

March 8, 2023

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:01 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 Rease, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Others Present: Sheriff Tim Manning

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Department of Social Services Director Angela Ellis provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith asked that all attendees take a moment of silence for Tax Collector Christine Blevins due to illness.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Smith reported Ms. Katie Fisher sent an email asking for an extension to be signed and the email was received before the meeting. The extension was reportedly in regards to CDBG funding towards MTW Health Department construction, food pantries, and other projects that would be discussed later in the meeting. Chairman Smith asked that this matter be added to the agenda under New Business as #1 and to move Budget Amendments as #2.

Chairman Smith stated he would also like to add an audit contract for Carr, Riggs, and Ingram under the Consent Agenda as #10. Chairman Smith stated the values of services and commented on the hardships of local governments that did not have an auditor. Chairman Smith also commented on the low cost of the auditing company compared to other local governments that had auditors.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve of the agenda as stated with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

Chairman Smith stated that everyone may not have been familiar with the public comment section of the meeting and encouraged physical and online attendees to make public comments if there were any. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to approve the Consent Agenda with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Chairman Smith made the comment that the February 8, 2023 Regular meeting minutes were not to approved in this meeting and some changes were still being made.

1. **Minute Approval - February 8, 2023 Regular & Closed, March 8, 2023 Regular, and March 15, 2023 Special**
2. **Financial Report – February 2023**
3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Request – February 2023 - \$4.25**
4. **Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – February 2023 – \$ 17,861.53**

| Year Levy | Lname | Fname | Reason | Value | Total |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Real & Personal Releases | | | | | |
| 2022 | Smith | David | MCBOC Overturned Denial | \$146,777 | \$1,291.63 |
| 2022 | Smith | David | MCBOC Overturned Denial | \$146,777 | \$1,276.96 |
| 2022 | Smith | David | MCBOC Overturned Denial | \$146,309 | \$1011.89 |
| 2022 | Smith | David | MCBOC Overturned Denial | \$116,309 | \$1011.89 |
| 2022 | Perry | Michelle Jahn | Gap Bill 26501285 | \$4,160 | \$36.40 |
| Total Real & Personal Releases | | | | | \$4,628.77 |
| VTS Refunds | | | | | |
| | None | ----- | ----- | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total VTS Refunds | | | | | \$0.00 |
| Total Tax Relief Orders | | | | | \$4,628.77 |

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

| | Category | February | 02-23 Y-T-D |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Real Property | 20 | \$16,106.54 | \$96,153.62 |
| Personal Property | 25 | \$794.97 | \$7,769.98 |
| Total | | \$16,901.51 | \$78.66 |
| Motor Vehicle | 30 | \$0.00 | \$78.66 |
| Total MV | | \$0.00 | \$78.66 |
| | | | |
| All Total | | \$16,901.51 | \$104,002.26 |
| | | | |

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Transportation Advisory Board

The Transportation Advisory Board is comprised of members from various groups in the community. The Transportation Advisory Board serves as a liaison between the residents of Martin County and the county government concerning transportation issues, as well as serves as the advisory body for Martin County Transit. The Transportation Advisory Board is comprised of Representatives from various agencies within Martin County. Currently, there are two vacancies on this Board. Mr. Frank Halsey with Martin County Transit, has recommended the appointment of Ms. Susan Holliday and Ms. Madison Wilkerson for a 2 year term ending on March 31, 2025.

This Item was Approved by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda.

Bear Grass ETJ Planning and Zoning Board

On behalf of the Bear Grass ETJ Planning & Zoning Board, Mayor Charlotte Griffin recommended the reappointment of Mr. Derek Price for another three year term which would expire March 31, 2026.

This Item was Approved by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Adoption of NCDOT Travel Policy and Purchasing Guide

North Carolina refers to the network of coordinated public transportation programs as the Community Transportation Program (CTP). These entities, including Martin County Transit, provide public transportation to the general public and to clients of human services agencies. To be eligible to receive Section 5311 funds, community transportation providers must fulfill several minimum CTP requirements, one being to participate in a Compliance Review every three years. On September 14, 2022, Martin County Transit participated in such a review. The following instructions were given to the agency to have these policies adopted for our use. "MCT to update Financial Management Procedures and checklists with latest federal and state

threshold standards." The Quick-Reference Purchasing Guide has been provided by NCDOT IMD Procurement for adoption into our Martin County Transit Operational Handbook. "Martin County to update MCT Travel Policy, or to adopt NCDOT IMD Travel Policy listed in the NCDOT IMD Business Guide." NCDOT IMD has provided the NC Dept. of Transportation FFPM Travel Policy and Procedures that can be adopted into our Martin County Transit Operational Handbook. An adoption of the two policies for the agency's practice will meet those requirements.

This item was Approved by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda

8. Resolution in Support of the 911 Saves Act

911 Communications Director Jason Steward recommended that the Board of Commissioners consider a resolution in support of the 911 SAVES Act (H.R. 2351/S. 1175). This bill seeks to change the Federal Office of Budget and Management's classification of 911 Telecommunicators from "Support/Clerical" to "Protective Services". It was introduced in the 2021 session by Rep. Norma Torres of California with several co-sponsors. It was also introduced in the Senate by Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina the same year (S. 1175).

The reclassification of Telecommunicators to Protective Services is a more accurate classification as the work of the 911 dispatcher goes far beyond "clerical". With the support of the NC State 911 Board, several Counties across the State of NC have passed resolutions in support of the reclassification. The primary goal is providing a morale boost for our Telecommunicators by showing them that the leadership of our County supports them and recognizing the important work they do. 911 Communications Director Steward spoke with the 911 Communications Director in Guilford/Greensboro by telephone and was advised that there were no financial, payroll, or administrative changes made with this action. The move was largely a symbolic measure of support for the Bill.



WHEREAS, in September of 2021, U.S. Representative Norma J. Torres and Brian Fitzpatrick announced that their 9-1-1 SAVES Act passed the House as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. The 9-1-1 SAVES Act is bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 Dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) Catalog;

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are the first line of response during an emergency, and they deserve to be classified in a way that recognizes their work is on par with the work of other public servants currently classified as first responders;

WHEREAS, Senator Richard Burr introduced the reclassification bill in the United States Senate, where it remains;

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are working with elected officials to re-introduce this legislation with the current Congress, and local support will assist this effort;

WHEREAS, the Martin County (NC) Board of Commissioners is in support of such a legislative change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MARTIN (NC):

That the Martin County (NC) Board of Commissioners is in support of bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget' s Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog.

Adopted this 8th day of March 2023

Chairman Ronnie Smith Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease Clerk to the Board

This item was Approved by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda

8. Request of Review and Approval of the CDBG-CV Grant Scope Modification

On February 28, 2023, County Manager Bennett sent a letter to Grant Representative Shycole Simpson Carter requesting a review and the approval of the Martin County CDBG- CV Grant Scope Modification. This letter was also sent to Community Development Coordinator Katie Fisher, Project Team Lead Kevin Richards, and Mr. Jessie Walker of the Wooten Company.

9. Clerk Report- *included for informational purposes*

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Martin County Transit

Mr. Karlton Weathersbe was introduced by Transit Administrator Frank Halsey as a resident of Oak City, NC. Transit Administrator Halsey reported that Mr. Weathersbe had 28 years' experience with a Commercial Driver License (CDL). It was announced that Transit had two vacancies, which were the Transit Specialist and Full Time Driver. It was also reported that Transit had a retiree leaving in April 2023.

Mr. Weathersbe was welcomed and thanked for choosing Martin County for employment.

Water Department

Water Systems Manager Cody Cratt introduced Mr. Kody White as a new employee in the Water Department. Water Systems Manager Cratt reported Mr. White was from Martin County and was also a Marine.

Mr. White was welcomed and appreciated for his choosing in Martin County for employment.

Adult and Aging

Ms. Madison Wilkinson stated that she worked with Adult & Aging since 2017 and she learned under great leadership. County Manager Bennett stated Ms. Wilkinson had a passion for seniors even in the midst of being offered jobs that had more money. County Manager Bennett stated Ms. Wilkinson wanted the job position and even offered to give the difference of her salary to her coworkers. Ms. Wilkinson expressed her passion for the opportunity before stating that there were 2 vacancies due to employees retiring.

Ms. Wilkinson was thanked for her service and was congratulated.

Department of Social Services

DSS Director Angela Ellis introduced intern Kathy Cruz who was attending ECU in the field of Child Welfare. Ms. Cruz was reported to volunteer at the Food Bank in Robersonville with Mayor Tina Brown. Ms. Cruz expressed her interest in both Food Insecurity and Child Welfare. DSS Director reported that there were two vacancies as some employees were retiring.

Commissioner Gurganus made a comment regarding DSS Director Ellis' ability to attain quality employees in a short amount of time, her leadership, and improvements that has been seen due to her efforts. Commissioner Gurganus also stated Human Resources Donna Zube made changes that showed improvements and obvious results.

Ms. Cruz was thanked for her time, consideration of Martin County, and welcomed.

PRESENTATION(S)

Deputy Drew Robinson- Community Child Protection Team

Deputy Sheriff Drew Robinson reported the Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) was established by law (General Statute 7B- 1406) in May of 1991 as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. The CCPT is an interdisciplinary group of community representatives who meet regularly to promote a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. Community Child Protection Team reviews are designed to assist DSS and families in protecting children by identifying barriers in services and collaborating on strategies to remedy the situation. The purpose of these reviews is also to inform county commissioners about actions needed to prevent child abuse, neglect or dependency.

The outcome of a CCPT review must result in identification of a gap in services, a need for additional services or resources needed in the community or a collaborative recommendation of action that may remove a risk situation for a child. Review of cases also generate a needs list. The cases reviewed may bring to the surface underlying problems that impact the entire community rather than focusing on the families in the DSS system. Some of these situations may be financial barriers, transportation needs, failed communication systems between resources, procedural barriers and or inadequate services. The Composition of the CCPT is mandated by law and includes appointed members of various agencies and organizations and some at large members. Those required are:

- The county DSS director and member of the director's staff;
- A local law enforcement officer;
- An attorney from the district attorney's office, appointed by the district attorney;
- The executive director of the local community actions agency;
- The superintendent of each local school system or the superintendent's designee;
- A member of the county DSS Board, appointed by the chair;
- A local guardian ad litem coordinator, or coordinator's designee;
- The director of the Health Department or the director's designee; and
- A local healthcare provider.

Deputy Sheriff Robinson stated that the Martin County CCPT meets on the first Thursday every other month. In 2022, the Martin County Department of Social Services brought six cases to the team for review. Of those six cases, some of the contributing factors were Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Unstable Housing, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Domestic Violence and Housing Needs are the current major factors that are affecting our community. In 2022, Martin County Department of Social Services assumed custody of 16 children under the age of 18. Out of the 16 children, 7 children were taken into custody as the primary factor being substance abuse and domestic violence, 5 children due to dependency, 2 due to parent's mental health instability and 2 due to physical abuse. These factors place children at risk for failure to thrive issues, mental health issues, unstable housing, educational delays, truancy and improper supervision.

Lastly Deputy Sheriff Robinson reported that Martin County DSS established permanence for 24 children in 2022. Out of the 24 children, 15 children received permanence by guardianship or custody with a family member, one child received permanence with their foster parents, six returned to parents and two turned 18 years old and returned home. In 2022, Martin County DSS received 221 Child Protective Services Reports; 155 reports were screened in and investigated. 129 cases were screened in for Neglect, 22 for Abuse and 4 for Dependency. In December 2022, there remained 34 children in foster care. Deputy Sheriff Robinson reported the CPT also collaborates with the Tedi Bear Child (name stands for Tender Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention for a Better Abuse Response) Advocacy Center of Greenville quarterly. The community based multi-discipline teams serve children who are alleged victims of child sexual abuse throughout eastern North Carolina. The team reviews cases within the county and receives updates from our local law enforcement, DSS and the district attorney. The goal of MDT is to enhance the system's response to child abuse, and to facilitate recovery for the victims of child abuse.

Deputy Sheriff Drew Robinson was thanked for his presentation and the efforts provided from CCPT.

Martin Tyrell Washington (MTW) Deputy Health Director Vickey Manning- Child Protection Fatality Team

MTW Deputy Health Director Vickey Manning stated North Carolina had a three tier Child Fatality Prevention System of which the local child fatality prevention teams were one component. The three tiers of the system included the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Task Force, which was a legislative study commission, the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Team (state team) which reviewed child death through the Medical Examiner system, and the Community Child Protection Teams which reviewed active cases of suspected abuse and neglect, and child deaths due to suspected abuse and neglect. The local child fatality prevention teams (CFPT) were legislatively established in 1993 by State Statute Article 14, 7B-1406 and there are teams in all 100 counties. It was the responsibility of the local health departments to assure that these teams are operational.

MTW Deputy Health Director Manning reported the mission of the local team was to review the deaths of children, ages 0 -17 years, that were not due to suspected abuse or neglect and about which no previous report of abuse or neglect has been made to the county department of social services within the past 12 months. The local CFPTs review child deaths due to homicide, suicide, fires, illness, prematurity and perinatal cause, among others, and search for ways to prevent child deaths. The purpose of the local child fatality prevention teams are to: 1) identify the causes of child deaths; 2) identify gaps or deficiencies that may exist in order to improve the delivery of services to children and families; and 3) make recommendations for changes and carry out changes that could prevent future child fatality (Division of Public Health Agreement Addendum). Child

Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) meetings are closed to the public. However, each local CFPT will be scheduled at least two public meetings annually, one presentation to the County Commissioners and one presentation to the board of public health, according to state statute (G.S.7B-1408.1.2 and G.S. 7B-1410.4)

Next, MTW Deputy Health Director Manning reported that Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams reviewed child fatalities, identifying any system issues that may have contributed to the death. The team then makes recommendations related to those issues with the hope of preventing future fatalities. These recommendations are then sent to the State Child Fatality Prevention Coordinator who in turn shares the information with the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force (CFTF). The CFTF works closely with legislators, advocating for changes in laws or policies to improve child wellbeing and safety across the state. The Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team, a sub-committee of the Martin County Child Protection Team meets, typically, at least 4 times per year. It is during these meetings that team members review child fatalities that occurred the previous year, determine if there were any system problems that caused or contributed to the fatality, make any recommendations, or develop action plans to address the area of concern. We also review hospital discharge data relating to children from ages birth to 17 years of age.

Each Local Team shall consist of the following persons:

- The director of the county department of social services
- A member of the director's staff
- A local law enforcement officer, appointed by the board of county commissioners
- The executive director of the local community action agency, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services, or the executive director's designee
- The superintendent of each local school administrative unit located in the county, or the superintendent's designee
- A member of the county board of social services, appointed by the chair of that board
- A local mental health professional, appointed by the director of the area authority
- The local guardian ad litem coordinator or the coordinator's designee
- The director of the local department of public health
- A local health care provider, appointed by the local board of health
- An emergency medical services provider or firefighter, appointed by the board of county commissioners
- A district court judge, appointed by the chief district court judge in that district
- A county medical examiner, appointment by the Chief Medical Examiner
- A representative of a local childcare facility of Head Start program, appointed by the director of the county department of social services.
- A parent of a child who died before reaching the child's eighteenth birthday, to be appointed by the board of county commissioners.

The Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team reviewed 5 child fatalities during 2022. Two of the cases were related to sudden infant unexplained deaths. One child was born at 26 weeks and died of respiratory failure. The remaining two fatalities were caused by someone else with one demise resulting from non-accidental traumatic injury and the other by gunshot. Some of these families had received services from various community agencies but no systems issue was found to have contributed to the deaths. A few of these cases were ones that occurred in previous years; delay in review was due to difficulty in obtaining medical records.

Lastly, MTW Health Department Deputy Director Manning stated many of the Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team members were also members of the Safe Kids Riverbend Coalition. This entity seeks to provide awareness to the community of risk areas such as child passenger seats/motor vehicle safety, bike and pedestrian safety, fire and poison prevention as well as falls prevention/playground safety and safe sleep. The North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force has set its legislative agenda for 2023 with the following recommendations:

- Support legislation to launch and fund a new statewide firearm safety initiative focused on education and awareness surrounding firearm safe storage.
- Support recurring funds to increase numbers of school nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists to support the physical and mental health of students and to move North Carolina toward achieving nationally recommended ratios.
- Support funding sufficient to sustain implementation and continued use of a statewide school health data system.
- Support legislation and funding to strengthen and restructure the statewide Child Fatality Prevention System.
- Support state funding to expand efforts to prevent infant deaths related to unsafe sleep environments.
- Support funding for Medicaid coverage that includes additional incentives for group prenatal care visits, funding for broad doula coverage, and funding to increase the maternity provider reimbursement rate for bundled payments.
- Support legislation to strengthen North Carolina's Infant Safe Surrender law in four areas.
- Support legislation to strengthen NC child passenger safety law in three areas to address best practices for safety.
- Support funding to enable the Office of Chief Medical Examiner to conduct comprehensive toxicology testing in all Medical Examiner jurisdiction child deaths.
- Endorse an appropriation of \$17 million in recurring funds for programs to prevent tobacco/nicotine use, encourage cessation by youth and to prevent harms to infants and children caused by tobacco/nicotine use.
- Endorse legislation requiring lifeguards at children's day camps that offer time in the water.

MTW Health Department Deputy Director Vickey Manning was thanked for her services and presentation.

Offshore Wind – Jennifer Mundt, Assistant Secretary of Clean Energy Economic Development, Department of Commerce

Jennifer R.F. Mundt, Assistant Secretary of Clean Energy Economic Development of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, made a presentation regarding Offshore Wind Opportunities. The U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) funds research nationwide to enable the development and deployment of offshore wind technologies that can capture wind resources off the coasts of the United States and convert that wind into electricity. This robust portfolio of research, development, and demonstration projects could help the industry overcome key barriers to offshore wind development, including the relatively high cost of energy, the mitigation of environmental impacts, the technical challenges of project installation, and grid interconnection. Asst. Secretary Mundt stated that she was 13 months in her role, she had 5 years' experience with the Office of Environmental Quality, and 11 years as a non-partisan.

Asst. Secretary Mundt reported Offshore Wind provided great paying jobs, had the greatest potential for the east coast, offered a potential \$100B in economic investment opportunities (through 2032 alone), and was a clean renewable source of energy. Asst. Secretary Mundt reported that this was a great opportunity for areas that were unserved and or underserved. Asst. Secretary Mundt explained that tourism was important to North Carolina, especially coastal areas. Asst. Mundt stated that people usually thought of wind turbines as these huge structures. A picture was presented to the Board of a beach, in which there were no wind turbines pictured. Asst. Secretary Mundt reported that there were wind turbines were far from the shore, which fixed the issue of turbines being an "eye sore". It was reported that the wind turbines were planted no closer than 20 miles of the coast regardless of curvature of the earth. Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that the National Renewable Energy Laboratories, a branch of the U.S. Department of Energy, conducted a wind speed analysis off the coast of NC. Assistant Mundt reported that the County was in a middle range category, which meant that the turbines could be supported successfully. This wind speed average would power the wind turbines to turn and produce energy.

There was an upper wind supply chain report issued by the Department of Energy in 2022 that identified manufacturing facilities. North Carolina had multiple facilities to support wind turbines and they were not close to the coast. Assistant Mundt reported even though the turbines would not be manufactured off the coast, this was an economic opportunity for the entire state. In 2020-2021, a global consulting firm assessed North Carolina' ability to support this program. Of the \$140 billion of capital investment that was expected to be applied along the Atlantic Coast, North Carolina could receive \$100 billion. This was reportedly due to the manufacturing sector being the best in the Southeast and 5th best in the United States. Assistant Secretary Mundt stated North Carolina also had the manpower to support the jobs from the wind turbines, which would also give Martin County family sustaining wages and the independence from using foreign fossil fuels. There were reportedly 7 turbines on the coast as of now spinning put energy, but there were

thousands overseas. Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that the United States was somewhat new to wind turbines, but this could change.

Then, Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that the wind turbines were made of at least 8,000 components. It was stated that these pieces could be manufactured precisely at a local site, then sent to a supplier for fabrication. Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that this could bring business and jobs to the manufacturing sector. Assistant Secretary Mundt showed a pie graph of the different jobs the Offshore Wind Turbines could bring such as production, maintenance, operations and repair, architecture, engineering, surveying, office and administrative support, financial officers, and etc. These jobs could also be supported by the Martin Community College courses that were offered. Assistant Secretary Mundt showed a map of the industries within 50 mile radius that could support the wind turbine program. NC Towers (North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies) was assembled to identify the best path forward to see what the capital investment would be, training the workforce, and making this opportunity become a reality. There were four subcommittees assigned for Economic Opportunity and Development, Workforce Training, Community Engagement, and Infrastructure to identify, measure, and minimize any negative impact if any.

Assistant Secretary Mundt showed maps of planned development of the turbines. Kitty Hawk was mapped as a 5 year project where a study, operation design, and construction design were underway. There was another project in the Carolina Long Bay area that was estimated to generate 6.5 gigawatts of power with the Kitty Hawk turbines. (1 gigawatt = power for 1 nuclear reactor). Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that this was a good way to produce mass energy without the threat of waste. Assistant Secretary Mundt mentioned two icons on the map that represented a study by the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which was an agency that had jurisdiction over federal waters beyond 3 miles of the coast. The study was reported to evaluate the viability and usability of the areas mentioned. It was reported that the areas marked by the icons were going to be mapped smaller as the agency found safety hazards, impacts, or conflicts with the turbines. Assistant Secretary Mundt added that shipping channels, bird migration routes, airplane and military travel and safety, tourism, fishing seasons, and all other activities, habitats, and beings were being studied extensively to see if there would be conflicts with the turbines. Public hearings were also being held to note any conflicts from the public. Assistant Secretary Mundt asked if there were any questions or comments and appreciated the time to present.

Commissioner Gurganus mentioned heavy commercial fishery areas in the area and wanted to know if there was any resistance from the public. Assistant Secretary Mundt responded that there was some resistance, but there were efforts underway to take feedback and comments from fishermen/women as it was understood that the fishery was their livelihood. Assistant Secretary Mundt also reported that the Federal Agency and developers wanted to proceed cautiously to not put individuals out of business. It was reported that a consortium of Atlantic Coastal states were looking into joining the Coastal Fisheries Mitigation and Compensation Fund. This fund could reimburse and or compensate people in this line of profession. Commissioner Gurganus asked

about the turbines effect on birds and Assistant Secretary reported that there were wildlife deterrents. Commissioner Gurganus asked if the developers were domestic or foreign. Assistant Secretary responded that the lease was held by majority of foreign developers, which was not unusual for North Carolina. Assistant Secretary Mundt reminded the Board and Staff that this energy was already overseas and the United States was new to it.

Other Board members asked similar questions about the turbines having conflicts with wildlife or functions of life. Assistant Secretary assured and informed the Board that multiple agencies were very cautious of any conflicts and or impacts the wind turbines had.

Commissioner Biggs commented that green energy had a substantial cost for set up and production of equipment. Commissioner Biggs how this would transfer to the customers. Assistant Secretary Mundt reported that she did not have an exact answer, but the cost would be determined and regulated by the Utilities Commission. An active Inflation Reduction Act was also in place to help with costs of inflation.

Commissioner Gurganus asked if taxpayer money would be used to help fund these projects. Assistant Secretary Mundt asked Commissioner Gurganus if he was asking that the projects were subsidized and Assistant Secretary Mundt stated that she did not think so.

Chairman Smith asked what was being asked of local governments or entities in support and to make sure the program is developed. Assistant Secretary stated support for a growing industry was needed, to share information with others, and to be a partner with them.

Assistant Secretary Mundt was thanked for her time and presentation.

Trillium Health Resources Annual Report Northeastern District Director Bobbi Lowe

Bobbie Lowe, Northern Regional Director, Trillium Health Resources, provided a presentation concerning the Trillium annual report to the Board of Commissioners. Trillium Health Resources is a local governmental agency (LME/MCO) that manages mental health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disability services in a 26-county area in eastern North Carolina. Its responsibility is to connect individuals and families to the help they need when they need it. Trillium is responsible for managing state and federally funded services for people who receive Medicaid, are uninsured or cannot afford services. Trillium provides a Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report to Martin County, as required by NC General Statute. Historically, Trillium provides an oral presentation to the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis. Northern Director Lowe stated Trillium covered twenty eight counties with a population 1.5 million. It was reported that 45,988 individuals with severe behavioral health needs were served. Trillium Health Resources had at least 550 Health providers and \$520,839,592 spent on services last year.

Next, Northern Director Lowe reported on Medicaid Transformation. It was reported that there were 5 standard plans in North Carolina, wherein four were commercial that was statewide. These plans manage all health needs and went live in July 2021. Trillium Health Resources partnered with Carolina Complete Health to assist in the management of physical health care. The State announced that the “go live” dates for Tailored plans would be October 1, 2023. Northern Director Lowe reported that Trillium was prepared to go live with the Tailored plans, but other providers were not prepared as of yet. Total health would be assessed with the Tailored Plans by physical health, mental health, and pharmacy needs. Northern Director Lowe reported that contracts and organizational changes were conducted with the new plan being implemented. It was reported that nurse and pharmacy lines were added to the Trillium contact listing, Trillium contracted with a Pharmacy Benefits Manager to oversee contracts with approximately 2000 pharmacies, there was a contract with all Primary care agencies that serve individuals on Medicaid, and Liaison Coordinators were hired.

Lastly, Northern Director Lowe discussed upcoming and or ongoing projects such as the Opioid Settlement fund projects to help those with Substance Abuse issues. Naloxone Kits, mobile clinics, tribal engagement, Co-responder Pilots, and the Healing Place in New Hanover were listed. Northern Director Lowe reported that the Mobile Clinics provided services to those who did not have transportation and that provided Naloxone kits. It was reported that the New Hanover Healing Place was a 200 bed facility that remained filled since opening a short time ago. Northern Director Lowe discussed Martin County being a pilot county for a program called Healthy Opportunities. Healthy Opportunities looked at evidence based interventions around social determinants of health such as housing, food, domestic violence, environment, etc. The program also allowed Medicaid to pay for health issues caused by the social determinants of health. Before concluding, Northern District Director Lowe gave the category totals of patients served: Mental Health – 682, Substance Use – 222, Intellectual/Developmental Disability – 114. Northern Director Lowe asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Biggs gave an example of a person who was being seen for more than one disorder/disability and asked which disorder/disability would take precedent over the other. Northern Director Lowe stated that the disorder/disability that the patient was being seen for first, would take precedent.

There were no further questions and or comments and Northern District Director Bobbi Lowe was thanked for her time.

OLD BUSINESS

A Resolution by the County of Martin to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Fund

It was reported that Kevin Leonard made the announcement of additional funding for Opioid Settlement at the recent NACo Conference. Counties were asked to approve a resolution in support of receiving part of \$600 million to North Carolina as well as an agreement for additional funds as

it relates to the Opioid Settlement. A letter was also sent by Attorney General Josh Stein in regards to the matter. A Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement was sent to the County Manager's Office as stated:

**RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF MARTIN
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE STATE
OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING
TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic had taken the lives of more than 32,000 North Carolinians (2000-2021);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, settlements have been reached in litigation against Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries affiliates, officers, and directors named in the these Settlements; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Martin County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this Martin County to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Martin County hereby authorizes the County Manager or County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergan and Teva, to execute the SAAF, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2023.

Ronnie Smith Chair
Martin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Julia S. Rease, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve the Resolution by the County of Martin Authorizing Execution of Opioid Settlements and Approving the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Mobile Home/Subdivision Ordinances- Tax Assessor Melissa Phillips and Building Inspector Jody Griffin

Last month, Tax Assessor Melissa Phillips and Building Inspector Jody Griffin explained the Subdivision, Mobile Home, and 911 Addressing Ordinances to the Board. The ordinances were drafted to ease concerns and provide consistency in future development without having a Countywide Zoning Ordinance in place currently. The Board of Commissioners were presented with the ordinances again for any questions or further discussion.

Commissioner Gurganus asked about the red ink in the ordinances. It was reported that there were changes made and were marked with the red ink.

Tax Assessor Phillips stated that the ordinances could be voted on, but Chairman Smith suggested that a Public Hearing was needed to be held. Chairman Smith expressed that the Board wanted the public to have the opportunity to comment on the ordinances.

Tax Assessor Phillips and Building Inspector Griffin were both thanked for their time and efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Carr, Riggs, and Ingram Audit Contract

Chairman Smith and County Manager Bennett spoke about the difficulties of local governments finding and keeping auditors. Chairman Smith also stated that the cost for auditors could be excessive and that Martin County was very lucky to maintain the same auditor for years.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve of the Carr, Riggs, and Ingram Auditing Contract, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendment(s)

Budget Amendment # 20

Each year Martin County Department of Social Services administers the federally funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) to assist citizens with heating bills. The State changed how vendors can be paid for this program during the current fiscal year. If a vendor selects to be paid electronically, the state handles the payment. Vendors still can receive a physical check which would come from the County. The amendment reduces the funds that flow through the County although in total the County allocation was not reduced.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-20

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 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Human Services | | |
| Dept. of Social Services | | \$83,140 |

This will result in a decrease of \$83,140 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Restricted Revenue | \$83,140 |
|--------------------|----------|

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 Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendment #21

Martin County Transit has been awarded an additional \$55,835 in ARP funds. These funds will be used to add barriers and filtration units in all the transit buses.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-21

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 |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Transportation | | |
| Transit | \$55,835 | |

This will result in an increase of \$55,835 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Restricted Revenue | \$55,835 |
|--------------------|----------|

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 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendment # 22

North Carolina General Statute 161-11.3 requires counties to set aside 10% of the fees collected pursuant to GS 161-10 in a no reverting Automation Enhancement fund. These funds shall be expended on computer and imaging technology in the Office of the Register of Deeds. At June 30, 2022 Martin County had \$23,751 in the Automation Enhancement fund, which is part of the County's fund balance. Martin County Register of Deeds, Kim Griffin, is requesting an appropriation of \$8,400 from this fund for a plat scanner, computer indexing, and computer scanning and secure remote access.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-22

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 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| General Government | | |
| Register of Deeds | \$8,400 | |

This will result in an increase of \$8,400 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Fund Balance | \$8,400 |
|--------------|---------|

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 Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendment # 23 & 24

The Martin County Water Department has had numerous problems concerning the handheld units used for reading meters. Cody Cratt, water manager, Jeb Gardner, IT manager, and Danny Griffin have investigated solutions and settled on a software product from Mueller Systems. This software can be installed as a mobile system and later be migrated to automatic meter readers.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-23

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 Water District #1, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

| | Increase | Decrease |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Water District #1 | \$ 1,500 | |

This will result in an increase of \$1,500 in the expenditures of Water District #1. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | \$ 1,500 |
|---------------|----------|

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 Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-24

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

| | Increase | Decrease |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Water District #1 | \$ 2,500 | |

This will result in an increase of \$2,500 in the expenditures of Water District #2. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Miscellaneous | \$ 2,500 |
|---------------|----------|

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 Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendments #25 & # 26

Each year the county is required to file a PSAP Revenue-Expenditure Report with the 911 Board that details each expenditure in the Emergency Telephone Fund. As you know, funds received from the 911 Board are only to be spent on approved items, and the 911 board staff uses this report to verify the expenditures. State financial analysts have been years behind in verifying these annual reports for some time now, which causes Counties to have multiple years of items that State staff deems not eligible.

The 911 Board staff has completed their review of the 2021 and 2022 reports with a total of \$1,968 of expenses deemed non eligible. County Staff has adjusted coding to recurring items as to not have them charged to the 911 fund, and has worked with vendors to supply a more detailed invoice to accurately reflect items that are eligible. This brings the 911 Board up to date with Martin County reports for the first time in a least 5 years.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-25

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 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Transfers | | |
| Emergency Telephone Fund | \$1,968 | |

This will result in an increase of \$1,968 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Fund Balance Appropriation | \$1,968 |
|----------------------------|---------|

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 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-26

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 Emergency Telephone Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

| | Increase | Decrease |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Operations | | |
| Supplies/Equipment | \$1,968 | |

This will result in an increase of \$1,968 in the expenditures of the Emergency Telephone Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Transfer from general fund | \$1,968 |
|----------------------------|---------|

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 8th day of March 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

The Board and Staff took a 10 minute break before motioning to go into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION (S) - 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(5) Contracts/ Agreements 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(4) Economic Development 3. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege

Around 8:56 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to Enter Closed Sessions 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(5) Contracts/ Agreements, 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(4) Economic Development, 3. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

Around 10:57 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made a **Motion** to Enter Closed Sessions 1. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(5) Contracts/ Agreements, 2. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(4) Economic Development, 3. NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Release the Martin General Hospital Press Release, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Grant The Jay Group a 30 day extension to provide contracted jobs, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve the Bi-Tec to conduct the upcoming Tax Assessor's Revaluation, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve of the upcoming Tax Assessor's Revaluation Contract, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs, Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

County Manager U. James Bennett mentioned the Budget Retreat to take place at Moratoc Park on March 14-15, 2023, reminded the Board of the Legislative Day in May, and that a second round of grant funding was being applied for by March 17, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, at 10:57 pm, Commissioner Gurganus **Motioned** to adjourn with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board