

## August 9, 2023 Special - Closed

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session to discuss Closed Session matters, on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, around 9:31 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina. A regular meeting took place in the Superior Courtroom to allow an overflow of audience members to attend the regular meeting in response to the Martin General Hospital Closure. The Closed Session meeting took place in the Commissioners Boardroom.

### ASSEMBLY

Present in the Boardroom: Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Emily Biggs, Commissioner David "Skip" Gurganus (Webex), County Manager U. James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia S. Rease, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

### CLOSED SESSION(S)

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Enter Closed Sessions 1. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3)Attorney-Client Privilege and 2. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5)Real Property Purchase/Contracts/Leases with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Around Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to Exit Closed Sessions 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege and 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (5) – Real Property Purchase/Contracts/Leases, with a **Second** from Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

### BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

County Attorney Benjamin Eisner stated that Qourum Health Partners filed a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy case in Delaware using an Accelerated Bankruptcy Petition, which required at least 13 pages of paperwork to file. County Attorney Eisner stated that there was probably more paperwork that had to be completed in order to file for Bankruptcy. County Attorney Eisner reported that estimated assets, estimated liabilities. The Chapter 7 trustee appointed in Delaware would force the filing of the remaining of the petition, which would provide full exposure of their assets and debts.

Chairman Smith stated that Qourum took all of the cash from the hospital and wanted the Board to sign off on taking their debts, not knowing what those debts were. Chairman Smith stated that there must have been a lot of debt in order for Qourum to file bankruptcy. Chairman Smith stated that everything was in the bankruptcy trustee's hands and as they allowed the Board to take control, the public would be updated. Lastly, Chairman Smith reported that it was understood that the County and Qourum were still in negotiation until there was notification of the bankruptcy filing.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

---

Ronnie Smith, Chairman  
Martin County Board of Commissioners

---

Julia S. Rease  
Clerk to the Board