

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of October 1, 2018

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., October 1, 2018. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Surry County Government Center, Dobson, N.C.

Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Eddie Harris, Vice-Chairman Van Tucker, Commissioner Larry Phillips, Commissioner Larry Johnson, and Commissioner Gary Carson Tilley.

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:
Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Rhonda Nixon, Budget and Performance Director
Edwin Woltz, County Attorney
Tammy Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager
News Media

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

Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Tilley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October 1, 2018 agenda.

Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the September 17, 2018 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the consent agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve donated leave of 64.50 hours for an employee, per guidelines of the Personnel Ordinance.
 - Change Park Supervisor Grade 60 on the Position Classification Plan to Superintendent of Parks and Operations Grade 63 effective October 1, 2018.
 - Approve for the interest to be paid on the tax settlement with Lowe's Home Centers for 2015, 2016, and 2017.
 - Change EMS billing for supplies to \$100 charge only for trauma and cardiac arrest codes with other supply charges covered in standard BLS and ALS fees. Approve for EMS to only charge a base fee and mileage to continue transport when assisting other agencies who are experiencing service problems with responding units.
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Chairman Harris declared the meeting to be an open forum and invited members of the audience to address the Board on any matters of civic concern. There being no public comments, Chairman Harris closed the public forum.

Chairman Harris advised that it was time for the special recognition portion of the agenda.

The Board presented a certificate of recognition to Julie Davis, Wellness Nurse, for actions that saved the life of Jessie Jones, on June 29, 2018.

John Shelton, EMS Director, presented Ms. Davis with a save award. Mr. Jones thanked Ms. Davis for saving his life and shared his testimony about the lifesaving experience.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the County, City of Mount Airy, and the Town of Pilot Mountain, for a public water project, as previously discussed in April. Mr. Knopf advised that the project would be an interconnect between the City of Mount Airy and the Town of Pilot Mountain, for Pilot Mountain to purchase its public water from Mount Airy. The agreement would involve three parties to address the debt service payments. The project would be conducted between the City and Town, with the County as a financial contributor. The County's one-third annual debt service contribution would be \$32,500 per year for 20 years.

Attorney Ed Woltz added that the Memorandum of Understanding would need to be forwarded to the State by the first of December for the project engineers to begin design work. Mr. Woltz added that the project was spear-headed by Michael Boaz, Pilot Mountain Town Manager and understands the Interlocal Agreement would be drafted following the MOU's approval between Mount Airy and Pilot Mountain.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented, contributing \$32,500 annually (one-third) for a 20-year period, totaling \$650,000.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, advised that the Town of Pilot Mountain desires to enter the National Flood Insurance Program. Mr. Knopf added that Michael Boaz, Pilot Mountain Town Manager, advised they must adopt a flood prevention ordinance and have a contract with the County for providing building code enforcement. Mr. Knopf presented a sample agreement from the Town, for the Board to consider. Mr. Knopf advised that with County approval, the Town will submit the documents to the North Carolina Emergency Management Agency, as required, to move forward with the process.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Tilley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agreement between the County and the Town of Pilot Mountain as presented.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented a draft resolution for the County's 2019-2020 Legislative Goals as submitted every two years to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and our local General Assembly delegation. Mr. Knopf advised that the draft included six goals received from various departments, along with the

four presented at the September 17th meeting. Mr. Knopf read the goals and asked the Board to consider or recommend any deletions or additions.

Upon motion of Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Legislative Goals for 2019-2020 as presented.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING SURRY COUNTY'S
2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners has determined that the following items should be submitted to the General Assembly and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners as Surry County's 2019-2020 Legislative Goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the following goals:

1. Sales Tax Flexibility. Seek authorization to allow an additional quarter-cent sales tax for counties to levy but only following voter approval. These additional revenues would primarily be used in Surry County for public education capital needs.
2. US Highway 52 Interstate Upgrades (Interstate 74). Surry County requests that NCDOT and the General Assembly allocate funding for the necessary interstate upgrades along US Highway 52 from Rural Hall to Mount Airy. With the impending completion of Interstate 74 construction projects around Rockingham and Winston-Salem, the section of US Highway 52 between Rural Hall and Mount Airy will be the only segment that doesn't meet interstate standards from the Virginia state line to Scotland County.
3. Third Party Occupancy Tax Collections. Many lodging establishments are now using third parties (i.e. Air B&B) to collect and submit their occupancy taxes. However, some third parties will not provide a list of establishments for which they collect. This makes it very difficult for local governments to verify that lodging establishments are paying their required occupancy taxes. Legislation is needed to address transparency between the local government and the third-party collectors.
4. Nuisance Lawsuits Against Bona Fide Farms. Legislation is needed to better protect bona fide farming operations from frivolous nuisance lawsuits. Agriculture operations are significant economic engines for most rural counties in North Carolina.
5. Privacy of Public Real Estate Records. Nationally there have been instances of fake deeds and fake deeds of trust being recorded in county Register of Deeds that disrupt the traditional public recording system. The NCACC should partner with the NC Association of Register of Deeds in their efforts to bring about legislation to keep our public recording system safe and dependable.
6. Fecal Chloroform in Landfills. We are seeking relief from the amount of fecal chloroform that is permitted in groundwater runoff from landfills. Many times, excessive amounts are the result of animal waste deposited in the landfill by wildlife whose migration patterns cannot be controlled.

7. Present Use Value Taxation. The Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission plans to study excluding property that is enrolled in present use value taxation from county service district and fire protection district taxes. Due to the size of Surry County, as well as other small counties across the state, this type of change could be detrimental to local taxing districts.
8. Public River Access Development. Continue funding support at the State level for the development of public river accesses that permit fishing, paddling, and outdoor recreation. River accesses cater to both local residents and tourists alike.
9. Adult Protective Services and Guardianship. Increase funding and enhance services for Adult Protective Services and Guardianship while also improving Behavioral Health Services for vulnerable, older and disabled adults.
10. Yard Debris Hazards on Public Roadways. We request that the General Assembly amend North Carolina General Statute 14-399, to specifically prohibit the intentional blowing/broadcasting of grass clippings and yard debris onto State-maintained roadways. We have received complaints/concerns from citizens who utilize motorcycles that this issue poses a serious safety hazard statewide and that North Carolina needs to address the issue in a similar fashion to the State of Virginia.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, requested the Board amend his agenda, to include a request from the Mount Airy Board of Education regarding their Riverside Drive Project.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve adding the additional item to his agenda.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, discussed a list of change orders related to the Riverside Drive project from Dr. Kim Morrison, Mount Airy City Schools. Mr. Knopf stated that there were two lists of change orders: 1) Project Unknowns (Changes/Modifications Created Due to Existing Building Conditions), and 2) Owner Selected Building Modifications to Improve Usability. Mr. Knopf pointed out two items that the school system had to address from the unknowns list totaling approximately \$80,000: 1) asbestos abatement, and 2) metal roof decks. The two items will exhaust most of the project's \$90,000 contingency fund.

Mr. Knopf added the Finance Committee met with Dr. Morrison and Bill Powell to review the request. Mount Airy City Schools has advised they will spend approximately \$194,000 of school funds to address the owner-selected change orders and are asking for the Board to consider an allocation of \$109,300 to allow for the Project Unknowns' overage. Mr. Knopf conveyed Mr. Powell's comments made to the Property Committee that he feels the unknowns appear to be legitimate needs, upon his review. At the request of the Finance Committee, Mr. Knopf reviewed the debt model with DEC, and there is capacity in the Dedicated Capital Improvement Fund for the additional allocation.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the additional

allocation of \$109,300 to the Mount Airy City Schools for their project's contingency overage, for Project Unknowns as identified by the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session for legal matters, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Chairman Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve but not release the September 17, 2018 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to the Board