

March 9, 2022

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom at the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Present in the Boardroom: Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond Jr., Commissioner Emily Biggs, Commissioner David “Skip” Gurganus, County Manager U. James Bennett, Clerk to the Board Julia Rease, Finance Officer Cindy Ange, Attorney Benjamin Eisner, and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Present via Remote Access: Commissioner Joe. R. Ayers

Others present: Mayor Charlotte Griffin of Bear Grass and Mayor Tina Brown of Robersonville

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

Chairman Smith extended a welcome to all.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Biggs made a **Motion** to approve the agenda as **Revised** to add the Surplus Property Schoolboard Request, with a **Second** by Commissioner Ayers. The motion was **Carried** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted to the Clerk, in the lobby area, or online. Chairman Smith ask that if there were any public comments to send an email to the county clerk and or comment on Facebook live.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made a **Motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. The motion was **Carried** unanimously.

- 1. Minutes** - February 9, 2022 Regular Meeting and Closed Sessions
- 2. Financial Report** for February 2022
- 3. Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – February 2022 – None**
- 4. Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – February 2022 - \$6,454.71**

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2021	Holliday	Adam Lindsey Blake Heirs	Sold Vehicle	5,530	53.22
2021	Holliday	Adam Lindsey Blake Heirs	Sold Vehicle	5,530	53.22
2021	Holliday	Adam Lindsey Blake Heirs	Sold Vehicle	0	53.22
2021	Lilley	David Allen	Sold Vehicle	18,541	178.46
2013	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	586.66
2014	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	586.66
2015	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.77
2016	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.77
2017	RC Reality	LLC	Repo	0	585.13
2018	RC Reality	LLC	Repo	0	585.13
2019	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.88
2020	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.88
2021	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.88
2013	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	586.66
2014	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	586.66
2015	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	592.77
2016	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	429.98
2017	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	377.62
2018	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	377.62
2019	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	387.18
2020	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	387.18
2021	RC Reality	LLC.	Repo	0	721.78
			<i>Total Real & Personal Releases</i>		\$6,454.71
0000	-----	-----	-----	0	\$ 0.00
			<i>Total VTS Refund Requests</i>		\$ 0.00

5. Tax Collector's Report – February 2022

Category	February 2022 - Month	YTD - February 2022
20	\$228,505.92	\$9,007,219.70
25	<u>\$21,191.37</u>	<u>\$4,800,691.98</u>
Total	\$249,697.29	\$13,807,911.68
30	\$40.73	<u>\$440.52</u>
Total	\$249,738.02	\$13,808,352.20

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Bear Grass Extraterrestrial Jurisdiction (ETJ) Planning & Zoning Board

On behalf of the Bear Grass ETJ Planning & Zoning Board, Mayor Charlotte Griffin recommended the reappointment of Ms. Diane Rogerson for another three year term which would expire March 31, 2025.

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

7. W.K. Dickson Grant Agreement- Parallel Taxiway (Con/CA/RPR)

This Agreement was made and entered into by and between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Martin County, the public agency owning the Martin County Airport. The Department has received the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration to administer certain Airport Improvement Program Funds in North Carolina under the provisions of the *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012*. The Department has approved a grant of funds to the Sponsor under the State Block Grant Program Apportionment with CARES and ARPA Match funds.

Martin County (Sponsor) has made a formal application dated January 31, 2022 to the Department for Apportionment with CARES and ARPA Match funds for the Martin County Airport; and a grant in the amount of \$4,798,849 not to exceed 100 percent of the federal share of the final, eligible project costs of \$4,798,849 has been approved subject to the conditions and limitations herein; and the Apportionment with CARES and ARPA Match funds will be used for the following approved project: PARALLEL TAXIWAY (CON/CA/RPR)

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

8. W.K. Dickson Grant Agreement Construction of New Parallel Taxiway

This Agreement was made and entered into by and between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Martin County, the public agency owning the Martin County Airport. Chapter 63 of the North Carolina General Statutes authorizes the Department, subject to limitations and conditions stated therein, to provide State Aid in the forms of loans and grants to cities, counties and public airport authorities of North Carolina for the purpose of planning, acquiring and improving municipal, county and other publicly-owned or publicly controlled airport facilities, and to authorize related programs of aviation safety, education, promotion and long-range planning; and the Martin County has made a formal application dated January 31, 2022 to the Division of Aviation (“Division”) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for the Martin County Airport.

A grant in the amount of \$95,152 not to exceed 100 percent of the final, eligible project costs of \$95,152 subject to the conditions and limitations herein; and the Agreement of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds will be used for the following approved project: Construction of a new T-Hangar Taxilane.

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

Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Mr. Jeffrey Eisenhauer was introduced as the new Transit driver for the Department of Social Services by Transit Director Frank Halsey. Mr. Frank Halsey of the Transit Department stated that Mr. Eisenhauer had 44 years of CDL experience and began work on March 1, 2022.

Mr. Chase Conner introduced himself as the new Tourism Development Authority Director for Martin County. Mr. Conner has served the county in many aspects and was recently the Director for the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Benjamin Eisner, Attorney with the Law Offices of Oliver and Cheek, PLLC, was introduced as a potential new employee by Human Resources Director Donna Zube. Attorney Eisner reported

that he was originally from the Outer Banks of North Carolina and has moved to Wilson over the years. Attorney Eisner reported that he was happy to be involved and looking forward to working with the county if approved.

PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Update

M-T-W District Health Director Wes Gray provided a monthly update regarding COVID-19 in the community. Information provided included the number of COVID-19 cases, recoveries, and deaths in North Carolina, in the United States and globally. Director Gray also highlighted the number of positive cases, number of recoveries, and deaths in each county of the MTW district. Director Gray reported Martin County had at least 1 new case every week and Martin County was in the 7th week of declining cases. Director Gray reported 53% of individuals have had at least 1 dose of the vaccines, 49% are fully vaccinated without a booster, and 40.3% were fully vaccinated with the booster.

Director Gray then discussed a few ongoing outbreaks in the MTW District including 2 outbreaks at the Williamston House and the Carrolton. Vintage Inn of Martin County had an outbreak previously which was resolved as stated by Director Gray. Director Gray announced testing locations, hours of operations, and the newest testing location is Gospel Light Church of Christ in Jamesville. Director Gray reported the testing site at Gospel Light Church of Christ was from 10 a.m. — 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Lastly Director Gray discussed shifting the response of COVID 19 since there has been a decline in cases and what methods have been discovered that may assist in COVID 19 monitoring. Director Gray reported different methods used to monitor Covid cases such as date retrieval from testing sites were effective, until at home tests were released to the public. The home test could not be monitored as those at testing sites. MTW Health District Director Gray also mentioned watching COVID 19 trends from other countries to make predictions.

MTW Health Director Gray was thanked for his time and presentation.

Trillium 2021 Annual Report

Since the last presentation in 2021, Northern District Director Bland Baker reported adding 2 counties to be served by Trillium Health Resources. Northern Director Bland Baker reported Trillium was serving 26 counties with the additional 2 counties. Northern Director Bland reported with Medicaid transformation there were 5 insurance companies that were awarded the Standard Plan on July 1, 2021. Northern Director Bland reported this would be the first time Trillium Health Resources has managed Medicaid funds. Northern District Director Bland reported all individuals in the communities that met the criteria had to choose a plan, and if not, a plan was chosen for them. Mr. Baker stated that the biggest part of the transformation was the ability to choose the Standard plan to the tailored plan and Trillium would help implement these transitions to prevent loss of services. Trillium Northern District Director Baker stated all Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) across the state were awarded with the Tailored Plan through Medicaid transformation. Northern District Director Baker reported on changes and updates to Trillium Health Resources with the Tailored Plan

Northern District Director Bland stated the implementation date of the tailored plan was December 1, 2022 and an onsite readiness review would take place on July 13th and 14th, 2022. This onsite

review would include a state review of all the policy, procedure, and implementation changes made to respond to the tailored plan. Beginning, December, 1, 2022, MCO's would be conducting services they were not accustomed to such as managing the behavioral and physical health of individuals. Northern District Director Baker reported the MCO's were accustomed to managing the psychiatric and or substance abuse needs of an individual. Northern District Director Bland stated pharmaceuticals were added as an additional service and preparation was needed to contract with 2000 pharmacies across the 28 counties for billing. Northern District Director Bland stated that Trillium planned to contract with all general practitioners within the 28 counties served as well. Additional programs and or services include:

- Call Centers: Mr. Bland Baker, Northern District Director stated Trillium had 2 call centers with an administrative number and a crisis line number that works 24/7/365. Mr. Baker reported Trillium Health Resources would be required to have a call center line specifically for pharmacy and or medication issues. Trillium would be required to have a provider line for claim issues, and a phone line for nurses. Mr. Baker, Northern District Direct, reported Trillium Health Resources has begun the process of hiring nurses and staff to fill these positions.
- Care Management Team
Northern Director Baker also reported a new care management team that focuses on the whole person care instead of just behavioral health issues. This means the services would expand to cover dental, vision, and more.
- Disaster Response Unit
Mr. Baker reported having a new disaster response unit that teams up with the county emergency management groups to learn how Trillium can support these groups in the event of a disaster. All providers were required to have disaster and evacuation plans. The Disaster Response Unit would collect these plans and make sure that they're in the correct place in case of a disaster. There were changes added to the Trillium Health Resources website that provides a map; gives instructions on what to do before a hurricane hits, what to do during a hurricane, and what resources are being provided afterwards.
- Mobile Clinics
Trillium received funding, which was used to purchase mobile clinics and three providers were contracted to implement these mobile clinics. Northern District Director Baker reported the mobile clinics would provide services to the rural areas within the county where transportation, may not be suitable. The services would include Substance Abuse Therapy and or Treatment, Mental Health Assessments and or Therapy, and Medication Management to name a few. Northern District Director Baker reported Martin County was to receive a Mobile Clinic around April 13, 2022. Mr. Baker of Trillium Health Resources reported being in the process of staffing the Martin County Mobile Clinics. The mobile Clinic would have a nurse, clinician, a peer support specialist for some case management, a nurse practitioner, and or psychiatrist available.
- Tribal Engagement: Northern District Director Baker reported federally recognized Native American tribes that require they have their own waiver for their service delivery system would be reached better with services.
- Co-Respondent Pilots: Trillium Health Resources contracted with a provider to put a clinician in the Sheriff's Department and the DSS office for intake calls regarding mental health. The

clinician can provide onsite assistance with mental health calls until further care can be provided.

- Family Navigator: This program is to help families navigate through the Trillium Health Resources System, website, programs, or any concerns regarding to their care. Trillium is to receive 10 system of care coordinators.
- Respite Homes: Northern Director Baker reported DSS had a common issue with finding a home for a child that has had a disruption in a placement or are in need of an immediate home. Northern District Director Baker reported DSS had struggles with children sleeping in DSS lobbies so, Trillium contracted with a provider to establish a few crisis respite homes specifically for DSS and Martin County would be the first to receive one. Trillium Health Resources is looking for a home in Martin County to provide respite services as well.
- Partial Hospital – Northern District Director Baker stated Trillium Health Resources was awarded a contract for a partial hospital for individuals that may have been discharged from an operation or being prescribed new medication. These individuals can participate in the program to make sure they are monitored and have assistance if there are any adverse reactions. The patients would have options of scheduling attendance to this program based on the health concern.

Lastly, Northern District Director Bland Baker reported the total numbers of Martin County citizens served. District Director Baker reported Trillium served 1,061 individuals last year with 834 being mental health conditions, 246 related to substance abuse, and 136 concerning intellectual / development disabilities.

Trillium Northern District Director Bland Baker was thanked for his services and his presentation.

Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report

Team Coordinator of the Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team Vickey Manning stated North Carolina has a three tier Child Fatality Prevention System of which the local child fatality prevention teams are one component. The three tiers of the system include the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Task Force, which is a legislative study commission, the North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Team (state team) which reviews child death through the Medical Examiner system, and the Community Child Protection Teams which review active cases of suspected abuse and neglect, and child deaths due to suspected abuse and neglect. The local child fatality prevention teams (CFPT) were legislatively established in 1993 by State Statute Article 14, 7B-1406 and there are teams in all 100 counties. It is the responsibility of the local health departments to assure that these teams are operational.

Team Coordinator Manning reported the mission of the local team is to review the deaths of children, ages 0 -17 years, that are not due to suspected abuse or neglect and about which no previous report of abuse or neglect has been made to the county department of social services within the past 12 months. The local CFPTs review child deaths due to homicide, suicide, fires, illness, prematurity and perinatal cause, among others, and search for ways to prevent child deaths. MTW Deputy Director and CFPT Team Coordinator Vickey Manning reported. The purpose of the local child fatality prevention teams are to: 1) identify the causes of child deaths; 2) identify gaps or deficiencies that may exist in order to improve the delivery of services to children and

families; and 3) make recommendations for changes and carry out changes that could prevent future child fatalities

Next, Team Coordinator Manning stated the Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams review child fatalities, identifying any system issues that may have contributed to the death. The team then makes recommendations related to those issues with the hope of preventing future fatalities. These recommendations are then sent to the State Child Fatality Prevention Coordinator who in turn shares the information with the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force (CFTF). The CFTF works closely with legislators, advocating for changes in laws or policies to improve child wellbeing and safety across the state.

Vickey Manning of the MTW Health District stated some examples of recommendations that started at a local Child Fatality Prevention Team and later became requirements or laws. Examples are:

- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) laws requiring use of helmets and that drivers be of a certain age;
- Graduated Driver's Licensing
- Requiring carbon monoxide detectors in rental property and single/multi-family homes
- Infant Homicide Prevention Act- Safe Surrender
- Transporting children in open bed trucks

Team Coordinator Manning stated the Martin County Child Fatality Prevention Team, a sub-committee of the Martin County Child Protection Team meets, typically, at least 4 times per year. It is during these meetings that team members review child fatalities that occurred the previous year, determine if there were any system problems that caused or contributed to the fatality, make any recommendations, or develop action plans to address the area of concern. We also review hospital discharge data relating to children from ages birth to 17 years of age. Team Coordinator Manning stated the team was responsible for reviewing 4 child fatalities. Two of these fatalities were classified as "Ill- Defined and Unspecified Cause of Mortality". One cause was listed as respiratory failure of a newborn and one was documented as non-accidental traumatic neck and head injuries.

Lastly Team Coordinator Manning reported the Team did not co-sponsor events related to the Blue-Ribbon Campaign (Child Abuse Awareness) nor a bubble release to honor child fatality victims during 2021 due to COVID 19. Social Media was used to promote child safety around the home as well as in and around motor vehicles. Due to some recent concerns, the Team will be joining the Martin County Child Protection Team and the Safe Kids Riverbend Coalition to promote safe sleep practices to families and caretakers of young children.

Child Crime Prevention Team

MTW Deputy Health Director Manning also presented for the Child Crime Prevention Team. The Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) was established by law (General Statute 7B-1406) in May of 1991 as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. MTW Deputy Director Manning stated the CCPT is an interdisciplinary group of community representatives who meet regularly to promote a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. Community Child Protection Team reviews are designed to assist DSS and families in protecting children by identifying barriers in services and collaborating on strategies to remedy the situation. The purpose of these reviews is also to inform county commissioners about actions needed to prevent child abuse, neglect or dependency.

MTW Deputy Health Director Manning reported outcome of a CCPT review must result in identification of a gap in services, a need for additional services or resources needed in the community or a collaborative recommendation of action that may remove a risk situation for a child. Review of cases also generate a needs list. The cases reviewed may bring to the surface underlying problems that impact the entire community rather than focusing on the families in the DSS system. Some of these situations may be financial barriers, transportation needs, failed communication systems between resources, procedural barriers and or inadequate services.

MTW Deputy Director stated in 2021, the Martin County Department of Social Services brought six cases to the team for review. Of those six cases, some of the contributing factors were Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Unstable Housing. Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Poverty are the current major factors that are affecting our community. In 2020, Martin County Department of Social Services assumed custody of 23 children under the age of 18. In 2021, Martin County Department of Social Services assumed custody of 16 children under the age of 18. Out of the 16 children, 15 children were taken into custody as the primary factor being substance abuse, and one child due to mental health factors in the home. These factors place children at risk for failure to thrive issues, mental health issues, unstable housing, educational delays, truancy, and improper supervision.

Deputy District Health Director Manning reported in 2021, Martin County DSS established permanence for 16 children. Out of the 16 children, two were adopted, seven children received permanence by guardianship or custody with a family member, one child received permanence with their foster parents and six returned to parents. In 2021, Martin County DSS received 200 Child Protective Services Reports; 136 reports were screened in and investigated. In December 2021, there remained 44 children in foster care. 40% of the children in foster care are five years old and under, 40% are ages six through twelve years, 16% are teenagers and 4% are youth 18 years and older participating in the 18 to 21 program.

Lastly Deputy Health Director Vickey Manning stated the CCPT also collaborates with the Tedi Bear Child (name stands for Tender Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention for a Better Abuse Response) Advocacy Center of Greenville quarterly. The community based multi-discipline teams serve children who are alleged victims of child sexual abuse throughout eastern North Carolina. The team reviews cases within the county and receives updates from our local law enforcement, DSS and the district attorney. The goal of MDT is to enhance the system's response to child abuse, and to facilitate recovery for the victims of child abuse.

OLD BUSINESS

African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina (AAENENC) Board Appointments

At the February 9, 2022 Martin County Board of Commissioner's Meeting, Manager Bennett reported the African American Experience of Northeastern North Carolina Board invited Martin County to participate in the acknowledgment of African Americans to encourage a deeper understanding of the significance of the region's cultural heritage to build more inclusive communities.

New county members to the AAENENC will be expected to appoint two members to the AAENENC Advisory Board who have extensive knowledge of African American history in their respective counties. Either the tourism director or a member of the Board of Commissioners (there being no tourism director) of their respective counties will sit on the

AAENENC Board. The AAENENC is a tourism driven project and is focused on driving visitation to the NENC region. Advisory Board members will sit on at least one of the following committees: Product; Marketing, Community Outreach; and Administration.

Each county is expected to contribute, at a minimum, \$2,000 yearly to the AAENENC for its website and marketing expenses (print and online initiatives). The Board realizes that each county is in different circumstances regarding its funding ability, and yearly contributions that exceed this amount allow the AAENENC to extend its reach. Each county will enter into a yearly contract with Martin Armes, who is our acting representative with third party entities. To be considered for membership, each county must submit one or more visitor ready sites (product) and a site catalogue template for each site. This template ensures that all counties are providing the information necessary to include their site in the AAENENC. These credentials will be submitted to the Board for consideration of membership.

County Manager Bennett stated that the Tourism Development Authority was contacted and would endorse the annual contribution of \$2,000 to the African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina. Manager Bennett reported that TDA Director Chase Conner was recommended as one of the two appointees needing to be appointed by the board. Manager Bennett stated one board appointment required the Tourism Development Authority Director and or a member of the Martin County Board of Commissioners to be appointed to the board and Chase Conner would fit that appointment.

Recommendations were asked of the Board and Vice Chairman Bond Jr. recommended Mayor of Bear Grass, Charlotte Griffin.

Commissioner Biggs **Motioned** to appoint Tourism Development Authority Director Chase Conner and the Mayor of Bear Grass, Charlotte Griffin, to the African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina Board with a **Second** by Commissioner Gurganus. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Approval of the Roanoke Connect Partnership Letter for the Submittal of GREAT Grant Applications

Martin County Manager James Bennett stated receiving a letter on February 25, 2022 from Roanoke Connect as a formal request to partner with Martin County to submit grant applications for the North Carolina GREAT Grant as well as federal grant opportunities that are currently and in the future available to the County as it relates to the deployment of broadband services by March 31, 2022

Commissioner Gurganus made a **Motion** to approve and accept the Roanoke Connect Partnership Letter in open session and affirm the request to enter into a partnership in pursuing funding opportunities from the state and federal governments. Commissioner Biggs **Seconded** the motion. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

W.K. Dickson Recommendation of Award of AWOS Installation Construction Project to Southeast Site Services, LLC

Manager Bennett reported Bids for the AWOS Installation project were informally received by WK Dickson on behalf Martin County until 2:00 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Two (2) bids were received from the following:

- KOBO Utility Construction Corp.
- Southeast Site Services, LLC

The low bid was received from Southeast Site Services, LLC, with a Base Bid amount of \$116,195.00. The certified bid tabulation is attached to this letter.

WK Dickson has reviewed the Southeast Site Services, LLC proposal and has deemed the proposal to be the lowest responsive, responsible bid. WK Dickson recommended that Martin County award the project to Southeast Site Services, LLC for a total contract amount of \$116,195.00. WK Dickson also recommended award contingent on the contractor providing the required Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Certificates of Insurance, as outlined in the contract documents.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gurganus to award Southeast Site Services the project and award contingent on the Contract and was **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried**.

Special Call Meeting Dates

Manager Bennett reported the Board of Commissioners held a Special Called meeting on January 16th, 2022. There was a discussion regarding a meeting with a representative from Martin General Hospital. Manager Bennett gave multiple dates the meeting could be held.

It was the **General Consent** of the Board that the Special Called Meeting would take place on March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Employee Incentives

Last year, a bonus was given to Martin County employees and Manager Bennett reported some American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funds could be used as an incentive of \$1,000 (before taxes) for Martin County employees this year. Human Resources (HR) Donna Zube stated there were around 161 full time employees, around 23 part time workers, and around 188 based from payroll. Finance Director Cindy Ange reported incentives could be given to employees without any financial concerns. HR Donna Zube reported monies would be funded to employees this month, but would be in a separate payment from the employee's regular pay. The incentives from last year were presented as follows:

County Employees	County Employees	Sheriff Department	Totals
Full Time	124	44	168
Part Time	17	5	22
Incentive Amount	\$170,302.50	\$59,089.10	\$229,391.60

Motion to approve the Employee Incentive of \$1,000 for Martin County Full and Part time workers beginning work on March 9, 2022 was made by Commissioner Biggs with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. **Motion** was carried.

Resolution of First Offer to Lease

Chairman Smith stated the Martin County School Board sent a request to the Martin County Board of Commissioner's regarding Surplus property according to **NC GS 115 C-518 - Offer of First Refusal** which states,

“When in the opinion of any local board of education the use of any building site or other real property or personal property owned or held by the board is unnecessary or undesirable for public school purposes, the local board of education may dispose of such according to the procedures prescribed in General Statutes, Chapter 160A, Article 12, or any successor provisions thereto. Provided, when any real property to which the board holds title is no longer suitable or necessary for public school purposes, the board of county commissioners for the county in which the property is located shall be afforded the first opportunity to obtain the property. The board of education shall offer the property to the board of commissioners at a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two boards. If the board of commissioners does not choose to obtain the property as offered, the board of education may dispose of such property according to the procedure as herein provided. Provided that no State or federal regulations would prohibit such action. For the purposes of this section references in Chapter 160A, Article 12, to the "city," the "council," or a specific city official are deemed to refer, respectively, to the school administrative unit, the board of education, and the school administrative official who most nearly performs the same duties performed by the specified city official. A local board of education may also sell any property other than real property through the facilities of the North Carolina Department of Administration. The proceeds of any sale of real property or from any lease for a term of over one year shall be applied to reduce the county's bonded indebtedness for the school administrative unit disposing of such real property or for capital outlay purposes”

Chairman Smith added that the properties were:

1. Old Williamston Middle and High School 600 N Smithwick Street
2. East End Elementary School, 1121 3rd Street Extension, Robersonville, NC 27871

Chairman Smith stated properties were purchased in the past and donated back to the community such as the West Martin property, which required no input of any county funds. Chairman Smith continued to state that the West Martin property had issues with the septic system and the building was going to be closed due to the inability to justify the amount of money needed to fix the septic system issues to DPI standards after an inspection. Chairman Smith reported the MC Board of Commissioners negotiated with the School Board, purchased the property, and gave the property to the West Martin Alumni Association. The property has been used for community programs such as after school programs, which have been successful. Chairman Smith stated this process has also been implemented successfully with the EIC Head Start Program operating from a Hamilton School property as well as the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriculture Science that was a school property in Jamesville, NC.

Motion to negotiate with the Martin County School Board for the East End Property located on 1121 3rd Street Extension, Robersonville, NC 27871 by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Budget Amendments

Budget Amendment #18

Finance Officer Cindy Ange reported North Carolina General Statute 161-11.3 requires counties to set aside 10% of the fees collected pursuant to GS 161-10 in a non - reverting Automation Enhancement fund. These funds shall be expended on computer and imaging technology in the Office of the Register of Deeds. At June 30, 2020 Martin County had \$30,308 in the Automation Enhancement fund, which is part of the County’s fund balance.

Martin County Register of Deeds, Kim Griffin, is requesting an appropriation of \$10,600 from this fund for computer indexing, computer scanning and secure remote access.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-18

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, 2022.

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

	Increase	Decrease
General Government		
Register of Deeds	\$10,600	

This will result in an increase of \$10,600 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	\$10,600
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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.

Motion by Commissioner Gurganus and **Seconded** by Commissioner Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 9th day of March 2022. Motion was **Carried**.

For your information

		INC	DEC
Automation Enhancement	1141800 549900	\$10,600	
Fund Balance	1100090 499099	\$10,600	

Budget Amendment #19

Finance Officer Ange reported additional fees have been collected by the Martin County Extension office for the Ag Program, including sponsorships and meal reimbursements.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT- 19

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, 2022.

Section 1. To amend the 4-H Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Economic & Physical Development		
Co-operative Extension	\$ 3,000	

This will result in an increase of \$3,000 in the expenditures of the 4-H Fund. To provide for an increase in revenue for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Sales & Services \$ 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.

Motion by Commissioner Biggs and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 9th day of March 2022. Motion was **Carried**.

		INC	DEC
For your information			
Ag Program	2300040 449501	\$3,000	
Ag Program	2349500 523301	\$3,000	

Budget Amendment #20

The Martin County Airport has received several grants for ongoing projects. In January 2022, the County was awarded a \$5,120,000 grant from the federal government through the NC Department of Transportation for the construction of the parallel taxiway. Also in January 2022, the NC Department of Transportation awarded the County \$100,000 for the construction of a T-Hanger Taxilane. Remaining NPE funds from 2018, 2019 and 2020 are being used to fund the AWOS installation.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-20

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 Airport Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
Transportation	\$5,272,210	

This will result in an increase of \$5,272,210 in the expenditures of the Airport Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Intergovernmental Revenue	\$5,272,210
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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.

Motion by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. and **Seconded** by Commissioner Gurganus. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 9th day of March 2021. Motion was **Carried**.

		INC	DEC
For your information			
FAA – Parallel Taxiway Const	3900025 445328	\$4,608,000	

FED ARPA – Parallel Taxiway	3900025 455329	\$ 512,000
T Hanger Taxilane	3900025 455330	\$ 100,000
AWOS Install	3900025 455331	\$ 14,880
AWOS Install	3900025 455332	\$ 37,330
Construction	3945328 559710	\$4,359,432
Professional Fees	3945328 559752	\$ 434,417
Miscellaneous	3945328 559753	\$ 326,151
Admin fees	3945330 559750	\$ 1,533
Professional Fees	3945330 559752	\$ 93,619
Miscellaneous	3945330 559752	\$ 4,848
Professional Fees	3945331 559752	\$ 14,880
Professional Fees	3945332 559752	\$ 37,330

Budget Amendment #21

Finance Officer Ange reported The Martin County Sheriff’s office received an \$84,270 State Directed Grant. Directed Grants in equal amounts were awarded for Sheriffs’ officers in counties with a population fewer than 210,000 people. These funds could only be used for law enforcement purposes and may not be used for supplanting. The Sheriff planned to use these funds for in car cameras.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-21

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, 2022.

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

	Increase	Decrease
Public Safety		
Sheriff	\$ 84,270	

This will result in an increase of \$84,270 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	\$ 84,270
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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.

Motion by Commissioner Gurganus and **Seconded** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 9th day of March 2022. Motion was **Carried**.

For your information

		INC	DEC
NCDPS Grant	1143100 549965	\$ 84,270	
NCDPS Grant	1100025 443182	\$ 84,270	

Managers’ Report

Upcoming Events

Manager Bennett informed the Board that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Ground Breaking ceremony for the Hampstead Bypass (18525 US 17, Hampstead, NC 28443) Ribbon Cutting was to take place on March 11th, 2022

Manager Bennett informed the Board that there was an additional invite to the Economic Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner at the Bob Martin Agriculture Center on March 24, 2022.

Fuel Cost

Manager Bennett stated that there was a prediction of a rise in unleaded gas to \$6.00 a gallon by Summer 2022. Manager Bennett stated he asked the departments to think about ways to reduce fuel consumption. Manager Bennett stated there were departments that usually drive county vehicles home and these departments have been asked that employees use their personal vehicles to travel to and from work. Manager Bennett asked the Board to inform him of any suggestions to reduce gas consumption and if they are not accepting of the methods already being used.

Commissioner Gurganus suggested a GPS device that could plug into the county vehicles to monitor speed, time the engine is running, location of the vehicle, date and time of travel, and idle time alerts that will report to the office.

Sheriff Tim Manning agreed and stated that his department utilizes these devices, idle time was being monitored, and the department was cutting back on long distance traveling. Sheriff Manning reported when analyzing the idle time, there was no significant amount of county vehicles idling.

CLOSED SESSION - NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) - Attorney/Client Privilege, NC G.S § 143-318.11(a)(4) Contracts and Agreements, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel

Motion to Enter Closed Session: NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) - Attorney/Client Privilege, NC G.S § 143-318.11(a)(4) Contracts and Agreements, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel made by Commissioner Gurganus at 9:08pm with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried**.

Motion to Enter Closed Session: NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) - Attorney/Client Privilege, NC G.S § 143-318.11(a)(4) Contracts and Agreements, NC G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel made by Commissioner Gurganus at 9:52 pm with a **Second** by Vice Chairman Bond Jr. Motion was **Carried**.

OPEN SESSION

Hire of County Attorney

Motion to hire Attorney Benjamin Eisner of the Oliver and Cheek Attorney Firm as the County Attorney was made by Commissioner Gurganus with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously.

Swearing In of County Attorney

County Clerk Rease was asked to swear in the newly appointed County Attorney Benjamin Eisner of the Oliver and Cheek Law Firm. Attorney Eisner was subscribed the Oath of Office and he accepted the oath. A copy of the Oath to Office was given to Attorney Eisner.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bond Jr. made a **Motion** at 9:57 pm to adjourn the meeting, with a **Second** by Commissioner Biggs. Motion was **Carried** unanimously. The next regular meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

Julia S. Rease
Clerk to the Board