

April 12, 2023

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7:02 p.m. in the Commissioner’s Boardroom at the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Present in the Boardroom: Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond Jr. Commissioner Joe. R. Ayers, Commissioner Emily Biggs, and Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus, County Manager U. James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia S. Rease, County Attorney Benjamin Eisner, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Others Present: Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass, Mayor Ervin Williams of Hamilton, and Town of Hamilton Commissioner Larry Jackson

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Gurganus provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to all in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Smith asked that the Public Hearing take place after the Introduction of New Employees. Chairman Smith also asked that the first presentation was moved to the second presentation slot and the second listed presentation moved to the first presentation slot.

Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to approve the Agenda as stated, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

Chairman Smith extended the invitation to make a public comment. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Biggs with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

1. Minute Approval

- February 8, 2023 Regular
- February 8, 2023 Closed
- March 8, 2023 Regular
- March 15, 2023 Special

2. Financial Report – March 2023

3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Request – March 2023 - \$0.00

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – March 2023 – \$ 974.58

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2022	Bennett	Jerome Calvin	Out of County	\$1,926.00	\$18.54
2022	Gurganus	Roger Moses	Double Listed	\$28,390.00	\$286.54
2022	House	Ronnie Lee	Out of County	\$1,900.00	\$17.77
2019	Rawls	Robert Chase	Sold Vehicle	\$500.00	\$4.79
2020	Rawls	Robert Chase	Sold Vehicle	\$500.00	\$4.79
2021	Rawls	Robert Chase	Sold Vehicle	\$500.00	\$4.79
2022	Rawls	Robert Chase	Sold Vehicle	\$500.00	\$4.85
2019	Turlington	Benjamin	Out of County	\$2,124.00	\$18.92
2020	Turlington	Benjamin	Out of County	\$2,039.00	\$18.17
2021	Turlington	Benjamin	Out of County	\$1,957.00	\$17.44
2022	Turlington	Benjamin	Out of County	\$1,957.00	\$17.44
2017	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$3,300.00	\$30.32
2018	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$3,300.00	\$30.32
2019	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$3,168.00	\$30.50
2020	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$3,041.00	\$29.27
2021	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$3,041.00	\$29.27
2022	Williams	Eddie Nicholus Jr.	Out of County	\$2,530.00	\$24.34
2021	Woolard	Michael Glenn	Error in Listing	\$23,942.00	\$386.52
		Total Real & Personal Releases			\$974.58
None	None	None	None	None	None
		Total VTS Refunds			\$0.00
Total Tax Relief Orders					\$576.36

5. Tax Collector’s Report – September 2022

	Category	March	3 -21 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$23,452.63	\$119,606.25
Personal Property	25	\$3,184.83	\$10,954.81
Total		\$26,637.46	\$130,561.06
Motor Vehicle	30	\$36.84	\$115.50
Total MV		\$36.84	\$115.50
All Total		\$26,674.30	\$130,676.56

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Animal Control Appeal Board Commissioner Vacancy

The Animal Control Board follows the Martin County ordinance that calls for the Animal Control Board to hear appeals regarding dogs being declared potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious. All board terms were due to expire at the end of April 2023 and all terms were recommended for reappointment until April 2025. The members were listed as:

- Dempsey Bond Jr.
- Tonya Leggett
- Steve Smith
- Ronnie Smith
- Lawrence Rawls
- Dr. Gordon Rahmes
- Dr. Ben Shelton
- Wayne Peel

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the Consent Agenda.

Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee

Section V-A.1 of the Development of the County Funding Plan for the Home & Community Care Block Grant states that it is the responsibility of the County Board of Commissioners to annually designate an agency or office within the county with the lead responsibility for planning and coordination of the County funding Plan.

The Martin County Adult & Aging Services Department continues to do a great job serving as the lead agency. Section V-A.2 lists the appointment of a committee to serve as a Block Grant Advisory Committee to the lead agency for planning and coordination in the development of the County Funding Plan as a responsibility of the County Commissioners. Those individuals recommended for appointment/reappointment were:

- Barney Conway
- Jerry McCrary
- Lula Council
- Eliza Waters
- Vickey Manning
- Joseph Williams
- David “Skip” Gurganus
- Annette Eubanks, Director

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Department of Public Safety Office Space Lease Agreement

The mission of Community Corrections is to protect the safety of citizens in communities throughout the state by providing viable alternatives and meaningful supervision to offenders on probation, parole or post-release supervision. The primary goal of Community Corrections is to reach an equal balance of control and treatment for offenders that will positively affect their behavior and lifestyle patterns. Probation /parole officers protect the public safety by helping offenders learn to live within the law. They supervise offenders' activities in the community and ensure their compliance with court orders and sanctions. Probation is a period of court-ordered community supervision imposed as an alternative to imprisonment. Post Release Supervision and Parole are forms of supervision in the community after completing a prison sentence.

The NC Department of Public Safety - Juvenile Justice has been utilizing space in the Martin County Governmental Center for a number of years without a lease agreement. NC General Statute § 15-209. Accommodations for probation offices stated:

(a) The county commissioners in each county in which a probation office exists shall provide, in or near the courthouse, suitable office space for those probation officers assigned to the county who have probationary caseloads and their administrative support. This requirement does not include management staff of the Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety, non-probation staff, or other Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety employees.

(b) If a county is unable to provide the space required under subsection (a) of this section for any reason, it may elect to request that the Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety lease space for the probation office and receive reimbursement from the county for the leased space. If a county fails to reimburse the Division for such leased space, the Secretary of Public Safety may request that the Administrative Office of the Courts transfer the unpaid amount to the Division from the county's court and jail facility fee remittances. (1937, c. 132, s. 13; 2009-451, s. 19.19; 2011-145, s. 19.1(h), (i).)

The lease has a three-year term and runs from May 1, 2023-April 31, 2026. The lease payment is \$1.00.

The Board **Approved** this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. Tax Assessor's Review Officer Resolution

Article 2, Chapter 47 -30.2 Of the North Carolina General Statutes requires the Board of Commissioners, of each county, by resolutions, designate by name one or more persons experienced in mapping or land records management to be appointed as a Review Officer to certify the maps or plats presented to the register of deeds as complying with all statutory requirements for recording.

The resolution is as follows:

**MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION APPOINTING REVIEW OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, Article 2 of Chapter 47 (§47-30.2 Review Officer) of the North Carolina General Statutes requires the Board of Commissioners of each county, by resolution, designate by name one or more persons experienced in mapping or land records management to be appointed as a Review Officer to certify the maps or plats presented to the Register of Deeds as complying with all statutory requirements for recording; and **WHEREAS**, the review of statutory requirements is of a technical nature; and

WHEREAS, it appears most efficient for the County of Martin to designate County staff to be appointed or reaffirmed by the Martin County Board of Commissioners to serve as Review Officers, in order to certify each map and plat presented to the Martin County Register of Deeds for recording satisfies the statutory requirements for recording.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Martin County that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. That the following person is recommended to be appointed or reaffirmed by the Martin County Board of Commissioners to serve as Review Officer for all lands within the municipal and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the County of Martin in order to certify each map and plat presented to the Martin County Register of Deeds for recording satisfies the statutory requirements for recording:

Name	Position/Title
Melissa S. Phillips	Tax Assessor
Paulette Bullock	Property Tax Specialist
Erica Davis	Property Tax Specialist
J. Allen Hildebrandt	Real Estate Appraiser

Remove the following from being a review officer:

Name
Hilton Edmondson

Adopted this the 12th day of April, 2023.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

Julia Rease, Clerk to the Board

The Board **Approved** this Item as part of the Consent Agenda

7. Transit Supplemental Vehicle Funding

Martin County Transit budgeted for a 25-foot bus in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023. The original cost of the bus was \$80,250 and would be paid for by North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division (NCDOT-IMD). While waiting for the funding,

the price increased to \$140,000. This additional \$59,750 would be funded by NCDOT-IMD and will not require county funding. An approval from the Board was needed to submit the change into the Fiori/EBS system for the additional \$59,750.00.

8. Clerk Report- *included for informational purposes*

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Department of Social Services - Martin County DSS Director Angela Ellis

Department of Social Services Director Angela Ellis introduced Ms. Raegan Rawls as a new Adult Medicaid Caseworker and stated that Ms. Rawls began on March 7, 2023. Ms. Rawls was reportedly a resident of Martin County. DSS Director Ellis also introduced Ms. Rosalinda Francisco Tima whom began employment on April 1, 2023 as the new Food and Nutrition Services caseworker. Ms. Tima was reportedly a native of Pitt County. DSS Director Ellis stated that both new employees were doing a great job and their supervisors spoke very highly of them.

All Board members welcomed the new workers, thanked them for choosing Martin County, and Commissioner Gurganus commented on the attributes that could be learned from DSS Director Ellis.

Mr. Bennett announced that Ms. Jennifer Rodger was in class and could not attend the meeting.

Cooperative Extension – Interim Director Lisa Smith

Manager Bennett stated Adult & Aging Director Madison Wilkinson asked him if her new employee could attend a department head budget staffing with her and the County Manager. Manager Bennett stated Ms. Breanna Dickerson was ready to begin. Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson reported that she began the first of April, she was eager to learn, and everyone looked forward to Ms. Dickerson being on the team. Ms. Dickerson thanked everyone and stated she was ready to grow in this capacity.

The Board welcomed Ms. Dickerson and thanked her for choosing Martin County.

At 7:12 p.m. Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – 2nd CDBG Public Hearing for the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center Project, and **Seconded** by Commissioner Ayers. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd CDBG Public Hearing for the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center Project

The purpose of the public hearing was to discuss plans to apply for a N.C. Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The public hearing was an opportunity for anyone in attendance to offer comments about the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization grant application for \$550,000. The grant was planned to be used to restore the Hamilton Rosenwald School and create the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center. The matching funds from the Roanoke River Partners totaled \$498,347. The

percentage of project benefit to Low to Moderate Income families was 60.17%, which met the requirements for CDBG funding. Official notice was published in the local newspaper as stated:

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Official notice is hereby given that the Martin County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M or immediately following the routine items of business on the Board's Regular Meeting Agenda. The public hearing will be held in the County Board Room located 305 E. Main Street, Williamston, NC 27892 to discuss plans to apply for a N.C. Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-NR) for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program through the Rural Economic Development Division. All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting and to offer comments.

The grant application is for \$550,000 to restore the Hamilton Rosenwald School and create the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center. The matching funds from the Roanoke River Partners total \$498,347. The percentage of project benefit to Low to Moderate Income families is 60.17% meeting the requirements for CDBG funding.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Julia Rease, County Clerk at (252) 789-4301, 305 E. Main Street, Williamston, NC 27892 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información esta disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase Julia Rease on en contacto Oficina del Administrador del Ciudad al (336) 667-7129, 305 E. Main Street, Williamston, NC 27892 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board

No comments from the public were made during the public hearing.

Commissioner Gurganus acknowledge the work of others that was conducted for the betterment of the County. Commissioner Gurganus commented on the efforts made by Mayor of Bear Grass Charlotte Griffin stating that there was not anyone who had worked harder or done as much as she. Commissioner Gurganus thanked Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass and everyone that helped her with the money projects she was involved in.

At 7:14 p.m. Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Exit Public Hearing – 2nd CDBG Public Hearing for the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center Project was made by Commissioner Gurganus, and **Seconded** by Commissioner Biggs. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve the Submittal of the 2nd CDBG Grant Application for the Hamilton Rosenwald Roanoke River Center, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PRESENTATION (S)

Emergency Medical Services Report- Scot Brooks, CrisisTEC President

Manager Bennett introduced the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) study conducted by CrisisTEC whom was hired to conduct the study by the Board in September 2022. Manager Bennett reported that a grant from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners paid for the services wherein EMS members, the community, and other factors were surveyed.

CrisisTEC President Scot Brooks introduced himself and his company that specialized in emergency services and public safety training exercises and consulting. Mr. Brooks stated that he had been a North Carolina Paramedic since 1990, he was nationally registered, Critical Care certified, had about 25 years of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) administration experience, and was still working full time for county government managing an EMS system in the central part of the state. Mr. Brooks introduced some of his staff members who all had more than 25 years of experience in the EMS field.

Next, Mr. Brooks discussed processes of the study wherein the County Manager organized an Emergency Medical Services Committee composed of EMS personnel, County Commissioners, and any other medical stakeholders deemed appropriate. Mr. Brooks reported that multiple meetings and visits were conducted with the EMS Committee, EMS Squads, and Sheriff's Office, Medical Director, 911 Communications Director, Martin Community College Director, Neil Emory of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and Fire Chiefs to name a few. Mr. Brooks reported establishing mission, vision, values, and goals in the evaluation process. Mr. Brooks reported visiting, interviewing, and reviewing financial audits, capital expenditure plans, billing and collection processes. Call data was reportedly reviewed to discuss recruitment, retention plans, training and education, ad improvement plans. Employee volunteer satisfaction and customer service satisfaction surveys were given to employees and the community to collect data. Budgets, Salary, and Benefits data from surrounding counties and private providers were compared to those of Martin County. CrisisTEC reportedly created objectives, multiple strategies, and action plans to accomplish goals over the next several years. All of these conducted efforts were compiled into a Martin County Emergency Services Strategic Plan for a five year timeframe.

Administrative Codes & Strategic Goals

Then, Mr. Brooks discussed the North Carolina Administrative Code that stated County Government was responsible for emergency medical services or to choose someone else to provide those services. Mr. Brooks reported that County shall establish the services and ensure the system had a defined geographical service area with a minimum service area of one county. The Administrative Code also stated that the County may have multiple EMS Provider service areas within an EMS system. The highest level of care within any EMS Provider service area shall be available to citizens with that service area 24 hours a day, 7 days a week per the Administrative Code. Mr. Brooks reported that the EMS systems had to work with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services to deliver the level of care explained. Mr. Brooks highlighted a statement from the Administrative Code : "E 911 Dispatch, written policies and procedure, medical direction, permitted ambulances, credentialed personnel, infectious diseases control policy, EMS

Communications system to include online medical direction, and continuing education program” and reported the statement was considered when building the mission of the EMS system. Mr. Brooks stated that the Strategic Goals were to improve patient outcomes via excellent clinical care and compassionate providers; maximize resources and improve processes; resources and systems to meet the needs of the community; recruit retain and develop an effective workforce to provide an efficient cost effective emergency medical services safety net; and to collaborate with the community and healthcare partners to enhance services and improve health and wellbeing of the community. The current structure of the EMS system was reportedly in desperate need for vision, direction, guidance, command and control, and additional financial support. Mr. Brooks stated the call volumes, demand on volunteers, training hours, the requirements for certification and continuing education, overall clinical care, and amount of hours that it takes for a volunteer to maintain certification or credentials continually increased. Mr. Brooks’ reported the increase in the stated factors put a strain on the volunteer system.

Summary of Findings and Strengths

The Summary of Findings was discussed next by Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks reported on the efficiency and the effectiveness of the system as it was not performing at the minimum standards in multiple locations. It was founded that clinical care and overall quality indicators lacked consistency. Mr. Brooks stated that this lack could have placed lives at risk, caused a higher call volume, caused a decline in volunteerism, provided low volunteer employee satisfaction scores, and increased the demand on an already weakened emergency medical service infrastructure. The strengths founded in the study was that the County had a very caring, compassionate group of providers with the hearts to serve. Mr. Brooks stated most providers were volunteers with the highest level of humanitarianism, who are doing their absolute best. It was founded in meeting with Board members that the Board of Commissioners were very supportive of the EMS system and they understood the critical need for an efficient effective public health safety net. The County Manager and the administrative team had a very high standard of quality customer service, and were committed to improving the system. The Medical Director was founded to be very experienced, served the community, and has a vested interest in the clinical care provided. The Community College was also interviewed and was founded to be a valuable committed partner in trying to help educate and keep personnel certified.

Weaknesses in Findings

The first weakness discussed was a lack of EMS System design as the current system was built over many years. Mr. Brooks reported that the system was “pieced together”, which left gaps and unneeded redundancies. This weakness was reported to cause a drain in the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. It was stated that the County had five different EMS providers operating five different EMS systems in five different jurisdictions, which created some serious consistency and uniformity issues. Mr. Brooks founded that the systems did not all operate the same or deliver the same level of care. Volunteerism was listed as a weakness for Martin County, the State, and the Nation as a whole. CrisisTEC conducted a volunteer satisfaction survey in Martin County that resulted in low scores. The source of the low scores reportedly derived from the lack of sufficient salary, wages, benefits, and the system being a training ground. Mr. Brooks explained further that the employees and or volunteers were receiving training paid by Martin County, only to go to another county to begin their career. Coverage areas were reported to be very large, which

created extended response times resulting in a high chance of life threatening conditions. Mr. Brooks found that the EMS agencies were operating on a very thin profit margin; which affected their supplies, equipment maintenance, and or capital expenditure purchases. Mr. Brooks stated that the lack of a system approach eliminated the ability to capitalize on anything like bulk purchases, sharing resources, and eliminating waste. The lack of a system approach had the ability to increase costs for all the providers, the County, and the customers. Mr. Brooks stated the majority of the agencies were providing an acceptable ambulance transport service for the first call within their jurisdiction. The issue occurred when the agencies received more than one call when an ambulance was already out responding to a call. Mr. Brooks reported finding there the agencies did not have a good surge or redundancy plan, the county owned no resources or any EMS related employees. With this being stated, other agencies could be burdened if one of them could not reach an emergency in time.

Community Survey Findings and Demographics of Services

The survey reportedly had good participation it was founded within the community, volunteers, employees, agencies, the Board of Commissioners, and management staff understood that improvement was needed within the EMS system. Based on the survey, EMS agencies within the county were “treading water”. CrisisTEC President Brooks showed the Board a map of the County that displayed call volumes. There were 2-3 areas marked heavenly with calls and the rest of the County displayed scattered calls. Mr. Brooks stated a scattered call volume signified areas that may be hard to cover. Mr. Brooks explained another map that was color coded to categorize the County’ EMS response times. The map showed that the County’s EMS system mainly reached patients within 10-15 minutes, but there was a large portion of the County that could not be reached in that timeframe. From a clinical care standpoint, Mr. Brooks stated seriously ill patients needed a fast response time to prevent mortality. Counties contiguous with Martin County were evaluated in the study by their level of care, population, and size of the County itself. It was reported that all of these counties provided a county wide paramedic level service. Mr. Brooks was not able to verify, but it was believed that Martin County residents were working in the contiguous counties evaluated. CrisisTEC President Brooks stated he contacted the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services and found that Martin County was home to a total of 28 paramedics, 45 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s), 84 Basic EMT, and 20 Emergency Responders. There was reportedly more certified people living in Martin County compared to Mr. Brook’s home county of 100,000 people. Mr. Brooks explained the salary difference of EMS between the County’s current budget to seven contiguous counties. Martin County was ranked as the third lowest in population, second lowest in square miles, and ranked at the bottom in EMS funding according to the current EMS funding formula. Mr. Brooks added that Martin County ranked almost five times lower in EMS funding than Washington County, which had about half the population as Martin County. In EMS Funding per Capita, Martin County ranked the lowest at 50% lower than Pitt County and 10% less than Washington County. There were only 26 responses to the employee/volunteer survey, which was low. Of the participants, almost 62% of those had greater than 10 years of experience, 7% were Paramedics, 65% were Advanced EMTs, 23% were Basic EMT’s, and 42% had considered leaving their current position with their Martin County EMS agency. Mr. Brooks stated the rate of EMS staff considering leaving was due to their responsibilities increasing without compensation, no benefits, the work schedule, funding issues, lack of help, and a lack of motivation. A citizen’s survey was conducted with 174 participants. The

survey showed that 43% of citizens felt the minimum level of care should be of at least a Paramedic, but 85% believed it should be at least an Advanced EMT. When asked about acceptable response times, 12% of participants responded with four minutes, which would be very difficult in a rural community as Martin County. 34% of participants in the survey thought that 15 minutes was appropriate, and 38% responded 10 minutes or less. Mr. Brooks stated this meant around 84% of Martin County residents felt it was appropriate to respond to a call in 10 minutes or less. Of the citizens surveyed, 75% rank the level of Emergency Medical services above average, 77% of those responses received services from Martin County, and almost 45% of those responses thought the billing process was below average .

Phased Recommendation Plan

A plan was constructed for the upcoming budget year and it was recommended that the County support the current volunteer and career agencies with an increased level of financial commitment. Mr. Brooks stated employees needed to be paid better, additional staffing was essential, overnight and weekend stipend pay issues needed to be resolved for volunteers, include all previous recommendations to performance based contracts for agencies and vendors.

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Brooks to explain the performance based contracts further. Mr. Brooks stated if an agency was contracted to conduct services 24 hours, 7 days a week, they would receive the funding if they completed the tasks. Mr. Brooks stated if an agency did not complete services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, they would not receive the funding.

CrisisTEC President Brooks recommended countywide first responder system, wherein law enforcement and fire departments take additional training to allow them to first respond on some calls. CrisisTEC President Brooks reported that Martin County had Emergency Medical Dispatch system, which meant that Telecommunicators could triage an emergency from a call. Mr. Brooks recommended the Board to keep a relationship with the Medical Director as he was very involved and was a great asset. Mr. Brooks suggested the Board discuss merging systems between Hamilton EMS and Oak City EMS. CrisisTEC President Brooks reported that these two systems were in two different jurisdictions that were fairly close together. The merging of the Hamilton and Oak City systems was reported to increase the efficiency of those agencies. From there, a plan could be implemented to provide a county wide Advanced EMT and or Paramedic level now.

Sheriff Tim Manning stated that the Sheriff's Office were already receiving the training needed to first respond during an emergency.

Commissioner Gurganus asked Mr. Brooks to describe the difference between an Advanced EMT and the Paramedic skillsets. Mr. Brooks responded that a Basic EMT's skill set was basic and included performing first aid, apply bandages, CPR, and operate an automated external defibrillator to be able to shock the heart in certain cases. The Advanced EMT was explained to perform IVs, give fluids, they had a limited amount of medications that they could treat a patient with and they could perform an advanced airway if someone was not breathing. Mr. Brooks added that an advanced airway involved putting a tube down a person's throat, which was not a small deal. A paramedic was described to have an expanded scope and Paramedics in the state of North Carolina carried about 60 Plus medications. Mr. Brooks stated that Paramedics had advanced skills

like inflating lungs by inserting a needle into the chest, inserting needles in a bone to give fluids (interosseous), restart a heart by shocking it, slow down or speed the heart up with a defibrillator, and etc. Mr. Brooks added that a Paramedic could provide the same level of care as an emergency department does, except they didn't perform X-rays or lab work. CrisisTEC President Brooks reported in a rural community as Martin County, a Paramedic could save someone in a critical condition that lived on the further ends of the County. Mr. Brooks reiterated that the County had a lot of distance from the EMS stations and the far corners of the County. Mr. Brooks stated that the County had a lot of Paramedics living in the County and needed to find a way to get them to work in the County.

Commissioner Gurganus asked what was expected in paying a Paramedic versus an Advanced EMT. Mr. Brooks responded that there was a median difference of \$10,000 and as low as \$6,000. Mr. Brooks stated the highest difference in pay was a maximum of \$14,000. Mr. Brooks stated that the County needed to pay higher salaries than the surrounding counties to obtain Paramedics. Mr. Brooks stated that the County could benefit from having an Advanced Life Support Quick Response Vehicles (QRV). The QRV's could be a retired deputy's vehicle, a pickup truck with a camper shell on the back, or mini ambulances. The QRV's could be used by a clinical provider and it could be based in an area of the County that did not have proper coverage. In this case, the provider could be a first responder to an emergency until an ambulance arrived or they could transport the patient. It was suggested to use the QRV's in the Hamilton and Griffin's Fire District to cover the southern part of the County. Response times, primary coverage, and backup coverage would reportedly improve. This method of service was called the Dynamic Response Model as the vehicles could move around where they're needed and the model could be phased in based on priorities or needs.

Chairman Smith asked how many people could be in a QRV on average. Mr. Brooks responded that one person could operate a QRV. Mr. Brooks explained that the provider operating the QRV would take care of a patient, until an agency arrived. If the agency picking the patient up, did not have the proper certification for the patient, the QRV provider would go with the patient in the ambulance. If the agency and or ambulance did have providers with the proper certification, the QRV provider would return to their base to wait for another call.

CrisisTEC President Brooks continue to recommend the Board to focus on volunteer/employee recruitment and retention in 2024- 2025. Mr. Brooks stated that the Board could begin providing some additional care in unpredicted unprotected areas of the county with the QRV's. Mr. Brooks then recommended appointing or choosing a person to lead the QRV providers, whether they're a chief, supervisor, manager, or director. Mr. Brooks stated that this person chosen could work for the County's emergency services department and the Board could choose to make the team their own division or department. Mr. Brooks stated that the County would need eight personnel to operate the QRV's and to increase salaries/benefits to retain them from leaving the County.

In 2025 – 2026, it was recommended that the County focus on partnering with the Community College to be very active in the initial certification courses. Mr. Brooks stated that the County needed to have a vested interest. This was recommended due to Martin Community College training people that would go to another County to work. The CrisisTEC President recommended

managing the continuing education program based on the medical directors' continuous quality improvement model; construct a bulk purchase agreement in each agency to capitalize on higher quality or quantity cost savings, invoke change in the EMS agency billing practices to provide consistency across all jurisdictions; develop county wide policies and pervade procedures to provide that consistency across all jurisdictions; and incorporate some of the latest technology to help in scheduling communications information sharing, situational awareness, and common operating picture. In the future, it was recommended to partner with other health care providers such as public health, hospice, home health care agencies, and even offer a community paramedic program. Mr. Brooks stated that a community Paramedic Program was more of a wellness based preventative care.

Financial Overview and Budget

CrisisTEC President Brooks gave a financial overview of all recommendations presented. County Manager Bennett asked if the plan could be phased over a few years and the estimated budget would be around \$2.5 million. Mr. Brooks benchmarked the recommended budget to the current budgets of the surrounding counties and it resulted in Martin County having balance in comparison to the other counties. Mr. Brooks stated that the recommendations should be followed as the issue would only get worst. Mr. Brooks stated that this issues needed immediate action.

CrisisTEC President Brooks shared his condolences and gave positive comments for Mr. Butch Beach, the former Edgecombe Fire Chief and former Oak City Fire/EMS Squad member whom passed recently.

Questions and Answers

Manager Bennett thanked CrisisTEC for their services. Manager Bennett asked if Opioid Settlement funding was used for the QRV's in Mr. Brooks travels to other counties. Mr. Brooks stated that there were other counties that used Opioid Settlement funding for equipment and vehicles. Mr. Brooks stated that he had not seen Opioid Settlement Funding for personnel cost, but he could give Manager Bennett contacts for more information on this subject.

Commissioner Gurganus thanked Mr. Brooks and his team for their services. Commissioner Gurganus stated that he did not remember how the issue came up, but everyone agreed that a professional survey done by an unbiased party was needed to see what the real issues were.

Commissioner Ayers mentioned Mr. Brooks making positive comments regarding the County Medical Director that he agreed with. Commissioner Ayers asked Mr. Brooks how much of the policies and procedures were discussed with the Medical Director and if the Medical Director had any input in them. Mr. Brooks stated that the Medical Director did discuss his goals, vision for clinical care, response times, and some of the things that he wanted to get accomplished. Mr. Brooks stated that the Medical Director was very quality oriented, involved, and wanted better service to provide a better level of service to the citizens.

Manager Bennett referred to a budget sheet that showed an expenditure cost of \$1.8 million for the first year (2023-2024) of the recommended phased plan. Manager Bennett asked if the vehicles were included as well as the personnel costs. CrisisTEC President stated that the personnel costs

would not be included in the first year of expenditures. Mr. Brooks added that this was due to the first year expenditures needing to be obtained to gear up for the second year expenditures. Manager Bennett asked if the QRV's were new particularly in a startup. Mr. Brooks stated no and reiterated the types of vehicles that could be used. Mr. Brooks recommended the "crawl before walking method" to buy used vehicles until the County could afford new ones.

Manager Bennett and Mr. Brooks made positive comments regarding Building Inspector/Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin regarding his efforts to help and participation. Manager Bennett asked if Mr. Brooks and the CrisisTEC team could be contacted during the process of conducting the recommended plan.

Chairman Smith made positive comments regarding CrisisTEC team and their services. Chairman Smith stated that the services provided were well worth the funding to hire the team. Chairman Smith thanked the CrisisTEC team.

Cloudwyze Installation Update – Kyle Lefelhoc, Outside Plant Vice President

Manager Bennett stated that the Board discussed receiving periodic updates from the CloudWyze Broadband Company in the November 14, 2022 regular Board meeting. Manager Bennett stated that some Board members inquired about the periodic updates and Manager Bennett asked Cloudwyze to present their update.

Mr. Lefelhoc introduced himself and Cloudwyze COO, Marty McDermott. Mr. Lefelhoc stated there were three main projects or processes that they had been working on which were the Williamston build out system, the grant of 2020, and the grant of 2022. Mr. Lefelhoc stated he was getting a common question of why they were building out Broadband infrastructure if the Town of Williamston already had it. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that there were deficient areas in the Town of Williamston and these areas were part of the grant sponsored areas. From an engineering standpoint, it was reportedly critical to start in Williamston. Mr. Lefelhoc reported having a partnership with MCNC, which was the state fiber provider. MCNC was reported to service schools and different institutions around the state. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that MCNC gave the company the flexibility to install Broadband anywhere from the state. Mr. Lefelhoc added that a customer base was needed to self-fund any additional infrastructure build outs.

Mr. Lefelhoc reported that they began building out Broadband infrastructure in the Town of Williamston first and were 77% complete. The project included 2,000 passing's, therefore a lot of residents would receive high speed internet once the program was started or "was lit". The partnership with MCNC was helping solidify this as Cloudwyze was sharing space in the Martin Community College Campus shelter. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that the project was going good in Williamston besides some weather issues, construction crews needing a certain amount of footage, pressure from investors and management, and locates in the Town of Williamston. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that an 811 ticket was needed for construction areas that required digging. With the amount of crews (8-10 crews) Cloudwyze would like to bring for construction, it overwhelmed the area. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that the company was limited to three crews, which pushed their timeline for construction back 60 days. The next delay in progress was reportedly North Carolina

Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Permitting. Mr. Lefelhoc stated other counties and districts were having the same issues and their permit turnaround ranged from 90-120 days.

Commissioner Gurganus asked about the type of permits being submitted. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that permits were needed to build underneath NCDOT highways, but the issue with permits was due to an escalation of them being submitted to the NCDOT other than Cloudwyze. There were five areas awaiting the approval of permits, which could take roughly 90 days. Commissioner Gurganus asked if it was Martin County permits that had a turnaround of about 90 days and Mr. Lefelhoc agreed. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that the turnaround time had gotten better recently and the company kept contact with NCDOT.

Manager Bennett asked if Cloudwyze could send a list of projects and permits that were sent to NCDOT for approval. Manager Bennett stated that the Town Administrator of Williamston, Eric Pearson, and A NCDOT Representative could be contacted to support the approval of the permits.

Mr. Lefelhoc mentioned the last obstacle, which was Cloudwyze working to get their own easement at the MCNC shelter. The project was delayed when Cloudwyze contacted the company and MCNC thought the town or the state had the road right away. Cloudwyze then went to the town and county before going back and forth to find out who had the right away. It was reported that the area was actually a private right away, Cloudwyze went back to update MCC about the matter, and that they were going to follow MCNC in running conduits. This was reportedly approved by the MCC Board two weeks ago on a preliminary level. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that a legal and grounds crew review was needed in writing, before getting the shelter to the network to start "lighting" customers.

Commissioner Biggs asked if the right aways were permanent or temporary easements. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that the easements would be permanent as long as they were serving the community. If future projects needed to adjust or move the easements made by Cloudwyze, Cloudwyze would have no issue in adjusting. Commissioner Biggs asked how Cloudwyze would go about transferring ownership of the easements. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that the easement would right away would transferred as long as the equipment was working.

Commissioner Gurganus mentioned Mr. Lefelhoc statement that they were 60 days behind in work due to locates and asked if Mr. Lefelhoc was speaking of locating underground services. Mr. Lefelhoc agreed and Commissioner Gurganus asked if this meant the company could not find anyone to conduct the work. Mr. Lefelhoc stated that a third party was hired to help with the work, but the Town had to approve of the locate tickets. It was reiterated that there was a high volume of tickets, but the company and the hired company were going out to locate. Commissioner Gurganus asked if Cloudwyze expected the municipality to conduct the locate work for them or give them documentation of all underground services. Mr. Lefelhoc agreed that this was correct. Commissioner Gurganus asked if Cloudwyze waited around until actually hiring someone to conduct the locates. Mr. Lefelhoc agreed and stated that the company was still working in conjunction with the Town of Williamston. Mr. Lefelhoc added that this project was not the only focus for the Town and they were shorthanded due to other projects. After realizing this, Cloudwyze decided to hire a company to conduct the locates to speed the process up. Mr. Lefelhoc

stated three construction crews was a comfortable sized team at the moment to keep progress going.

Next, Mr. Lefelhoc discussed the Great Grant 2020 that had seven pockets in areas such as Bear Grass, Parmele, and the east of the County. Two of the areas were listed in the Town of Williamston.

Chairman Smith asked if Cloudwyze was using Highway 64 to get to Parmele. Mr. Lefelhoc agreed and stated that there was a line going down Highway 64 to Parmele. Chairman Smith stated that Charter Broadband Company was putting services in from Wilson and was going to continue down Highway 64 to stop before Everetts. Chairman Smith stated that Cloudwyze and Charter could cross lines. Commissioner Gurganus asked similar questions and shared the same concern. Mr. Lefelhoc agreed and stated that he would confirm the work being conducted on Highway 64. Chairman Smith stated his concern was that Cloudwyze could cover the gaps where Charter did not run their lines. Chairman Smith asked that Mr. Lefelhoc confirm the direction of work with Manager Bennett and Mr. Lefelhoc agreed.

A steady discussion was had regarding possible gaps in service and the Cloudwyze COO, Mr. McDermott, stated that Cloudwyze had to work in a phased approach to meet the state regulations of the grant funds. Mr. McDermott stated that the company was doing the exact thing in Martin County as in Nash County and the Board could call to talk to the City or the County. Mr. McDermott explained that the company originally received their great grant funding, were assigned a project, completed the project, met all of the requirements with the state, and then they worked with the city and the county to expand out to the gap areas. Mr. McDermott reported that Cloudwyze had just added 1,500 homes in Nashville over six weeks. Mr. McDermott stated once the company completed a project, they would deliver, and continue to have good business community relations. Mr. McDermott stated the process had to meet the state regulations and they could work with the town and the city.

Mr. Lefelhoc added that the 2020 grant needed to be completed by the end of this year and the current construction crew would be rotated into the next grant project. It was reported that Cloudwyze redesigned some permits due to the MCNC agreement. Mr. Lefelhoc informed the Board that the 2022 Great Grant funding that was awarded to Cloudwyze, would go towards the Hamilton and Oak City area. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that they were waiting on written permission to begin work. Mr. Lefelhoc reported that Cloudwyze submitted some additional information on March 3rd. Mr. Lefelhoc discussed partnering with other counties and that there were broadband committees formed to receive monthly updates and discuss areas of needs. Manager Bennett stated that there was a Broadband Committee formed with the County already that could begin meeting with Cloudwyze.

Commissioner Gurganus asked how long it would take before the Town of Williamston would become “lit” with Broadband services. Mr. Lefelhoc stated 60-90 days if the easement was approved. From there they would need 30 days for construction after the approval of the easement and then they would begin “light testing”. Commissioner Gurganus stated that the public had been

asking about Broadband for a while and their confidence would strengthen once they saw the results.

Mr. Lefelhoc and Mr. McDermott were both thanked as well as their company for the update and work being conducted.

OLD BUSINESS

North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division Rural Grant Programs

County Manager Bennett stated that there was an ongoing discussion to determine whether or not the Jay Group created 22 jobs. Manager Bennett stated that the 22 jobs were a requirement to receive a grant and a progress report was submitted as requested by the Board in a past meeting.

County Attorney Benjamin Eisner was called to the podium to explain the matter further. County Attorney Eisner reported that a 30 day grace period from the Jay Group was requested so the group could meet the requirement of creating 22 jobs. The grace period was accepted and approved by the Board at the last regular meeting. County Attorney Eisner reported that the progress report form was sent from the Jay Group and was supposed to track progress since June 2022. County Attorney Eisner stated that the 30 day grace period was past or was very close to an end.

Chairman Smith stated that the Board and the Mid-East Commission worked with the Jay Group for a while and tried to retrieve any information needed to no avail.

County Manager Bennett reported that Mid East Commission was accepting of the Board closing out the program due to the requirement not being met.

Chairman Smith stated that it was known that the Jay Group did not have the required amount of workers for the grant. Chairman Smith reported this was visible by making observations of activity at the worksite and observing the parking lot that did not have many cars on multiple occasions.

It was reported that Ms. Pat Harris of the Mid East Commission was aware that the Jay Group did not meet their requirement to receive grant funding. County Manager Bennett asked if the Board was willing to pay the partial payment and work with the Mid East Commission. Chairman Smith asked what the recommendation from the Mid-East Commission was. Manager Bennett responded that Ms. Harris only reported that the Jay Group did not create the required number of jobs. Manager Bennett added that Mid-East Commission Harris reported the Jay Group created 8-12 jobs and he could ask the Commission what 8-12 jobs would financially equate to. Manager Bennett stated this estimate could be presented to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Biggs agreed with making a partial payment based on the observations that were made from Chairman Smith and Ms. Harris of the Mid East Commission.

Commissioner agreed with the Board making a partial payment depending on the number of employees that were working. Commissioner Gurganus asked what the risk was or how much money was invested from the County on this matter. Finance Officer Cindy Ange stated that there may have been an administration fee and she did not have the amount of monies at the meeting. Commissioner Gurganus asked Finance Officer Ange to provide the amount of county funding invested in the matter and asked that the amount for the partial payment to be provided as well. Commissioner Gurganus suggested deducting the amount of county funds invested from the partial payment owed to the Mid-East Commission. Commissioner Gurganus stated that the County invested in business and the group did not hold up their end of requirements

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. referred to the Rocky Mount worksite that had at least 100 employees. Vice Chairman Bond Jr. asked if the 12 employees were living in Martin County, but working at the Rocky Mount worksite. Chairman Smith stated that the Jay Group stated some employees would go back and forth between worksites, but it did not appear that anyone worked at the Robersonville site.

Commissioner Ayers stated it sounded like The Jay Group/Project Shoelace may not have been progressing and did not perform. Commissioner Ayers stated that he was not prepared to give the Jay Group a partial payment. In addition, Commissioner Ayers reported the Jay Group may leave the County if they were given a partial payment and was more acceptable of giving the company another extension if legally possible. It was reported that there was nothing contractual stating that Martin County would pay a partial payment at any point, but it did state that the company was supposed to create 22 jobs to receive the grant payment. Commissioner Ayers stated that his mind would change if the observations of the worksite were different. Commissioner Ayers it was a possibility that the Mid East Commission could provide payroll or production record to prove if the Jay Group was progressing.

Chairman Smith agreed. Chairman Smith stated that the grant funds were from the Chamber of Commerce and any actions taken on the matter would have to be approved by them first. Chairman Smith stated that the Chamber of Commerce had a data bank. Chairman Smith recommended Manager Bennett to get the estimates for the partial payment from the Mid-East Commission, share this information with the Board, and then the Board would send their decision to the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Ayers stated that he understood this process and made his previous statements with an asterisk. Commissioner Ayers reported that his point was that he felt the Jay Group did not deserve a payment. Commissioner Gurganus agreed.

Manager Bennett recapped by stating that the matter would be discussed again in the regular May meeting as to what the Mid-East Commission suggest regarding a partial payment. Commissioner Gurganus added that the other option was to not give the Jay Group a payment.

Chairman Smith made comments about observing trucks moving on the worksite from time to time, backed towards an opened door, and it was left there. Commissioner Ayers stated that the

Robersonville worksite may have been a logistics point for the Jay Group to store items from the Rocky Mount worksite. Chairman Smith added that this was still not providing employees to work.

Martin County Economic Development Director (MCEDD) Steve Biggs was present and stated that the Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-East Commission could compare the data that was given from the Jay Group to unemployment benefits and NC 101 forms. Chairman Smith stated that this information was not retrieved from the Jay Group. MC EDD Biggs stated that Ms. Harris attempted to contact the owners of the company by making visits to the worksite in Rocky Mount and Robersonville, conducting phone calls, and only got a response when she sent a letter stating that the grant funds would be in question.

All that presented the matter were thanked for their input.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Manager Bennett reported that Martin County received about \$4.3 million from the ARPA funds. Manager Bennett reported that the Board discussed utilizing the funding for Broadband services and or Water Infrastructure. The Board did not make a decision as of yet, but had to obligate the funding to a project by December 31, 2024. Manager Bennett stated that the funding also required verification, approval, and the chairman's signature on a 1. Conflict of Interest Policy and Exhibits; 2. Nondiscrimination Policy; 3. Records Retention Policy; 4. Allowable Cost Principles Policy; 5. Eligible Use Policy – Project Eligibility Determination and Documentation. Manager Bennett stated that the documents were in the agenda packets and should have been reviewed.

Chairman Smith asked if everyone had reviewed the documents and stated that the documents were standard procedure for the grant funds.

Commissioner Ayers asked if the plans for the funding were still being made. Chairman Smith stated that there was nothing solidified as of yet, but was still ongoing. Manager Bennett stated that the Emergency Medical Services report given in this meeting may be added to the list of plans for the ARPA funding.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve of the ARPA Funding Compliance Policies, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Resolution

Manager Bennett commented that 911 Communications Director Jason Steward had the lowest turnover rate and that the Communications building was a first class operation. Chairman Smith echoed the infrastructure of the Communications facility and stated that the employees were first class as well. The Board was invited to visit the facility.

911 Communications Director Jason Steward stated that the National Public Safety Telecommunicators week was a week set aside in April to recognize the contributions that Telecommunicators provided to the Emergency Services field. Communications Director Steward reported the week of recognition started in 1981 in a California Sheriff's Office and grew popularity across the United States. In 1996, President Clinton signed the executive order marking the first full week in April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators week nationwide.

Communications Director stated Telecommunicators worked 24 hours a day and answered, processed, dispatched, and documented about 40,000 calls per year. These calls came from persons who were sick or injured, citizens requesting law enforcement assistance, fires, traffic accidents, and everything in between. Communications Director stated his staff was trained and able to perform CPR, control bleeding, conduct basic diagnostic tests for strokes and cardiac issues, childbirth, and more. Since 2016, it was reported that two babies were delivered over the phone. Communications Director Steward added that the Communications facility had state of the art technology in effort to provide consistent professional service. It was reported that the Communications Agency was always looking for an opportunity to improve. Since 2017, Communication Director Steward reported 4 of his members were recognized by the State of North Carolina 911 Board for exceptional service. It was reported that this meant that on four occasions since 2017, Martin County Telecommunicators stood out of 3000 other Telecommunicators in the State of North Carolina, answering over 7 million calls per year. Studies reportedly showed that the average career lifespan of a police dispatcher nationwide was around two years and the average tenure in Martin County was around six years. Communications Director Steward stated that this meant Martin County Telecommunicators beat the state average in tenure span, the employees were dedicated, and the employees were committed. Communications Director Steward thanked and showed his appreciation as well as his employees' appreciation for the Board support, the support of the community, and his ability to present the resolution for approval.

Chairman Smith stated that the resolution only designated the first week of April, but the appreciation for Telecommunicators was all year round. Appreciation was expressed to the employees and Communications Director Steward for their work.

RESOLUTION
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
April 9-15, 2023

WHEREAS emergencies can occur at any time that require Law Enforcement, Fire, or Emergency Medical Personnel; and,

WHEREAS when an emergency occurs, the prompt response of Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS the safety of our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who contact the Martin County Communications Center: and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators from the Martin County Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and,

WHEREAS each Telecommunicator has consistently exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during their performance of their job in the past year;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Chair and Board of Commissioners of Martin County North Carolina declares the week of April 9 - April 15, 2023 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Martin County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our Communities and citizens safe.

Motion to Approve of the Resolution Recognizing April 9 - April 15, 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Martin County made by Commissioner Gurganus, with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Outside Agency Presentation Dates

Manager Bennett stated the Board would meet with the Board of Education on April 17th and there were outside agencies (Boys & Girls Club, Mid-East Commission, the Arts Council, etc.) requested to present their budget allocation request. Manager Bennett's asked the Board for dates other than April 17th to hold a meeting for the outer agencies. Chairman Smith suggested that Manager Bennett send dates to the Board to choose from.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. reported historically, the meeting would take place in the next two Wednesday. Commissioner Ayers agreed and stated that he was going to suggest having the meeting on April 19th. Chairman Smith asked Manager Bennett to send various dates to the Board and that the Board would respond with their availability. Manager Bennett agreed and stated that dates for budget workshops were needed as well and could take place in May 2023. Chairman Smith asked if the budget workshops could take place before May 2023 and Manager Bennett agreed.

Manager Bennett reminded the Board of multiple dates for upcoming community events before the Board motioned to go into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION – NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) – Contracts and Agreements.

At 9:25 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to enter Closed Session for NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) – Contracts and Agreements, with a **Second** from Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

At 9:52 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to go out of Closed Session NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) – Contracts and Agreements, with a **Second** from Commissioner Biggs. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

BOARD REPORTS/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to **Approve** the Piner Contract at \$23.00 a parcel, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Chairman Smith stated that he and Vice Chairman Bond Jr. would be traveling next week to a Board Directors meeting for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, at 9:55 pm, Vice Chairman Bond Jr. **Motioned** to adjourn and Commissioner Biggs **Seconded** the motion. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board