

**November 4, 2020**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, November 4, 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: Chairman Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard, County Attorney Richard James and Sheriff Tim Manning. Chief Deputy Drew Robinson was also present.

Present via Cisco WebEx: Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange and Lead for North Carolina Fellow Elizabeth Mitchell.

Commissioner Elmo “Butch” Lilley was absent.

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.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (4-0).

### **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**

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

- 1. Minutes** for October 14, 2020 Regular Meeting
- 2. Financial Report** for September 2020
- 3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – October 2020 -- None**
- 4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders –October 2020**

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2020	Iglesia Pentocosta	L Unida	Exempt Property		176.71
			<i>Total Real &amp; Personal Releases</i>		176.71
2020	Daniels	Gregory	Sold Vehicle		56.53
2020	Daniels	Gregory	Sold Vehicle		55.57
2020	Daniels	Gregory	Sold Vehicle		53.34
2020	Goddard	Judy D	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2020	Johnson	Margaret	Surrendered Tags		4.06
2020	Keel	Angela Roberson	Double List		6.45
2020	Keel	Angela Roberson	Double List		6.19
2020	Lara De la Cruz	Jose Luciano	Surrendered Tags		13.80
2020	Lewis	Katherine	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2020	Mohrbutter	Trent Lane	Double Billed		153.56
2020	Edwards	Robert Lee Heirs	Correction		240.55
2017	Edwards	Robert Lee Heirs	Correction		27.39
2018	Edwards	Robert Lee Heirs	Correction		27.39
2019	Edwards	Robert Lee Heirs	Correction		28.05
			<i>Total VTS Refund Requests</i>		\$ 1,016.88

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

	Category	Sep-20	Sep-20 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$587,969.37	\$2,256,363.58
Personal Property	25	<u>\$124,738.58</u>	\$461,498.54
Total		\$712,707.95	\$2,717,862.12

Motor Vehicle	30	<u>\$138.14</u>	<u>\$171.69</u>
Total MV		\$138.14	\$171.69

All Total		\$712,846.09	\$2,718,033.81
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	Category	Oct-20	Oct-20 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$527,676.27	\$2,809,980.37
Personal Property	25	<u>\$209,562.20</u>	\$796,254.88

<b>Total</b>		<b>\$737,238.47</b>	<b>\$3,606,235.25</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>30</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$171.69</u></b>
<b>Total MV</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$171.69</b>
<b>All Total</b>		<b>\$737,238.47</b>	<b>\$3,606,406.94</b>

## **6. Board Appointments/Reappointments**

### **BMR Regional Jail Board**

Mr. John MacDonald's term on the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail Commission would expire December 31, 2020. Mr. MacDonald had served since 2010.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to consider the reappointment of Mr. MacDonald to the BMR Jail Board for a two (2) year term, which would expire December 31, 2022.

The Board APPROVED the reappointment of Mr. MacDonald as part of the consent agenda.

### **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)**

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Board recommended that the Board of Commissioners appoint/reappoint the following members for two (2) year terms each, which would expire December 31, 2022.

- Mr. Seth Edwards – District Attorney or Designee
- Mr. James Ward
- Ms. Hope Eley – Designee for Trillium Director (Ex Officio)
- Mr. Richard James – Juvenile Defense Attorney (Ex Officio)
- Ms. Shelia Godard
- Ms. Christine Manning
- Ms. Vickey Manning – Designee for Local Health Director (Ex Officio)
- Ms. Teresa Pearsall – Riverside Intervention Program Director

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

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

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S) -- None**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**COVID-19 Update**

MTW Health Director Wes Gray was present via Cisco Webex to provide the monthly COVID-19 update to the Board of Commissioners. Director Gray provided the total number of cases, deaths, and recoveries for North Carolina, in the United States, and globally. Next, Director Gray reported the total positive cases, recoveries, deaths, and active cases in the MTW District.

Director Gray then showed a county map by number of cases and a line graph of total case county by county in the MTW district. Next, Director Gray provided a testing update for North Carolina and in the counties of the MTW district.

Director Gray discussed three ongoing outbreaks in Martin County: Roanoke River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Vintage Inn Retirement Community, and Williamston House. Director Gray went on to review the COVID-19 mortality in North Carolina, and then in Martin County.

Next Director Gray talked about upcoming COVID-19 testing events. Also, Director Gray talked about flu shot clinics throughout the district. Mr. Gray ended with the three Ws – wear a cloth covering over your mouth and nose, wait six feet apart, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

Chairman Bowen thanked Director Gray for his presentation.

### **Food Security Presentation – Lisa Smith, Cooperative Extension**

County Manager Bone stated Ms. Smith was the EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Program) Coordinator with the Cooperative Extension and was present to provide information about that program to the Commissioners and members of the community.

Ms. Smith referenced the information that was provided in the agenda packets for each Commissioner. There was one handout in particular she discussed that highlighted smart drinking choices. Participants were also given reusable water bottles and healthy eating tips.

Ms. Smith stated EFNEP was designed by the USDA to teach those families receiving SNAP benefits to use their benefits to make healthy food choices. Ms. Smith stated 47% of children in Martin County were a part of families receiving SNAP benefits.

Ms. Smith reported results of a program evaluation over the past year. The impacts included 63% of participants in the EFNEP program showing an increase in safe food handling. 44% of participants showed an increase in physical activity. 86% of participants were able to choose healthier foods. Participants were shown how to read nutrition labels to make healthier choices. 97% of participants changed at least one behavior. Lastly, Ms. Smith highlighted a magazine that is given to children in the classroom with educational information.

Chairman Bowen stated the program was very important for our children to be fed properly. He thanked Ms. Smith for the information and what the program does. Commissioner Smith thanked Ms. Smith for her wisdom and passion for her job. Commissioner Smith stated the NCACC had partnered with NC A&T and the NC Cooperative Extension, and his presidential initiative involved food security in North Carolina. Commissioner Smith thanked the Cooperative Extension and their staff for their efforts in addressing the food insecurity in our citizens.

Ms. Smith stated the SNAP program was giving Martin County additional funds to be able to hire a full-time FCS Agent for Martin County. The current FCS agent was working in Bertie and Martin Counties.

### **Martin County Schools – 5-Year Facility Plan**

County Manager introduced the new Martin County Schools Superintendent, Dr. David Fonseca, to the Board to present the 5-year facility plan for Martin County Schools. Dr. Fonseca was present along with Mr. Hank Edwards, Director of Maintenance and Transportation.

Dr. Fonseca stated the School Facilities Finance Act of 1987 required local boards of education to develop long-range organizational and facility plans. Specifically, the legislation stated, “Local boards of education shall submit their long-range plans for meeting school facility needs to the State Board of Education by January 1, 1988 and every five years thereafter.” In preparation for the 119 State Bond, this cycle was changed to 1995/1996 and every five years thereafter.

Dr. Fonseca further stated to develop a long-range plan (which includes efficient utilization of existing facilities, priorities for new construction and renovation, cost estimates, and estimates of available resources), a board of education must address the following five questions:

- 1) How many schools are needed?
- 2) Which grades will they serve?
- 3) How many students will they accommodate?
- 4) Where will they be located?
- 5) Which students will they serve?

The Martin County Board of Education has approved the 5-Year Facilities Plan that is being presented tonight. This plan was approved by the Board of Education at its October 19, 2020 meeting. The Board of Education was required to share the plan with the Board of Commissioners; however, the Board of Commissioners does not need to approve the plan. The presentation was only for informational purposes.

At the October 5, 2020 Martin County Board of Education meeting, the Board reviewed the following:

- Projections from 2015-2020 NCDPI Facilities Plan
- Elementary, Middle School and High School building capacities
- Projected enrollments for Martin County Schools through the 2029-2030 school year
- School configurations
- Renovation cost projections for current buildings through the 2020-2025 school years

After reviewing information all information and projections, Martin County Schools approved the 5-year facility plan that is being presented. Dr. Fonseca reiterated to any parents or other community members that this was only a projection from a plan and only a plan. The plan included:

- Consolidate to one high school with CTC programs
- Consolidate to one middle school
- Combine EJ Hayes programs and move to current Riverside Middle School
- Retain 5 middle schools

Summary reports were provided to the Commissioners for their information.

#### EJ Hayes

The approved facility plan included the closure of EJ Hayes Elementary school with a transition to the current Riverside Middle School building.

#### Jamesville Elementary

The approved plan included projects of a multipurpose room, paving and canopy area, and furniture and equipment. The multipurpose room would be a new construction.

Commissioner Smith asked what the current number of students was, Dr. Fonseca stated 337. It was anticipated that number would decrease over the next five years.

#### Rodgers Elementary School

Proposed projects included window replacements. Mr. Edwards stated it was felt the school would still be in use for many years. The metal frame window panels needed to be replaced.

#### South Creek Elementary

No proposed projects.

#### Williamston Primary School

There were many grading issues. Many areas had eroded and washed due to water and drainage. Some temporary repairs had been made, but permanent repairs were needed to prevent future damage from water drainage.

County Manager Bone recalled a heavy rain event the previous year that caused some flooding issues. He asked if the proposed changes would help in a situation like that. Mr. Edwards states the proposed projects would help with that.

#### Riverside Middle School

Should this school be transitioned to an elementary school, there would be a changed to elementary school appropriate equipment.

#### Riverside High School

The bridge that connects two school buildings needed to be replaced. Many repairs had been made, but a full replacement was needed. There would also be some environmental considerations due to a ditch surrounding the bridge.

#### South Creek Middle/High School

Roof repairs and window replacements were proposed on the Facility plan. The window concerns were similar to the concerns at Rodgers Elementary since they were metal framed windows.

No comments were offered from the Board. Commissioner Smith welcomed Dr. Fonseca to Martin County.

**Mid-East Commission – Workforce Update / Consortium Agreement / Resolution Approving Articles of Association and Agreement for Rivers East Workforce Investment Consortium**

County Manager Bone introduced Ms. Jennie Bowen of the Mid-East Commission to provide a presentation about the Workforce Update and Consortium Agreement.

Ms. Bowen serves as the director of the River's East Workforce Development Board, which serves the same counties as Mid-East Commission. Ms. Bowen explained the role of the Rivers East Workforce Development Board, provided information about the NCWorks Career Centers in Beaufort, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt counties, and discussed the services provided.

Next, Ms. Bowen spoke of the importance of building partnerships in meeting the local needs of the workforce. Some of the partners that Rivers East works with include local school systems, community colleges/universities, economic development, local government, and more. Some of the accomplishments (from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) included serving 2,154 individuals, with 245 local jobs posted. Ms. Bowen also highlighted some special projects with which the Board was involved.

Ms. Bowen reviewed the board members, shared the purpose statement, and current strategic goals of the board. The Board had previously been referred to as the "Region Q Workforce Development Board", but staff desired to change the name and rebrand the board to better reflect the demographic it represented.

Ms. Bowen discussed the consortium and the articles of association, which governs the "Region Q Workforce Investment Consortium". Changes in the currently Articles of Association were being proposed, namely, officially changing the name to "Rivers East Workforce Investment Consortium". The Board of Commissioners was asked to approve a resolution which would change the Articles of Association, and appoint the County Manager as the Chief Elected Official for the Consortium in the resolution.

Commissioner Smith shared that Ms. Bowen was doing a great job with her work. Because of his appointment on the state NC Works Commission, he was familiar with the work of this particular consortium and thanked Ms. Bowen for her efforts.

County Manager Bone clarified that the Resolution should reflect the County Manager as the Chief Elected Official for the consortium in the resolution.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the Articles of Association with the name change to Rivers East Workforce Development Board, as well as adopt the resolution with the County Manager as the delegated official, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

#### **RESOLUTION APPROVING ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND AGREEMENT FOR RIVERS EAST WORKFORCE INVESTMENT CONSORTIUM**

**WHEREAS**, the counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt, being independent and contiguous units of local county government, wish to agree to establish a workforce investment consortium ("Consortium") to act jointly as a Local Area ("LA") under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act ("WIOA") Public Law 113-128 as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes, Section 160A-460, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to specific authority to enter into the agreement attached hereto, a “Chief Elected Official” for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) purposes upon whose representations the State of North Carolina, the Rivers East Workforce Development Board (synonymous with Workforce Investment Board, the Mid-East Commission (as Local Area Administrative Entity) and the other counties may rely, must be designated and authorized to execute the attached agreement and such other agreements as are necessary for purposes of WIOA and who shall sit on the Consortium Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that County Manager David Bone is hereby designated the “Chief Elected Official” for the foregoing purposes and as such he/she is fully authorized to execute the attached agreement and such other and further agreements on behalf of this County as are necessary for these purposes.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Martin County Board of Commissioners on this 4th day of November, 2020

### **Recognition of License Plate Agency Staff**

County Manager David Bone stated the License Plate Agency (LPA) staff was not present tonight. County Manager Bone recalled the LPA for Martin County was recognized last year as one of the highest performing offices in the state, and they were being recognized again this year for their performance. Due to COVID-19, staff was not present, but County Manager Bone stated they were being acknowledged and presented with signed certificates.

County Manager Bone stated with the honor of this recognition, Martin County would receive a bonus. Last year, County Manager Bone was directed to take the bonus and divide it amongst the LPA staff. Chairman Bowen stated the LPA office in Martin County always does a great job with no negative comments.. County Manager Bone stated many citizens chose to come to Martin County LPA because of the great service they received. Commissioner Smith stated Beaufort Co. Commissioner Ed Booth compliments the service in the Martin County LPA office.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with dividing the bonus amongst LPA staff like was done in the prior year. Staff recognized included: Christie Blevins, Kelly Gurganuas, Dianne Swain, Kim Ross, and Bridget Rice.

**OLD BUSINESS -- None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

County Manager Bone recalled the regional hazard mitigation plan had been approved in prior years, but it had to be updated periodically. County Manager Bone further explained hazard mitigation involves the use of specific measures to reduce the impact of hazards on people and the built environment. Measures may include both structural and non-structural techniques.

The 2020 Northeastern Region Hazard Mitigation Plan update includes the addition of Hyde County. The plan is for a 5-county region that includes Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell and



Hyde Counties. The planning area for the plan involves all of the incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas.

The focus of the 2020 plan is on those hazards deemed “high” or “moderate” priority hazards for the planning area, as determined through the risk and vulnerability assessments.

The Northeastern NC Region followed the planning process prescribed by FEMA, and this plan was developed under the guidance of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC), comprised of representatives of County and Town departments; citizens; and other stakeholders. The HMPC conducted a risk assessment that identified and profiled hazards that pose a risk to the planning area, assessed the planning area’s vulnerability to these hazards, and examined each participating jurisdiction’s capabilities in place to mitigate them. The plan must be adopted by all jurisdictions involved. A public hearing was not required.

Emergency Management Director Jody Griffin stated the reason for this update being done so early was due to modifications in Washington County to improve their rating system.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the resolution adopting the updated Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

### **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NORTHEASTERN NC REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Martin County is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin County desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Martin County Board of Commissioners to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also the intent of the Martin County Board of Commissioners to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting Martin County; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin County, in coordination with other jurisdictions participating in the Northeastern NC Region, has participated in the planning process and prepared a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials;

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have received the Northeastern NC Regional Hazard Mitigation

Plan to review for legislative compliance and will approve the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Martin County Board of Commissioners hereby:

1. Adopts the Northeastern NC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
2. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the proposed actions of the Plan.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

### **Disposal / Exchange of Surplus Property**

County Manager Bone stated Martin County Sheriff Tim Manning stated Martin County owned several firearms and rounds of ammunition that he requested to be declared surplus for the purpose of exchanging for new firearms and ammunition. The Board of Commissioners is asked to declare five (5) firearms and 1,500 rounds of ammunition as surplus for the purpose of exchange for five (5) new firearms.

Sheriff Manning stated the purpose of the exchange is to update the rifles used by the Sheriff's office, and due to the cost of the current ammunition being so high. Sheriff Manning said it would be an even trade and a benefit due to receiving updated equipment.

Vice Chairman Bond made a motion to declare the equipment surplus for the purpose of exchange, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

### **Transfer of Badge and Sidearm to Retired Deputies Owens and Swain**

Martin County Sheriff Tim Manning stated when an Officer retired, statutes allowed for the Commissioners to allow the transfer of side arm and badge to those officers. Sheriff Manning stated Officers Owens and Swain would still be working on a part-time basis but were retiring from full-time positions.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to transfer the badge and sidearms to Retired Officers Owens and Swain, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

### **Declare Canine Elias Surplus and Present Canine to Officer Mobley**

Sheriff Tim Manning stated Officer Mobley had decided to get out of law enforcement and join a family business in Arizona. K-9 officer Elias had been in service for approximately 4 years. Sheriff Manning stated K-9 officers typically were only in service for approximately 5 years, therefore it was easier to retire the dog and declare him surplus. It would take approximately 1 year to get the dog re-trained with a new handler. Sheriff Manning stated Officer Mobley would be responsible for any costs for the dog from this point forward.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to declare Elias surplus and transfer to Officer Mobley, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

### **Budget Amendment(s)**

County Manager Bone stated on October 22, 2020, Martin County received an additional \$16,700 as a supplemental grant to be used in connection with the November 3, 2020 election. \$6,700 of this grant must be used to provide an additional \$100 each to our 67 poll workers. The remaining \$10,000 was to be used for expenditures incurred to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic during the 2020 federal election cycle which are incurred for Election Day voting.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #10, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-10**

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, 2021.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
General Government		
Elections	\$ 16,700	

This will result in an increase of \$16,700 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Revenue	\$ 16,700
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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.

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

None

### **CLOSED SESSION – NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) – Contract Negotiations**

At 8:12, Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to enter a closed session for NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) – Contract Negotiations, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

At 8:45 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to go out the closed session, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (4-0).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m. The next regular meeting would be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

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Tommy Bowen, Chairman

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Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board