

January 5, 2021

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in the Commissioners' Boardroom and electronically, 305 E. Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Present in the Commissioners' Boardroom: Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner David "Skip" Gurganus, Interim County Manager Cindy Ange, County Attorney Richard James and Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard.

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

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

Commissioner Smith welcome everyone participating in person and virtually.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Grant Agreement and Funding Approval

Interim County Manager Cindy Ange highlighted the processes Martin County took to apply for the CDBG-CV grant. Interim County Manager Ange reviewed the funds would be used to assist Martin County residents with 6 months of emergency funds for rent and utilities assistance due to hardships caused by COVID-19.

Once the grant agreement was executed, Martin County would issue a Request for Proposals to establish a contract with an experienced CDBG Grant Administrator consultant, which would provide technical assistance to CADA for the income verification requirements.

Assistance payments and number of households assisted were contingent upon: 1) eligibility determination from NC Commerce, 2) income verification of each household, and 3) verification of no duplication of benefits.

A cap would be established for each household in order to provide assistance to as many households as possible, with more assistance intended for very low- and low- income households than moderate-income households.

Chairman Smith stated all of the Commissioners had received numerous phone calls from constituents inquiring on the status of the grant funds. Chairman Smith stated the announcement about the county receiving the grant was back on October 16, 2020, and he recognized the length of time that had passed between that announcement and this meeting and the amount of citizens

that were counting on these funds. Chairman Smith explained that unfortunately, there were additional steps and a process that had to be followed before these funds could be dispersed. Although there was an ongoing process, staff would work to expedite the process as quickly as possible. Chairman Smith encouraged landlords and mortgage companies to continue to be patient as staff worked through the process.

Vice Chairman Bond stated he had also received numerous phone calls regarding the funds. He reiterated that citizens would just need to wait until the process is complete and apply through the appropriate agency.

Commissioner Gurganus asked if there would be a public announcement to let the public know when funds would be available. Chairman Smith ensured staff would keep the public informed regarding the process and when citizens would be able to apply, stating, "We are all in this together". Chairman Smith encouraged citizens to continue calling, and staff would keep citizens informed.

Commissioner Biggs stated she had received phone calls and communication from citizens regarding the availability of funds. She agreed that there should be a process to keep citizens informed and staff should make it known when funds would be available.

Commissioner Ayers agreed that the information should be made public when the time comes.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve the CDBG-CV documents as well as approve the CDBG-CV RFP for Grant Program Management Services, with a Second from Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:18 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to enter a closed session, pursuant to NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

At 8:21 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to go out of closed session, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus.

Building Reuse Grant Application and Resolution for Support for Project Shoelace / Approval of Mid-East Commission as Grant Administrator

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to approve the Building Reuse Grant Application and Resolution for Support for Project Shoelace / Approval of Mid-East Commission as grant administrator, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to adjourn, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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

Ronnie Smith, Chair

Jessica Godard, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board