

## **May 26, 2021 Special Call Meeting Recessed**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Call Meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 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 Ronnie Smith, Vice Chair Dempsey Bond Jr., Commissioner Joe. R. Ayers, Commissioner Emily Biggs, and Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus, County Manager James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia Rease, Deputy Clerk to the Board Marion Thompson, County Attorney Nate Peele, Finance officer Cindy Ange, Father John Brown, Mayor Of Robersonville Tina Brown, IT Jeb Gardner, BOE, Wes Gray, Angela Ellis, and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Present via Cisco WebEx: Mayor of Bear Grass, Charlotte Griffin

Chairman Ronnie Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Gurganus provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to all.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Smith asked the Board if Budget Amendments could be moved to the July meeting. Change requested. Commissioner Biggs MOTIONED to move the Budget Amendments to the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as stated, with a SECOND by Commissioner Gurganus

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Ms. Anna Shaw- Pre-65-** Ms. Shaw commented on the subject of the Pre-65 Retiree Insurance Plan. Ms. Shaw stated that she cannot afford insurance and would come back to work for Martin County if she has to. Ms. Shaw asked the Board of Commissioners to refrain from discussing the matter of Pre-65 Retiree Insurance Plans, but to give the retiree group an answer. Lastly, Ms. Shaw reiterated that the Market place insurance was not affordable, she didn't know how she was going to pay for insurance, and she knew Pre 65 Retiree, Kent Robinson, was looking down listening.

**Ms. Tina Manning- Pre-65-** Ms. Tina Manning was called into the Commissioners Board room for Public Comments. Ms. Manning stated that she researched the insurance plans and the gold plan, which was the insurance plan for the Pre 65 retirees, is not equal to the insurance plans the current employees have. Ms. Manning stated she knew money was needing to be saved, but asked the Board of Commissioners to look over the insurance plans. Ms. Manning added that the Pre 65 Retiree Insurance Plans was not the area to save money from and she will continue to speaking on the matter if needed.

**Ms. Evans-Pre 65-** Ms. Evans stated that she was told by her father, no matter how hard it got or worse the pay, to stay to the end because it was worth the stay. Ms. Evans spoke about her mother and father leaving their state jobs and her father saw his brother live a life that he couldn't anymore. Ms. Evans stated that this is the reason her father told her to stay with Martin County. Ms. Evans said she was proud of her job and she has always been proud. Ms. Evans expressed that she continued to work with Martin County because she was secured through the state health plans. Ms. Evans stated that she is on her own and has to budget money. Ms. Evans expressed that she felt as if she was being "thrown under the bus". Ms. Evans ended stating that she has always been proud of Martin County, but working with Martin County doesn't seem like a family anymore, but it feels like it's about money now.

Time was given to allow any further questions or public comments and there were none.

### **CLOSED SESSION - NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) – Personnel**

At 7:19 pm, Vice Chair Bonds, Jr. made the MOTION to enter Closed Session NC G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) – Personnel with a SECOND from Commissioner Biggs. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

At 10:01 pm, Commissioner Biggs made a MOTION to go out of Closed Session NC G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) – Personnel, with a SECOND from Commissioner Gurganus. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### FY 21-22 Budget

Chairman Smith stated that on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 the budget will be available for the public to review and June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 there will be a Public Hearing.

#### Pre-65

Vice Chair Bonds Jr. made a MOTION to choose the Bronze plan for Pre-65 Retiree Insurance plan, which is active January 1, 2021. Motion was SECONDED by Emily Biggs. Motion carried (3-2).

**Aye:** Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Dempsey Bond and Commissioner Emily Biggs.

**Nay:** Commissioner Gurganus and Commissioner Ayers

Chairman Smith added that the Draft Budget has not been approved, but it is available to any citizen tomorrow, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Chairman Smith stated, if there was anything added tonight, it will be added and available to view on Tuesday of next week.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, at 10:06 pm, Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to adjourn and SECONDED by Vice Chair Bond Jr.