

**June 14, 2023**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners 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 Rease, County Attorney Benjamin Eisner, Finance Officer Cindy Ange were in attendance.

Elected Officials in Attendance: Town of Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 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**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Ayers stated that Commissioner Gurganus’ name was not listed present in the April 17, 2023 Joint Special Meeting with the Board of Education and the Martin County Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections stated by Commissioner Ayers to the April 17, 2023 meeting, with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

- 1. Minute Approval –**
  - April 12, 2023 Closed
  - April 17, 2023 Special Joint
  - April 26, 2023 Special
  - May 10, 2023 Regular

- 2. Financial Report – May 2023**

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

**4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – May 2023 – \$ 125.51**

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2018	Scott	Sheila	Sold Mobile Home	\$ 2850.00	\$26.97
2019	Scott	Sheila	Sold Mobile Home	\$ 2736.00	\$26.49
2020	Scott	Sheila	Sold Mobile Home	\$ 2627.00	\$25.43
2021	Scott	Sheila	Sold Mobile Home	\$ 2627.00	\$25.43
2022	Scott	Sheila	Sold Mobile Home	\$ 2190.00	\$21.19
		<i>Total Real &amp; Personal Releases</i>			\$125.51
		<i>Total VTS Refunds</i>			\$ 0.00
		<i>Total Tax Relief Orders</i>			\$125.51

**5. Tax Collector’s Report – May 2023**

	<b>Category</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>5 -21 Y-T-D</b>
<b>Real Property</b>	20	\$18,514.09	\$152,734.55
<b>Personal Property</b>	25	\$17,522.21	\$29,594.74
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$36,036.30</b>	<b>\$182,329.29</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	30	\$0.00	\$161.82
<b>Total MV</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$161.82</b>
<b>All Total</b>		<b>\$36,036.30</b>	<b>\$182,491.11</b>

**6. Board Appointments/Reappointments**

**a. Economic Development Corporation**

It was recommended for Mr. Melvin Bowen to be reappointed, which expired on June 30, 2023. If the Board so approved, the reappointment would end on June 30, 2026 as it is a 3 year term.

The above listed reappointments and appointment were **Approved** as part of the Consent agenda.

**b. Jury Commission**

Clerk of Superior Court, Tonya Leggett, recommended that the Board of Commissioners reappoint Ms. Ontra Reddick for a two year term, which would expire June 30, 2025. The current term was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2023.

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

**c. Social Services Board**

On behalf of the Martin County Social Service Board, it was recommended that the Board of Commissioners reappoint Commissioner Emily Biggs for another three-year term, which would expire June 30, 2026. The current term was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2023.

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

**d. Tourism Development Authority**

On the behalf of the Tourism Development Authority, it was recommended that Mr. Vish Pathak, Mr. Fred Harrison, and Mr. Don Torrence complete another three year term. Their current terms end on June 30, 2023 and if reappointed, the new terms will expire on June 30, 2026.

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

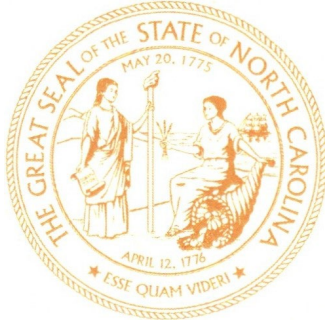
**7. Hamilton Surplus Property**

Martin County Government owned property located in the Hamilton Township. The parcel ID# number was 0900777. The current value at that time was listed as \$4,120.00. There were three methods of disposal: 1. Seal Bids, 2. Negotiated offer and Upset Bid, and 3. Public Auction. Martin County Government chose to utilize the Upset Bid, wherein \$4,300.00 would be set as the price. With this method, a Bidder would place an offer of 10% down (\$430.00). Each upset bid would then place an upset bid in 10% increments and after 10 days from the last bid, if no one upsets that bid. The winning bid would have 30 days to bring in the balance. If they failed to do so, the deposit would be forfeited to Martin County.

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

**8. Executive Order 280 and Older Americans Month Proclamation**

A proclamation from Governor Cooper recognizing May as Older Americans' Month was sent to the Department of Social Services. Director Angela Ellis of the Martin County Department of Social Services (DSS) shared that the proclamation with the County Manager's Office. The proclamation included language on ageism, recognition of advocacy groups, and commitment for building an age-friendly state. Governor Cooper also signed Executive Order 280 on May 2, 2023 to build an age-friendly State and support for Adult Protective Services. DSS Director Ellis also shared a Speak Up, Reach Out event on June 15, 2023 at the EJ Hayes Alumni Center in Williamston, NC. The program was designed to inform the public about abuse amongst older Americans. An approval of the proclamation was recommended.



# State of North Carolina

## ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

### OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2023

#### BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina values the wisdom, experience, and contributions of older Americans and their passion for providing enhanced opportunities for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina continues to be recognized as one of the best states to retire in, and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the number of people aged 65 and older, with one in six North Carolinians aged 65 or older; by 2028, one in five North Carolinians will be 65 or older, and in 20 years, the 65 and older population is projected to increase from 1.7 to 2.7 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, May is recognized as Older Americans Month, and the United States Administration for Community Living has designated the 2023 theme as *Aging Unbound* to offer opportunities to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereo types; and

**WHEREAS**, older adults in North Carolina are a diverse group involved in every aspect of society, including the work force, the educational system, and civic and political engagement; 14 percent of employees in State of North Carolina agencies and universities are age 60 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, ageism, an oppressive form of inequity, is identified as prejudice and discrimination toward others based on age; ageism can have a negative impact on physical and mental health, and can be reduced or eliminated through policies, laws, and educational

activities ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging and the Senior Tar Heel Legislature promote awareness of issues surrounding aging and advocate for older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is committed to building an age-friendly state through a renewed focus on the needs of our rapidly aging population and through cooperative efforts that foster livable communities and improve services and supports ;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2023, as "**OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Roy Cooper*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** , I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol I in Raleigh this second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independent of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

**9. New Road Name Request - Vesper Lane**

Tax Assessor Melissa Phillips submitted a New Road Name Request – Vesper Lane- to be approved by the Board on the behalf of a County resident. The request was reviewed and approved by Martin County E-911 Committee that included the Hamilton Fire Chief and the Emergency Medical Services Squad Captain.

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

**10. Clerk Report- *included for informational purposes***

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)**

Every month, new employees are introduced to the Board of Commissioner’s. The new employees for June were introduced by their department head and are stated as:

*Transit- Office Administrator Frank Halsey*

Mr. Frank Halsey, Transit Office Administrator introduced Mr. James Norfleet started on June 12, 2023, had a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), and retired from the Pitt County School

System. Ms. Melinda Pierce was introduced as the new Transit Specialist, reportedly had Emergency Medical Services (EMS) experience from Martin and Beaufort Counties, and she began her new employment on May 15, 2023. Ms. Robin Spence was introduced as a new Transit Driver with experience from the Pitt County School System. Ms. Spence reportedly obtained her Commercial Driver's License (CDL's) and began her employment on May 17, 2023.

Department of Social Services- Director Angela Ellis

Ms. Kenshsha Biggs was introduced by DSS Director Angela Ellis as a native of Jamesville, NC and a new Food and Nutrition Caseworker. Ms. Biggs began her new employment on June 1, 2023.

Adult & Aging- Director Madison Wilkinson

Adult & Aging Director Madison Wilkinson introduced Ms. Christine Coltrain as the new Event Coordinator and stated that Ms. Coltrain began employment on June 6, 2023. Ms. Coltrain was introduced as a Martin County native and was "all hands on deck" since beginning her new employment.

County Manager U. James Bennett commented on the work completed on the Bargain Shoppe by Ms. Coltrain. County Manager Bennett stated Ms. Coltrain cleaned up the shop, retagged items for sale, and gave it a more retail look.

All new employees were thanked for their work thus far as new employees, choosing Martin County for employment, and were congratulated on their new endeavors. Chairman Smith made a comment regarding the importance of Martin County having 100% employment and no vacancies.

Before moving on an update was given on an employee whom was hospitalized due to illness. A prayer heartfelt prayer was made by Commissioner Gurganus on the behalf of the employee.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance**

At, 7:15 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – 2023 - 2024 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

According to NC General Statutes § 159-12. Filing and publication of the budget; budget hearings: (a) On the same day that he submits the budget to the governing board, the budget officer shall file a copy of it in the office of the clerk to the board where it shall remain available for public inspection until the budget ordinance is adopted. The clerk shall make a copy of the budget available to all news media in the county. He shall also publish a statement that the budget has been submitted to the governing board, and is available for public inspection in the office of the clerk to the board. The statement shall also give notice of the time and place of the budget hearing required by subsection (b) of this section. (b) Before adopting the budget ordinance, the board shall hold a public hearing at which time any persons who wish to be heard on the budget may appear. (1927, c. 146, s. 7; 1955, cc. 698, 724; 1971, c. 780, s. 1; 2020-3, s. 4.27(a).)

County Manager Bennett stated that a balanced budget for the upcoming year (2023-2024) was prepared for the Board and for the public's viewing. County Manager Bennett expressed happiness in the budget appropriations being around \$1.5 thousand, \$ 35 million, and a \$ 700,000 difference between last year's budget. The difference between the upcoming and current budget was due to a pad ready site for the Economic Development Industrial Park (Martin County's portion \$270,000), Cola Increases, and about \$30,000 in support of five (5) Rescue Squads (around \$190,000). In the past, County Manager Bennett stated that any allocated monies were returned if not used and hopefully this would be the case for the upcoming year. The Fund Balance was increased by about 4.3-4.5% from the past year and the total Undesignated Fund Balance total percentage to date was 38%. County Manager Bennett stated that Board of Commissioners had not applied the taxpayer's monies into anything wasteful while giving the departments what they needed and some things of what they wanted to provide services. The Board of Commissioners listened to presentations by the department heads of things achieved in the previous year, achievements for the upcoming year, and things needed or wanted to complete the achievements set for the upcoming year. The Board of Commissioners had the opportunity to choose items needed and or wanted from each department that they felt were necessary to provide services. County Manager Bennett stated that the budget was constructed without any tax increases.

Chairman Smith asked County Manager Bennett explain what a Fund Balance was. County Manager Bennett stated that the Fund Balance was a savings account wherein the Local Government Commission (LGC) required an 8% minimum (1 month) of funding in the Fund Balance to maintain operations in the event that the County was not receiving revenue. County Manager Bennett compared a Surrounding County that had a 7% fund balance and was receiving letters from the LGC informing them to raise their Fund Balance amount. Martin County was not receiving these letter due to the Fund Balance being at a healthy 38%.

Chairman Smith asked the Board if there were any questions or comments before asking for any public comments.

Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass asked if something were to happen where the County was not receiving any funding, how much funding was available in the Fund Balance to keep the County operated. County Manager Bennett stated that the County had 38% in the Fund Balance, which was equivalent to 5 months' worth of operations. County Manager Bennett expressed appreciation to the Board members for allowing this to happen.

At 7:23 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Exit Public Hearing - Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** Unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – Mobile Home- Subdivision, and 911 Addressing Ordinances**

At 7:24 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – Mobile Home, Subdivision, and 911 Addressing Ordinances, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

The ordinances listed were discussed in multiple past Board meetings including the first public hearing on May 10, 2023. Another public hearing was scheduled for June 14, 2023 according to N.C.G.S. 160D-601(a) which required a published notice of the required public hearing. The notice was required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community once a week for two successive calendar weeks, with the first notice being published not less than ten or more than twenty-five days before the hearing. [4] The day of publication was not counted in computing these times, but the day of the hearing was included.

County Manager Bennett stated that Code Enforcer/Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin was unable to attend the meeting. Manager Bennett reported on the timeline of events in which the ordinances were discussed, correspondence from residents, and Mid – East assisting in the writing of the Ordinances. Manager Bennett stated that he met with some of the largest mobile home park owners in Martin County, wherein they were acceptable of the ordinances.

**Public Comments:**

**Mr. Bobby Stalls – Martin County Resident**

Mr. Stalls, Martin County Resident and profession land surveyor, made a public comment regarding an update to the involvement of surveyors on the ordinances. Mr. Stalls stated that he and fellow surveyor, Mr. Billy Leggett, had a meeting with Code Enforcer/Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin to discuss suggestions of improvements of the ordinances. Mr. Stalls reported that it was a very productive meeting and another meeting was scheduled to review the ordinances after the suggested improvements had been submitted. Mr. Stalls urged the Board to not take action on the ordinance at the meeting to allow more work to be conducted on the ordinances. Mr. Stalls expressed appreciation to Code Enforcer/Emergency Management Director Griffin for his cooperation and assistance in the matter.

Mr. Stalls asked if Mid East was responsible for the original drafted version of the ordinances. Manager Bennett stated disagreed. Mr. Stalls stated that he was going to caution the Board if so as there were some contradictions in the language and out of date statements. Mr. Stalls thanked the Board for their time.

Chairman Smith expressed appreciation on the behalf of the Board to all who were working on the ordinance whether staff or residents of the County. Chairman Smith asked if there were any additional public comments.

**Mr. Billy Leggett – 1528 Mill End Road, Williamston, NC**

Mr. Leggett stated that he was a Martin County resident and taxpayer. Mr. Leggett reported that he understood what the county was attempting do and it was a good think to look into. Mr. Leggett wanted to know if the County was looking into the ordinances limiting the ability of the County’s tax base to grow and the additional workload on the current or future staff to implement the ordinances. Mr. Leggett reported giving Code Enforcer/Emergency Management Director Griffin a copy of another County’s plan that were updated in the past 3 years. Mr. Leggett stated that the ordinances presented gave some leniency on some of the subdivision requirements where no new roads would be involved. It was also reported that Code Enforcer/Emergency



Management Director Griffin was acceptable of the suggested changes. Mr. Leggett added that there were some language that needed to be changed and these changes were pointed out, talked about spot zoning being taken out of the ordinances, and the need of some leniency to prevent losses in the County's tax base. Code Enforcer/Emergency Management Director Griffin reportedly informed Mr. Leggett that he would take these suggestions to the Mid-East Commission. Lastly, Mr. Leggett showed his appreciation for the ability to assist in this matter.

Chairman Smith agreed and stated that Mr. Leggett's efforts were appreciated as well and the public hearing was exactly for the residents of the County to have a voice.

At 7:34 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Exit Public Hearing – Mobile Home, Subdivision, and 911 Addressing Ordinances, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** Unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Deputy Emergency Management Director Michael Bryant made a presentation updated the Board, staff, and audience of updates from Emergency Management Services (EMS). Deputy EMS Director Bryant stated that EMS continued to review and discuss the EMS study performed by CrisisTEC. Deputy EMS Director Bryant stated that he was working with County Manager Bennett and Finance Officer Cindy Ange to find funding for the County's EMS agencies. There were five EMS providers in the County as of June 14, 2023.

Next, Deputy EMS Director Bryant discussed writing some contracts and Code Enforcer/EMS Director Griffin helping him review the drafts. After the review of the drafts, Deputy EMS Director Bryant would share them with the Board and County Manager. Deputy EMS Director Bryant stated that the EMS were meeting with the Martin Community College EMS Program Director Robert Whistler, regarding implementation of a PitCrew system. The PitCrew system was explained to be a better way of performing or giving medical treatment to citizens and patients that are suffering from cardiac arrest. The system was not new, but was explained to be a more proficient CPR, it allowed more drugs to be administered, and studies showed that the system gave a higher success rate. Deputy EMS Director Bryant reported that the Medical Director, Dr. Kitch, was in support of the system as well with hopes of the system being implemented in August or September 2023.

Deputy EMS Director Bryant stated that Hurricane season began June 1st and would continue through November 30th. The National Oceanic AND Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reportedly predicated a "near-normal" season for the Atlantic this year. NOAA reportedly forecasted:

- 12 to 17 total named storms
- 5 to 9 of those could become hurricanes (winds 74 mph or higher)
- 1 to 4 possible major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5; with winds of 111 miles per hour or higher)
- NOAA had 70% confidence in this forecast

Then, it was stated that Deputy EMS Director Bryant and other staff began working on clearing vines, removing tall grass from road signs, and were working on replacing and or ordering missing signs. Code Enforcer/ Emergency Management Services Director Jody Griffin was stated to have recently completed drone certification class and Deputy EMS Director Bryant was planning on attaining the certification as well. It was reported that EMS was working with the Sheriff's Office to obtain a drone to aid in Search & Rescue and Fire support. The drone program would also aid in inspections for roofs. Lastly, Deputy EMS Director added that he applied to Nash Community College to get his degree in Emergency Management and Fire Protection.

There were no questions and Deputy EMS Director Bryant was thanked for his time. In return, Deputy EMS Director Bryant thanked the Board for their time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Broadband Update**

County Manager Bennett stated gave an update regarding Broadband and efforts of the Broadband Committee. Manger Bennett stated he received a letter from CloudWyze of May 1, 2023 stating that the Office was rescinding the contingent award to Johnson and Martin Counties due to insufficient funding and untimely submittal of required document. The letter also stated that the Office would select the next highest scoring Broadband provider in Martin County. Manager Bennett reported that the Broadband Committee listened to presentations provided by Broadband companies several months again.

With the Boards approval, Roanoke Connect was selected to provide services. There were a total of three providers competing, which were Roanoke Connect, CloudWyze, and Mediacom. The State scored the three providers, wherein CloudWyze was scored as the highest. Manager Bennett noted that Martin County chose Roanoke Connect, not CloudWyze. Manager Bennett stated that the Board began meeting with CloudWyze and the provider discussed implementation. CloudWyze was reportedly certain in their ability to implement broadband in the outer lying areas of the County. There were two Commissioners that had difficulty with the internet and phone calls, but they wanted to be the last individuals to be served.

Manager Bennett stated that everything was going smoothly until the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) sent a letter stating that they selected Mediacom. Mediacom reportedly declined the second GREAT Grant to provide broadband services, but Roanoke Connect agreed to conduct these services. Last Week, Manager Bennett stated that he received a call from Director of NCDIT Nate Denny who explained in detail why CloudWyze and Mediacom were not going to provide broadband services.

Manager Bennett talked about a letter received from Mr. Marshall Cherry, Roanoke Connect President and CEO, on June 12, 2023. Manager Bennett added that he and some Board members had the chance to speak with Mr. Cherry at an event. At that time, Mr. Cherry stated that Roanoke Connect would try to get the best services for Martin County. The letter sent by Mr. Cherry ensured the statement made by Roanoke Connect President and CEO Cherry.

Chairman Smith reported on the issues with internet service in the County, especially in the outlying areas. There was a concern regarding grant submittals and explained the process of broadband providers receiving funding for these broadband projects.

Commissioner Gurganus stated that there was an ARDOLF grant, wherein Spectrum was awarded to provide broadband services. Commissioner Gurganus was concerned that there was a history of providers receiving grant funding without providing services. Commissioner Gurganus stated that there was a pipeline made by Spectrum and fiber could be laid into the ground. This process would reportedly take some time and it happened in stages. Next, Commissioner Gurganus explained the Cab Grant that could cover the cost of any areas that weren't covered by the GREAT Grant. This grant would become available soon. Commissioner Gurganus assured that the County had nothing to do with where the services were going and who was providing them. Lastly, Commissioner Gurganus asked for farmers to be patient as there were pipelines dug into their farms.

### **Transit Surplus Vehicles**

County Manager Bennett reported that it was recommended to surplus a 2009 Ford Van with the VIN number of #1FT5534L79DA85529 to give it to the Williamston Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC). The ABC store was using a trailer to transport products from one location to another. If so approved by the Board, the transfer would take place in July 2023. County Manager Bennett stated for the past two years, the ABC Commission did exceedingly well and the County in receiving the receiving proceeds. The latest deposit received from the ABC Board was March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Manager Bennett stated the County received a total of \$150,000 from the ABC Commission this fiscal year compared to \$103,725 from last year. As of the end of May 2023, the County was expected to received \$ from the ABC Board Lastly, Manager Bennett explained the safety issues of ABC store employees driving products in their personal vehicles from store to store and expressed the need of the Transit vehicle to transport goods.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. was very appreciative of the matter being presented to the Board as it had been an issue.

Chairman Smith stated that the funds received from the ABC Board were deposited into the General Fund balance.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve the Surplus process of the Transit Van, with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Transfer the Surplus van to the ABC Board, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance**

According to NC General Statutes 159-8(a), each local government and public authority shall operate under an annual balanced budget ordinance adopted and administered in accordance with this Article. A budget ordinance is balanced when the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations. Appropriated fund balance in any fund shall not exceed the sum of cash and investments minus the sum of liabilities, encumbrances, and deferred revenues arising from cash receipts, as those figures stand at the close of the fiscal year next preceding the budget year. It is the intent of this Article that, except for moneys expended pursuant to a project ordinance or accounted for in an intragovernmental service fund or a trust and custodial fund excluded from the budget ordinance under G.S. 159-13(a), all moneys received and expended by a local government or public authority should be included in the budget ordinance. Therefore, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no local government or public authority may expend any moneys, regardless of their source (including moneys derived from bond proceeds, federal, state, or private grants or loans, or special assessments), except in accordance with a budget ordinance or project ordinance adopted under this Article or through an intragovernmental service fund or trust and custodial fund properly excluded from the budget ordinance.

The budget ordinance of a unit of local government shall cover a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The budget ordinance of a public authority shall cover a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30, except that the Local Government Commission, if it determines that a different fiscal year would facilitate the authority's financial operations, may enter an order permitting an authority to operate under a fiscal year other than from July 1 to June 30. If the Commission does permit an authority to operate under an altered fiscal year, the Commission's order shall also modify the budget calendar set forth in G.S. 159-10 through 159-13 so as to provide a new budget calendar for the altered fiscal year that will clearly enable the authority to comply with the intent of this Part.

The Board of Commissioners were presented with a balanced budget on May 31, 2023. There was a special meeting on June 12, 2023 to allow time for any further questions, comments, and or review. A public hearing was held on June 14, 2023 to address any questions and or concern for the public and there were none.

Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to Adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Budget, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. The Motion was **Carried** 3-2.

**Yays:** Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Bond Jr., and Commissioner Emily Biggs

**Nays:** Commissioner Joe R. Ayers and Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus

## **Budget Amendments**

### **Budget Amendment #36**

Finance Officer Cindy Ange reported that the occupancy tax was on track to have an increase over pre-pandemic levels this year. This amendment increased the revenue and expenditure lines for occupancy tax, so that the funds can be remitted to the Martin County TDA as collected.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-36**

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, 2023.

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

	Increase	Decrease
Economic and Physical Development		
Room Occupancy	\$20,000	

This will result in an increase of \$20,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

<b>Taxes</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
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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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gurganus and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 14th day of June 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

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**Budget Amendment #37**

Finance Officer Ange stated Martin County was awarded a 2021 Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool Award. There has been a funding award modification which increases this grant by 75,000.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-37**

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, 2023.

Section 1. To amend the SSH CDBG fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
2021 ESFRLP Grant		
Administration	\$ 15,000	
Rehabilitation	\$ 60,000	

This will result in an increase of \$75,000 in the expenditures of the SSH CDBG Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 75,000
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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.

**Motion** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. and **Seconded** by Commissioner Gurganus to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 14th day of June 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

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**Budget Amendment # 38**

Finance Officer Ange stated the Martin County Airport was awarded \$950,000 from the NC Division of Aviation for the T-Hanger Taxilane Project. There was no County match required for this grant.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-38**

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, 2023.

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

	Increase	Decrease
Transportation	\$950,000	

This will result in an increase of \$950,000 in the expenditures of the Airport Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Intergovernmental Revenue	\$950,000
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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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ayers and **Seconded** by Commissioner Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 14th day of June 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

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**Budget Amendment #39**

Finance Officer Ange reported that Budget Amendment #39 was due to the County Board of Commissioners approved a contract to engage Cody Hand for assistance with legislation concerning Martin General Hospital for \$16,000.

- Major water damage required about \$5,000 immediate work on the roof and walls at the Watts Street building.
- The County has had several issues with the elevators in the Courthouse which required technicians to fix. This was an additional \$5,000.
- The DMV office is adding a physical workstation to help deal with the increase in traffic to the office. The estimate for the work is \$4,000.
- Repairs to a vehicle cost \$5,000. We are seeking reimbursement from insurance.

- The County owes the Mid-East Commission \$5,000 for the work they did on the Jay group grant since the grant will not be covering the expense.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-39**

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, 2023.

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

	Increase	Decrease
Administration		
Commissioners	\$ 21,000	
Buildings	\$ 19,000	

This will result in an increase of \$40,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide a decrease in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Fund Balance	\$ 40,000
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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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Gurganus and **Seconded** by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 14th day of June 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

**Budget Amendment #40**

Finance Officer Ange explained that the County Water Fund accounts for the debt payments for Water and Sewer District #1 & #2. The budget for the interest payment for the districts is about \$200 below the payment amount, due to a clerical error.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-40**

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, 2023.

Section 1. To amend the County Water Fw1ll, the expenditures are lo be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Water Debt		
Debt Service - Interest	\$ 200	

This will result in an increase of \$200 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide a decrease in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Investment Earnings

\$ 200

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.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ayers and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 14th day of June 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION – NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Contracts and Agreements, and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Economic Development**

At 8:05 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made a **Motion** to enter Closed Session for 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege and 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(6) Personnel, with a **Second** from Commissioner Gurganus. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

At 9:08 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to go out of Closed Session 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(6) Personnel, with a **Second** from Commissioner Ayers. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Smith stated that Mid East offered assistance in the Mobile Home/Subdivision Ordinances with a cost of \$7,500.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve the expenditure as stated, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** 4-1.

**Yays:** Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Bond Jr., Commissioner Emily Biggs, and Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus.

**Nays:** Commissioner Joe R. Ayers

#### **BOARD REPORTS/COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gurganus commented on the progress and productivity of the Hospital Board. Commissioner Gurganus stated that the meetings were longer, robust, and questions could be developed and answered. Lastly, Commissioner Gurganus asked that everyone find time to thanks the staff at Martin General Hospital and encourage them. Commissioner Gurganus stated that the Martin General Staff were good people caught in the middle of a situation at the hospital.

Manager Bennett stated Ms. Lisa Smith, Director of NC Cooperative Extension gave the Board an invitation to speak to children about their professions. Manager Bennett gave contact information and event details to the Board and audience.



Manager Bennett stated that he, Finance Officer Cindy Ange, and Human Resources Director Donna Zube attended an Adult & Aging Juneteenth event at the Robersonville Senior Citizen Center. Manager Bennett stated that the event had a lot of attendees and gave details about the event. It was reported that Mr. Avron Odom was acknowledged for his volunteer service.

Finance Officer Cindy Ange reminded the Board that they would hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for any additional budget amendments. Finance Officer Ange stated that she would let the Board know if this meeting was needed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Gurganus **Motioned** to adjourn and Vice Chairman Bond Jr. **Seconded** the motion. The Board unanimously **Approved** the motion.

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Ronnie Smith, Chairman  
Martin County Board of Commissioners

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Julia S. Rease  
Clerk to the Board