

December 8, 2021

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Monthly Session on Wednesday, December 8, 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, Commissioner Joe. R. Ayers, Commissioner Emily Biggs, and Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus, County Manager James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia Rease, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Chairman Ronnie Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Joe R. Ayers led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Reverend Cynthia Pointe, Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to all in attendance as well as those viewing virtually.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioners Biggs made a **Motion** to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the Approval of the 2022 Martin County Schedule as it is presented under Item # 2 Board Reorganization, with a **Second** by Commissioner Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

According to, NC General Statute § 153A-39. Selection of chairman and vice-chairman; powers and duties, On the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year; and its first regular meeting in December of each odd-numbered year, the board of commissioners shall choose one of its members as chairman for the ensuing year, unless the chairman is elected as such by the people or otherwise designated by law. The board shall also at that time choose a vice-chairman to act in the absence or disability of the chairman. If the chairman and the vice-chairman are both absent from a meeting of the board, the members present may choose a temporary chairman.

Motion to Reelect Mr. Ronnie Smith as the Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners made by Commissioner Biggs with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried 3-2**.

Ayes: Commissioner Biggs, Vice Chairman Bond Jr., and Chairman Smith. **Nays:** Commissioner Gurganus and Commissioner Ayers.

Motion to Reelect Mr. Dempsey Bond Jr. as Vice Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioner’s made by Commissioner Biggs with a **Second** by Chairman Smith. Motion **Carried 3-2**.

Ayes: Commissioner Biggs, Vice Chairman Bond Jr., and Chairman Smith. **Nays:** Commissioner Gurganus and Commissioner Ayers.

Appointment of County Attorney

According to, *NC General Statute § 153A-114*, each county’s Board of Commissioners is required to appoint a county attorney to serve at its pleasure and to be its legal advisor.

This item was not approved due to the resignation of the

Appointment of Clerk to the Board

According to, *NC G.S. § 153A-111. Appointment; powers and duties*, the board of commissioners shall appoint or designate a clerk to the board. The board may designate the register of deeds or any other county officer or employee as clerk. The clerk shall perform any duties that may be required by law or the board of commissioners. The clerk shall serve as such at the pleasure of the board.

Motion to reelect Julia Rease as the Clerk to the Board made by Commissioner Gurganus with a **Second** by Commissioners Ayers. **Motion Carried** Unanimously.

Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule

NC General Statute § 153A-40 requires each county’s Board of Commissioners hold a regular meeting at least once per month. The board may by resolution fix the time and place of its regular meetings. Historically, this has been done at the “organizational meeting” in December. The Board of Commissioners is asked to adopt its 2022 meeting schedule and resolution.

MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'			
2022 Meeting Schedule			
Date of Meeting	Time	Type Meeting	Date Backup Needed Due by 12:00 Noon
January 12, 2022	7 p.m.	Regular Meeting	January 7, 2022
February 9, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	February 4, 2022
March 9, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	March 4, 2022
April 13, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	April 8, 2022
April 28, 2022 (Tentative)		Joint Budget Meeting with Board of Education	
May 11, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	May 6, 2022
To Be Announced		Budget Workshop (s) (After Receipt of Bd of Ed Budget)	
June 8, 2022	7p.m.	Budget Public Hearing	
June 8, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	June 3, 2022
June 8, 2022	7p.m.	Adopt Budget	
June 30, 2022	7p.m.	Year End Budget Ordinance Amendments	If Needed
July 13, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	July 8, 2022
August 10, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	August 5, 2022
September 14, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	September 9, 2022
October 12, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	October 7, 2022
November 9, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	November 4, 2022
December 14, 2022	7p.m.	Regular Meeting	December 9, 2022

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 153A-40 authorizes the Martin County Board of Commissioners to adopt a resolution fixing the dates, time and place of its regular meetings and further requires a copy of such a resolution, after its adoption, to be posted on the courthouse bulletin board and a summary of it to be published at least ten (10) days before the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 143-318.12 requires the new meeting schedule to be filed with the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners for at least seven (7) calendar days before the day of the first meeting held pursuant to the revised schedule and to post the schedule of regular meetings to the County's website; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners proposes to adopt the attached Martin County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule for 2022 for its regular Board meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached Meeting Schedule for 2022, which is incorporated herein by reference, and that Board meetings will be held in the County Commissioners Boardroom on the first floor of the Martin County Governmental Center located at 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina; and the Board directs the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners to provide such notice of the Meeting Schedule as set forth hereinabove. Adopted this the 8th day of December, 2021.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board

Motion to Approve the Meeting Schedule for 2022 and the 2022 Meeting Schedule Resolution made by Commissioner Biggs and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

Appreciation Plaques

Commissioner Ayers presented appreciation plaques to the Board of Commissioners on the behalf of Chief District Court Judge Regina Parker of the Second Judicial District. Chairman Smith stated that the Board of Commissioners were invited to an appreciation lunch with Chief District Court Judge Regina Parker and other judges within the district. Chairman Smith stated the state wanted to move one of the Martin County District judges to a western state, leaving Martin County one

less of a judge. Commissioner Ayers reported Chief District Court Judge Parker was very appreciative in the county assisting to keep an adequate amount of judges in the county.

Moment of Silence for Fallen Hero- Deputy Charlie Brown #809 –Sheriff Tim Manning

There were no public comments and Chairman Smith asked for a moment of silence for Deputy Charlie Brown who was passed in the line of duty on August 8, 2009. Sheriff Tim Manning honored Deputy Brown at the meeting with a speech. Deputy Brown was in the Narcotics Unit of the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Manning stated that Deputy Brown was a hard worker and thanked Deputy Browns family for allowing Deputy Brown to work with the county.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minute Approval

November 10, 2021 Regular Minutes and November 10, 2021 Closed Session Minutes

2. Financial Report – November 2021

3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Request – November 2021- None

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – November 2021

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2021	Bailey	Mary Frances R. Etals	-----	18,911	168.31
2021	Leggett	Christian R.	-----	2,150	19.13
2021	Dominquez- Carlin	Francisca	Sold Vehicle	7,668	73.38
2021	Pollard	Barbara Folgeras	Sold Vehicle	2,437	22.78
2021	Roberson	Thadus Arnold	Double Billed	0	21.44
			<i>Total Real & Personal Releases</i>		\$305.04
			<i>Total VTS Refunds</i>		\$ 0.00
			<i>Total Tax Relief Orders</i>		\$305.04

5. Tax Collector’s Report – November 2021

Category	21-Oct	October - 21 Y - T - D
20	\$ 1,866,218.85	\$ 4,679,000.08
25	\$ 125,109.13	\$ 813,570.79
	\$ 1,991,327.98	\$ 5,492,570.87
30	\$ 33.38	\$ 399.79
	\$ 1,991,361.36	\$ 5,492,970.66

6. Adoption of 2021 General and Program Records Retention Schedules for Local Government Agencies

N.C.G.S 121-5 (c) and 132-8 direct local government to adopt and adhere to records retention and disposition schedules that are created and managed by the NC Department of Cultural Resources (NC DCS). These schedules serve as an agreement between the local government office/department and NC DCS, and provide guidance on the types of records to be maintained and for how long.

The 2021 General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies will supersede the 2019 version, upon adoption, and includes updated records standards for the following programs: Administration & Management Budget/Fiscal/Payroll

- GIS Human Resources
- Information Technology Legal
- Public Relations Risk Management

The 2021 Program Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies is a new retention schedule created from the former County Management (last updated in 2013) and Municipal (last updated in 2012) retention schedules, and includes updated records standards for the following programs:

- Airport Authority Animal Services Code Enforcement/Inspection EMS/Fire Department
- Parks & Recreation Planning & Development
- Law Enforcement Tax

The 2021 Program Records schedule does contain standards for Law Enforcement and Tax records, and County Sheriff's and Tax Administration offices will utilize the 2021 Program Records schedule, in combination with their standalone retention schedules, to remain compliant with records standards. The new schedule, along with a log outlining substantial changes between the new document and prior County Management and Municipal schedules, are attached for review.

The Board **Approved** the above item as part of the consent agenda.

7. Southern Albemarle Delegates Executive Committee Nominees

Mr. Mitch Manning was elected as the 2021 President of the Southern Albemarle Association and asked for recommendations of the 2022 Martin County SAA Annual Meeting Delegates list as attached:

Ms. Charlotte B. Griffin	Mr. Chase Conner	Mr. Eric Pearson. Town Adm.
Ms. Lula Council	Mr. Jason Semple	Mr. Mitch Manning
Mr. Wesley Beddard	Mr. Vann Rogerson	Mr. Brooks Braswell, NCDOTR Eng.
Mayor Tina Brown	Mr. John Chaffee	Mr. Bryant Buck, Director

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Harrell	Mr. Al Chesson	Mr. Dennis Nwandu
Ms. Emily Biggs	Ms. Carol Shields	Mr. Marshall Gill, NCDOTD Eng.
Mrs. Beulah Bennett	Ms. Kim Griffin	Mr. David Fonseca, Supt
Mr. & Mrs. Don Grady	Mayor Jerry McCreary	
Mr. Dempsey Bond Jr.	Mayor Joyce Whichard-Brown	
Mr. Tim Manning	Mr. Barney Conway	
Ms. Tonya Leggett	Mr. Ben Jones	
Mr. David 'Skip' Gurganus	Mayor Ervin Williams	
Mr. Ronnie Smith	Mr. Jerry Jennings	
Mr. James Bennett	Ms. Gretchen Byrum	
Mayor Ray Deans	NC Rep. Shelly Willingham	
Mr. Milton Bennett, Jr	NC Sen. Ernestine Bazemore	
Mayor Eddie Brown	Ms. Betty Jo Shephard	
Mayor Craig Tucker	Mr. Reginald Speight	
Mr. Joe Ayers	Mr. Trey Lewis	
Ms. Jamie Heath	Mr. David Wiseman	
Mr. Curtis Willet	Mayor Michelle Davis	

8. W.K. Dickson Amendment #2

The Martin County Airport has recently completed multiple projects to purchase land and prepare the site for an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS). An AWOS provides weather data for pilots, which increases safety and makes the airport more reliable and attractive to pilots. The airport having an AWOS can help attract pilots to the County, or to stop at the airport to purchase fuel. Often, when a pilot maps out a flight plan or decides where to go, they will look for weather information. If the airport does not have weather information being reported, the pilot is likely to go to another airport instead. An AWOS also provides more accurate weather information to the general community by weather being reported directly from the airport to many different sources the community goes to look for weather information, such as the Weather Channel. As a bonus, having “Martin County Airport” show up on weather maps on television, online, etc., promotes the airport and helps make more people aware of the Martin County Airport.

The AWOS equipment was purchased by the NCDOT, Division of Aviation’s AWOS program and has already been delivered to the airport. The Division of Aviation is unable to perform the installation of the system themselves, however, and bids will have to be obtained for the installation services in accordance with the state’s bidding laws.

Work Authorization #2 is for bidding and construction administration services for the installation of the AWOS equipment. The fees for the services in Work Authorization #2 is \$52,210. The fees will be covered by two separate FAA grants. One grant will contain the airport’s remaining FY 2018 & FY 2019 Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE) funds, with the 10% match coming from State grant funding through the State’s Aviation Funding Safety Enhancement Program. The second grant will be completely funded by FAA grant funds. It will utilize a portion of the airport’s available FY 2020 NPE funds, with the 10% match being provided through the CARES act.

The AWOS Installation project will be completed at no cost to Martin County. Approval of Work Authorization #2 was recommended by the Martin County Airport Commission at their November 16, 2021 meeting.

The Board **Approved** the above item as part of the consent agenda.

9. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Bertie Martin Regional Jail Commission

At the September 8, 2021 meeting, Mr. Brent Jackson was appointed to continue the remaining board term for Mr. William Stalls. The term would end on December 31, 2021. Mr. Brent Jackson has agreed to continue serving on this board and his term will expire 12/31/2023.

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

Firemen'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, 2023.

Those individuals recommended for appointment/reappointment are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Bear Grass Fire Department | Mr. James Ward |
| • Griffin Fire Department | Mr. Gary Griffin |
| • Hamilton Fire Department | Mr. Lin Boyd Jr. |
| • Jamesville Fire Department | Mr. Phillip Pierce |
| • Oak City Fire Department | Mr. Tim Boddie |
| • Robersonville Fire Department | Mr. Charlie Gurganus |
| • Williamston Fire Department | Mr. Thomas Roberson |

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

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, 2021.

- Clay Wagner- Designee for Superintendent Position,
- Beth Coltrain-Police Chief Designee, Tim Manning-Sheriff,
- Jeremiah Jackson-Member of Faith Community,
- Regina Parker-Chief District Court Judge,

- Deborah Price Fonville-County Commissioner Appointee,
- Sondra McCleary-County Commissioner Appointee,
- Anthony Howell-County Commissioner Appointee,
- Lisa Bowen-County Commissioner Appointee.
- Mr. Lucas Denny was recommended for appointment for a 2-year term as a County Commissioner Appointee to fill the position of Mark Leggett, whose term expires 12/31/21.

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

Martin General Health Systems

The General Health Board of Trustees recommended the reappointment of Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus as well as Mr. Lon Moore for a three-year term, which would expire on January 1, 2025.

The Board **Approved** the above reappointments as part of the consent agenda.

10. Clerk Report- *included for informational purposes*

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Department of Social Services- Martin County DSS Director Angela Ellis

Martin County Department of Social Services Director Angela Ellis introduced the following new employees:

- Lativia Harper – Social Worker III- Child Protective Services Unit
- Soleesa Morgan – Income Maintenance Caseworker I
- Jenna Stotesbury – Income Maintenance Caseworker I
- Stephanie Correa – Public Information Assist IV
- Detra Wilkins – Income Maintenance Caseworker I
- Sandra Spivey – Social Worker Supervisor III – Foster Care Services Unit

The new employees were welcomed by the Board and Staff

New Human Resources Director

Martin County Manager U. James Bennett introduced Ms. Donna Zube as the new Human Resources (HR) Director for Martin County. Manager Bennett informed the Board that Ms. Zube had 12 plus years in experience working with Martin County in Finance with some HR components. Manager Bennett reported Ms. Zube will continue to conduct some financial duties, but will take lead in HR duties such as advertising, counseling, and processing new employees. Ms. Zube was characterized as a hard worker as Manager Bennett stated Ms. Zube preferred to work early mornings and late nights. Ms. Zube showed her appreciation for her promotion as the new HR Director and the Board and staff congratulated her.

PRESENTATION (S)

COVID 19 Update- MTW Deputy Health Director Vickey Manning

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19. COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally. MTW District Health Director Wes Gray made an initial COVID-19 Coronavirus presentation to the Board of Commissioners on March 11, 2020. The MTW Health Department staff provides an update at the Board of Commissioners meetings.

Martin Terrell Washington Deputy Health Director Vickey Manning presented the COVID 19 Update stating that the total number for Covid cases in Martin County was 3877, there was a total of 77 COVID related deaths, 138 break through cases, and a total of and 7 additional cases since December 7, 2021. MTW Deputy Health Director Manning reported that there were 35 active cases in Martin County as of December 8, 2021. MTW Deputy Health Director reported that the Vintage INN had 3 cases and the Carrolton House had 53 total cases since the last outbreak at these facilities. The reports will continue until the nursing homes have been 20 days without a new Covid case.

Next, MTW Deputy Health Director Manning discussed a report of vaccinations within the county and vaccination sites. Last week, 470 residents were tested for COVID. There was a testing site at the East End Elementary School and the Scout Hut. MTW Deputy Health Director stated that booster shots cannot be tracked until a system is created to collect the data, but the booster were available and did not have to match the vaccination brand receive in the initial doses. MTW Deputy Health Director also stated that there was a vaccination for individuals who may have auto immune diseases or conditions that cause the body to have a lower immune system, making them more susceptible of health conditions.

Lastly, MTW Deputy Health Director Manning reported any updates regarding the new strand of COVID. MTW Health Director Manning reported on November 26, 2021 the World Health Organization identified the Omnicom strand of COVID as a variant of concern, USA made the same recognition on November 30, 2021, and the CDC announced the first Omicron case in the United States on December 1, 2021. As of today the variant was found in 19 of the United States with the closest stated being Maryland. The tests received by the state conduct a sampling of 3 test to find Omicron tests, which has reports of spreading faster than other strands of COVID. MTW Deputy Health Director Manning stated that there was a therapy that could lessen COID symptoms if the individual was in the beginning stages. MTW Deputy Health Director Manning also stated there would be more information on an over the counter pill for COVID that needed to be approved by the FDA.

Cooperative Extension Update – Mr. Lance Grimes

N.C. Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Lance Grimes made a presentation in regards to the services provided as an Agriculture Agent. Mr. Grimes stated N.C Cooperative Extension is a collaborative effort between the state's land-grant universities—North Carolina State University (NC State) and North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T)—and county and tribal governments to bring research-based knowledge to citizens in communities throughout the state.

Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Grimes reported Agriculture is a major part of Martin County. There are a total of 295,152 acres in the county and of those total acres, 87,101 are harvested cropland acres. Martin County has 477 farm operators and other tenants with over 2,700 farmland tract owners. Martin County is very diverse in production agriculture producing traditional row crops along with many specialty crops. According to the 2018 North Carolina Agriculture Stats, total cash receipts for Martin County Agriculture was over 82 million dollars. These are a few highlights that show the importance of Martin County Agriculture.

Lastly, Agriculture Agent Grimes stated one major program that is provided to farmers is Peanut Pod Blasting. Martin County ranks number one or number two every year in peanut production in the state. Peanut Pod Blasting is a process that helps growers determine peanut maturity and optimum time to dig peanuts. To help growers determine peanut maturity, Martin County Extension hosts peanut pod blasting clinics across the county. Growers bring samples from multiple fields to have checked. A good sample is 200 pods picked from vines randomly selected in a field. Growers then bring the sample to be pod blasted. Pod blasting removes the outer hull of the peanut, revealing the color of the inner hull, which is what is used to determine maturity. Determining the optimum time to dig peanuts is the biggest decision a peanut grower can make. Research has shown that peanut yield has potential to increase up to 19 lbs. per acre/per day for each of the 10 days prior to optimum maturity. At current contract prices of \$.22 per pound, following NC Extension recommendations could potentially increase gross income by \$4.18/day for each day peanuts are dug closer to optimum maturity. A grower can wait 18 days and make \$75.24 per acre yield increase by digging closer to optimum maturity. An individual grower could make additional \$7,524 on 100 acres of peanuts. In 2021, Martin County grew over 9,000 acres of peanuts. Therefore, it can be estimated that Martin County Extension saved growers \$677,000.

Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Lance Grimes was thanked for his presentation and sharing information with the board.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was recessed for a 5 minute break.

Resolution in Support of Roanoke Connect Broadband Project

County Manager Bennett reported that there was a meeting that involved different leaders in the community such as the Superintendent of Schools, the president of Martin Community College, and the President and CEO of the Martin County Economic Development Council. In this meeting, a resolution was asked to be written for approval by the Board of Commissioners to as it embraces the principles expressed in the resolution, to seek to speed the deployment of affordable broadband technologies with the Roanoke Connect Project across the County; the Board of County Commissioners supports the Roanoke Connect project that brings internet solutions to the residents, businesses and visitors of Martin County; and be it further, and that the Board of County Commissioners directs its County Manager, with its expressed consent, to communicate this resolution, including supporting initiatives that seek to improve and speed broadband deployment across the Martin County , to all relevant policymakers, including Federal and State agencies and Congress, broadband partners and stakeholders. Manager Bennett stated Commissioner Gurganus and Commissioner Biggs were advocates for the citizens of Martin County receiving broadband services, especially in outlying or rural areas of Martin County. Manager Bennett stated that this was not a commitment to the company and other companies were not being ruled out in the discussion of internet services.

Resolution Supporting Roanoke Connect Broadband Project

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners has previously expressed its commitment to advancing the deployment of broadband technologies and broadband access across the County; and

WHEREAS, current statistics illustrate that the United States is falling behind many other nations in terms of broadband deployment, adoption and affordability; and

WHEREAS, all County citizens and businesses deserve affordable access to the educational, civic, economic and informational benefits that broadband access delivers; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Connect project, provides a broadband solution that provides affordable broadband to the citizens and businesses of the County; and

WHEREAS, access to Roanoke Connect's reliable broadband Internet service is essential for our County's economy in order to grow and compete in the 21st century; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County convened at its December 8th, 2021 meeting, embraces the principles expressed in this resolution and seek to speed the deployment of affordable broadband technologies with the Roanoke Connect Project across the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners supports the Roanoke Connect project that brings internet solutions to the residents, businesses and visitors of Martin County; and be it further

CLOSED SESSION – NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Contracts and Agreements, and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Economic Development

At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to enter Closed Session for NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Contracts and Agreements, and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Economic Development, with a **Second** from Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

At 9:15p.m., Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to go out of Closed Session NC G.S. § 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Client/Attorney Privilege, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Contracts and Agreements, and NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (4) – Economic Development, with a **Second** from Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Martin General Proposal Letter

Manager Bennett presented a letter to be sent to the CEO of Vidant Health Care Systems and in the letter would be a proposal for Operation of the Martin General Hospital.

Motion to approve the submittal of the proposal letter to the CEO of Vidant Health Care Systems by Commissioner Gurganus with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Martin County Part Time Attorney Position

Manager Bennett also asked for the approval of the advertisement of the Part Time County Attorney position. Chairman Smith stated that Peel and James Attorney at Law resigned as of December 31, 2021 and the resignation was accepted. Chairman Smith stated the advertisement for the position would start from December 9, 2021 and end on January 28, 2022.

Motion to approve the submittal of the Martin County Part Time Attorney Position advertisement by Commissioner Gurganus, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Tideland

County Manager Bennett stated all 10 counties involved in the Tideland Retiree Account are in agreeance that all 10 counties were legally responsible for a payment deemed by attorneys that were involved in the last meeting. Manager Bennett stated \$300,000 was in the account, but this amount would not suffice for the future allocations of these funds. Manager Bennett reported that all counties were to find a solution to this payment and Martin County would pay an annual payment less than \$20,000 for 5 years.

Motion that Martin County will pay an annual payment to the Tideland Retiree Account for 5 years made by Commissioner Biggs and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion **Carried** unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS- NONE

Manager's Report

- **State Health Plan** - Manager Bennett reported that there was a 23 % increase in the Health Insurance that insures the county through the State Health Plan. Manager Bennett stated the total amount to be paid is \$255,000 (\$125,000 per person/ per month). Manager Bennett reported slight increases were anticipated and budgeted for, but an increase of 23% was not. Manager Bennett stated that solutions were being researched. Finance Officer stated that the funds would come from the general budget for this year due to the increase being immediate.
- **Airport Commission Dinner** – Manager Bennett stated that the Martin County Airport Commission invited the Martin County Board of Commissioners to their annual dinner February 8, 2022.
- **Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Director** - Manager Bennett stated that Mr. Barney Conway announced his retirement. Manager Bennett reported that the position for the TDA Director will be advertised until December 31, 2021. Manager Bennett stated that Mr. Conway has done a great job at a job that is not easy. Manager Bennett also stated that Mr. Conway had many talents and served the county in this position since 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, at 9:30 pm, Commissioner Biggs **Motioned** to adjourn and Vice Chairman Bond Jr. **Seconded** the motion. The Board unanimously **Approved** the motion.

The next Regular Board Meeting for the Martin County Board of Commissioners has been scheduled for January 12, 2021.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board