

**October 5, 2023  
Special Call Meeting**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called meeting to discuss Closed Session matters, on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

**ASSEMBLY**

Those attending the meeting were Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, Commissioner Emily Biggs, Commissioner David "Skip" Gurganus, County Manager U. James Bennett, County Attorney Benjamin Eisner, County Clerk Julia S. Rease, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Gurganus provided the invocation.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Smith asked that a Public Record Discussion was added to the agenda in Open Session.

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Approve the agenda with the addition of the Public Records Discussion, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION(S) - 1. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3)Attorney-Client Privilege and 2. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5)Real Property Purchase/Contracts/Leases**

Around 6:04 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to enter Closed Sessions pursuant of NC G.S. §143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client and NC G.S. §143-318.11(a) (5) Real Property Purchase/Contracts/Leases, with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. The motion was **Carried** unanimously.

At 7:20 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made the **Motion** to Exit Closed Session(s) 1. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3)Attorney-Client Privilege and 2.N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5)Real Property Purchase/Contracts/Leases , with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Public Record Requests – (Added during Agenda Approval)**

County Attorney Benjamin Eisner updated the Board and audience about the Public Record Requests. County Attorney Eisner reported that the staff were receiving multiple public record requests on a steadily basis. It was reported that if the record request could be processed and completed quickly, they were completed and returned to the person who made the request. County

Attorney Eisner stated that if there were record requests – requesting a lengthy amount of records, it may take more time to be completed. These record requests were reportedly being staffed with County Attorney Eisner and the responsible department head to ensure that the logistics of the lengthy requests were worked out and to get an idea of how long the request would take.

Chairman Smith asked that a letter be sent to any person requesting a lengthy records request, stating how long it would take to complete the request. County Attorney Benjamin Eisner agreed and stated that there would be contact made with individuals who requested records to keep them abreast of a possible completion date, logistics of providing the record request, and updates.

Commissioner Gurganus asked if his understanding was correct that of everything being requested, if legal to be distributed; would be worked on with some things being faster than others, the people completing the record request had jobs to do as well in keeping the County running, but overall it was being handled as fast as possible? County Attorney Eisner agreed. Commissioner Gurganus stated that a little patience was needed to be exercised due to the staff conducting jobs within the County and the responsibility of providing record requests.

### **Interim County Manager (Closed Session Discussion)**

Chairman Smith reported that there was a closed session discussion regarding the process of looking for an Interim County Manager.

Human Resources Director Donna Zube informed the audience that she would begin contacting the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), the League of Government Municipalities (LGC), the School of Government (SOG) – Chapel Hill, and in house applications in search for an Interim County Manager. HR Director Zube stated that the applicants would be required to send applications and resumes to her directly and that no one else would have these documents unless all commissioners had all of these documents at one time. From there, the Board would review the applications and resumes with hopes that an Interim County Manager would be chosen before the end of the month.

There were no further comments and or questions.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, at 7:22 p.m., Commissioner Gurganus **Motioned** to adjourn and Commissioner Biggs **Seconded** the motion. The Board unanimously **Approved** the motion.



Ronnie Smith, Chairman  
Martin County Board of Commissioners



Julia S. Rease  
Clerk to the Board