

May 12, 2021

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Monthly Session on Wednesday, May 12th, 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, Deputy Clerk to the Board Marion Thompson, County Attorney Nate Peele, and Finance Officer Cindy Ange.

Other Present in the boardroom: Father John Brown, Mayor of Robersonville Tina Brown, IT Jeb Gardner, Director of Social Services Angela Ellis, and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Present via Cisco WebEx: Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr. and Mayor of Bear Grass Charlotte Griffin.

Chairman Ronnie Smith called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. due to technical difficulties. Commissioner Emily Biggs led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Rev. John Brown, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, provided the invocation.

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to Reverend John Brown and all in attendance.

AGENDA Approval

Chairman Smith asked the board to move some items on the agenda. Chairman Smith recommended moving New Business Item # 5 Budget Amendments to New Business Item # 6. Chairman Smith asked to add under New Business Item #5 – FY 20-21 CDBG-CV Subsistence Payments Project Sub-recipient Agreement. Chairman Smith added that the CBDG funds were much needed for rent, mortgages, and utilities and the funds were finally received.

Commissioner Biggs made the MOTION to move the items as stated, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

Commissioner Gurganus made a MOTION to approve the agenda as revised, with a SECOND by Commissioner Biggs. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

Chairman Smith stated New Editor Ms. Sara Stalls was leaving the Williamston Enterprise to become the public relations director for Martin County Schools. Chairman Smith stated his appreciation for Ms. Stalls and her service for Martin and Bertie Counties. Chairman Smith asked if there were any further comments on this. Commissioner Gurganus stated his appreciation for Ms. Stalls in saying, “Just know the fact that we appreciate everything that you’ve done and do, and will continue to do”. Commissioner Ayers stated his appreciation for Ms. Stalls and her time, efforts, and good stories in the paper that bring the community together.

SWEARING IN CERMONY- CLERK TO THE BOARD

Now Deputy Clerk to the Board, Marion Thompson (retired Martin County Clerk to the Board/Executive Assistant) provided the oath and conducted the swearing in ceremony for Ms. Julia Rease as Clerk to the Board. Chairman Smith stated Ms. Rease comes from the Department of Social Services, welcomed Julia Rease to the team, and thanked her for the acceptance of the position. Dr. Nayland Collier, her uncle and Mrs. Linda Collier, her aunt attended the meeting to support County Clerk Rease.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Newly appointed County Clerk Julia Rease read the comment for Mr. Jeremy Maxik, President Blackwater Cider, and LLC. (Parent Company of Hook Hand Brewery Taproom located in Williamston, N.C., in which he relayed his interest in being on the Tourism Development Board. Mr. Maxik provided his background information regarding his experience and intent to volunteer on the TDA board. Mr. Maxik's entire public comment will be on file in the County Manager's Office.

Chairman Smith stated there was another public comment from Ms. Anna Shaw. Viewing from the hallway monitor, Ms. Shaw was invited into the boardroom to speak.

Ms. Anna Shaw stated that she lives at 1622 Goose Road in Robersonville, NC and is a retiree from Martin County. Ms. Shaw showed her appreciation to speak. Ms. Shaw stated that she was accompanied by 9 other pre- 65 retirees who were concerned about their retirement. Ms. Anna Shaw stated she and the other pre-65 retirees were all dedicated workers before retiring. Adding, she hoped the Commissioners and Pre-65 group could come together for a resolution everyone would be satisfied with.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further comments. Time was given for additional comments and there were none. Chairman Smith stated comments could be sent to the Clerk during the meeting to be read. Chairman Smith stated he also hoped for a resolution that everyone could be happy with. Chairman Smith ensured everyone all comments from the public were valued.

CONSENT AGENDA

Before calling for a motion to approve, Chairman Smith called to attention Item #8 on the Consent Agenda, Special Called Meeting for May 19th, 2021 – Budget Presentation. Chairman Smith stated there would be a meeting for the Budget presentation, finance in the county, and how any issues would be handled for the year. Chairman Smith asked everyone to mark their calendars.

Commissioner Biggs made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda, with a SECOND by Commissioner Gurganus. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

1. Minutes Approval

Minutes for March 10th, 2021 Regular Session, April 14th, 2021 Regular and Closed Session, April 28th, 2021 Special Session, Joint Board-BOC & BOE Budget Meeting, and April 29th, 2021 Special all Session

2. Financial Report – April 2021

3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Request – April 2021 –None

4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – April 2021

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2020	Coltrain	Nathaniel D.	Sold Vehicle	2,787	27.28
2020	Trust	Gelco Fleet	Double Billed		343.38
2019	Harrell	Jessica	Clerk Error	55,450	449.15
2018	Harrell	Jessica	Clerk Error	55,450	438.06
2017	Harrell	Jessica	Error in Value	55,450	438.06
2020	Harrell	Jessica	Error in Value		172.00
2017	Rawls	James	Double Billed	1,380	12.67
2018	Rawls	James	Double Billed	1,325	12.18
2019	Rawls	James	Double Billed	1,272	12.24
2020	Rogerson, Jr.	James Roland	Double Billed	2,304	20.50
2021	Williams	Dillon S.	Landfill Fee		172.00
			<i>Total Real & Personal Releases</i>		\$2,097.52
2021	MC Residential	Services	Exempt Property		201.02
			<i>Total VTS Refunds</i>		201.02
			<i>Total Tax Relief Orders</i>		\$2,298.54

5. Tax Collector’s Report – April 2021

	Category	Apr-21	Apr-21 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	-	\$9,523,192.31
Personal Property	25	-	<u>\$5,220,866.95</u>
Total		-	\$14,744,059.26
Motor Vehicle	30	-	<u>\$1,418.04</u>
Total MV			\$1,418.04
All Total		-	\$14,745,477.30

6. Use of Public School Building Capital Fund – NC Education Lottery

NC G. S. Chapter 18C provides that a portion of the NC’s lottery proceeds are allocated to each county within the Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) based on average daily

membership (ADM) in accordance with N C G. S. 115C-546.2. The Public School Building Capital Fund is housed in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and is comprised of two sources of revenue: a set-aside from the corporate income tax, known as the ADM fund, which was allotted based on average daily membership (ADM) in each county; and a percentage of the net proceeds from the N.C. Education lottery.

Monies in the Fund are used to pay for public school construction projects and to retire indebtedness incurred for school construction projects. PSBCF also may contain some residual corporate income tax distributions.

The application requested funds from lottery proceeds to assist in making the debt and interest payment on Riverside Middle School. Approximately \$15 million was used to build Riverside Middle School in 2013. The annual debt payment is approximately \$1 million. The PSBCF request included \$285,758.00 for the debt payment. The remainder, \$21,758, would be for one-half of the interest required to be paid, due to the federal government sequestration.

A County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education must jointly apply to the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) on a project-by-project basis to access the monies in the Fund. The Martin County Board of Education approved the request at its May 3, 2021 meeting.

The Board of Commissioners approved the application/request for funds from the Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. A Resolution to Preliminary Recommend the Adoption and Acquisition of Voting Equipment to the Martin County Board of Commissioners

The Martin County Board of Elections has had voting equipment listed in the Capital Improvement Plan for many years, with the last equipment purchased in 2006. It had been estimated that to replace all tabulators and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ballot marking devices would be at minimum \$175,000.

Earlier this year, the Martin County Board of Elections was unexpectedly awarded HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funding. The Martin County Board of Elections received a HAVA grant of \$55,609 from the NC State Board of Elections. Each county's award amount was based upon economic tiers defined by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the number of registered voters.

In order to help spend the money as wisely as possible, the Elections' Board opted to keep the not heavily used ADA ballot marking machines. The Elections' Board also approved the combining of some precincts, which would help further reduce the total cost for replacement equipment.

Base on the decisions made above by the Board of Elections, the equipment vendor (Printelect/ES&S) was in the process of submitting a new quote. A rough estimate was that the total would be around \$95,000. After the reimbursable HAVA grant has been applied, the County's out-of-pocket expense would be close to \$40,000. If the Elections Office has any money left in this budget year, the Election Board would like to apply it towards the purchase of the new

equipment. Printelect/ES&S has financing options available for any remaining balance should the County not be able to cover the remainder in this budget year.

The Board of Commissioners adopted the resolution “A Resolution to Preliminarily Recommend the Adoption and Acquisition of Voting Equipment to the Martin County Board of Commissioners shown below, as part of the Consent Agenda.

***A Resolution to Preliminarily Recommend
The Adoption and Acquisition of Voting Equipment
to the Martin County Board of Commissioners***

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners, with the approval of the Martin County Board of Elections, may adopt and acquire only a voting system of a type, make, and model certified by the State Board for use in some or all voting places in the county at some or all elections in accordance with N.C.G.S. 163-165.8;

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections must recommend the adoption and acquisition of any voting system by the Martin County Board of Commissioners after completing the requirements in N.C.G.S. 163-165.9(a);

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections must recommend to the Martin County Board of Commissioners which type of voting system should be acquired by the county, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 163- 165.9(a)(1);

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections has witnessed a demonstration, in the county or at a site designated by the State Board of Elections, of the type of voting system being recommended, and has also witnessed a demonstration of at least one other type of voting system certified by the North Carolina State Board of Elections as required by N.C.G.S. 163-165.9(a) (2);

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections has directed staff to test, during a simulated election, the proposed voting system, as required by N.C.G.S. 163-165.9(a)(3);

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections will apply HAVA grant funds towards the purchase, and requests additional funds from the County to fund the remaining cost for the new voting equipment;

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections will seek approval from the State Board of Elections prior to replacing any voting system, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 163-165.9(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Elections plans to make a final recommendation to the Martin County Board of Commissioners on the adoption and acquisition of a voting system at its June 9, 2021 meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Martin County Board of Elections hereby preliminarily recommends that the Martin County Board of Commissioners adopt and acquire the following certified voting equipment pursuant to N.C.G.S. 163-165.9(a)(1):

Vendor: *Election Systems & Software (ES&S)*

Voting System Type: *DS200 Tabulators (and upgrade Unity to Electionware)*

Number of Tabulating Units: *14*

8. May 19th, 2021 Special Meeting – Budget Presentation

North Carolina General Statute § 159-11(b) requires the County Manager to submit a proposed budget and budget message to the governing body by June 1st of each year. On the same day that the budget is presented to the governing body, the budget officer shall file a copy of it in the office of the clerk for public inspection and schedule a public hearing. This public hearing has been scheduled for the June 9th meeting.

The governing body must adopt the annual budget ordinance by July 1st [North Carolina General Statute 159-13(a)]. However, North Carolina General Statute § 159-16 directs that if the budget ordinance is not adopted by July 1st, the governing body must adopt “interim appropriations for the purpose of paying salaries, debt service payments, and the usual ordinary expenses” of the county until the ordinance is adopted. North Carolina General Statute § 159-13 specifies that not earlier than 10 days after the budget is presented to the governing body and not later than July 1st, the governing body shall adopt a budget ordinance. Otherwise, the Board of Commissioners may adopt an interim budget ordinance to be effective from July 1st to August 1st.

County Manager Bennett requested the Special Called Meeting to present the FY2021-2022 Budget to the Board of Commissioners. The Board approved holding the meeting on May 19th, 2021 at 7 p.m. as part of the Consent Agenda.

9. Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S) – NONE

PRESENTATION (S)

COVID-19 Update

MTW District Health Director Wes Gray spoke on the number of COVID-19 related incidents for the county. Director Gray stated that he would speak briefly about the vaccinations as well. Director Gray reported that there were 2 cases per day on average. Director Gray reported 6 active cases, which was the lowest for Martin County since before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Director Gray stated that there were 5 individuals recovering from home, and an individual at the hospital. Last week there was one Martin County COVID- 19 related death.

Director Gray reported that testing has remained stable throughout the county with 408 test being over the last 2 weeks with 11 positives and a percent positive rate (2.75%), which was low. Director

Wes stated that the MTW District Health department was a testing site as well as the Scott Hut in Williamston and the East End School of Robersonville. Director Gray reported that 12,920 vaccines had been given by the Health Department, there were 8,218 people who had gotten their 1st dose of the vaccine, and about 7,200 people in Martin County had received their second dose.

Director Gray stated the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccinations were given to people 18 and older, but left a big chunk of the population unvaccinated (about 20%), who really don't have access to the vaccines. This chunk of the population were children. Director Gray stated he went to another county about two weeks ago to get Pfizer vaccines in which he used at a vaccination event at NERSBA in Jamesville, NC. Director Gray stated there would be another vaccination fair event at NERSBA in Jamesville on May 22nd, 2021.

Director Gray stated the FDA, CDC and the State had approved the use of the Pfizer for 12 year olds and older.

No supply issues were reported. Director Gray showed his appreciate to Ms. Sara Stalls as well with her contributions to getting the news to the community.

Chairman Smith thanked Director Gray and asked if there were any comments or questions and there were none.

Trillium Annual Budget Presentation

Mr. Bland Baker, Northern Regional Director showed his appreciation to Chairman Smith for his support, support to the Trillium board, and for the work he has done for the citizens of Martin County. Director Bland stated last year Trillium served 58,000 people and continue to have 500 providers costing at about \$475,921,857.

Medicaid Transformation

Big major overhaul on Medicaid system to start in July 1, 2021. Director Baker explained changes in insurance plans:

Standard Plan Insurance Companies Timeline:

- March 15th through May 14th – Open Enrollment, May 15th- Auto enrollment.
- July 1st, 2021 – Standard Plans would begin to serve Medicaid individuals with Low to Moderate needs.

Tailored 5-7 Managed Care Organizations

- NCACC recommended the current LME/MCO map.
- Managing the high risk/high cost individuals with mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use.
- DHHS released the RFA on November 13th 2020.
- Managing the whole person- both physical health and behavioral health.

Open Enrollment was opened for the Standard plan. Medicaid packets were sent out discussing changes and instructions to enroll. If a plan was not picked by the following Friday (May 14th), the plan would be automatically picked for the individual. Updates were to be given on the date that the Tailored Plan would open for registration.

COVID 19 Changes

- Setup a separate webpage for all of our information regarding COVID-19
- Some rate increases extended ranging from 5% - 30% to Network Providers
- Waiving Prior Authorizations
- Supplying COVID Kits to providers/consumers
- Respite for Children with IDD increased to 30 hours
- Telehealth continues to be provided when needed
- Food Delivery
- Promoting Hope4NC
- Trillium continues remote status with office usage limited to 15% of allowed capacity
- Access to Care continues to be in operation 24 hours per day.

<https://www.trilliumhealthresources.org/news-events-training/coronavirus-information>

Project Updates

- Trillium has Naloxone kits to give to Law Enforcement
- DHHS specific respite homes
- Racial Equity Projects-HBCU College applicants
- Safe Schools HealthnKids Online Training on a variety of topics\
- Hand Sanitizers at Playgrounds
- Crisis and Disaster Response Department

Total Consumers served – 1154

- Mental Health – 851
- Substance Use – 275
- I/DD – 108

Trillium continues to work hard for Martin County to have an Opioid Treatment facility in Martin County. They were RFP's with several counties for providers. Trillium got one RFP about 2 years ago from Martin County. Director Baker stated the owner of the treatment would need a building which was licensed and Trillium was having a hard time finding one. Director Baker stated there were some potential facilities with Martin General Hospital. Director Baker stated this could take another year, but it was needed due to the number of individuals with substance abuse issues.

Chairman Smith thanked Director Baker and stated Trillium was a wonderful provider and were doing a great job. Chairman Smith stated he would talk later on about the Opioid Litigation Settlement. Chairman Smith stated the settlement could support some of the things the NC Association of County Commissioners had been pushing for especially with facilities that can support those with opioid and/or alcohol abuse. Chairman Smith stated "With the settlement

coming up, a lot of those issues will be better when you have monies and partners who can be put into a project to better serve the citizens”.

Director Baker reiterated an important comment which was very important. Mr. Baker restated there would be a decision on plans and PCP or Primary Care Provider. Mr. Baker stressed that Medicaid recipients needed to call to ask questions and to sign up for a plan before the deadline on Friday.

Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds, Kimberly Griffin, thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to speak about the Register of Deeds Office. ROD Griffin spoke about the accomplishments, goals, duties, records recorded, and history.

Mission Statement:

To provide the public with prompt and professional assistance. The Register of Deeds Office is responsible for the accurate recording, indexing, maintenance and preservation of all documents as governed by North Carolina General Statutes. Staff must show attention to detail, fairness & respectability to everyone. Staff must be dependable, adaptable to changes in General Statutes, work well under stressful situations & overall responsible for good government.

History:

ROD Griffin stated some historic facts regarding the Register of Deeds Office. ROD Griffin stated Register of Deeds position is one of the elected officer in North Carolina. The Register of Deeds Office is one of the oldest offices in the state with the first filling being November 15, 1665 in England. In 1868, the office was an elected position for the term of 2 years. In 1935, the office was elected for 4 years. ROD Griffin stated the office gives public notice of land ownership, provides protection against unknown transactions and secret liens, and the office records most records including the following:

Records Recorded:

- Deeds
- Deeds of Trust
- Fixture Filings
- Plats
- Assignments
- Power of Attorneys
- Satisfactions
- Agreements
- Easements
- Releases
- Assumed Names
- Notices
- Real Estate(starting from 1771)

Accomplishments 2020-2021

- Began Clean Up of the Images of Real Estate Records Previously Scanned.
- Notary Commissions/Recommissions Done Electronically.
- Completion of Advanced Register of Deeds School
- Completion of Certification Program for Deputy
- Continuing Education Workshops
- Educational/Legislative Conference (Virtual)
- Annual Conference (Virtual)
- Support our local Boys & Girls Club
- Leadership Academy
- Vice-Chair of District VIII
- Land Records Management Advisory & Indexing Committee for the N.C. Register of Deeds Association (NCARD)
- Special Recognition-Awards Recognition Committee (NCARD)

Goals and Objectives 2021-2022

- Begin Electronic Real Estate Recording
- Offer Credit Card Services to Purchase Vital Records
- Convert Part-time position to a Full-time Position**
- Purchase New Office Equipment-Chairs
- Upgrade our Computer Processors
- District Workshop Completions
- Educational/Legislative Conference Participation
- Annual Register of Deeds Conference Participation
- Continuing Education Certification
- Complete Leadership Academy
- Continue Clean-Up of Images of Scanned Real Estate Records
- Offer Vital Records Requests Online

ROD Griffin ended her presentation with questions. There were no questions. ROD Griffin added that Martin County citizens had borrowed over \$24 million, as the Register of Deeds Office records how much money has been borrowed in the County. The Board thanked the staff of the Register of Deeds Office and stated the importance of the certifications needed in the workplace.

Innovation Campus & Federal Funding

BOE Superintendent, Dr. Fonseca thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to speak on the behalf of the boys, girls, teachers, staff, parents and community. Superintendent Fonseca introduced Mrs. Karen Rogerson to report on the School's federal funding.

COVID 19 Funding

Finance Director, Karen Rogerson, spoke about the funds received from COVID-19 grants and explained how the funds were spent or what plans the School Board had in place for the funds to be spent.

Finance Director Rogerson stated it was important to Dr. Fonseca for both the Board of Education as well as the Board of Commissioners to receive the same information regarding the usage of the COVID- 19 funds and grants. Finance Director Rogerson stated one of the Coronavirus Funds was the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRV), which were allotted by the NC Department of Public Instruction through the state allotments. Finance Director Rogerson stated the allotments have an allotment policy which explained how the funds were allocated and the purpose. Finance Director Rogerson explained there were a chart of accounts with the valid expenditure codes. Finance Director Rogerson stated these funds were planned to be used for computer equipment, remote learning, summer learning programs, home and community Wi-Fi for remote learning, and more. The table with the expenditure codes and description was provided.

Finance Director Rogerson stated there were Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) which required a plan and budget to be entered in to the NC CCIP system (North Carolina Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan) and enter a budget into the LBAAS system. Finance Director Rogerson stated the plan and budget to be submitted into these systems must be approved by the DPI first to receive funding. Finance Director Rogerson explained these funds were being allocated by the NC Department of Public Instruction through Federal Allotments. It has an allotment policy which explained how the funds were allotted and the purpose, with a chart of accounts with the valid expenditure codes as the previous grant discussed. Finance Director Rogerson stated the Elementary and Secondary Relief Funds include ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III, ESSER Digital Curricula, and ESSER Exceptional Children Grant that all have allotment policies and the chart of accounts with valid expenditure codes. Custodial Supplies, Social Work support, and more.

Finance Director Rogerson stated the third area of funding were allotted by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). Finance Director Rogerson stated this fund comes with an allotment policy and would be allotted by the NC Department of Public Instruction through federal allotments. To receive the funds, the school was required to send a plan and budget into the NC CIP system. The budget and plan must be approved by the DPI as well. Finance Director Rogerson stated ESSER II, about 4 million, were not approved as of yet, but the plan and budget were submitted to DPI. Finance Director Rogerson stated the ESSER III funds of the Cares Act funds, about \$9.1 million, were funds which were in the planning stage and initial discussion of plans for usage of the funds.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions. County Manager Bennett inquired about the submittal of the plans and budgets of the funds. Finance Director Rogerson confirmed. County Manager Bennett inquired about the amount left from the Cares Act of the ESSER II. Finance Director Rogerson stated the plan was submitted at the end of last week. County Manager Bennett asked if it was correct that the ESSER III funds were not submitted. Finance Director Rogerson agreed and County Manager Bennett asked if there was a deadline to turn in the plans and budgets to receive the funds. Finance Director Rogerson thought about this and was assisted by Chairman Smith who stated the date was May 7th, 2021 for both the plan and budget to be submitted. Finance Director Rogerson stated she was given a date for submittal and it was May 7th, 2021, but this was only if the funds were needed as cash funds before June 30th, 2021. County Manager Bennett asked for clarification, if the school didn't plan on accessing the cash by June 30th, 2021, then the

May 7th, 2021 doesn't apply. Finance Director Rogerson agreed. County Manager Bennett asked if the school was to receive a total of \$14 million from these funds. Finance Director Rogerson agreed.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any other questions or comments. Commissioner Ayers stated there was about \$14 to \$15 billion that was being presented to him and he knew that the monies needed to be spent on COVID 19 related items. Commissioner Ayers asked if there was an idea of how much money could have filtered through and been covered. Finance Director Rogerson stated Child Nutrition Budget was in the regular budget, but due to COVID there had been funds used for the increase of lunches being made, transportation to get food to students, and COVID safe. County Manager Bennett stated he knew that Dr. Fonseca appreciated Finance Director Rogerson, just as he appreciated Finance Officer Cindy Ange. County Manager Bennett stated ESSER 1, ESSER 2, ESSER 3, if the School had already submitted the ESSER II and asked if there was a list of some sort of plan for the usage of ESSER III funds to help the Budget process for the school. Finance Director Rogerson stated there was a planning meeting on Monday for the ESSER III funds. Dr. Fonseca stated there was a list, but the document was not with them at the meeting. The items on the list was not approved to share with the Board of Commissioners.

Innovation Campus

CTE & IT Director Guard spoke about the Innovation Campus located at what is now the Telecenter in Martin County. CTE & IT Director Guard stated the school would serve students in grades K-12 and the hours of operation would be 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CTE & IT Director Guard stated the plan of the school was to create a space in the community where students could attend to receive classes in the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math). The curricula would have a focus on K-12. The goal would be to serve children at an early age to spark their interest and give them a head start in education in the fields that would be more prevalent in the future, such as science and technology. CTE & IT Director Guard explained the school was undergoing construction and gave a brief detail of what the building would look like inside. CTE & IT Director Guard mentioned the construction team was currently working on the parking lot to install water systems and fix the parking lot. CTE & IT Director Guard. Guard stated that there would be class rooms equipped and designed with the pandemic in mind if there were to be another pandemic, community meeting rooms for the public and or private meetings, nursing stations, computer and science labs, as well as a robotics lab and a training area. CTE & IT Director Guard stated that Martin Community College is going to provide the education portion as well as the staff. CTE & IT Director Guard spoke about the importance of learning trades, taking classes in the Science and Technology field, and this school being a learning hub for the community. CTE & IT Director Guard was thankful for the opportunity to present. Finance Director Rogerson, Dr. Clay Wagner, Dr. Fonseca, Director of Facilities & Maintenance Hank Edwards and CTE & IT Director Guard thanked the Board of Commissioners for their financial support to open the school.

Vice Chairman Bond asked how the students would be selected for this school and if the school was going to be open all day. CTE & IT Director Guard stated the students would more than likely not stay all of the day. CTE & IT Director Guard stated the plan was to "block" the students in classes. Vice Chairman Bond asked if the Martin Community College was going to provide curricula. CTE & IT Director Guard stated MCC was involved and a nurse was also going to teach classes for certifications.

Dr. Fonseca stated it would be a great idea and a dream come true to have a magnet school one day, but as of now the goal of the school was to get it open and measure the productivity of the school. Dr. Fonseca stated he wanted the children to have a head start on their education to further them in life with a job or an opportunity to go to college. Dr. Fonseca expressed thanked to all in attendance and for the opportunity to speak.

Chairman Smith and Commissioner Gurganus spoke about the need for people who can problem solve, analyze data, communicate efficiently, and the importance of technology in agriculture. Commissioner Gurganus stated businesses don't come to Martin County due to the lack of vocational, technical training, and trades. The Board of Education and staff were thanked for their presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Pre 65 Retirees Health Insurance Options Follow-up

Due to increasing insurance cost for all employees, active and retired, County Manager Bennett, Finance Officer Ange, and staff began to examine ways to reduce cost where possible. County Manager Bennett mailed retirees a letter regarding the proposed change to offer individual Bronze BSBS plans to Pre-65 Retirees with the option to pay an additional premium to obtain the individual Gold BCBS Plan. This proposal would affect thirteen (13) Pre-65 retirees. On April 29th, 2021, the Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting to receive public comments and a presentation on the proposed changes.

Chairman Smith MOTIONED to table the Pre- 65 Retiree Health Insurance Options Follow Up to allow time for further review, with SECOND by Commissioner Biggs. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment #1-Engineering Services Contract Between Martin County & The Wooten Company for Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation & Sewer Expansion

On February 7, 2018, Governor Roy Cooper announced a new grant program, Rural ReadySites, which has received \$12 million in funding. The program funds public infrastructure projects than benefit economic development. Water, sewer, and industrial access improvements are given higher priority. Eligibility is limited to government entities in Tier 1 or 2 counties.

On March 14, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved the submission of a Rural ReadySites pre-application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$1,126,600 for expansion of the gravity sewer system and the rehabilitation of the existing elevated storage tank at the Martin County Regional Business Park. The request was for \$1,013,940 in grant funds to be accompanied by a County match of \$112,660. The pre-application was submitted to NC Commerce on April 6, 2018.

On June 22, 2018 the Department of Commerce announced that Martin County was one of 10 grant pre-applications approved for funding. On October 10, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved submittal of a full application to the ReadySite program. The full Rural ReadySites grant application was approved.

The Board of Commissioners approved the engineering contract with The Wooten Company Rural as well as the ReadySites grant agreement, on November 14th, 2018.

Due to delays and system impacts generated by contractors of both construction contracts. Contract I (Sewer Improvements) the contractor Herring-Rivenbark had exceeded the stated construction time to meet the requirements of Substantial Completion. Through this, Wooten had expended additional time and resources above our stated contract.

Likewise, Contract II (Elevated Tank Rehabilitation) the contractor Utility Services had exceeded the stated construction time to meet the requirements of Substantial Completion. Through this, Wooten had expended additional time and resources above the stated contract. In addition, since the time of substantial completion, had required Wooten to expend staff and resources to assist in determining the impact and remedies to restore service and reliability to the water system. It is reasonably believed these impacts stem from the work product and lack of quality control by Utility Services.

County Manager Bennett explained The Wooten Company stated the Construction Administration Fee had increased by \$4,100 to an amount of \$34,100. Construction Observation Fee had increased by \$3,400 to an amount of \$85,900.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners was asked to approve Amendment #1-Engineering Services Contract Between Martin County & The Wooten Company for Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation & Sewer Expansion.

Commissioner Gurganus MOTIONED to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Engineering Services Contract Between Martin County, NC and the Wooten Company for Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Sewer Expansion as presented below. Commissioner Biggs SECONDED. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO THE
ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT
BETWEEN
MARTIN COUNTY,
NC AND
THE WOOTEN
COMPANY FOR**

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
REHABILITATION AND SEWER
EXPANSION
DATED OCTOBER 31, 2018
TWC PROJECT
#2562AJ

The following Amendment shall become a part of the Contract Agreement.

1. Modifications of Engineer's services under the agreement:
 - a. The original scope of work and original Engineering Services Contract on the Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Sewer Expansion included water and sewer infrastructure involving Field Survey, Engineering Design, Permitting, Bidding, Construction Administration, Construction Observation and Grant Administration services to provide rehabilitation of the elevated storage tank and approximately 1,300 LF of inch force main, 1,200 LF of gravity sewer main, and one new wastewater pump station. This project is funded with Industrial Development Funds (IDF) grant funds through the NC Ready Sites program.

Since that time, the project has been surveyed, designed, inspected, permitted, bid and constructed through the recognized low-bidder(s).

- b. Due to delays and system impacts generated by contractors of both construction contracts. Contract I (Sewer Improvements) the contractor Herring-Rivenbark has exceeded the stated construction time to meet the requirements of Substantial Completion. Through this, Wooten has expended additional time and resources above our stated contract.

Likewise, Contract II (Elevated Tank Rehabilitation) the contractor Utility Services has exceeded the stated construction time to meet the requirements of Substantial Completion. Through this, Wooten has expended additional time and resources above our stated contract. In addition, since the time of substantial completion, there have been documented issues in the by tenants of the NC Rail and Commerce Park in which solid debris has been discovered in water mains and sprinkler systems. These items have required Wooten to expend staff and resources to assist in determining the impact and remedies to restore service and reliability to the water system. It is reasonably believed these impacts stem from the work product and lack of quality control by Utility Services.

2. Adjustment(s) of Fees:
 - a. Section 2.02 - Basis of Payment - Hourly Rate Plus Reimbursable Expenses
 - A.3.a Construction Administration Fee is increased by \$4,100 to an amount of \$34,100.

A.3.b Construction Observation Fee is increased by \$3,400 to an amount of \$85,900.

b. Section 2.04 Summary of Fees

		Original Contract	Amendment No. 1	Total
Engineering, Survey Design and Permitting	Lump Sum	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00
Easement Survey/Mapping	Lump Sum	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Grant/Loan Administration	Hourly Rate	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Construction Administration	Hourly Rate	\$30,000.00	\$4,100.00	\$34,100.00
Construction Observation	Hourly Rate	\$82,500.00	\$3,400.00	\$85,900.00
Geotechnical Allowance	Hourly Rate	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total:		\$205,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$213,000.00

3. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed, or caused to be executed by duly authorized officials, this Agreement in duplicate on the respective dates indicated below.

MARTIN COUNTY, NC

**THE WOOTEN
COMPANY**

Agreement Authorizing the County of Martin to Provide for the Listing, Supervising and Collecting of Ad Valorem and Motor Vehicle Taxes for the Town of Robersonville

Martin County and the Town of Robersonville has the authority to collect Taxes from its residents pursuant to the Laws of the State of North Carolina. The Town of Robersonville has been billing and collecting the taxes to the property owners that own property within the municipal boundaries of Robersonville in the years past. The Town of Robersonville has been guided by the LGC to allow Martin County to bill and collect the taxes for the Town of Robersonville starting July 1, 2021.

At the time of the meeting, Martin County did not process real and personal property bills for Robersonville; therefore, under the current arrangement, Robersonville would be responsible for the collection for any and all past due bills that were due to the Town of Robersonville through June 30, 2021.

Due to the relatively low volume of the Town of Robersonville’s yearly bills and the County’s software package updates, Staff proposed an agreement with the Town of Robersonville to process the real and personal property taxes on their behalf starting July 1st 2021. The County would not be collecting and billing any past due real and personal property for the Town of Robersonville within this agreement.

For the services rendered in collection of taxes, including taxes on classified motor vehicles listed pursuant to G.S. 105-330.3(a1)(2), the Town shall pay the County the sum of two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of all monies collected. For the services rendered in the collection of taxes on classified motor vehicles under Chapter 105 Article 22A, except vehicles listed pursuant to G.S. 105-330.3(a1)(2), the Town shall pay the County the sum of one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) of all monies collected.

The LGC stated its agreement with this proposed solution. The Town of Robersonville had stated their intention to have the agreement on the agenda at their May 11th, 2021 meeting for approval.

County Manager Bennett stated the agreement was approved by the Town of Robersonville on May 11th, 2021. The Board of Commissioners was being asked to approve or not approve the agreement.

Commissioner Biggs MOTIONED to approve the Agreement Authorizing the County of Martin to Provide for the Listing, Supervising and Collecting of Ad Valorem and Motor Vehicle Taxes for the Town of Robersonville as shown below, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF MARTIN TO PROVIDE FOR THE LISTING,
SUPERVISING AND COLLECTING OF AD VALOREM AND MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES FOR
THE TOWN OF ROBERSONVILLE

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 1st day of July, 2021, between Martin County, a body politic, organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, party of the first part, hereinafter referred to as the "County", and the Town of Robersonville, a body politic, organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, a party of the second part, hereinafter referred to as the "Town";

WITNESS, THAT WHEREAS:

- A. The County is empowered with the authority to collect taxes from its residents pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina and to the directions of its Board of Commissioners;
- B. The Town is empowered with the authority to collect taxes from its residents located in its municipal limits pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina and to the directions of its Town Council;
- C. N.C.G.S. Section 160A-461 authorizes counties and municipalities, such as the parties hereto, to enter into interlocal agreements with each other in order to execute any undertaking;
- D. The County is equipped to collect taxes for the Town pursuant to the terms hereof, and the governing boards of the County and of the Town believe that collection of said taxes for the Town by the County would be the most desirable course of action for both the County and the Town;

- E. Article 22A including N.C.G.S. Sections 105-330.1, 105-330.2, 105-330.3, 105-330.4, 105-330.5, 105-330.6, 105-330.7, and 105-330.8 sets forth motor vehicles, except (i) manufactured homes and (ii) motor vehicles owned by a public service company or leased by a public service company and included in the company's system property under G.S. 105-335(b)(1), as a special class of property under authority of Article V, Sec. 2(2) of the North Carolina Constitution. Listing, assessing, and collecting taxes on classified motor vehicles shall be as provided by this Article and Statutes;
- F. The County and the Town wish to enter into an Agreement whereby the County will provide the services of tax collection for the Town under the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth;
- G. The Local Government Commission (the "LGC") impounded the books and assumed full control of all financial affairs of the Town pursuant to N.C.G.S. Section 159-181(c) and the LGC by Resolution adopted on April 13, 2021 has authorized the Secretary of the LGC to enter into this Agreement on behalf of the Town; and
- H. The County Board of Commissioners by Resolution adopted on _____, 2021 has authorized the County to enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual agreements and covenants hereinafter set forth, the County and the Town contract and agree as follows:

SECTION ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS: ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY

The county will provide the following services for tax collection for the Town:

1. Compile tax list in January.
2. Prepare pre-billing report of Town taxpayers for inspection by Town Officials to assure all property is listed for taxation.
3. Compute amount of tax due the Town after receipt of the tax rate from the Town.
4. Prepare the Tax Records (as defined in N.C.G.S. Chapter 105 Article 20) of Town taxpayers and deliver at least one (1) copy to the Town Clerk.
5. Prepare and mail tax statements to Town taxpayers; however, only one (1) tax bill shall be sent to taxpayers owing Town and County taxes.
6. Collect by the County Tax Collector, on or after July 1, 2021, all property taxes for

the fiscal year 2021-22, license tag fees if applicable, and late-listing penalties due the Town.

7. Mail paid tax receipts to Town taxpayers for taxes paid only upon request by taxpayers. Partial payments shall be allocated between the County and the Town based on the proportion of taxes due to each party.
8. Mail second tax statements to Town taxpayers when tax becomes delinquent, however, only one (1) bill shall be sent to taxpayers owing Town and County taxes.
9. Advertise tax liens in local newspaper for the County and Town as required by law.
10. With prior approval of the Town, use all collection remedies for delinquent taxes owed to the Town as set forth in the General Statutes of North Carolina.
11. Remit taxes collected to the Town on a monthly basis, however, between the dates of December 1 and January 15, the taxes collected shall be remitted weekly.
12. List, assess, and collect taxes on motor vehicles in accordance with Chapter 105 Article 22A of the General Statutes.
13. After using pre-approved collection remedies in good faith and with best efforts, County shall not be liable to Town for uncollected taxes owed to the Town.
14. County shall provide a collections report with each monthly remittance to include a summary report that includes the original levy, changes to the levy due to discovered taxable property, collections against the levy and remaining levy as of month-end.

SECTION TWO

GENERAL PROVISIONS: ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOWN

The Town shall provide the following services and information for tax collection by the County:

1. Review pre-billing report and notify County Tax Department of additions and/or deletions of Tax Listings.
2. Notify County of its annual tax rate as soon as budget ordinance is adopted or by June 28 of each year this Agreement is in effect. Failure to provide the rate to the County later than end of business on June 30 may cause additional fee to the Town for additional expenses incurred by the County.
3. Review Tax Records prepared by County and notify County of any changes necessary to assure taxation of all taxable property.

4. When tax payments are received in the Town in any form (check, money order), these payments must be forwarded to the Martin County Tax Collector immediately for proper accounting. Town agrees not to cash or deposit any tax collections in the Town's operating account but will forward all tax payments in the form they were received, to the County. Town will advise all citizens who bring cash for their tax payments to take their payment directly to the County.
5. Adopt appropriate resolutions authorizing County officials to take actions stated herein.
6. After prior approval by the Town of collection remedies and the costs and fees associated therewith, any legal fees incurred in the collection of Town taxes shall be paid by the Town.
7. Billing and collecting property taxes on annexations which become effective on dates other than June 30 of any given year will be the responsibility of the Town for the fiscal year in which the annexation occurs.

SECTION THREE

PAYMENT FOR TAX COLLECTION SERVICES OF COUNTY

For the services rendered in collection of taxes, including taxes on classified motor vehicles listed pursuant to G.S. 105-330.3(a1)(2), the Town shall pay the County the sum of two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of all monies collected. For the services rendered in the collection of taxes on classified motor vehicles under Chapter 105 Article 22A, except vehicles listed pursuant to G.S. 105-330.3(a1)(2), the Town shall pay the County the sum of one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) of all monies collected.

It is agreed the County will retain from funds collected, the agreed percentages. At the end of the fiscal year if \$100.00 has not been retained by the County, the Town shall pay the difference between the amount retained and \$100.00 (minimum annual collection service charge is \$100.00).

SECTION FOUR

ADDITIONAL TERMS

1. The operation of the County Tax Collector and his office shall be under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners of Martin County, except as herein otherwise provided or as otherwise provided by the General Statutes of North Carolina, and shall not be under the supervision or control of the Town or its governing Board.
2. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect for the taxable year 2021. At the end of the taxable year 2021, and at the end of each subsequent taxable year for which the Agreement remains in effect, the County and the Town shall evaluate the performance of each party and this Agreement may be terminated by either

party at the end of any fiscal year for which it is in effect. Notification of a decision to terminate this Agreement by either party must be in writing and shall be made by and delivered no later than May 1 prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year for which taxes would be collected by the County for the Town if this Agreement had not been terminated.

Any such notification of termination from the County to the Town must be sent to the LGC, with copy to the Mayor of the Town, and any such notification of termination from the Town to the County must be sent to the County Manager and Tax Collector of the County.

3. If this Agreement is not terminated in the manner and at the times set forth above in paragraph 2, this Agreement shall automatically renew for the next fiscal year. The intent of the parties being that, if neither party elects to terminate this Agreement, it shall automatically renew for each subsequent taxable year; but that each party shall have the right to review this Agreement and terminate the same in the future in the manner set forth in Paragraph 2 above.
4. It is acknowledged that all taxes on classified motor vehicles under Chapter 105 Article 22A of the General Statutes shall be listed, assessed, and collected by the County.
5. Amendments to this Agreement shall be in writing, executed by both parties after resolutions approving the amendments are adopted by the governing boards of both parties.
- 6 All notices required to be delivered hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed given when either personally delivered or when deposited in the United States mails, certified, return receipt requested, first class, postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

If to the County: Attn: County Manager
 305 East Main Street
 Williamston, NC 27892

With copy to: County Tax Collector
 305 East Main Street
 Williamston, NC 27892

If to the Town: Attn: Secretary of the Local Government Commission
 NC Department of State Treasurer
 3200 Atlantic Avenue
 Raleigh, NC 27604

With copy to: The Honorable Tina Brown, Mayor
 309 S. Main Street

Robersonville, NC 27871

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed in two original counterparts, one of which is retained by each of them the day and year first above written.

MARTIN COUNTY

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

TOWN OF ROBERSONVILLE
BY: NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION

Sharon Edmundson, Secretary

“This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.”

Becky Dzingeski, Finance Officer

Approval of Bid for Transit-Ray St. Building – Contract with A. R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc.

Martin County’s Community Transportation Program (CTP) / Section 5311 grant application for 2020-2021 was approved by the Martin County Board of Commissioners on September 11, 2019 following a public hearing.

This 5311 grant was to cover the following renovation work:

- Planning
- Complete renovation of the old MCCA storage building for transit storage
- Grading
- Concrete driveway for the entrance to the campus
- Concrete walkway

- HVAC
- Extended security fencing
- Removal of trees near the storage building.
- Gutters

Deputy Transit Director Frank Halsey stated at that time that this project was to be paid by 80% Federal funding, 10% State funding, and 10 % local funding. Martin County advertised for this renovation project twice and received only one bid on both occasions from A. R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc. The NCDOT-IMD Procurement Unit approved the bid from A. R. Chesson Construction, Inc. for the amount of \$127,922. The Board of Commissioners must approve the proposal as well, per Martin County policy.

A period of performance (POP) extension request was sent to the State for an end date of June 30, 2022 for this grant project. NCDOT-IMD approved the new completion date of June 30, 2022 for this project.

The Staff recommended the use of A. R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc. for project management and construction of the 21-CT-028 renovation project.

County Manager Bennett introduced the DSS Director Angela Ellis, Transit Supervisor Frank Halsey, and Landfill/ Public Works Director Justin Harrison. DSS Director Ellis stated that the proposal for the Transit building located on Ray Street in Williamston, NC was approved in April of 2019. The grant was to include renovations for another building behind the Transit building that has now been approved. DSS Director Ellis asked the Board of Commissioners to approve the A. R. Chesson Construction Co. Inc. bid for the renovations. Transit Supervisor Halsey and Landfill/ Public Works Director Harrison were available to provide further details and to answer any questions about the construction or grant.

Commissioner Ayers MOTIONED to accept and approve the A. R. Chesson Construction, Co. Inc. bid (\$127,922) for the renovations as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Gurganus. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

A Resolution by the County of Martin Approving the Memorandum, of Agreement (MOA) Between the State of North Carolina & Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation

Chairman Smith explained seventy-six counties and eight municipalities have filed lawsuits in federal court to hold accountable several companies involved in manufacturing, marketing, promoting, and distributing prescription opioid drugs.

The proposed North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement (NC MOA) would govern how North Carolina would use its share of opioid settlement funds and would include a high level of transparency and accountability.

Under the NC MOA, all opioid settlement funds would be directed as follows:

- 15% to the state (which the General Assembly would have authority to appropriate on a wide range of strategies to address the epidemic)
- 80% to local governments, including all 100 counties plus 17 municipalities, allocated among those counties and municipalities through a formula developed by attorneys representing local governments in national litigation
- An additional 5% percent into an incentive fund for any county (and any municipality in that county receiving settlement funds) in which the county itself and every municipality with at least 30,000 residents (based on 2019 population totals) in the county signs the NC MOA.

Chairman Smith continued to say that under the national settlement and bankruptcy resolution (taken together), up to \$850 million would be allocated to North Carolina for opioid remediation over an 18-year period. The potential settlement money would be allocated among states based on population and the local impact of the opioid crisis, as determined by public health statistics related to opioid misuse.

Any national opioid settlement and bankruptcy resolution would direct state and local governments to use most opioid settlement funds to address the epidemic. Consistent with this principle, the NC MOA offers local governments two options:

- Under Option A, a local government may fund one or more strategies from a shorter list of evidence-based, high-impact strategies to address the epidemic.
- Under Option B, a local government may fund one or more strategies from a longer list of strategies after engaging in a collaborative strategic planning process involving a diverse array of stakeholders at the local level.

Under Option A, local governments may use opioid settlement funds to support programs or services listed below that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or mental health conditions. Specifically, under Option A, local governments may use opioid settlement proceeds to fund the following:

- Collaborative strategic planning
- Evidence-based addiction treatment
- Recovery support services
- Recovery housing support
- Employment-related services
- Early intervention
- Naloxone distribution
- Post-overdose response teams
- Syringe service programs
- Criminal justice diversion programs
- Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons
- Reentry programs for recently incarcerated persons

The Option B strategies would include a wider array of strategies than would be allowed under any national settlement or under a resolution of bankruptcy proceedings. This would include strategies that:

- Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Support people in treatment and recovery
- Provide connections to care
- Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD
- Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families
- Prevent over-prescribing of opioids
- Prevent misuse of opioids
- Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)
- Support first responders
- Promote leadership, planning, and coordination
- Fund relevant training and research

Under Option B, a local government may fund one or more strategies from the longer list of national strategies after engaging in collaborative strategic planning at the local level. This would involve:

- Engaging a wide array of local stakeholders.
- Exploring the root causes of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death in the area
- Identifying and evaluating potential strategies to address the epidemic.
- Looking for opportunities to fill gaps in existing programs, align strategies, and combine opioid settlement funds with other sources of funding.
- Offering comprehensive recommendations to the county board, city council, or other governing body.

The allocation model for the NC MOA was derived directly from the allocation model developed at the national level by experts retained by the outside counsel for local governments. The Allocation Model gave equal weight to each of these three factors: Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”), Overdose Deaths, and Amount of Opioids.

Chairman Smith commented all counties and municipalities should sign the agreement as soon as possible. If all counties and municipalities above 30,000 in population sign onto the agreement without delay, it was expected that local governments would receive as much as 85% in direct allocations from any forthcoming national opioid settlement funds.

However, if the NC MOA did not go into effect, it was anticipated that North Carolina’s allocation would be governed by the default allocations included in the national settlement agreements. It was expected that the default arrangement would provide as little as 15% of state settlement funds in direct payments to local governments.

County Manager Bennett presented the resolution relating to the settlement of opioid litigation to the board for approval.

Vice Chairman Bond made the MOTION to approve the Resolution by the County of Martin Approving the MOA Between the State of North Carolina & Local Governments on Proceeds Relation to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation as shown below, with a SECOND by Commissioner Biggs. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF MARTIN
APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)
BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON
PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, as of 2019, the opioid epidemic had taken the lives of more than 16,500 North Carolinians, torn families apart, and ravaged communities from the mountains to the coast; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis is having an extended and far reaching impact of the general public, health, and safety, of residents and citizens of Martin County and must be abated; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and pharmaceutical distribution companies and hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to provide for the equitable distribution of any proceeds from a settlement of national opioid litigation to the State of North Carolina and to individual local governments; and

WHEREAS, Local Governments and the State of North Carolina anticipate a settlement in the national opioid litigation to be forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, by signing onto the MOA, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, once a negotiation is finalized, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Martin County and its citizens, to sign onto the MOA and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid epidemic, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this county to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the MOA directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Martin County hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation, and any subsequent settlement funds that may come into North Carolina as a result of the opioid crisis. Furthermore, Martin County authorizes the County Manager (or County Attorney) take such measures as necessary to comply with the terms of the MOA and receive any settlement funds, including executing any documents related to the allocation of opioid settlement funds and settlement of lawsuits related to this matter. Be it further resolved copies of this resolution and the signed MOA be sent to opioiddocs@ncdoj.gov as well as forwarded to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners at communications@ncacc.org.

Adopted this the 12th day of May, 2021.

Ronnie Smith, Chair
Martin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Julia Rease, Clerk to the Board
(SEAL)

Martin County FY 20 CDBG-CV Subsistence Payments Project Sub-recipient Agreement

On August 25, 2020, the state announced a new grant program for local governments. NC Commerce's Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) grant program was designed to help local governments and communities respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The program would provide \$28.5 million in funding received from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support North Carolina's COVID-19 response efforts. This allocation was authorized by the CARES Act of 2020.

The primary objective of the County proposal was to provide up to 6 months of emergency utility payments to prevent service disconnection of electricity, water, sewer, gas, internet, and telephone services. A second objective was to provide up to 6 months' emergency rent/mortgage payments to prevent eviction and homelessness.

The Board of Commissioners held two public hearings, as required. The first public hearing was held on September 9th, 2020. The second public hearing was held on September 16th, 2020.

Martin County applied for the grant in September 2020 and received notice of a CDBG-CV grant award of \$900,000 on October 16th, 2020.

The grant agreement was executed on January 5, 2021 at a Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Martin County issued a Request for Proposals to establish a contract with an experienced CDBG Grant Administrator consultant, which will provide technical assistance to CADA for the income verification requirements. Proposals were due January 29, 2021. The County received two eligible bids, one from the Insight Planning and Development and one from The Wooten Company.

At its February 10, 2021 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved The Wooten Company as the Grant Administrator for the CDBG-CV grant.

During the March 10th, 2021 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved the Grant Agreement for Professional Services with The Wooten Company.

On April 14th, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved the Resolution Authorizing the Assessment of Fair Housing for Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to approve the Martin County FY20 CDBG-CV Subsistence Payments Project Sub-recipient Agreement with Choanoke Area Development Association of NC, Inc. (CADA).

County Attorney Nate James was on hand to answer questions and/or provide comments.

County Manager Bennett thanked the board and stated the agreement was sent to the CADA Board to approve and look over as well as County Attorney James. County Manager Bennett asked Attorney James if there were any questions or concerns about the agreement.

Attorney James stated the agreement was sent to him to review and the document was “very protective” of Martin County. There were no legal concerns. Attorney James recommended the County proceed with the agreement.

County Manager Bennett stated while CADA would operate in the capacity of grant administrator, if approved, The Wooten Company would disburse the monies. County Manager Bennett stated there was a Zoom meeting recently this week that stated the funds could be allotted around the 17th of May.

County Manager Bennett thanked Chairman Smith for driving to Raleigh to turn in the FY20 CDBG-CV application documents by hand. Documents were not being processed in a timely manner because the representative who was supposed to receive the agreement was working from home, which caused a delay in the process. County Manager Bennett was thankful Chairman Smith could deliver the agreement to the right hands. County Manager Bennett stated that this funds would come from the CARES Act.

Commissioner Gurganus made the MOTION to approve the Martin County FY 20 CDBG-CV Subsistence Payments Project Sub-recipient Agreement with CADA (*entered into these minutes by title reference*), with a SECOND by Commissioner Biggs. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

Budget Amendment(s)

Budget Amendment # 35

Finance Officer Cindy Ange stated the tonnage of recyclables and household garbage had increased during this fiscal year. These increases affected the landfill budget with higher costs for processing and disposal.

Martin County Landfill had not done any grinding since of October 2019 because the contractor was not available last year. There was a large amount of debris to be grounded to make room at the landfill. The Contractor was currently available. Budget amendment #35 would transfer the funds for allocation.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-35

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	\$ 159,000	

This will result in an increase of \$159,000 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	\$ 159,000
----------------------------	------------

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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Ayers and SECONDED by Commissioner Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For your information

		INC	DEC
Refuse Service	1147200 539900	\$ 40,000	
Garbage Disposal	1147200 539902	\$ 55,000	

Bulk Waste Disposal	1147200 539910	\$ 5,000
State Tipping fee	1147200 539920	\$ 2,000
Tire Recycling	1147200 569601	\$ 31,000
Contracted Services	1147200 569604	\$ 26,000
Fund Balance	1100090 499099	\$159,000

Budget Amendment #36

Finance Officer Ange stated a portion of the 911 Communications Center funding comes from a statewide E-911 surcharge placed on all landlines and wireless phone. The Emergency Telephone Fund was being used to account for the 911 revenue distributed to the County by the NC 911 Board. These funds can only be used for specific 911 related purposes.

Martin County Communications was now responsible for a primary call center and a backup call center. Technology maintenance agreement for certain expenditures can be paid for using the emergency telephone fund. Radio maintenance has been added to the list of eligible expenditures.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-36

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 Emergency Telephone Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Public Safety Communications	\$ 50,000	

This will result in an increase of \$50,000 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	\$ 50,000
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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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Gurganus and SECONDED by Commissioner Biggs to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For your information

INC DEC

Service and Maintenance	1343260 544000	\$ 50,000
Fund Balance	1300090 499099	\$ 50,000

Budget Amendment #37 & 38

Finance Officer Ange explained due to delays and system impacts by contractors of both construction contracts for the Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Sewer Expansion project at the Business Park, the Wooten Company requested an amendment to the engineering services contract.

Herring-Rivenbark and Utility Services have both exceeded the stated construction time to meet the requirements of substantial completion. Through this, Wooten had expended additional time and resources above their stated contract. In addition, there had been documented issues by the tenants of the NC Rail and Commerce Park in which solid debris had been discovered in water mains and sprinkler systems. This had also required Wooten to expend staff and resources to determine the impact and remedies to restore service and reliability to the water system. Budget amendments #37 & #38 would transfer the funds to the appropriate accounts.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-37

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 Business Park Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Rural Ready Sites Grant		
Engineering fees	\$7,500	

This will result in an increase of \$7,500 in the expenditures of the Business Park Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Transfer from general fund	\$7,500
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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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Biggs and SECONDED by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For your information

		INC	DEC
Engineering fees	3149350 559754	\$7,500	
Transfer from general fund	3100070 498011	\$7,500	

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-38

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
Transfers		
Business Park Fund	\$7,500	

This will result in an increase of \$7,500 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	\$7,500
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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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Biggs and SECONDED by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For your information

		INC	DEC
Transfer to Business Park Fund	1198000 598031	\$7,500	
Fund Balance Appropriation	1100090 499099	\$7,500	

Budget Amendment #39 & 40

Finance Officer Ange stated Martin County frequently engages in various fiduciary activities by taking care of moneys that belong to individuals or others outside of the County. Existing standards (GASBS 14 & 61) require reporting of fiduciary responsibilities but do not define what they are. New standards (GASBS 84 & 97) provide detailed guidance as to what constitutes a fiduciary activity and how to report a fiduciary activity. The implementation of these new standards would require numerous changes in the fiduciary reporting of Martin County beginning with the current fiscal year.

Fines and Forfeitures, and Deed of Trust fees, and DSS donations collected by the County were being maintained in an Agency Fund. Agency funds would no longer be used for reporting under GASB 84. These funds would now be accounted for in the General Fund and would be required to be budgeted.

The largest change for Martin County was DSS Client Accounts which were renamed Representative Payee Funds. Under the Social Security's Representative Payee Program, the County receives and manages funds for minor children and certain adults. These funds would move from an agency fund to a special revenue fund.

Currently, NCGS 159-13(a) (3) excludes agency fund transactions from being budgeted. With the implementation of GASB Statement 84 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, these funds should be budgeted. The Local Government Commission submitted a technical correction to the General Assembly to exempt Representative Payee Funds from budget requirements. However, it was uncertain if this correction would be passed and therefore the Finance Office requested a budget amendment to budget these funds in the current year. The funds would be included in the budget for next fiscal year as well. Budget Amendment #39 & 40 would transfer the fund to the appropriate accounts.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-39

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		
Register of Deeds	\$10,000	
DSS - Administration		
DSS Donations	\$10,000	
Education		

Fines and Forfeitures \$260,000

This will result in an increase of \$280,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Miscellaneous	
DSS Donations	\$ 10,000
Fines and Forfeitures	\$260,000
Sales and Service	
State Deeds fee	\$ 7,000
Deed of Trust fee	\$ 3,000

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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Biggs and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Bond to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For your information

INC	DEC	
Fines and Forfeitures	1100050 483993	\$260,000
DSS Donations	1100050 483992	10,000
State Deeds fee	1100040 441810	7,000
Deed of Trust fee	1100040 441820	3,000
State Deeds fee	1141800 537610	7,000
Deed of Trust fee	1141800 537620	3,000
DSS Donations	1153100 571000	10,000
Fines and Forfeitures	1159100 565100	260,000

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-40

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 Representative Payee Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Human Services		
Representative Payee Funds	\$250,000	

This will result in an increase of \$250,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental Representative Payee Funds	\$250,000
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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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Biggs and SECONDED by Vice Chairman Bond to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

Budget Amendment #41

Finance Officer Ange state the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Juvenile Community Programs Section announced Net Initiative for Families (N.I.F.F) had been awarded \$1,570 of discretionary funding this current fiscal year. There was not a county match for these funds. Budget amendment #41 would transfer these funds to the appropriate account.

N.I.F.F. planned to use the funds to purchase educational supplies and six chrome books.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-41

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 Office of Juvenile Justice	\$ 1,570	

This will result in an increase of \$1,570 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental	\$ 1,570
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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.

MOTIONED by Commissioner Biggs and SECONDED by Commissioner Ayers to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 12th day of May 2021. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

For Your Information

	Increase	Decrease
1158390-569902 Net Initiative for Families	\$1,570	
1100025-458390 Net Initiative for Families	\$1,570	

BOARD REPORTS/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Broadband

Commissioner Gurganus stated that he wanted to educate himself on the subject of broadband. Commissioner Gurganus stated that broadband could bring internet into the county that was much needed especially in Martin County due to the rural area.

Chairman Smith stated broadband was a national problem, not Martin County alone. Chairman Smith reiterated the fact that broadband connection would change the way of living in Martin County by attracting industry to the area. Chairman Smith commented broadband had been the number one agenda item for the NCACC and the NACO. Plans were to run Highway I-87 through Williamston, NC and fiber optic cables will follow. Highway I-495 North was the previous route for the fiber optic cables to be installed. Chairman Smith stated he and others had made efforts to change the route for the fiber optic cables to come through Martin County. Chairman Smith also stated Congressman G.K. Butterfield became involved and made efforts for the fiber optic cables to come through Martin County and all of the efforts were successful. Billions of dollars are coming out for broadband infrastructure. There was word the certain locations in the country planned to invest in mini satellites as well.

Commissioner Gurganus made the comment Starlink or Hughes Net, a satellite service providers may be the way to go. Adding, the areas were using copper and not fiber optic, which does not provide good service. Commissioner Gurganus mentioned working along with Commissioner Biggs as part of a group, whose main purpose was to find more information on broadband to have it accessible here.

Grants

County Manager Bennett explained Martin County has applied for a NTPA federal grant through the Community Rides Grant program. Martin County would use Transit surplus vehicles to deliver food to folks that are immobile. Father Brown asked if there would be boxed meals or boxes of food. County Manager Bennett clarified that the boxes would be of food and not boxed meals. The pre-packed boxes would be distributed in partnership with a Food Bank or food pantry such as the

ones managed by Father Brown, Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Mayor Tina Brown of Robersonville and others, or it could be in collaboration with local producers and growers. The grant would be for \$100,000 for 15 month period. The grant would cover salaries (two part-time employees), gas, maintenance on the vehicles, training, etc. The program would be ran through the Martin County Transit Program.

Chairman Smith added comments regarding the NTPA grant. One county in North Carolina was given an opportunity to apply for the grant. Martin County was picked because of community, state, and national involvement and relationship. Adding, knowledge acquired because of community involvement had led to certain grants.

County Manager Bennett also commented Congressman B.K. Butterfield as a member of Congress had up to \$70 Million to award to a maximum of (10) ten Community Project in a (14) fourteen county area that makes up his district. Martin County was one of the (10) ten selected to apply. If, awarded, ten organizations would split \$70 million.

These projects was to fall into two categories: (1) Public Health and (2) Public Safety. Martin County submitted projects for Water Infrastructure, Sewer Projects, Broadband towers, Industrial Park Road Expansion, Radio's and Reservoir Maintenance. The total amount requested for the projects was \$14.8 million. County Manager Bennett stated the grant information has been submitted.

Public Records Request – Salaries & Travel – County Commissioners

County Manager Bennett commented there had been a public records request to provide a list of the salaries and travel expenses for the County Commissioners. At the meeting, County Manager Bennett provided the list to the Board Members as well.

CLOSED SESSION – N. C. G. S. § 143-318.11(a) (6) – Personnel

At 10:08 p.m., Commissioner Biggs made a MOTION to enter Closed Session for NC G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) – Personnel, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously (5-0).

Due to Martin County Board of Commissioners By-laws on Closed Session attendees, Vice Chairman Bond was not able to attend Closed Session virtually.

At 10:30 p.m., Commissioner 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 (4-0).

OPEN SESSION

County Manager Bennett asked if there was anything needing to be discussed from the Closed Session. Chairman Smith stated that there was no action needed, therefore no discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, at 10:35 pm, Commissioner Biggs MOTIONED to adjourn and Commissioner Ayers SECONDED the motion. The Board unanimously APPROVED the motion (5-0).

The next Regular Board Meeting for the Martin County Board of Commissioners has been scheduled for July 14th, 2021.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia Rease, Clerk to the Board