

December 7, 2020

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Martin County Governmental Center, Commissioners' Boardroom at 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Those in attendance in person: Chairman Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, County Attorney Richard James and Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard.

Present via Cisco Webex: Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange and Lead for NC Fellow Elizabeth Mitchell.

Commissioner Elmo "Butch" Lilley was absent.

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Ayers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Smith provided the invocation.

Chairman Bowen offered remarks to the public and to the other Commissioners his gratitude, as he would be coming off the Board of Commissioners after 24 years of service.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Presentation of Plaque

Chairman Bowen turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Bond. Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard read the two plaques that were presented to outgoing Commissioner/Chairman Bowen. Those plaques, along with a thumb drive of the minutes, were presented by Vice Chairman Bond.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Honorable Chief District Court Judge Regina Parker administered the oath of office to Incumbent Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr. Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard administered the oath of office to Commissioner-Elect David "Skip" Gurganus, Each Commissioner would serve a four-year term.

Commissioner Smith announced Commissioner-Elect Emily Biggs had a medical procedure that morning, and she was sworn-in prior to her procedure by Rep. Shelley Willingham. Commissioner Smith provided a copy of Commissioner Biggs' Oath of Office to County Clerk Jessica Godard.

RECESS

A brief recess was taken after the swearing in ceremony so the newly reelected Commissioners could share the joyous occasion with family and friends.

After the recess, Vice Chairman Bond stated newly elected Commissioner Emily Biggs should be a part of the voting for the Board reorganization. He stated Ms. Biggs would be able to participate by phone later in the day. Therefore, he recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., Vice Chairman Bond called the meeting back to order after the recess. He then turned the meeting over to County Manager Bone for the Board reorganization process. County Manager Bone stated Commissioner Emily Biggs was participating via phone.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election of Chairman

County Manager called for nominations for the Board Chair. Commissioner Joe Ayers nominated Vice Chairman Bond to be Chairman. Vice Chairman Bond declined the nomination for Chairman.

Commissioner Emily Biggs made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ronnie Smith for Chairman. Commissioner Bond **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED** unanimously via a roll-call vote.

Chairman Smith thanked the Board for their vote of confidence. He stated he was eager to work with this new Board, and looked forward to a new year.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Smith called for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Commissioner Gurganus nominated Commissioner Joe Ayers for the position of Vice Chairman, Commissioner Ayers **SECONDED**. Commissioner Emily Biggs then nominated Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr. for the position of Vice Chairman, with a **SECOND** from Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr. Chairman Smith called for a vote.

Commissioner Ayers stated for years, the Martin County Board of Commissioners had followed a gentleman's agreement regarding the order in which Commissioners were qualified and serve in the Vice Chair and Chair positions. He stated he had served for 6 years, which would qualify him to serve in the Vice Chair position. Commissioner Ayers stated since Commissioner Bond had declined the Chairman position, he felt that had taken him out of the rotation. Commissioner Ayers further stated if the Board continued to follow that gentleman's agreement, he would now be in line to serve at the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Gurganus asked what may have changed in order to change the agreement that had been going on for years. Chairman Smith stated there was no statute or written policy regarding the Board reorganization and stated simply the majority determined the vote.

Vice Chairman Bond stated the reason he declined the nomination for Chairman was due to many issues going on within the county (having to get a new County Manager and two new

Commissioners). Vice Chairman Bond stated Chairman Smith had many more years of experience and was better suited to handle the issues of the County.

Chairman Smith called for a vote for Joe Ayers as Vice Chair via roll call. For: Joe R. Ayers and David “Skip” Gurganus. Against: Ronnie Smith, Dempsey Bond, Jr. Emily Biggs. The motion FAILED.

Next, Chairman Smith asked for any discussions before the vote for Dempsey Bond, Jr. as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Gurganus still did not agree with the Board deviating from the previous agreement. Now, Chairman Smith called for a roll-call vote. For: Ronnie Smith, Dempsey Bond, Jr., and Emily Biggs. Against: David “Skip” Gurganus and Joe R. Ayers. The motion was APPROVED.

Appointment of County Attorney

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to appoint Richard James and the Peel & James Law Firm as County Attorney, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The motion was APPROVED unanimously via a roll call vote.

Appointment of Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to appoint Ms. Jessica Godard as Clerk to the Board, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The motion was APPROVED unanimously via a roll call vote.

Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Ayers made the MOTION to approve the 2021 Martin County Commissioners’ meeting schedule as shown below, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Date of Meeting	Time	Type Meeting	Date Backup Needed Due by 12:00 Noon
January 13, 2021	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting	January 8, 2021
February 10, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	February 3, 2021
March 10, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	March 3, 2021
March 17, 2021	7p.m.	Departmental Budget Presentations	
March 18, 2021	7p.m.	Departmental Budget Presentations (if needed)	
March 24, 2021	7 p.m.	Agency Budget Presentations/Budget Workshop	March 13, 2021
April 14, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	April 7, 2021
April 28, 2021 (Tentative)		Joint Budget Meeting with Board of Education	
May 12, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	May 5, 2021
To Be Announced		Budget Workshop (s) (After Receipt of Bd of Ed Budget)	
June 9, 2021	7p.m.	Budget Public Hearing	
June 9, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	June 2, 2021
June 9, 2021	7p.m.	Adopt Budget	
June 30, 2021	7p.m.	Year End Budget Ordinance Amendments	If Needed
July 14, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	July 7, 2021
August 11, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	August 4, 2021
September 8, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	September 1, 2021
October 13, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	October 6, 2021
November 10, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	November 3, 2021
December 8, 2021	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	December 1, 2021

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

Chairman Smith noted his name was inadvertently left off of the assembly for the November 4, 2020 meeting. Clerk Godard stated she would correct those minutes.

Vice Chairman Bond made the MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected, with a SECOND by Chairman Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

1. **Minutes** for November 4, 2020 Regular and Closed Session
2. **Financial Report** for October 2020 included for informational purposes.
3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – November 2020 – NONE**
4. **Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – November 2020 – None**
5. **Tax Collector’s Report – November 2020**

	Category	Nov-20	Nov-20 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$1,751,351.17	\$4,535,391.02
Personal Property	25	<u>\$337,566.24</u>	\$1,008,626.98
Total		\$2,088,917.41	\$5,544,018.00
Motor Vehicle	30	<u>\$60.90</u>	<u>\$232.59</u>
Total MV		\$60.90	\$232.59
All Total		\$2,088,978.31	\$5,554,250.59

6. **Acceptance of Resignation of County Manager David Bone, Effective December 18, 2020**

County Manager David Bone submitted his resignation as County Manager, effective December 18, 2020.

The Board of Commissioners accepted his resignation as County Manager, effective December 18, 2020, as part of the consent agenda.

7. Acceptance of Resignation of David Bone from the MCRWASA Board of Directors, Effective December 18, 2020

County Manager David Bone submitted his resignation as a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA), effective December 18, 2020.

The Board of Commissioners accepted his resignation as a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA), effective December 18, 2020, as part of the consent agenda.

8. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Fireman’s Relief Fund Trustees

Fire Chiefs for the various local fire departments asked the Board of Commissioners to appoint / reappoint the following persons as Fireman’s Relief Fund Trustees for two (2) year terms each, which would expire December 31, 2022.

Those individuals recommended for appointment/reappointment are:

- Bear Grass Fire Department Mr. JD Woolard
- Griffin Fire Department Mr. Andy Griffin
- Hamilton Fire Department Mr. Travis Scott
- Jamesville Fire Department Mr. Randy Gardner
- Oak City Fire Department Mr. Richard Cannon
- Robersonville Fire Department Mr. David Jenkins
- Williamston Fire Department Mr. Bill Jones

The Board of Commissioners approved the above reappointments, as part of the consent agenda.

Choanoke Area Development Association

The Board of Commissioners was asked to appoint Ms. Nancy Conner with Martin County DSS to the Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) Board. This appointment would fill the vacancy left after the resignation of Ms. Letecia Loadholt. The Board was asked to appoint Ms. Conner to complete the unexpired term, which would expire December 31, 2021.

There was another vacancy on the CADA Board that may be filled at a later date.

The Board APPROVED the appointment of Ms. Conner to the CADA Board, as part of the consent agenda.

9. Clerk Report (included for informational purposes)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE (S) –None

PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Update – Wes Gray

MTW Director Wes Gray provided a monthly update on COVID-19 to the Board of Commissioners. He began with the latest COVID-19 case numbers locally, in North Carolina, in the United States, and globally. He then provided a county map of case numbers in North Carolina, and total case counts by county in the MTW district.

Director Gray provided a testing update, discussing total tests completed in North Carolina and the percent of the population that had been tested. Next, he discussed the number of diagnostic tests that had been performed in Martin, Tyrell, and Washington counties, highlighting the percentage of positive tests of the previous two full weeks of testing.

Director Gray provided an update on the ongoing outbreaks in Martin County, including Roanoke River Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Vintage Inn Retirement Community, and Williamston House. Next, Director Gray discussed the Martin County demographics for total cases and deaths. He then showed a graphic detailing the North Carolina metrics for total cases, completed tests, and number of people currently hospitalized. Also, Director Gray briefly discussed the NC County Alert System.

Finally, Director Gray discussed COVID-19 testing in Martin County and discussed the drop-in flu clinics.

Chairman Smith stated he had received positive comments about the COVID-19 testing site in Robersonville. He stated the MTW Health Department team was doing a great job. Director Gray stated both of the sites in Martin County were doing very well getting people tested in Martin County.

Recognition of Corporal Stephen Pearson for Receiving Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate

Sheriff Tim Manning stated the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate typically was awarded to those with approximately 15 years of experience. He explained how points were earned to go towards receiving this certification. Sheriff Manning stated Corporal Pearson had 4 years of experience. Corporal Pearson already had a 4-year degree when he was hired with the Martin County Sheriff's office. He had achieved many personal goals, but had also obtained a Master's Degree, which attributed to many of his points towards the certification.

Sheriff Manning stated it was very rare for someone with only 4 years of experience to receive this certification. Sheriff Manning presented a framed certification to Corporal Pearson. Photographs were taken with Sheriff Manning and Chairman Smith. Chairman Smith congratulated Corporal Pearson on his achievements.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Essential Single Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP) Application, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA)

County Manager Bone stated Mike Barnette with McDavid Associates was originally planning to attend the meeting to present this item, but he was unable to be here.

County Manager Bone stated this program was something the county had been able to take advantage of for years to help benefit the citizens of Martin County.

County Manager Bone stated the ESFRLP program would assist low-moderate income homeowners with essential repairs to their homes. Homeowners must be over 61, disabled, a veteran, or have a child under seven in the home with lead-based paint hazards. Assistance would be in the form of a secured loan, forgiven at \$5,000 per year with no payments. The maximum amount of construction (hard costs) per unit is \$30,000, and the maximum other costs (soft costs) is \$10,000 per unit.

County Manager Bone stated Martin County was eligible to apply for the program again this year. The Board was asked to approve the submission of the application, as well as a local contribution of \$5,000, which could help the County's chances of being approved for the program.

Commissioner Smith explained the program to the new Commissioners, stating there were stipulations for the recipients of the funds. Commissioner Smith stated it was a great program.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve the submission of the application and the \$5,000 local contribution, with a SECOND from Commissioner Biggs. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

Memorandum of Understanding with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and, Fiscal Year 2020-21 and 2021-22

County Manager Bone stated interim DSS Director Jack Jones was available via Cisco Webex to provide some background information regarding the MOU that was being presented tonight for consideration.

Interim DSS Director Jack Jones discussed House Bill 630 (The Family/Child Protection and Accountability Act), also known as Rylan's Law. The outcome of Rylan's law was reformed state supervision of Departments of Social Services, increasing county accountability. The law also required a county contract (or MOU), required corrective action, and threatened state intervention.

The required MOU enumerates certain performance standards for every Department of Social Services in the state. The goals of the MOU are to improve the quality and consistency in social services across the state, and to promote better health, safety, and well-being of North Carolinians.

The MOU included 16 standards, or performance requirements, that would be monitored and measured by the State. The performance standards were 95% for all programs being monitored, except for the APS and Special Assistance programs, which were 85%. It was noted that North Carolina is one of only 11 states with a state supervised/county operated Social Services system.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to approve and authorize County Manager Bone to sign the agreement between North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Martin County (titled “Memorandum of Understanding (Fiscal Year 2020-21 and 2021-22) Between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Martin County”).

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to approve and authorize County Manager Bone to sign the agreement as stated above, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

2021 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Voting Delegate Designation

The NC Association of County Commissioners was in the process of developing goals for the 2021-22 Legislative Session. Before each biennial session of the General Assembly, counties submit their proposals to the Association, and then commissioners from all across the state review, debate and ultimately approve a comprehensive goals package. Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Legislative Goals Conference would be held virtually January 14-15, 2021.

Chairman Smith explained the legislative goals process and stated how important being involved in that process was. Commissioner Smith stated he and Vice Chairman Bond would be attending the conference. He stated Vice Chairman Bond was eligible to be the voting delegate.

Each county would be entitled to vote on legislative goal proposal submissions brought before the membership. Each Board of County Commissioners was requested to designate a commissioner or other official as a voting delegate for the 2021 Legislative Goals Conference.

Commissioner Biggs nominated herself as the voting delegate for Martin County at the NCACC Legislative Goals conference, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The motion was APPROVED unanimously via a roll call vote.

Commissioner Biggs nominated Commissioner Gurganus as the alternate voting delegate for Martin County, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The motion was APPROVED unanimously via a roll call vote.

Solid Waste Collection Contract with Green For Life (GFL)/Waste Industries

County Manager Bone stated Mike Donovan and Willie Brown from GFL were present for this agenda item.

County Manager Bone stated the County’s current solid waste management program consisted of two components: 1) the collection and disposal of residential waste, and 2) the operation of a solid waste construction and demolition management (C & D landfill) facility north of Williamston. Each component operated essentially independent of the other. County Manager

Bone spoke of the benefits of the single county contract for Martin County. The single contract made services more efficient and more affordable for the citizens.

The County was under contract with Green For Life, or GFL (formerly known as Waste Industries), through June 2021 for the weekly collection of approximately 11,672 waste carts from municipal and rural residences throughout the County. A contract for solid waste collection was a service contract and was not subject to competitive bidding requirements under state law. Waste Industries billed the County a monthly fee for each cart (currently \$10.37 per cart per month, effective July 1, 2021) which was scheduled for collection.

The contract with Waste Industries was originally with Waste Management (February 25, 2003) and assigned to Waste Industries in 2010. The Board of Commissioners approved a new contract with Waste Industries in 2016 and runs through June 30, 2021. A contract extension had been proposed, and the following were the major changes in the proposed contract extension:

- TERM – The contract amendment would extend the agreement through June 30, 2026.
- RECYCLING CHANGE – One of the proposed contract amendments would change recycling from weekly 18-gallon bin pick-up to every-other-week collection of a 65-gallon container. County Manager Bone spoke about the benefits of changing over to the 65-gallon container (protection from wind/rain, lowering cost because of the decrease in wet items).
- RATE – The rate was currently \$10.37. The new rate would be \$10.86, which reflected the additional cost of a recycling cart, rather than a bin (if the Board chose that option).

With the 5-year extension proposal, GFL staff stated there would be no CPI (consumer price index) increase for the first year of the extension, but there would be a CPI increase in the subsequent years based on common factors and indicators.

If the Board of Commissioners desired to maintain the current recycling service with bins, the contract extension could be amended to maintain the current rate of \$10.37. If the Board did not want to extend the contract at this time, the Board could put the service out to bid in January-February 2021.

County Manager Bone stated there had been some good conversation over the past months to help improve service from GFL.

Mr. Mike Donovan stated GFL and Martin County had a good partnership over the years and hoped the Board would consider extending the contract. Mr. Willie Brown echoed Mr. Donovan's comments, stating there had been some challenges but staff was working to overcome those challenges. County Manager Bone also stated GFL staff had been very active in the community.

Commissioner Ayers had some comments for GFL. Commissioner Ayers stated there had been some positive aspects with GFL, but there had been many negative things as well. Commissioner Ayers felt GFL needed to provide local staff with more resources and personnel. Some of the concerns included cart replacement time period, consistency with staff answering

the phone at the GFL office, and communication with the public about how to set out carts for the claw trucks. Commissioner Ayers liked the idea of the 65-gallon carts. He expressed his concerns about glass no longer being accepted for recycling, and he felt GFL should advocate for glass recycling to resume.

County Manager Bone stated staff had previously had conversations with GFL staff that addressed each of Commissioner Ayers' concerns. Mr. Donovan stated ECVC is where all of the recycling from eastern North Carolina was taken for processing, and they stopped accepting glass. There was a company in Wilson that would take glass for repurposing. There would be no recycling cost, only a hauling cost. County Manager Bone stated there would be a container placed at the C&D landfill where citizens could take glass to be recycled at no cost.

County Manager Bone stated in regards to can replacement, GFL staff had made great strides in improving their response. Mr. Donovan with GFL stated once county staff sent requisition forms, those forms would be initialed by GFL staff and sent back to the Tax Assessor's office at the end of the week to verify those requests were complete. Also, Mr. Donovan stated staff was being proactive with changing carts during pickup routes. Additionally, GFL had cross-trained one of their drivers to work the phones to answer calls from citizens, and obtained a cordless phone to help in answering phones. Commissioner Ayers stated he appreciated the information.

County Manager Bone stated if the Board chose the option to go with a recycling cart, the change would go into effect with the new contract on July 1, 2021. The \$6 increase would need to be taken into consideration during budget preparation.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve the contract through June 30, 2026 with a change to the 65-gallon container, with the increased rate of \$10.86, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. Chairman Smith stated anytime he has had to call GFL about a citizen concern/complaint, the issues have always been addressed. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

Commissioner Appointments to Advisory Board

With Commissioners Bowen and Lilley departing as Commissioners, the Boards / Commissions listed below will need to be reassigned in order to have a County Commissioner Representative in place:

- Martin County Council on Aging
- Economic Development Corporation
- Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee
- Tourism Development Board
- Animal Control Board
- Human Relations Council (Not active)
- Transportation Advisory Board
- Women's Council
- MGH Board of Trustees
- Social Services Board
- MCRWASA (Alternate)
- Martin County Chamber of Commerce Appointee

- Martin Enterprise Appointee
- Martin Community College

A spreadsheet of the board appointments for each Commissioner according to county records as of December 1, 2020 was provided to each Commissioner.

Commissioner Biggs made a MOTION for this item to be tabled to a future meeting, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

MCRWASA Appointment to Replace County Manager Bone

Chairman Smith stated County Manager Bone was leaving the MCRWASA, and former Commissioner Bowen was the alternate appointee. Commissioner Smith further stated Vice Chairman attended many of the MCRWASA meetings and was very knowledgeable of the business of MCRWASA.

Chairman Smith made a MOTION that Vice Chairman Bond be temporarily appointed to the MCRWASA Board in County Manager Bone's position until a new County Manager was hired, and then suggested the Board consider moving him to the alternate position at that time. Commissioner Ayers SECONDED. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

Discussion about Interim Manager/Permanent Manager Search

Chairman Smith stated he had been in contact with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He stated a letter would be sent later in the week with recommendations and suggestions on beginning a search for a new County Manager. There would be a pool of candidates to review, and the Board would possibly have a called meeting with a closed session at a later date for the purpose of looking for an Interim/Permanent manager.

Commissioner Ayers asked about the proposed timeline, stating he had advocated having a special called meeting, with no luck. Commissioner Ayers stated there was little time for an Interim Manager to spend time with the current Manager. Chairman Smith stated he advocated for the selection process for an Interim Manager to be the responsibility of the new Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ayers expressed his concerns because of the lack of time an Interim Manager would have with the current Manager. Chairman Smith stated there were situations across the state where counties did not have a Manager. He assured the other Board members there would be an Interim Manager in place very soon.

County Manager Bone stated he was working on developing very detailed notes for the incoming Interim County Manager, and he would make those notes available to the Board of Commissioners.

BUDGET AMENDMENT(S)

Budget Amendment #11

County Manager Bone explained each year, the Martin County Department of Social Services administered the federally-funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) to assist citizens with heating bills. This year, in addition to the regular LIEAP program, the NC Department of Health and Human Services was implementing Pandemic LIEAP.

Martin County was awarded \$111,200 for Pandemic LIEAP. With this program, the targeted Elderly and Disabled households that received LIEAP funds in December 2019 – and which are also currently receiving Food & Nutritional Services (Food Stamps) – would automatically receive the Pandemic LIEAP funds paid directly to their utility provider in their name. Households that met the criteria would receive notification from the State, and they would be allowed to make adjustments if needed.

Due to COVID-19, this process was to help eliminate the targeted population of elderly and disabled individuals from coming into the agency to apply for LIEAP (prevention of potential exposures).

All other households which received LIEAP funds during the 2019-2020 LIEAP season would have to apply for LIEAP for this year. In addition to the agency accepting applications by mail, fax, drop off, or by phone, the NC Department of Health & Human Services was updating NC Fast so individuals would be able to apply online in January 2021.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #11, with a SECOND from Commissioner Biggs. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-11

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
Human Services		
Dept. of Social Services	\$ 111,200	

This will result in an increase of \$111,200 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	\$ 111,200
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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.

Budget Amendment #12

The Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a used compactor for the landfill in the 2020-2021 budget. It was estimated that a used compactor would cost between \$225,000 and \$300,000, and therefore, would be financed over 4 to 5 years. Included in the current budget was \$60,000 for the first estimated payment.

Staff had located a used compactor for \$60,000 in South Carolina, and was estimating it would cost \$20,000 to deliver the compactor to Martin County and \$20,000 to replace some worn parts.

Budget Amendment #12 would allow the County to purchase, repair worn parts, and have the compactor delivered without financing the purchase.

Commissioner Ayers commended staff on their efforts. Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #12, with a SECOND from Commissioner Biggs. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-12

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
Environmental Protection		
Landfill	\$ 40,000	

This will result in an increase of \$40,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 40,000
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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.

Budget Amendment #13

County Manager Bone explained a County Department of Social Services vehicle was damaged in an accident with a deer in September 2020. The insurance proceeds of \$2,108 had been received by the County, and the vehicle was scheduled to be repaired.

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #13, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via roll call vote.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-13

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
Human Services		
Social Services	\$ 2,108	

This will result in an increase of \$2,108 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Insurance Proceeds	\$ 2,108
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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.

Budget Amendment #14

County Manager Bone stated when the pandemic caused the schools to close, Sheriff Manning redeployed School Resource Officers (SROs) from the school system to the Governmental Center. These deputies have assisted in the enforcement of social distancing and organization of traffic flow. Having the deputies at the door had been extremely valuable, helping not only with safety but also employee morale during the pandemic.

With the SROs returning to schools, Sheriff Manning did not have adequate staffing to maintain this service. Sheriff Manning was proposing to hire two additional deputies to facilitate the continuation of this service.

Budget Amendment #14 included the salaries and benefits for two deputies for half a year, as well as the funds to supply the personal equipment needed for the deputies and one vehicle.

A letter from Sheriff Manning was included in the agenda packets for Commissioners. County Manager Bone asked Sheriff Manning to make some comments regarding the Budget Amendment request. Sheriff Manning stated there were many security issues around the country (buildings being attacked, shootings outside courthouses). Sheriff Manning stated it was imperative to make sure staff was safe, courts ran smoothly, and meet the current standards of the court system.

Sheriff Manning stated he did not make this request lightly but felt having armed Deputies were very important for safety of everyone in the courthouse.

Vice Chairman expressed his concerns about staff assisting the driver's license office. Sheriff Manning stated the Officer was simply helping the citizens of the County to help alleviate frustrations when she assisted in making appointments for people of the County. County

Manager Bone stated the DMV Office was a state agency, and the County only provided a space for the agency. Commissioner Gurganus asked if the Board could address the concerns with the DMV. Vice Chairman Bond stated there was an issue with driver license offices being closed in surrounding counties, which caused an increased demand in Martin County. Chairman Smith referenced budgetary and staffing concerns with the DMV at a state level that contributed to their issues, as well.

Vice Chairman Bond asked if anyone had contacted the DMV to let them know the concerns. Sheriff Manning stated he had personally contacted the DMV. The current back log on an appointment for the driver's license office was over a month.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #14, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. Commissioner Biggs offered a friendly amendment to the motion – instead of hiring two new additional officers, seeking to hire back Retired Officers to man the posts, Chairman Smith SECONDED the friendly amendment. Chairman Smith stated he supported Sheriff Manning and appreciated the partnership. Chairman Smith stated hiring someone full-time for only six months was concerning because there would likely be a commitment to hire those employees full-time with no funds.

Chairman Smith discussed the possibility of a “pool” concept, similar to one nurses use for staffing. He stated this would be less expensive than hiring full-time employees, and the Sheriff's office could utilize retired employees or current employees that would like extra hours. Sheriff Manning stated his concern with having current employees in a pool would be overtime. Chairman Smith stated the “pool” concept was separate from regular hours and was set up like a second job. The “pool” concept would not add on to the time for their regular workweek. Chairman Smith stated it was just not fair to hire an employee for only six months.

Commissioner Ayers stated he still had a motion on the floor to approve Budget Amendment #14 and he asked the Sheriff if he would still like to proceed with the original motion. Sheriff Manning stated he was doing his best to follow labor laws with paying his employees. He provided an example of trying to pay one of his employees as a contractor for a side job but he was not able to do that due to labor laws.

Chairman Smith again suggested hiring back some retired officers for part-time work. Sheriff Manning stated those retirees could only work for about 20 hours per week each, which would require four officers to perform the duties required. Sheriff Manning also added with the pandemic, there was so much uncertainty of what would happen with the School Resource Officers (SROs) and when they would return to school. If those SROs returned to the schools, additional officers would be needed to perform the current duties.

Chairman Smith stated the Board would work with the Sheriff's office to ensure the safety of staff and citizens at the courthouse. Chairman Smith asked Sheriff Manning to take the information presented tonight and come back with a different plan for the Board to consider at a future meeting.

Commissioner Ayers' motion and Commissioner Biggs' friendly amendments were both retracted.

Sheriff Manning stated additional funds would likely have to be added to his part-time line item in the Sheriff's Office budget to accommodate additional part-time positions.

Vice Chairman Bond asked about the line of people outside the courthouse this morning. Sheriff Manning stated this day in particular was a court calendar issue, creating a large number of people that needed to get in the courthouse. Sheriff Manning did say this was an example of why Deputies were needed at the courthouse entrance. Chairman Smith suggested a number system, where citizens would take a number and wait in their car until their number was called.

Budget Amendment #15 & #16

County Manager Bone explained Martin County received a grant award letter from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources on February 28, 2020. Martin County received a grant award in the amount of \$99,999.80. A 25% local match was required. Martin County TDA and Martin Community College had agreed to help fund project. The NC Forestry Service and Martin County would also provide in-kind services. Budget Amendment #15 would create a capital project ordinance. Budget Amendment #16 would allow for the local match.

County Manager Bone stated additional Budget Amendments would be needed as staff was applying for additional grants for the project.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendments #15 and #16, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously via a roll call vote.

Capital Project Budget Ordinance
Horse Trail Project
Fund 27
Budget Amendment # 15

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of Martin County, North Carolina, that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project authorized is the planning, design and construction of the horse trail at Kehukee Park.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of the grant documents and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

	Increase
Capital Outlay – Administration	\$ 21,000
Construction	125,000

Section 4. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

	Increase
NC DNCR	\$ 100,000
MC TDA	16,000
Martin Community College	5,000
Martin County	25,000

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of each of the granting agencies.

Section 6. Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-16

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
Due to Program Grant Fund	\$ 25,000	

This will result in an increase of \$25,000 in the expenditures of General Fund.. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 25,000
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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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bond made the MOTION to adjourn at 9:16 p.m., with a SECOND by Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners' next regular meeting would be Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

Jessica Godard
Clerk to the Board