

**June 27, 2024**  
**Special Call Meeting**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting regarding Open and Closed Session matters in the Commissioners Board Room, Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, N.C.

Those attending the meeting were Chairman Dempsey Bond Jr., Vice Chair Emily Biggs, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus, Interim County Manager / County Attorney Benjamin R. Eisner, Clerk to the Board Julia Rease, Finance Officer Cindy Ange, and Mrs. Angela Raynor.

Others in Attendance: Mayor of Bear Grass Charlotte Griffin

Chairman Bond Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gurganus provided the invocation. Chairman Bond Jr. extended a welcome to all participating.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to approve the agenda, with a **Second** from Commissioner Ayers. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously. (5-0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Appointment of Finance Director and Acceptance of Performance Bond**

Finance Officer Cindy Ange announced plans for retirement in a previous meeting and Ms. Angela Raynor was hired to become the new Finance Officer. Ms. Raynor was asked to stand in acknowledgment of her new position. Bonding requirements were stated and proof of her bond was presented to the Board to be recorded in the minutes as required by general statute. Interim County Manager Benjamin Eisner stated that the approval of the bond and appointment of Ms. Angela Raynor was being requested of the Board.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to approve Mrs. Angela Raynors’ appointment as Finance Director with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** approving of Ms. Angela Raynors’ Bond as Finance Director, with a **Second** by Commissioner Smith. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously (5-0)

#### **2. McAdams and Associates Contract**

Commissioners received the McAdams and Associates, LLC. contract via email to continue providing administrative and consulting services for planning and funding application submittal related to grants.

Commissioner Gurganus made the **Motion** to Approve the McAdams and Associates Contract with a **Second** by Commissioner Smith. Motion was **Carried** Unanimously (5-0).

### **3. Budget Amendments – None**

#### **CAB GRANT**

Interim County Manager Eisner stated that efforts were continuously being made in implementing broadband within the County. Interim County Manager Eisner stated that feedback was being anticipated from the State and an update would be given in the July Board meeting.

### **2. Health Care Solutions - Ascendient Consultant Dawn Carter**

Ascendient Consultant Carter stated that progress was being made in providing healthcare in Martin County. Ascendient Consultant Carter reminded the Board and audience of the three questions that were discussed in the January 2024 Board meeting. The three questions were:

- Can Martin General Hospital reopen as a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH)?
- What, if anything, needed to be done to the facility to open as a REH?
- Are there any capital needs and or funding needs to open as an REH?

The REH was a new hospital designation that came about in 2023 and there was a delay in applying the designation to the hospital since it was closed. Ascendient Consultant Carter reported that the Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) confirmed that Martin General Hospital could be reopened from previously being closed as an REH. Therefore, the first question listed of the three, had been answered. The remainder of the questions listed needed answers as well before the search for a hospital provider could begin. Martin General Hospital was stated to be the first hospital eligible to be reopened as an REH that was previously closed.

Moving forward, Ascendient Consultant Carter stated that the second question listed was being looked into and involved the Department of Human & Health Services (DHHS). DHHS was the entity that had to determine and approve the building to reopen and they had to apply federal and state regulations to the building. Ascendient Consultant Carter mentioned DHHS conducting a walkthrough to determine if the building met the federal and state regulations/ requirements, and if so what needed to be done next. The walkthrough had a threefold purpose:

- Familiarize DHHS with the Martin County teams' thoughts on how the building could be operated as an REH,
- Conduct the walkthrough to identify any questions that they may have had
- Identify any structural updates that need to be taken.

The Deputy Director of DHHS attended and was stated to be very responsive throughout the process. It was important for DHHS to understand the vision. More questions were generated after the walkthrough and certain things such as the systems in the hospital were being cataloged, then compared to the requirements of an REH to see if the hospital met the standards and if not, what was needed to be done to meet those standards.

Once it was known what capital needs were needed, if any, funding for those needs would be identified. When Ascendient Consultant Carter had answers to these questions, a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be sent out. Ascendient Consultant Carter reportedly had a discussion with potential provider and there were multiple parties interested in operating the hospital. A timetable for this process was not set just of yet. Ascendient Consultant Carter was assured that NC DHHS would respond as soon as possible, as they had been throughout the entire process thus far.

Commissioner Gurganus commented that everyone wanted this process to be fast, but ere were a lot of hurdles to overcome. Commissioner Gurganus reported that if it were not for Ascendient Consultant Dawn Carter, Interim County Manager/County Attorney Benjamin Eisner, Attorney Tom Stukes, and state officials; the County would not have made as much progress in resolving the issue with healthcare in Martin County. Commissioner Gurganus commended them in working hard to resolve this issue. Commissioner Gurganus noted that they helped with a passion and not to put money in their pockets.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:45 p.m., Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to Enter Closed Session 1.N.C.G.S. §131E - 97.3 Competitive Health Care Information, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

At 7:16 PM, Commissioner Smith made the **Motion** to Exit Closed Session 1.N.C.G.S. §131E - 97.3 Competitive Health Care Information, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously. (5-0)

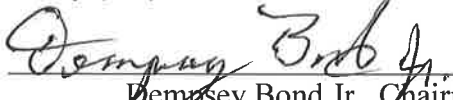
### **OPEN SESSION**


Interim County Manager Eisner stated that Dawn Carter mentioned an update before the closed session and identified Criterion Health, LLC. Consulting group to help navigate through certain questions regarding the Martin General Hospital and a contract was presented to retain services.

Commissioner Biggs made the **Motion** to approve the Criterion Health, LLC. Contract, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

### **Adjournment:**

At 7:18 p.m., Commissioner Smith made the **Motion** to adjourn the meeting, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The motion was **Carried** unanimously (5-0).

  
Dempsey Bond Jr., Chairman  
Martin County Board of Commissioners

  
Julia S. Rease  
Clerk to the Board