

**October 14, 2020**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom at the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

### **ASSEMBLY**

Present in the Boardroom: Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard, County Attorney Richard James and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Present via Cisco WebEx: Chairman Tommy Bowen (began at 7:17 p.m.), Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange and Lead for North Carolina Fellow Elizabeth Mitchell.

Vice Chairman Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ayers led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lilley provided the invocation.

Vice Chairman Bond extended a welcome to Parmele Mayor Jerry McCrary and acknowledged Sheriff Tim Manning.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the agenda as revised, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (4-0, Chairman Bowen was not connected at this time due to technical difficulties).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

County Manager Bone stated there were no written comments submitted to the Clerk prior to the meeting. In order to maintain transparency, a brief moment was observed to allow anyone watching Facebook live to provide comments. No comments were offered on the Facebook live stream.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0, Chairman Bowen was not connected at this time due to technical difficulties).

- 1. Minutes** for September 23, 2020 Special Called Meeting and September 29, 2020 Special Called Joint Meeting
- 2. Financial Report** for August 2020
- 3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – September 2020 -- None**
- 4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders –September 2020**

| Year<br>Levy | Lname                             | Fname             | Reason                                    | Value | Total     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------|-----------|
| 2020         | Bell                              | Elmer             | Surrendered Tags                          |       | 17.13     |
| 2020         | Bell                              | Elmer             | Sold Mobile Home                          |       | 16.80     |
| 2020         | Jenkins                           | Earnest           | Out of County                             |       | 22.40     |
| 2020         | Jenkins                           | Earnest           | Out of County                             |       | 22.12     |
| 2020         | Johnson                           | Addison Carl      | Double Billed                             |       | 56.59     |
| 2020         | Lawrence                          | Shelton Lewis     | Sold Vehicle                              |       | 5.94      |
| 2020         | Reason                            | Dexter            | Sold Vehicle                              |       | 32.84     |
| 2020         | Reason                            | Dexter            | Sold Vehicle                              |       | 34.67     |
| 2020         | Spell                             | Nicole C          | Out of County                             |       | 12.41     |
| 2020         | Swain                             | Mabel Casper      | Bill of Sale                              |       | 2.69      |
| 2020         | Swain                             | Mabel Casper      | Double Billed                             |       | 2.87      |
| 2020         | Swain                             | Mabel Casper      | Double Billed                             |       | 4.79      |
| 2020         | Swain                             | Mabel Casper      | Double List                               |       | 4.90      |
| 2020         | Swain                             | Mabel Casper      | Double List                               |       | 4.90      |
| 2020         | Roberson's<br>Lawn Care           |                   | Personal                                  |       | 163.21    |
| 2020         | Wilkins                           | Claudie           | Correction                                |       | 343.15    |
| 2020         | Winslow                           | Jamie Lynn        | Correction                                |       | 1.55      |
|              |                                   |                   | <i>Total Real &amp; Personal Releases</i> |       | \$747.41  |
| 2020         | Andrews                           | Ellen Delois      | Situs Error                               |       | 37.16     |
| 2020         | Bullock                           | Antonio Clayton   | Situs Error                               |       | 330.50    |
| 2020         | Cooper                            | Jerry Lloyd       | Situs Error                               |       | 0.43      |
| 2020         | County View<br>Family Farms       |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 6.20      |
| 2020         | Creech                            | Joseph Ernest     | Situs Error                               |       | 65.19     |
| 2020         | CScapes, Inc                      |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 49.52     |
| 2020         | Flowers                           | Jennifer Jeffries | Situs Error                               |       | 82.78     |
| 2020         | Fountain                          | Elouise Jones     | Adjustment                                |       | 5.96      |
| 2020         | James                             | Charles Wendell   | Situs Error                               |       | 42.30     |
| 2020         | Lilley<br>International<br>AL INC |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 4.78      |
| 2020         | Lilley<br>International<br>AL INC |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 4.12      |
| 2020         | Rascoe                            | Vernetta Louise   | Situs Error                               |       | 63.70     |
| 2020         | Washington                        | Vickey Ann        | Situs Error                               |       | 0.40      |
| 2020         | Waste<br>Industries LLC           |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 42.57     |
| 2020         | Waste<br>Industries LLC           |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 49.94     |
| 2020         | Waste<br>Industries LLC           |                   | Situs Error                               |       | 40.21     |
|              |                                   |                   | <i>Total VTS Refund Requests</i>          |       | \$ 825.76 |

## 5. Tax Collector's Report –September 2020

Report not available. Will be available at the November 2020 meeting.

## **6. Trillium Annual Report for FY 19-20**

### **ABC Funds Report for FY 19-20**

County: Martin

Amount of ABC Funds Received \$3500.00

ABC Funds Restrictions per County Allocation: None

Per GS 18B-805(h) since Trillium Health Resources received Alcoholism (ABC) Funds from your county, we are required to provide an annual report to the board of county commissioners describing how the funds were spent. Please find below to a brief description of the expenditures that were paid from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Healing Transitions in Wake County: \$ 6,615.00 was paid for 147 days for individuals from your county to the Healing Transitions in Wake County for substance abuse treatment and specifically for detoxification services and recovery treatment.

Purchase of Naloxone Kits: Trillium purchased and distributed in Martin County 39 Naloxone kits at \$2,925.00 to Martin County Sheriff.

Access Point Kiosk – The Kiosk provides anonymous evidence-based self-conducted screenings for mental health and substance use to potentially link individuals to appropriate services. The annual cost is \$1181.00 for these kiosk per year.

\*Substance Abuse Treatment Services: \$ 322,453 was paid for 139 individuals from your county to providers for substance abuse treatment.

These Substance abuse treatment expenditures were spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse. These funds were paid to providers who contracted with Trillium to provide substance abuse treatment to consumers with an address in your county. Services provided include but are not limited to the below:

- Assessment/evaluation
- Outpatient treatment and counseling, including face to face and telepsychiatry and both individual and group
- Mobile Crisis
- Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Therapy
- Facility Based Crisis
- Opioid Treatment

\*Denotes State and ABC funds paid for services for consumers residing in Martin County with substance abuse diagnosis. This does NOT include Medicaid funds paid for the same.

## **7. Board Appointments/Reappointments**

### **Airport Height Restrictions Board**

The Board was asked to reappoint Mr. Veo Bunting, Mr. Buck Davis, Mr. Abner House and Mr. Jesse Council to the Airport Height Restrictions Ordinance Board of Appeals for another three-year term, which would expire October 31, 2023.

The Board APPROVED the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

**8. Clerk Report** included for informational purposes.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)**

Department of Social Services Board Chair Jerry McCrary was present to introduce the Interim DSS Director, Mr. Jack Jones, to the Board of Commissioners. Mayor McCrary stated Mr. Jones began his Social Services career in Martin County and had served in many other counties and in the Interim Director role several times.

Mr. Jones stated he began his career in the 1980s at Martin County Social Services. Mr. Jones had done quite a lot of contract work before returning to Martin County for this Interim Director role. Mr. Jones spoke highly of County Manager Bone and DSS Board Chair McCrary. Mr. Jones stated it was an honor to be back in Martin County.

Vice Chairman Bond thanked Mr. Jones for accepting the position and helping out. Commissioner Lilley thanked Mr. Jones for his kind words about Martin County, and thanked him for his willingness to come back and serve Martin County. Commissioner Ayers thanked Mr. Jones for his service, stating he had heard great things. Commissioner Smith welcomed Mr. Jones aboard and thanked him for accepting the position.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **COVID-19 Update**

M-T-W District Health Director Wes Gray participated remotely via Webex to provide a monthly update regarding COVID-19 in the community. Information provided included the number of COVID-19 cases, recoveries, and deaths in North Carolina, in the United States and globally. Director Gray highlighted the number of positive cases, number of recoveries, and deaths in each county of the MTW district.

Next, Director Gray discussed new reported cases and new reported deaths in North Carolina and in the United States. Director Gray also showed graphs that indicated where hot spots were located in North Carolina and across the country. Other statistics discussed included number of cases by county in North Carolina, as well as per capita cases by county in North Carolina.

Director Gray provided updated information regarding childcare or school settings with an ongoing cluster in many counties in North Carolina. Director Gray also highlighted several previous clusters that were now considered over. Director Gray then discussed several ongoing outbreaks in the MTW District at Roanoke River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Martin), Vintage Inn Retirement Community (Martin), and Roanoke Landing Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Washington).

Director Gray then provided MTW District-wide and statewide demographic data, including COVID-19 patients by age and gender, and by race and ethnicity. Then, he discussed the COVID-19 mortality rate in NC, which as of this meeting was 3,693 deaths (1.7%), and the mortality in Martin County was 16 (3.0%).

Director Gray provided information regarding the fatalities in Martin County, breaking down those cases by age, race, and underlying medical conditions.

Vice Chairman Bond thanked Director Gray for his detailed presentation. Commissioner Smith thanked Director Gray for the detailed information and keeping the Board informed.

County Manager Bone acknowledged Chairman Bowen was having some connection issues, but he was on the phone to participate in the meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **Transit 5311 CTP Grant**

At 7:27 p.m., Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to go into a public hearing, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

DSS Administrative Officer Frank Halsey was present to provide information for this public hearing.

Mr. Halsey stated Martin County Transit is a public transportation agency and receives outside funding from multiple sources, including:

- The Community Transportation Program (CTP)
- Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP)
- Medicaid Transportation

Martin County submits applications and holds the required public hearings annually for the CTP program. The Board of Commissioners was being asked to hold this public hearing on Martin County's CTP / Section 5311 grant application for 2021-2022.

Mr. Halsey further explained the Martin County Transit (MCT) grant application has two parts:

1. The **Administrative Budget** covered salaries and fringe benefits of management and office staff, drug and alcohol testing, first aid supplies, office materials, travel expenses, telephone and internet service, marketing, and other expenses associated with the running of an office. These administration dollars were 80% Federal and 20% local share. The total amount requested for **FY 22** was **\$139,821** of which the **local share was \$27,964**.
2. The **Capital Budget** request included:
  - Replacement of one MCT vehicle that has high mileage and no ADA lift. The new vehicle will be a 22 foot LTV bus with an ADA lift.
  - One office desk with a return.
  - One book case.
  - Two locked storage cabinets for chemicals.

- Four folding tables.
- One video projector for training staff.
- One lap top computer for the intern.
- Two color printer/scanners.

These capital dollars were 80% Federal, and 20% local share. The total capital amount requested for **FY 22** was **\$81,596** of which the **local share was \$16,319**. The total estimated amount requested for the period **July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022** was:

| <u>PROJECT</u>       | <u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u> | <u>LOCAL SHARE</u>     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE       | \$139,821               | \$27,964 (20%)         |
| CAPITAL              | \$81,596                | \$16,319 (20%)         |
| <b>TOTAL PROJECT</b> | <b><u>\$221,417</u></b> | <b><u>\$44,283</u></b> |

Mr. Halsey reviewed the Board of Commissioners was asked to hold a public hearing on this item and:

1. Approve the attached Public Transportation Program Resolution to approve the grant application and authorization of the submittal of the application, as presented.
2. Adopt the Annual Conflict of Interest Policy pertaining to grants and procurement, as presented.
3. Individually sign a copy of the Annual Conflict of Interest Policy the Board adopts pertaining to grants and procurement.
4. Designate the delegation of authority to sign these grant application documents.

There were no public comments offered prior to the meeting. There was a short time given for any comments to be provided via Facebook Live, but no comments were offered.

At 7:33 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to close the public hearing, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve all above listed items (Approve the Public Transportation Program Resolution to approve the grand application and authorization of submittal, adopt annual conflict of interest policy, and designation of delegation of authority) with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RESOLUTION**

**FY 2022 RESOLUTION**

**Section 5311 (including ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.**

Applicant seeking permission to apply for Public Transportation Program funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances and the required local match.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ayers and seconded Commissioner Smith for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering federal and state public transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will apply for a grant from the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for rural public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these transportation funds is to provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services consistent with the policy requirements of each funding source for planning, community and agency involvement, service design, service alternatives, training and conference participation, reporting and other requirements (drug and alcohol testing policy and program, disadvantaged business enterprise program, and fully allocated costs analysis); and

WHEREAS, the funds applied for may be Administrative, Operating, Planning, or Capital funds and will have different percentages of federal, state, and local funds.

WHEREAS, non-Community Transportation applicants may apply for funding for “purchase-of-service” projects under the Capital budget Section 5310 program.

WHEREAS, Martin County hereby assures and certifies that it will provide the required local matching funds; that its staff has the technical capacity to implement and manage the project(s), prepare required reports, obtain required training, attend meetings and conferences; and agrees to comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, Section 5333 (b) Warranty, and all administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the Federal Transit Administration, as well as the provisions of Section 1001 of Title 18, U. S. C.

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the

State of North Carolina required for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that County Manager of Martin County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to submit grant application (s) for federal and state funding in response to NCDOT’s calls for projects, make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services.

I, Tommy Bowen, Board Chairman do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 7th day of October, 2020.

## **Broadband Incentive**

At 7:36 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to go into a public hearing, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Martin County EDC President Jason Semple stated a public notice appeared in The Enterprise on September 24, 2020. This notice advertised the intended receipt of public comments on a proposed broadband incentive for a recipient of the N.C. Department of Information Technology Broadband Infrastructure Office's Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program grant to fund terrestrial deployment of broadband within unserved and underserved areas of Martin County. President Semple further stated GS 153A-349.60 allows for this to happen, for the purpose of a proposed broad incentive.

President Semple stated the incentive consisted of up to \$350,000.00 for a specific term not to exceed seven years and free access to Martin County's communications tower for a specific term not to exceed seven years. The County would recover the cost and the public would benefit through future property and business taxes, stimulation of the economy, promotion of new and existing businesses, and online educational access for the students and citizens of Martin County.

County Manager Bone stated this was very similar to an economic development incentive. County Manager reiterated there was an incentive being proposed and the Board would receive any public comments regarding the potential incentive. There was also a related matter under new business.

There were no comments offered prior to the meeting. A time was observed for any comments to be offered via Facebook live, but none were offered.

At 7:39 p.m., Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to go out of the public hearing, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

County Manager Bone stated no action was requested at this time, but there was a related item under new business.

## **OLD BUSINESS -- None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Broadband Incentive RFP**

Martin County EDC President Jason Semple stated in follow up to the public hearing regarding the proposed broadband incentive, there was an in-depth draft request for proposals (RFP) for the Board's approval. President Semple stated the proposed incentive consisted of a term of seven years and a total of \$350,000 (\$50,000 per year). The money would have to be taken from the general fund, as opposed to a utility fund. President Semple stated the incentive would be either \$350,000 or 15% of the project, whichever was less.

President Semple stated this was a best value proposal, and there were many factors involved in the evaluation. Another part of the incentive would be access to towers in Martin County, if needed. There was a similar RFP issued by Macon County recently, and this one for Martin County was based on their template. President Semple stated the RFP was for specific areas in



Martin County, indicated by a map provided to the Board. The map was created with Census tracts, highlighting unserved and underserved areas in Martin County. The qualifying areas have service below the FCC standards or no service from existing providers.

Commissioner Lilley stated the project should enhance the whole County overall, with increased availability to broadband. President Semple stated this would be incentive for private service providers to increase the availability of quality broadband to areas that are unserved and underserved.

Commissioner Smith stated the FCC definition of unserved and underserved may not be completely accurate in portraying the actual availability of service in rural areas in Martin County. Commissioner Smith stated there needed to be several considerations in providing money or incentives to private internet providers. He further stated that if taxpayer dollars were being spent, all taxpayers needed to benefit from that money being spent.

Chairman Bowen commended Commissioner Smith on his comments, but stated there were so many citizens throughout Martin County that were suffering and were in need of broadband services.

Commissioner Lilley stated there was a need across Martin County for broadband, especially now for the students that were participating in virtual learning. Commissioner Lilley stated the investment would be for utilizing existing structures, not for building new structures. President Semple stated unlike the normal economic development incentives, the statutes were very specific about what could be incentivized for private providers. The maps provided highlighted the areas that would meet those statutory requirements. There was a monetary value attached to accessing current towers. The broadband incentive did not necessarily specify what the funds have to be used for by the private providers other than providing service to the noted areas (equipment, installations, etc.).

County Manager Bone reiterated this was just an RFP, the County was not entering into a contract at this time. This was just to see if there were any interested in responding. After receiving any RFPs, the Board would vote to approve or reject any proposals.

Commissioner Smith asked if the RFP was based on a template from Macon County. President Semple stated it was created as a model from the Macon County template, but it was edited and tweaked to meet the needs of Martin County. The document was also reviewed by the County Attorney prior to presenting the RFP. He reviewed some of the details of the Macon County RFP with President Semple.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to move forward and proceed with the RFP, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion (4-0, Chairman Bowen was having connection issues).

### **Review of Ongoing Discussions of Potential Expansion of Bertie-Martin Regional Jail**

Commissioner Smith stated he did not feel this Board of Commissioners' meeting was the best place to discuss the issue. His thought was the Board would need a separate special meeting just to discuss this issue. He did support the project, but felt much left to be discussed before moving forward with the commitment to this project.

County Manager Bone recalled that the County Managers were directed to report back with a decision by the County Commissioners before the end of October 2020. He stated the regular meeting was being utilized to have discussion, but a special meeting could be arranged if the Board chose. Manager Bone stated there did not need to be a full commitment at this time.

Vice Chairman Bond stated the Managers from the three counties and the three Boards of Commissioners needed to meet, but there did not need to be a rush into a decision. Something needed to happen due to the age and needed repairs of the jail, but there did not need to be a commitment made at this meeting.

County Manager Bone suggested the Board consider taking some time, maybe one year, and work with the State legislative delegation and the NCACC to advocate for a grant program for regional jails or direct appropriation for this project. The three Boards also discussed seeking other measures, such as bond reform to help with the project, as well.

Commissioner Smith he did agree with Manager Bone's statement, but thought maybe a year was too long. He stated some of the State legislative delegates may change after the upcoming election. He did agree with working with the NCACC. There were not many regional jails, and there may be some available funds in the near future for partnerships/regionalization.

Commissioner Lilley stated there needed to be concentration on looking for grant moneys to help with the estimated \$14 million project. This project was too large for the three counties to take on alone without some sort of grant or other funds. Commissioner Lilley stated he was hesitant about supporting such a project at this time.

Commissioner Ayers stated the project was a huge undertaking. He was not opposed to looking for grant money or other funds, but it was beyond the reach of Martin County. Commissioner Ayers stated when the opioid situation was finalized, there may be some relief from that effort. He stated as it stood now, this project was too big for Martin County.

County Manager stated some sort of direction was needed before the end of October 2020. County Manager Bone stated he would convey to the other County Managers that the Martin County Board of Commissioners desired to take a period of time to advocate for a grant program or direct appropriation from the State legislature for a special project to make it more financially feasible to move forward. It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners for County Manager Bone to convey that decision to the other County Managers.

### **Reclassification of one DSS Income Maintenance Caseworker Position to a Social Work Program Manager**

County Manager Bone stated the current position to be reclassified was an Income Maintenance Administrative Assistant position, which was clarified prior the start of the meeting.

County Manager Bone stated at one time, the Martin County Department of Social Services Department had a Deputy Director position. In 2019-20, that position was reclassified to an Administrative Officer II position in Transit.

In the last few years, an Income Maintenance Program Manager position was created to oversee the Income Maintenance Program Area, and the position has proven to be successful in the organization.

With not having a Deputy Director, Interim DSS Director Jack Jones has requested a Program Manager for the Social Work program area. In prior discussions with the manager before her departure, this concept was also suggested by the previous DSS Director, Letecia Loadholt.

County Manager Bone further explained there was a vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker position. Interim DSS Director Jack Jones requested and County Manager Bone supported the reclassification of the vacant position to Social Work Program Manager. The person in this position would oversee both the Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services units. While the salary range for the proposed position was higher, the state / federal reimbursement amount for the position was 70%, and funding was available in the current budget without a budget amendment.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the reclassification of a vacant Income Maintenance Administrative Assistant position to a Social Work Program Manager, with a SECOND from Chairman Bowen. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

#### **BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Lilley commended Vice Chairman Bond on leading the meeting tonight, with echoes from Commissioners Ayers and Smith.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND from Chairman Bowen. Vice Chairman Bond adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The next regular meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

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Tommy Bowen, Chairman

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Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board