

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of February 18, 2019

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2019. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Historic Courthouse, Dobson, N.C.

Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Van Tucker, Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson, Commissioner Bill Goins, Commissioner Eddie Harris, and Commissioner Mark Marion.

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Rhonda Nixon, Budget and Performance Director
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer
Don Mitchell, Facilities Director/Interim Public Works Director
Daniel White, Parks and Recreation Director
Johnny Easter, Development Services Director
Kim Bates, Planning Director
Myron Waddell, Assistant Director, Surry County EMS
Ed Woltz, County Attorney
Tammy Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager
News Media

Chairman Tucker called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Chairman Tucker delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Tucker requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 18, 2019 agenda.

Chairman Tucker requested the Board consider the minutes of the February 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

County Attorney Ed Woltz entered the meeting at this time.

Chairman Tucker requested the Board consider the consent agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Requests from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
 1. Total releases for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$2,932.92.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$4,823.20.
 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$1,881.45.
 4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$1,509.09.
 5. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$180,282.13.
 6. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 1/31/19 in the amount of \$464.33.

NOW, THEREFORE, to acknowledge the significance of EFNEP, we do hereby proclaim, February 18, 2019 as a day for Surry County citizens to celebrate EFNEP's success in teaching, helping, and serving limited-resource families in Surry County.

- Approve the following resolution for the 2019 annual planning retreat.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE LOCATION
OF THE ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners will host its annual planning retreat to prepare for the FY2019-20 budget process; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners feel it is desirable to conduct the annual planning retreat at various locations throughout the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Surry County Board of Commissioners will conduct its annual planning retreat at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019, at Rosa Lee Manor, 385 Rosa Lee Lane, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041.

- Approve providing all four members of Surry County's State legislative delegation with a Surry County Flag.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve for the Sheriff's Office to work with the Facilities Director to purchase and install a swipe card system for two doors at the Sheriff's Office.
- Approve retiree resolutions for former Sheriff Jimmy Combs, Lieutenant Danny Griffith, and Public Works Director Dennis Bledsoe.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jimmy D. Combs faithfully served the citizens of Surry County from November 1, 1988 until his retirement on December 3, 2018 as an employee of the Surry County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, Jimmy D. Combs held the positions of Deputy Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant, Deputy Sheriff Captain, Chief Deputy Sheriff and Sheriff, a rank he held from April 28, 2017 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Sheriff Jimmy D. Combs led by example, bringing a high level of integrity and professionalism to the Sheriff's Office of Surry County; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance and leadership of Sheriff Jimmy D. Combs, the Sheriff's Office has experienced growth and advancement as demonstrated in the areas of staffing, training, security, and safety for the employees of the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Surry County; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Jimmy D. Combs has earned the admiration and respect of his staff, colleagues, and the citizens he has served, not only in Surry County, but throughout the State of North Carolina, as he has dedicated his career to diligently protecting our citizens and making Surry County a safer place to live; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners wishes to publicly commend Sheriff Jimmy D. Combs for his service to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation for his many years of dedication to law enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to Jimmy D. Combs its best wishes for many years of happiness during his retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Daniel Gray Griffith faithfully served the citizens of Surry County from September 1, 1983 until his retirement on December 31, 2018 as an employee of the Surry County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, Daniel Gray Griffith held the positions of Control Room Officer, Jailer, Jailer II, Deputy Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff Bailiff, Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, and Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant, a rank he held from February 1, 2005 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his years of faithful service, Lieutenant Griffith has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow employees, friends, and colleagues as he has dedicated his career to diligently protecting the citizens of Surry County; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners wishes to publicly commend Daniel Gray Griffith for the integrity and high level of professionalism he has brought to law enforcement in Surry County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board commends Daniel Gray Griffith for his service to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation for his many years of dedicated employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to Daniel Gray Griffith its best wishes for many years of happiness during his retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dennis R. Bledsoe faithfully served the citizens of Surry County from September 1, 1999 until his retirement on December 31, 2018 as Director of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, Mr. Bledsoe held the positions of Equipment Operator I, Recycling Program Coordinator, Assistant Public Works Director, Interim Public Works Director, and Public Works Director, a position he held from November 1, 2012 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Mr. Bledsoe accomplished many milestones, all the while making the interests of the Surry County citizens his first priority. Mr. Bledsoe has worked to bring Surry County Public Works to a new level, helping to plan the landfill expansion and new scale house, which will soon become a reality; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bledsoe's commitment, dedication, vision and professionalism have earned him the admiration and respect of his fellow employees, colleagues, and the public he served; and

WHEREAS, in serving as Surry County Public Works Director, Mr. Bledsoe has provided quality services for the citizens of Surry County and served an important role in making a difference in our communities, updating equipment and services, implementing the

methane recovery program, and expanding the County's recycling efforts; and

WHEREAS, Dennis R. Bledsoe has faithfully served Surry County as a considerate and conscientious public servant dedicated to bringing the highest of standards to his role of Public Works Director; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board publicly commends Dennis R. Bledsoe for his service to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation for his many years of dedicated employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to Dennis R. Bledsoe its best wishes for many years of happiness during his retirement.

Requests from the Finance Officer:

- Approve the transfer of a 2011 Ford Ranger from Planning to Parks & Recreation.
- Approve use of Surcharge Fund's Fund Balance to cover cost of UPS unit.

Chairman Tucker declared the meeting to be an open forum and invited members of the audience to address the Board on any matters of civic concern.

Rawley King spoke in favor of the County proceeding to take control over Mount Airy's extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ).

J.T. Henson distributed a map of Mount Airy's extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ) and advised that the Mount Airy Board of Commissioners has taken action approving to start the process to abolish the ETJ. Mr. Henson asked the Board to consider following the City Board, by taking action to rescind the resolution authorizing the establishment of the ETJ.

J.T. Henson spoke in favor of installing a covered walkway that would connect the Service Center to the Government Center instead of the proposed ramp construction.

Dr. Challie Minton spoke about his proposed project to renovate the former Scenic Outlet building off Highway 89 that will provide medical/dental services and access to a medical helipad. Dr. Minton thanked the Board for their help to secure the site. Dr. Minton discussed a rehabilitation grant opportunity for Tier 1 Counties, of which Surry County would qualify, and his desire to apply for funds to assist with the cost. Dr. Minton advised that the deadline to apply is February 28, 2019 and would require the Board's support to submit an application.

There being no other public comments, Chairman Tucker closed the public forum.

The Board responded to the public comments as follows:

Chairman Tucker advised that the County has not received official notification from the City of Mount Airy in regards to formal action taken on the ETJ. Kim Bates, Planning Director, advised the City has agreed to start the process but has not abolished the ETJ. Commissioner Goins was present at their meeting and added that the City's Attorney, Hugh Campbell, will initiate the process which could take approximately 60 days. Attorney Ed Woltz advised that he

understands that the City is currently working on moving forward with the process, and they will need to recall the ordinance. Chairman Tucker followed by stating the County cannot take any action at this time, and Commissioner Harris added that the County's process may not be able to begin until the next fiscal year.

The Board discussed Dr. Minton's request for the Board's approval to support an application to be submitted seeking funds to assist with the cost of his proposed project on Highway 89. County Manager Chris Knopf added that the grant is a loan that, if awarded, would pass through the County and the County would remit the funds to Dr. Minton. Mr. Knopf stated that agreements would be entered into by all parties, and the Economic Development Partnership would administer the grant. Dr. Minton again asked the Board to consider approving support for an application to be submitted. After much discussion, there were concerns of the County's unknown level of commitment if the grant should be awarded. Mr. Knopf advised that the Board would need to take action supporting the application to be submitted and take action if the grant is awarded.

Chairman Tucker suggested that the Board consider the request and take action at the planning retreat scheduled for Friday, February 22nd; Commissioner Harris agreed. Commissioner Johnson advised that he was in favor to make a decision and made a motion to support Dr. Minton to submit the grant application only, seconded by Commissioner Marion; the motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Vice-Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Goins, and
Commissioner Marion

Nays: Chairman Tucker and Commissioner Harris

The Board presented a proclamation to Cooperative Extension employees for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, as approved earlier in the meeting.

The Board recognized Dennis Bledsoe, former Public Works Director, and presented him with a resolution as approved by the Board.

Jody Mitchell, President of the Surry County Bar Association, addressed the Board asking for their consideration to approve a portrait of former Superior Court Judge Moses Massey be hung in Courtroom No.1, above the witness chair, in the Judicial Center. Mr. Mitchell advised that the portrait was purchased by the Bar Association.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Surry County Bar Association to proceed with hanging the portrait of Judge Massey at the Judicial Center.

Mr. Mitchell will notify the Board of the date of dedication.

Kim Bates, Planning Director, discussed the petition for Case #ZCR-1185, Conditional Rezoning. Mr. Bates presented facts pertaining to the property and advised that the Planning Board received no public comments and approved the request at their February 11, 2019 meeting. The Planning Board is asking for the Board's consideration to approve. Statement of Consistency:

February 18, 2019: Surry County Board of Commissioners'
Statement of Zoning Consistency and
Reasonableness:

Subject: Case # ZCR1185, a Petition for
Conditional Rezoning

Applicant / Owner: Jess Vaughn

Property Description: Tax Parcel 5051-00-76-3977, 16.19 acres
owned by and surrounding the
applicant's home at 3582 E. Pine
Street, Mt. Airy, Westfield Township

Requested Reclassification: From Rural Agricultural (RA) to Rural
Agricultural Conditional District (RA-
C) to allow a Home Occupation of a
Commercial Nature, limited Auto Sales
and General Permitted RA Uses

The subject property is located on NC Highway 103 in an area identified by the County as a Rural Area, with predominantly residential and agricultural uses along the road, but with scattered community-oriented business, and a pottery sales business nearby with significant outdoor storage of inventory. The applicant's proposal is to offer a limited number of vehicles for sale at any time (requested minimum of 12). Staff and Planning Board (following review on February 11, 2019) agree that with conditions as agreed upon by County and applicant, a limited-scope home business as requested can be a reasonable fit for the area and community.

The Board of Commissioners also finds the proposal reasonable based on the above factors and on the conditions agreed upon; and finds further that the reclassification will serve the public interest consistent with adopted plans pertaining to rural development (see *Land Use Plan 2020*, Section 5.4) and will provide for sufficient compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Chairman Tucker declared a public hearing and requested comments from the public.

Tony Chilton, neighbor who assisted with the plans, spoke in favor of the small auto sales business opening in his community.

There being no further comments, Chairman Tucker closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Statement of Consistency.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve Rezoning Case ZCR-1185, from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Rural Agricultural Conditional District (RA-C).

Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, presented Change Order #39, issued from Simcon Company, for the Service Center. Mr. Mitchell advised that the project is to remove damaged residential and commercial downspouts and replace with commercial grade downspouts, consisting of 30 feet of gutter, 14-foot downspouts, and 6-foot downspouts. Mr. Mitchell stated that Simcon will be covering the cost to install two downspouts at the handicap ramp. Mr. Mitchell presented a cost estimate from LR Construction in the amount of \$4,712.40. The estimate is from the lowest of two bids received.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Change Order #39, for the Service Center.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, presented Change Order #33, issued from Hayco Construction, for the Historic Courthouse. Mr. Mitchell explained the project is for the cost to add a new doorframe and glazing in the basement which will provide security for the Sheriff's offices in the basement and provide the public with access to the restrooms. County Manager Chris Knopf added that this would be a new construction due to the damage that will occur with the existing glass wall being removed. Mr. Mitchell presented a cost estimate in the amount of \$6,899.00.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Chairman Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve Change Order #33, for the Historic Courthouse.

Nathan Slaughter, Project Manager, ESP Associates, discussed the five-year update to the existing Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Slaughter advised that NC Senate Bill 300, passed in June of 2001, amends the North Carolina Emergency Management Act (116A) which requires local hazard mitigation plans in order to maintain eligibility for Public Assistance (PA) for state-declared disasters. Mr. Slaughter explained that the current update is required by FEMA to remain eligible for funding assistance. Mr. Slaughter also stated that he projects the draft plan to be complete in approximately one-year and will return to present to the Board for approval.

Mr. Slaughter welcomed questions and comments by the Board. Myron Waddell, Assistant Director, Surry County Emergency Services, was also in attendance to answer questions on behalf of Surry County Emergency Management.

The Board thanked Mr. Slaughter for the update.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked Parks and Recreation Director Daniel White to discuss the 2019 summer day camp.

Mr. White advised that they are facing a shorter summer camp due to the school calendar changes for FY 19-20. The camp is scheduled to begin July 1 for four weeks and ending on July 26, 2019, tentative to change upon the Summer Feeding Program schedule. Mr. White explained that with the program running into two different budget years, he needs to proceed with the advertisement for staffing prior to preparation of the upcoming budget process.

Mr. White also discussed: camp locations, putting in place a potty training policy to avoid 1:1 caregivers, maximum participants, fee waivers totaling \$3,575 for participants who can demonstrate a need through the school system and Department of Social Services, notification from DSS that they can no longer be able to financially assist with any camp participants, counselor-in-training (CIT) and the Summer Feeding Program.

Mr. White provided the following fees and fee waivers and asked the Board for their consideration to approve as follows. Mr. White advised that he met with the Finance Committee to discuss fees and fee waivers.

2018 - served 99 youth in the community

half-day program - 2018 (\$175.00) - 2019 (discontinued)
full-day program - 2018 (\$350.00) - 2019 (\$260.00 for 4-weeks, an
increase of \$6.67 per week)

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the motion passed to support the program and approve serving up to 99 campers for the summer event.

Ayes: Vice-Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Goins, and
Commissioner Marion

Nays: Chairman Tucker and Commissioner Harris

Commissioner Harris commended Mr. White on the 2018 summer camp summary brochure.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked Development Services Director Johnny Easter to discuss the Mount Airy Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction (ETJ).

Mr. Easter advised that he will be meeting with the City of Mount Airy later in the week to discuss the timeline of what both parties will need to accomplish for the transition. The process may be timely as he will have to assess the ETJ area for possible modifications to the zoning ordinance and subdivision ordinance and the possibility of adding staff.

Mr. Easter provided that the ETJ consists of approximately 7,000 people, 14 square miles, 3,800 parcels, 3,500 structures, and 12 different zoning classifications.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked the Board to consider approving the Facilities Director to declare the following two parcels as "Surplus": ID# 5020-18-41-9340 located on Factory Street in Mount Airy consisting of 1.5 vacant lots with a tax value of \$12,000.00 and ID# 5021-18-22-9145 located on Carroll Street in Mount Airy consisting of 4 vacant lots with a tax value of \$12,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell advised that upon approval, he will start the process of notifying the surrounding property owners and advertising and selling the parcels to the highest bidder.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve parcels 5020-18-41-9340 and 5021-18-22-9145 to be declared "Surplus".

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Robert Williamson, Chief of Staff, to serve on the Northern Hospital of Surry County Board of Trustees.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Sheriff Steve Hiatt to serve on the Opioid Response Advisory Council.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Jason Edsall to serve on the Opioid Response Advisory Council.

Upon motion of Chairman Tucker, seconded by Commissioner

Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Commissioner Eddie Harris to serve on the Opioid Response Advisory Council.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Debbie Wilmoth to serve on the Dobson Community Library Board.

Upon motion of Chairman Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Les Bennett to serve on the Pilot Mountain Planning Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Donna Collins to serve on the Surry Aging Planning Committee-Region G.

Commissioner Harris advised that he attended, along with Commissioner Goins and Commissioner Marion, the Elkin Elementary School playground dedication. The County Board was presented with a huge thank-you poster with signatures from the children as an expression of gratitude for the beautiful playground.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session for legal matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3), economic development matters pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(4) and personnel matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6).

The Board came out of closed session and resumed regular business.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve but not release the closed session minutes from February 4, 2019.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Tammy Johnson
Clerk to the Board

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to the Board