bid approximately every five years. In late 2019, Martin County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for banking services.

On January 24, 2020, staff received proposals from the five banks listed below and scored them based on criteria set forth in the RFP.

<u>Bank</u>	<u>Score</u>
Branch Bank & Trust	86
First Citizens Bank	70
First National Bank	82
PNC	89
Southern Bank	66

County Manager Bone stated the banks with the highest three scores made presentations to County staff on February 10, 2020. Each of the banks demonstrated their online banking platform and answered questions regarding procedures and reporting.

Staff recommended the County continues their banking relationship with PNC. PNC was meeting the needs of the County, while continually assisting the County with new opportunities for enhanced efficiencies and technological enhancement to our processes.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to continue the County's banking with PNC, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

2019 NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

Martin County, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Mid-East Rural Planning Organization, worked for several years on developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the community. The CTP is a long-range, multi-modal plan that identifies the future transportation system needs and includes highways, public transportation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian facilities needed to serve the anticipated travel demand. The CTP includes community consensus on future transportation needs required to support anticipated growth and development. The CTP has a 25-30 year time span and is not fiscally constrained. The Martin County CTP was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on July 11, 2018.

Currently, the only Bike or Pedestrian Plan in Martin County was the Town of Williamston's Pedestrian Plan. The development of a Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Martin County would be a good follow-up to the Martin County CTP.

A Bike and Pedestrian Plan would allow the county to evaluate opportunities to develop project proposals that could then be submitted to the NCDOT for funding consideration.

Martin County applied for a Bike or Pedestrian Planning grant in 2018 but was unsuccessful. In 2019, the Mid-East Commission has offered to assist Martin County with a Bike and Pedestrian Plan, if a grant is received. The Town of Williamston and its Planning Department would also support this effort.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners approved the submission of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning grant in August of 2019. Martin County recently received notification of a grant award for up to \$48,000 (requires a local match of \$12,000).

Martin County may start to assemble / invite individuals to join the Steering Committee for the planning process. This committee would guide the plan's development and vet the ideas and priorities of the plan. For the Steering Committee, NCDOT suggests having broad representation from various cross sections of the community.

In the near future, NCDOT would assign a consultant to assist Martin County with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

County Manger stated once the County moved forward, broad representation would be sought from throughout the county to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the grant agreement for the NC Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant program, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Request to NCDOT to Add the Construction of a New Road between the NC Rail & Commerce Park and Martin County Airport to the NC STIP

The N.C. Department of Transportation's transportation plan – called the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – identifies the construction funding and schedule for state transportation projects over a 10-year period. NCDOT updates the STIP approximately every two years.

The data-driven process to update the STIP is called “Strategic Prioritization”. The current cycle to update the STIP for the years 2023-2032 is called Prioritization 6.0 or P6.0. It started in the fall of 2019 when NCDOT divisions and local planning organizations gather public feedback on projects, which will then be submitted for evaluation and scoring.

NCDOT wanted to hear from the community about what projects we would like to see included in the next NCDOT 10-year transportation plan for 2023-2032. In the coming weeks, each of NCDOT's 14 Divisions would submit their new project proposals, which will compete with other transportation improvements across the state for funding in the development of the 2023-2032 STIP.

Martin County, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Mid-East Rural Planning Organization, has been working for several years on developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the community. The CTP was adopted in 2018.

The CTP is a long-range, multi-modal plan identifies the future transportation system needs and includes highways, public transportation, rail, bicycle and pedestrian facilities needed to serve the anticipated travel demand throughout the County. Among its primary objectives are the improvement of safety and the reduction of traffic congestion. Surveys were distributed, collected, and used as a resource to gather community input on present and future transportation need, taking into consideration anticipated growth and development.

One of the projects identified in the CTP was an “Airport Road Connector from Twin Bridges Road (SR 1405) to Airport Road (SR 1404)”. The CTP states:

“The primary purpose of project (Local ID No. MART0009-H) is to construct a two-lane minor thoroughfare with 12-foot lanes and 2-foot shoulders on new location that connects Twin Bridges Road (SR 1405) and Airport Road (SR 1404). This north-south connection will enhance system linkage, and improve mobility in this area of Martin County on Everetts Road (SR 1138), and Robersonville Products Road (SR 1159).

The secondary purpose of project (Local ID No. MART0010-H) is to provide a second form of ingress and egress for the Industrial Park on Twin Bridges Road. Past flooding has cut off access to the Industrial Park, which is currently accessible from Main Street (US 64 ALT). A secondary form of egress would enhance the infrastructure and allow for supplies during natural disasters to be delivered to the Martin County Airport. The developed Industrial Park is located near the concept. In addition, having a second form of egress that is elevated would allow vehicles to leave the area without going through a flooded road. The proposed facility would be approximately 1.44 miles long. It would provide access to the Industrial Park, and some residential properties.”

The industrial park has recently been rebranded as the “NC Rail & Commerce Park”.

The Board of Commissioners was asked approve the submittal of this project for consideration in NCDOT’s 2023-2032 STIP development process.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the submittal of the project for consideration in NCDOT’s 2023-2032 STIP development process, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment #13

Finance Director Cindy Ange stated the Martin County Water District #2 100-HP well pump at Ed’s Grocery Road was struck by lightning in July 2019. The motor on the pump was inoperable and had to be lifted from the building, transported to a motor shop to be rebuilt and reinstalled into the building. The cost was \$11, 416.69. The County received insurance proceeds for the cost, minus the \$1,000 deductible.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #13, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-13

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 Water District #2, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Operations		
Maintenance	\$ 10,417	

This will result in an increase of \$10,417 in the expenditures of Water District #2. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Miscellaneous	\$ 10,417
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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 #14

Finance Director Cindy Ange stated Hurricane Dorian hit Martin County in September 2019, and the County experienced power surges that damaged the phone system and several HVAC units. Insurance proceeds from this event would cover the cost of \$28,843 (minus the deductible of \$1,000) to replace or repair these units.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #14, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-14

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		
Emergency Mgmt	\$ 6,085	
General Government		
Buildings	\$ 21,758	

This will result in an increase of \$27,843 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Insurance Proceeds	\$ 27,843
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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 #15

Finance Officer Cindy Ange stated Martin County Emergency Management received a \$7,500 grant from NC Department of Public Safety to hold an active shooter drill at South Creek Middle School. Martin County Schools, Martin County Sheriff's Office, Robersonville Police Department, Robersonville Fire and Rescue, Williamston Police Department, Williamston Fire and Rescue, and Martin County Emergency Management participated in the day-long drill.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #14, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-15

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		
Emergency Mgmt	\$ 7,500	

This will result in an increase of \$7,500 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Emergency Mgmt Grant	\$ 7,500
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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 #16

Finance Office Cindy Ange recalled Martin County had been awarded a Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning grant from the NC Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan. The plan would allow the county to evaluate opportunities to develop project proposals for future NCDOT funding consideration.

The total budget for the plan project was \$60,000. NCDOT was providing \$48,000, and the county was responsible for the remaining \$12,000.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #16, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith stated he and Vice Chairman Bond went to the Opportunity Now summit in Charlotte on February 7, 2020 and learned more about opportunity zones throughout the state.

Commissioner Smith stated there were monies available for small business across the state, as well.

CLOSED SESSION – NC G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege and NC G. S. 143-318(a)(6) Personnel

At 8:57 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to enter a closed session pursuant to NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege and NC G.S 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

At 9:48 p.m., Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to go out of closed session, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. 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 Commissioner Smith. Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board