

May 10, 2023

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom 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, County Manager U. James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia S. Rease, County Attorney Benjamin Eisner, Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Absence: Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus was not able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

Others present: Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass, Mayor Tina Brown of Robersonville, Mayor Ervin Williams of Hamilton and Commissioner Larry Jackson of Hamilton.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pastor/Dr. Derrick Wilkins of Back Swamp Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to all.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Smith asked that #1. North Carolina Governor’s Volunteer Awards, under Item 5: Presentations, be moved up before Item 4: Introduction of New Employees.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made **Motion** to approve the agenda as stated, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no regular public comments submitted to the Clerk, in the audience, or online. Chairman Smith extended the welcome for the public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ayers made a **Motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

- 1. **Minutes** – March 8, 2023 Closed Session and April 12, 2023 Regular Session
- 2. **Financial Report** for April 2023
- 3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – April 2023 – None**
- 4. **Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – April 2023 - \$633.17**

Year	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
Levy					

2022	Mayo	Haywood Jr.	Error in Listing	-----	\$175.21
2022	Powell	Leonard James Jr.	Error in Listing	-----	\$364.00
2019	Nett	Ronnie Lee	Out of County	-----	\$9.18
2020	Nett	Ronnie Lee	Out of County	-----	\$9.70
2021	Nett	Ronnie Lee	Out of County	-----	\$9.31
2022	Nett	Ronnie Lee	Out of County	-----	\$9.42
2022	Sloan	Vida Marie	Error in Listing	-----	\$56.35
Total Real & Personal Releases					\$633.17
0000	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$0.00
Total VTS Refund Requests					\$0.00
All Total					\$633.17

5. Tax Collector's Report – April 2023

Category	April 2023 - Month	YTD - April 2023
20	\$13,975.93	\$134,009.39
25	<u>\$766.38</u>	<u>\$11,727.04</u>
Total	\$14,742.31	\$145,736.43
30	\$46.32	<u>\$161.82</u>
Total	\$14,788.63	\$145,898.25

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Martin Community College Board of Trustees

Martin County Community College appointed Mr. James (Jimbo) Peele to the Board of Trustees. His appointment will run out on June 30, 2023. He is eligible for re- appointment. In Manager Bennett's conversation with President Beddard, he pointed out that Mr. Peele has a background in Fire and EMS, which provides a different insight to the Board. Mr. Peele said that if re-appointed he would be glad to serve. This appointment will be for May 30, 2023 through May 30, 2024.

The Board **Approved** the above reappointment as part of the consent agenda.

7. Letter Supporting the Bipartisan Bill Improving Support for Rural Water Systems

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This historic investment allocated more than \$50 billion to improving America's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. Recently, U.S. Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) reintroduced bipartisan legislation to provide rural communities under economic strain with expanded assistance to repair, modernize, and renovate failing water infrastructure. The Assistance for the Rural Water Systems Act would grant the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) additional authorities to provide low- and zero-interest loans, loan forgiveness, and loan refinancing to help struggling rural water systems and wastewater systems across the nation. Manager Bennett constructed a letter in support of the Bipartisan Bill that would be sent to Congressman Don Davis' Office if approved by the Board. The letter required a signature from Chairman Smith.

The Board **Approved** This item as part of the consent agenda.

8. Tax Assessor's Present Use Value Plan – Late Application Denial Appeal

A property owner's Present Use Value Plan was submitted late to the Tax Assessor's Office for acceptance into the program. The property owners received a letter of acceptance into Forestry Plan. There was a 60 - day deadline to submit this letter of acceptance to the Assessor's Office. The owners assumed a copy of the letter was being sent to the Assessor's Office. However, that is not the responsibility of the Forester. It was believed to be an honest oversight on the part of the owners and it was asked the Board of Commissioners to grant acceptance into the program. A list of efforts were included with the denial appeal on behalf of the property owner and Tax Assessor's Office as follows:

The Board **Approved** the above reappointment as part of the consent agenda.

9. Tax Assessor's Purge Request

12/22/2022	Owner Transfer Letter - 60 day deadline (Heirs to previous owner.)
2/14/2023	PUV Application received. (Timely)
2/16/2023	Additional Information Letter - 60 day deadline. (Needing Forestry Management Plan)
4/18/2023	Denial Letter due to missing Forestry Management Plan
4/19/2023	Received Forestry Management Plan
4/20/2023	Received Appeal Letter (Attached)
4/19- 21/2023	Emailed NCDOR; Reached out to see if we are able to approve at the Tax Assessor level since the application was timely but just missing additional information. NCDOR stated the appeal would need to go before the board but the county can recommend it be approved since the only thing that was missing was the forestry plan

The Tax Assessor's Office reported that there were some files and or records that were needing to be disposed of properly. Record storage has and will continue to be a problem for the Tax Assessor's Office. In an effort to help alleviate this situation, the office requested permission to shred all Board of Equalization and Review documents that are older than 8 years in accordance with the Amended Records Retention and Disposition Schedule provided by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources dated April 17, 2013.

Item#	Record Series Title	Disposition Instructions	Citation
2	Board of Equalization and Review (Appeals File). Records associated with appeals to the Board of Equalization and Review. May include appeal letters, hearing notices, listing information, affidavits, staff recommendations, and final actions.	Destroy in office after 8 years.	G.S. 105-322 G.S. 105-323 G.S. 105-325

10. Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

Presentation of the Governor's Volunteer Awards

Human Resources Director Donna Zube stated that the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism presented awards for Volunteerism each year. There were two categories, which the awards fall in: (1) Volunteer and (2) Paid Director for Volunteers. Each category was eligible for the Governor's Medallion Award. Citizens, Volunteer Organizations and Governmental Staff

submitted nominations. Nominations were submitted to the state office and the selected individuals were asked to attend the Board meeting. Martin County Government was extremely proud to make these presentations when volunteering was stated to be on the decline. These recipients demonstrated a willingness to give resources or provide themselves in helping to make life a little better for their fellow citizens.

HR Director Zube stated that a committee was made of citizens and staff of Martin County to review and submit applications to the Governor’s office for approval. HR Director Zube listed the committee members as follows:

Mr. Ben Jones – Martin County Citizen	Mr. Chace Conner – Tourism Development Authority
Ms. Keisha Manson – Martin County Citizen	Mr. James Bennett- County Manager
Ms. Lou Ann Vanlandingham – Martin County Citizen	Mrs. Cindy Ange – Finance Officer
	Ms. Donna Zube – Human Resources Director

Human Resources Director Zube stated that there were requirements to be a recipient of this award. The requirements were:

Devotee to a system, outstanding dedication, and exceptional commitment in the area of volunteer services. There were six individuals that were recipients of this award and two groups that received awards.

Martin County Adult & Aging

Human Resources Director Zube stated that former Adult & Aging Director, Ms. Lisa Edmonds, completed an application for all of her volunteers at the agency. Ms. Edmonds could not attend the meeting, but Adult & Aging Director Madison Wilkinson received the award on the behalf of the volunteers at the agency

The Friendly Spot

HR Director Zube stated that the Friendly Spot was a refurbished building on Main Street in Jamesville. The Friendly Spot reportedly provided a food pantry and distribution center for the community, a community garden with fresh produce for residents, a prep kitchen with weekly free community meals, and a library through donations from five local churches. HR Director Zube stated that the women that operated the Friendly Spot organized and fundraised to meet the nutritional and hunger needs of their community. HR Director Zube stated that the organization served the Jamesville community every week. A representative received the award on behalf of the organization.

Ms. Shannon Hoggard

HR Director Zube reported that Ms. Hoggard served as the lead volunteer for Martin County Lessons in a Back Pack. The program served 6 local schools and each child could take home things needed for the weekend. Ms. Hoggard reportedly supervised 40 volunteers from 6 churches. Ms. Hoggard also handled food collection, purchasing, packaging, and delivery to students every Friday at the six local schools. Ms. Hoggard was reported to be very active in her church community and last year she served over 2,080 hours.

Ms. Debra Battle

Ms. Debra Battle was announced to have served 60 senior citizens that were confined to their homes for months in 2022. Ms. Battle was involved in the community Back Pack Program, served people in homeless shelters, spearheaded a coat drive for children and adults, served hot meals to children and adults on holidays, orchestrated an Easter Egg Hunt for the community, and she got donations to giveaway 117 bicycles or Christmas.

Mr. William Newsome

HR Director Zube stated that Mr. Newsome conducted a phenomenal job in volunteering in all capacities associated with the EJ Hayes Alumni Association. From the inception of the alumni association in, Mr. Newsome was instrumental in organizing a team of individuals to establish an alumni organization. The goal of the organization was to continue supporting the historical integrity of the first African American High school in Williamston. Thus, Mr. Newsome and others began discussions with the Martin County Board of Education and County Commissioners to preserve the old high school and to seek avenues of financial assistance that would allow renovations at the historical landmark. In addition, Mr. Newsome sought to recruit membership from former students, find funding and other resources for various educational programs, and various community projects that have been operating nearly 18 years. Mr. Newsome has served as president of this organization for the past 5 years. In this capacity, he has led the orchestration of building renovations, organization of memberships of over 250 individuals, and has led many cultural activities. Such programs were in the category of health awareness, cultural arts, politics, and spiritual awareness as it related to church involvement.

Mr. Butch Whitley

HR Director Zube reported that Mr. Whitley served over 6 years in a volunteer role for Martin County Economic Development and Martin County Travel and Tourism. Mr. Whitley has served as the Chairman of the Martin County Travel and Tourism Board for the past 3 years. With his background in Industry, Mr. Whitley had provided a wealth of knowledge and expertise to help grow the rural community. His professionalism and knowledge has served our community for years. Mr. Whitley has also served in positions at his church.

Mayor Tina Brown of Robersonville

Mayor Brown of Robersonville reportedly directed a hunger relief group that was open 3-5 days a week in 3 different locations. This program served over 400 people a week. Mayor Brown of Robersonville led in provided nutritional and supplemental food to the community to low income families, provided community resources and educational programs to those in need, she was active with the South Creek Back Pack Program that provided a take home bag for students over the weekend, she was involved with the Faith Community Outreach providing meals for over 1,000 people, she was active in her church, and very active on several county boards. HR Director Zube listed the Boards as: Council on Aging, Boys and Girls Club, Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board. Mayor Tina Brown of Robersonville was also reported to have great leadership and organization skills.

Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass

Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass has been and continued to be a main resource in the history of Martin County due to her involvement with many various organizations. Mayor Griffin continues to be associated with these various organizations to progress Martin County and its residents. As for-mentioned, Mayor Griffin of Bear Grass has been involved with various organizations in the fields of politics, education, culture and arts, environmental safety and expansion, and safety in general. Many awards have been given to Mrs. Griffin for her long term involvement and dedication such as the Martin County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year and the Libby D. Kontz State Human Relations Awards.

Mayor Griffin of Bear Grass had a goal to fight for the rights and recognition of the undeserved. Mayor of Bear Grass Charlotte Griffin accomplishes this by being a member and enforcing the goals of the Eastern African Committee, Hamilton Rosenwald School Restoration Project, Martin Community College Board, Mid - East Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Southern Albemarle Association, Bear Grass Charter School Board and Educational Foundation Board, Roanoke River Partners, Strategic Economic Committee, Bear Grass Fire/Rescue Ladies Auxiliary, Highway 17/64 Association, and more.

In the past, Mayor Griffin served on the Martin Community College Foundation Board (2018) and the Board of Trustees (2000-2016), National Foundation of Women Legislature (2018), Macedonia Christian Church Sunday School and Vacation Bible School as a teacher (1963), Meals on Wheels as a volunteer (1962-2016), and was the Bear Grass Precinct Chair in the 1960's.

Mayor Charlotte Griffin received her plaque and made comments of why she volunteered and served.

All Board members thanked the volunteers and made comments regarding their appreciation to volunteers. Chairman Smith made an informed the public of the different generation groups, commented about the decrease in volunteerism amongst generation groups, and mentioned times in which people lined up to volunteer in any capacity.

All volunteers received a plaque and took a picture with the Board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Ms. Jennifer Dickerson was introduced as a new employee in the Division of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Dickerson began her employment in March 2023 and was not able to attend previous meetings due to training. Ms. Dickerson was welcomed by the Board and thanked for choosing Martin County for employment.

The Board thanked Ms. Rodgers and congratulated her in her new endeavor with Martin County.

PRESENTATIONS

Adult & Aging Departmental Update – Madison Wilkinson, Director

Adult & Aging Director Madison Wilkinson began the presentation stating that the mission of the Martin County Adult & Aging Services Department was to respond to older adults' needs and interests by providing resources and programs that enhance independence, personal growth, health and self-esteem. The vision of the Martin County Adult & Aging Services Department was to be the leading resource agency in our community that provides older adults and seniors with access to wellness activities, health education, volunteerism, and service opportunities.

Congregate Meals

Mid-day programs, activities and hot, nutritious meals provided 3 days a week in a group setting at all four nutrition sites throughout Martin County. Must be 60+ to participate. Congregate Site Locations & Monthly Average Meals Served:

- Williamston - 168 meals served - 201 Lee Street Williamston, NC 27892 (Carolyn Thompson)
- Robersonville - 117 meals served - 203 Green Street Robersonville, NC 27871 (Avron Oden)
- Oak City - 81 meals served - 415 W Commerce Street Oak City, NC 27857 (Jimmy Wynne)
- Jamesville - 155 meals served - 1601 Roanoke Court Jamesville, NC 27846 (Brenda Rease)

Home Delivered Meals

5 meals delivered to home bound older adults once a week by volunteers. Must be 60+ and home bound to participate in delivered meals.

- Bear Grass - 226 meals delivered
- Robersonville - 391 meals delivered
- Oak City - 115 meals delivered
- Hamilton - 299 meals delivered
- Jamesville - 346 meals delivered
- Williamston – 1110 meals delivered

Transportation

- General Transportation - A ride to the nutrition site, to buy groceries, pay bills, shop, etc. provided by Martin County Transit. Clients must schedule transportation with Martin County Adult & Aging Services receptionist with a least a 24 hour notice.
- Medical Transportation - A ride for scheduled doctor's appointments provided by Martin County Transit. Clients must schedule transportation with Martin Count Adult & Aging Services receptionist with a least a 48 hour notice.

Adult and Aging Director Wilkinson stated that the monthly average of transportation clients was 17.

In-Home Programs

In-Home Aide was reportedly serving 10 clients and the program could be a relief service for caregivers. A certified nurse's assistant would assist clients in the home for at least 4 hours per week.

Our Care System - currently serving 93 clients

Emergency Response System enables seniors to live independently and confidently knowing there is help at the push of a button. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Landline and Mobile Units are made available to meet the needs of anyone in the home or on-the-go. Ault & Aging Director Wilkinson stated that there were 6 Registered CNA's to assist families and there was a waiting list. Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson encourage families to sign their loved ones up for the program regardless of the waiting list.

- Landline - \$25.00/month
- Mobile - \$35.00/month
- Installation - \$20.00 (one-time fee)

Housing & Home Improvement

Adult and Aging Director Wilkinson described Housing and Home Improvement as a program geared to assist Martin County seniors ages 60 and above with minor home repair with. Local contractors conduct these services with a maximum of \$1,500 in repairs. Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson stated the program was funded through a Mid – East Housing Grant. Individuals could reapply after 3 years of services rendered. 30 clients reportedly received assistance since July 1, 2022.

Health & Wellness and Exercise Program

- Multi-purpose exercise program designed to meet anyone 18+ fitness needs
- Aerobic, dance class, weight room
- Personal History Form required

- A doctor's note required
- \$10.00 monthly membership fee

Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson gave out a schedule for the year that had events for senior citizens and the community as a whole. Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson stated that the agency and DSS Transit took seniors to the Older Americans Month event in Raleigh yesterday. It was reported that the seniors had a great time.

The Board thanked Adult & Aging Director Wilkinson for her presentation and services provided. Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions.

Manager Bennett stated that the meeting was moved up to the Superior Courtroom due to predicted overflow of attendees, therefore the presentation by Adult & Aging and Aging Director Wilkinson could not be shown. Manager Bennett stated that Ault & Aging Director Wilkinson could be contacted for a copy of the presentation and a flyer of events.

PUBLIC HEARING – FV20 Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Scope Revision

At 7:44 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. **Motioned** to Enter Public Hearing - FV20 Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Scope Revision, with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Manager Bennett stated CDBG-CV was an award received by CADA initially, but given to the County due to the inability to fulfill the obligations of the funding. The purpose of the public hearing was to discuss the scope revision for the FV20 Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Relief (CDBG-CV) project and allow residents an opportunity to express their views. Specifically it will allow the County to avoid the environmental study which would delay Public Service Division. The Public Service Division includes Covid 19, Testing for vaccine, Local Food Pantry and Subsistence payment for 2,500 households. Next month, a second portion of the funding would need to be discussed.

There were no public comments regarding this public hearing.

At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made the **Motion** to Exit Public Hearing FV20 Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Revision, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mobile Home Ordinance

At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – Mobile Home Ordinances, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

The Mobile Home Ordinance was presented to guide future growth in Martin County. Code Enforcement/ Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin added that the ordinances were initially presented to the Board at the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting. It was with hope that the ordinance would ease concerns and provide consistency in future development without having a Countywide Zoning Ordinance in place currently. Code Enforcement/ Emergency Management Director Griffin stated that the Ordinance to regulate mobile homes, travel trailers, mobile home parks, and travel trailer parks in Martin County. This was reportedly needed to approve the quality

of real estate, improve emergency access for Fire and Rescue departments, improve trash pickup, and improve mail delivery.

Manager Bennett stated that there were some people who did not have a chance to look at the ordinances. Manager Bennett added that the ordinance was presented to the Board and time would be allowed for the public to view the ordinances. Chairman Smith agreed and stated that there would be another public hearing on the matter. Manager Bennett stated that the ordinance would be added to the website after the meeting.

Code Enforcement/ Emergency Management Director Griffin stated that the ordinances would only apply to new properties and or structures.

There were no public comments regarding this public hearing.

At 7:48 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – Mobile Home Ordinances, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Subdivision Ordinance

At 7:52 p.m. Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Enter Public Hearing – Subdivision Ordinance, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Building Inspections/Emergency Management Director Griffin stated that the Draft Subdivision Ordinance. Building Inspector/ Emergency Management Griffin stated that this ordinance was similar to the Mobile Home Ordinance besides additional benefits related to subdivision structure, drinking water improvements, and improved real estate values.

Public Hearing Public Comments:

Mr. Billy Leggett – Mr. Leggett reported that he was a land surveyor and dealt with 10-12 counties that had a subdivision ordinance. Mr. Leggett shared his concern that some counties implemented good ordinances for the community, some counties did not think about their residents when implemented an ordinance, and he would not work with some counties because of the inconsistency of ordinance implementation. Mr. Leggett stated that he did not have a chance to review the ordinances.

Chairman Smith agreed with Mr. Leggett in everyone being involved in this matter and stated that the ordinances would be posted online for public viewing.

Mr. Leggett added that his concern was that the surveyors were the middle man in between the residents and the government facility. Mr. Leggett stated that surveyors were expected to know about any updates or changes to policies in the County. Mr. Leggett reported that he did not want to see citizens be messed over.”

Mr. Robert Mack Stalls- Mr. Stalls made a public comment regarding surveyors being included in ordinance discussions as it was their job to carry out the ordinances presented. Mr. Stalls reported that he couldn't find the ordinance anywhere to review, but visited the County Manager's office and received a copy. Mr. Stalls reported that the implementation of the ordinances would be a mess without the surveyors and that an ordinance tweaked for Martin County from another County was not the best idea. Mr. Stalls recommended that a committee needed to be made up of surveyors,

developers, realtors, and etc to put an ordinance together that worked for Martin County residents. Mr. Stalls urged the Board to not take action on the matter at the meeting.

Chairman Smith assured that the Board would not take action on this matter, another public hearing would be held in a future meeting, and that the ordinances would be added to the County website.

Ms. Stephanie Butler

Ms. Butler stated that she left Martin County, went to law school, and moved back to Martin County to build their retirement home on land inherited by a grandmother. Ms. Butler stated that she was not sure for fact, but her family may have owned the property for at least 200 years. Ms. Butler stated that she built on the premise that the road would never be developed. Ms. Butler stated traffic, noise, and having small children in on the property was a concern. A 4 acre mobile home property was reportedly being proposed in her neighborhood, which would double the population of the road. Almost all of Ms. Butler's neighbors reportedly had the same idea in mind of how the neighborhood should be. Ms. Butler mentioned that there was a plan developed many years ago and her property was listed as agricultural land. Overall, Ms. Butler reported that she and her neighbors wanted to keep the same environment they previously had.

Chairman Smith asked that Code Enforcement/Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin follow up with the public comments and any questions from the public. Chairman Smith stated that more time would be given to the public to view the ordinances and that no action would be taken on the matter.

Manager Bennett mentioned speaking with Mid- East about options to bring someone in that had deeper knowledge in this matter. Manager Bennett stated that the ordinances would be added to the County website after the meeting for public viewing.

Chairman Smith stated that he did not want the Board to rush in this matter and time was needed to make a product that worked for everyone. All individuals that made a public comment were thanked for their comments.

At 7:57 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Exit Public Hearing- Mobile Home Subdivision, and 911 Addressing Ordinances, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Horse Trails Project

Manager Bennett reported that in 2020, Martin County was a recipient of a grant for \$100,000 from NDCNCR for the construction of a Horse/Walking Trail. Additional funding derived from the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) - \$16,000; Martin County Government - \$25,000; CSX - \$1,000, NC Horse Trail - \$10,000; Dominion Power - \$6,000; and Martin Community College - \$6,000 for a total of \$165,000. Due to setbacks, the project had not started, funding had to be renewed for one year with NCDNR from February 20, 2023 through February 20, 2024. There was a consultant that wished to contract with Martin County Government for \$8,500.00 for the completion of Phase 1. Payments would be made with (3) installments. In addition to actively seek funding for Phase II of the Horse Trail Project.

Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Approve Consultant Robin Payne to complete Phase I of the Horse Trail Project for \$8,500, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

New Ambulance Franchise

Listed below are the five (5) ambulance franchise agencies seeking renewal in Martin County. Each of the agencies listed below currently operate in our county. Each is in good standing with North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services. Each of those listed have been approved by our county ambulance advisory board along with our medical director. There have been no complaints or issues regarding any of these agencies filed with our office. We hereby submit this letter to the board as our recommendation for approval.

The agencies seeking renewal are:

- Coastal Medical Transport
- Roanoke Medical Transport
- Midway Medical Transport
- Inner Banks Medical Transport
- White Oak Medical Transport

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve the above listed ambulance franchises, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendments

Budget Amendment #27

Finance Officer Cindy Ange stated that the Martin County ABC Board awarded an additional \$1,400 to the Sheriff's Office for the DARE program. Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) is an education program that seeks to prevent the use of controlled drugs, membership in gangs, and violent behavior. Students who enter the program sign a pledge not to use drugs or join gangs and are instructed by a Martin County deputy using an interactive in-school curriculum which lasts 12 weeks.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-27

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
Public Safety		
Sheriff	\$ 1,400	

This will result in an increase of \$1,400 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 1,400
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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 Vice Chairman Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 10th day of May 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendment #28

The Juvenile Community Programs Section of the NC Department of Public Safety has awarded \$4,700 in additional funding to the Riverside Youth Intervention Program, and \$2,000 in additional funding to NIFF. There was no additional match required for these funds.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-28

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		
Office of Juvenile Justice	\$ 6,700	

This will result in an increase of \$6,700 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 6,700
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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 Biggs and **Seconded** by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 10th day of May, 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously

Budget Amendment #29

Finance Officer Ange stated the occupancy tax was on track to have an increase over pre-pandemic levels this year. This amendment increases 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-29

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	\$85,000	

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

Taxes

\$85,000

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 10th day of May 2023. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

CLOSED SESSIONS –NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(6) Personnel

At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner made the **Motion** to Enter Closed Sessions –NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(6) Personnel, with a **Second** by Commissioner. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

At 8:59 p.m., Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Exit Closed Sessions –NC G.S. § 143-318.11(3) Client/Attorney Privilege and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(6) Personnel, with a **Second** by Commissioner. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Ayers made the **Motion** to Terminate the Jay Group Contract due to Non Compliance, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Approve the Grant Writing Consultant Contract for \$15,000/month per organization, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Manager Bennett reported that North Carolina Association of County Commissioner (NCACC) Outreach Associate Denise Stinagle met him and County Clerk Rease as an office visit. Manager Bennett reported that NCACC Outreach Associate Stinagle was a retired Wilson County Manager and former Clerk. NCACC Outreach Associate Stinagle gave County Clerk Rease tips on how to capture a meeting in the minutes without them being extensive. Manager Bennett added that NCACC Outreach Associate Stinagle could make a presentation to the Board in the future if the Board approved.

Manager Bennett also mention that all Board members were attending an event together for the first time in years. The Board members were reportedly attending the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Advocacy Days. Manager Bennett stated that lobbyist Cody Hann urged the Board members to discuss a Rural Emergency Hospital Designation during the event.

Next, Manager Bennett listed dates for budget workshops meetings needed. The dates were: May 31, 2023; June 7th, 2023; and June 28th, 2023 for Budget Amendments if needed.

Then, Manager Bennett reported that the Commissioner's Christmas Dinner would take place at Devil's Gut on December 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Lastly, Manager Bennett reported that there would be a fundraiser for Tax Collector Christie Blevins on May 25, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The plates were \$10.00 and proceeds were

to go to Ms. Blevins' medical expenses for health concerns. HR Director Zube stated that law enforcement and other agencies were organizing and assisting with this event.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Adjourn the meeting, with a **Second** from Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease, Clerk to the Board