

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of April 15, 2019

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. on April 15, 2019. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Historic Courthouse, Dobson, N.C.

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

Chairman Van Tucker was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Kim Bates, Planning Director
Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director
Stephanie Conner, Communications Director
Ed Woltz, County Attorney
Tammy Johnson, Assistant to the County Manager
News Media

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

Attorney Ed Woltz entered the meeting at this time.

Vice-Chairman Johnson requested the Board review and approve the agenda. The County Manager advised that due to illness, Maggie Simmons, Assistant Health Director, was unable to attend, and the recipients for special recognition were also unable to attend. These items would need to be removed from the agenda.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve the April 15, 2019 agenda, with Ms. Simmons' items removed.

Vice-Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

Vice-Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the consent agenda. The County Manager advised that the Finance Officer's item regarding audit contracts would need to be removed from the consent agenda.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Harris, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda with the audit contracts removed.

Requests from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:

1. Total releases for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$4,784.79.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$5,213.08.
 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$1,057.71.
 4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$9,784.72.
 5. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$4.97.
 6. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$285.24.
 7. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$2,898.18.
 8. Total EMS, EMD, and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 3/31/19 in the amount of \$50,589.
- Approve for CCOM to accept the lowest quote from IronHorse Seating, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to replace console chairs in the 911 Center. CCOM will be utilizing 911 surcharge funds approved by the 911 Board.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve an additional \$6,052.00 for legal services provided by Attorney Howard C. Jones.
- Approve the proclamation declaring April 15-19, 2019 as National Telecommunicators Week.

PROCLAMATION
National Telecommunicators Week

WHEREAS, the President and Congress of the United States has declared the second full week of April as National Telecommunicators Week. This week is dedicated to the men and women who serve as Public Safety Telecommunicators; and

WHEREAS, every day, citizens of Surry County and public safety personnel, depend upon the skill, expertise, and commitment of our men and women who answer 911 calls; and

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time requiring emergency medical, police and/or fire services. Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact that Surry County citizens have when an emergency occurs; and

WHEREAS, Telecommunicators are the first and most critical link for gathering information, monitoring situations, providing the information and insuring safety to emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, each Telecommunicator shows compassion, understanding, and professionalism while providing quick, precise and polite principals to each call received; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners encourage the citizens of Surry County to take a moment, April 15-19, 2019, and thank the Surry County 911 Telecommunicators for their hard work and tireless efforts to public safety and the citizens of Surry County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Surry County Board of Commissioners declares April 15-19, 2019 National Telecommunicators Week and urge the citizens of Surry County to honor these men and women who diligently serve to keep our County and citizens safe and secure during all types of emergencies.

Request from the Budget & Performance Director:

- Approve Budget #18 as follows:

ACCOUNT			PREVIOUS		REVISED
<u>CODE</u>		<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>Governing Body</u>					
1054110	51720	Contracted Services	0	7,500	7,500
		Increase departmental total	534,105	7,500	541,605
<u>Board of Elections</u>					
1054170	56010	Equipment	465,000	(200,000)	265,000
		Decrease departmental total	927,673	(200,000)	727,673
<u>Buildings & Grounds - County</u>					
1054190	51500	Professional Services	14,799	20,600	35,399
1054190	51660	Demolition	100,000	192,228	292,228
		Increase departmental total	790,613	212,828	1,003,441
<u>Non-Departmental</u>					
1054199	59510	General Fund Contingency	39,181	(7,500)	31,681
		Decrease departmental total	564,532	(7,500)	557,032
<u>Central Supply</u>					
1054200	52010	Supplies & Materials	65,658	20,000	85,658
1054200	56010	Equipment	161,796	(12,828)	148,968
		Increase departmental total	376,987	7,172	384,159
<u>Sheriff's Office</u>					
1054310	53040	Vehicle Maintenance	91,067	4,812	95,879
		Increase departmental total	5,656,461	4,812	5,661,273
<u>County Jail</u>					
1054320	52200	Food & Provisions	270,000	60,000	330,000
1054320	55658	Miscellaneous-Commissary	35,000	110,000	145,000
		Increase departmental total	3,281,444	170,000	3,451,444
<u>Emergency Management</u>					
1054330	56010	Equipment	23,240	26,410	49,650
		Increase departmental total	167,614	26,410	194,024
<u>Emergency Medical Services</u>					
1054370	52020	Medical Supplies	250,000	(6,960)	243,040
1054370	53050	Radio Maintenance	12,000	(5,000)	7,000
1054370	54450	Laundry & Dry Cleaning	30,000	(10,000)	20,000
1054370	55300	Refunds	280,000	(20,000)	260,000
1054370	56010	Equipment	349,512	(4,450)	345,062
		Decrease departmental total	6,627,637	(46,410)	6,581,227
<u>Environmental Health</u>					
1055181	56010	Equipment	27,556	27,693	55,249
		Increase departmental total	722,454	27,693	750,147
<u>Transfers</u>					
1059810	59210	Transfer to Capital Improvement	4,681,904	500,000	5,181,904
		Increase departmental total	6,379,088	500,000	6,879,088
<u>REVENUE</u>					
1044000	48210	Sale of Capital Assets	0	500,000	500,000
1044000	48500	Insurance Refunds	91,480	4,812	96,292
1044320	44142	Confinement of Prisoners	75,000	20,000	95,000
1044320	48980	Miscellaneous-Commissary	40,000	105,000	145,000
1044320	48985	Commission - Commissary	11,000	10,000	21,000
1044320	48990	Commission-Pay Telephone	23,000	35,000	58,000
1045181	43313	Food & Lodging	0	27,693	27,693
		Increase fund totals.	73,157,900	702,505	73,860,405

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

2554245	59202	Transfer to CP - Schools	109,300	500,000	609,300
REVENUE					
2544245	49800	Transfer from General Fund	4,681,895	500,000	5,181,895
		Increase fund totals.	10,526,447	500,000	11,026,447

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

Mayor of Elkin Sam Bishop, Tom Hemmings, Cindy Southern Marion, and Bill Walker spoke in opposition of the Board's vote approving partisan school board elections, at their April 1, 2019 meeting.

Dr. Terri Mosley, Chairperson of the Surry County School Board, presented each Board member a copy of a resolution that was passed by the three school board systems in Surry County, opposing partisan school board elections. Dr. Mosley advised that the resolution will be sent to Surry County's General Assembly delegation.

Ramona Creasy, Walter Harris, Mark Jones, Chuck Koubenec, Richard Merlo, Angie Moser, Gayle Norman, and Kevin Shinault spoke in favor of partisan school board elections.

Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson stated that he had mentioned a citizen that had made a phone call to him, at the April 1, 2019 meeting. He advised that he had apologized to the citizen personally and asked the citizens to accept his apology as well.

Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson advised that he recently came upon a vehicle accident and commended the volunteers and first responders for their quick response to scene.

Vice-Chairman Larry Johnson stated that he, Commissioner Marion, and Commissioner Goins attended the Special Olympics at Surry Central High School and commended the Parks and Recreation staff, volunteers, and everyone that participated in the event.

There being no further public comments, Vice-Chairman Johnson closed the public forum.

Pastor D.M. Dalton, President of the Mount Airy Ministerial Association, asked the Board to consider writing a proclamation recognizing May 2, 2019, as the National Day of Prayer. Pastor Dalton stated that the Association would like to hold a short service at 12 noon on the 2nd of May, at the Historic Courthouse. The service would be open to anyone interested and the order of service will include: singing the "National Anthem", reading of the proclamation from the County, sermon and benediction, and singing "God Bless America". Pastor Dalton added that all costs involved would be handled by the Association.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, stated the he can draft a proclamation for the Board's consideration at their April 23 budget work session.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve holding a service at the Historic Courthouse on May 2, 2019, and for the County Manager to prepare a proclamation recognizing May 2,

2019 as the National Day of Prayer.

Kim Bates, Planning Director, presented a petition for Case #ZCR1188, pertaining to a General Use Rezoning request to return a portion of parcel #5939-02-98-7427, along NC Highway 89, from Community Business zoning to its original zoning of Rural/Agricultural. Mr. Bates stated there were no inconsistencies found, and the Planning Board and staff recommend consideration to approve.

Vice-Chairman Johnson declared a public hearing and requested comments from the public.

There being no comments, Vice-Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve the Statement of Consistency as follows:

Surry County Board of Commissioners' Statement of Zoning Consistency and Reasonableness:

Subject:	Case #ZCR1188, a Petition for General Use Rezoning
Applicant / Owner:	Charles David Smith
Property Description:	Tax Parcel 5939-02-98-7427, about 1.10 acre of a 2.3-acre parcel owned by the applicant and to the rear the applicant's home at 338 Reeves Mill Road, Mt. Airy Township
Requested Reclassification:	From Community Business (CB) to Rural Agricultural (RA)

The subject property is located among a number of parcels owned by the applicant and is situated between land used for the applicant's residence and land used for his business. Originally RA, parcel 5939-00-98-4088, a single 11-acre parcel at the time, was rezoned to CB July 17, 2006, see case file # ZCR977. Since that time, Mr. Smith's properties have undergone recombination and relocation of boundary lines, while zoning district boundaries remained unchanged; so that part of the CB land includes about 1/2 of current parcel 5939-02-98-7427. Owner/applicant intends to build a home on this property for his son and proposes that the entire parcel be returned to RA zoning for this purpose.

Future Land use Classification for the immediate area is for Rural Growth (Sec. 5.5) Stick-built residential development is encouraged in this classification; and is consistent with most existing land uses and zoning in the immediate area. Staff and Planning Board (as of that Board's meeting of April 8, 2019) unanimously concur that the proposal is reasonable and consistent with adopted county plans; and recommend adoption of the zoning map amendment as proposed.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve Rezoning Case #ZCR1188, from Community Business (CB) to Rural Agricultural (RA).

Kathy Payne, Executive Director, and Transportation Director Jeff Cockerham, YVEDDI, showed a video and discussed YVEDDI’s services model agency-wide and in Surry County.

Ms. Payne and Mr. Cockerham expressed concerns of being able to sustain services, with a rate increase in place, primarily due to mandated state/federal increases and revenue cuts from private sources. Mr. Cockerham advised that the annual Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) grant is expected to be advanced to the County in September/October 2019, but funds are needed sooner to provide critical life-sustaining services, such as dialysis, chemotherapy, and radiation trips.

Ms. Payne and Mr. Cockerham asked for the Board’s consideration to approve an advance, in July, to assist with the costs of services. The County’s allocation would normally be transferred to YVEDDI in September/October. YVEDDI would need either an additional \$200,000 to their annual allocation in FY19-20, or they would need the County to advance an amount equal to the ROAP grant from the State in July.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to include the services model presented:



**2017-2018 Surry County
Return on Investment**

Service	No. Services or People Agency-Wide	No. Services or People in Surry County
CSBG program helped 44 people raise their wages by an average of 4.7% by completing job readiness programs	96	44 (46%)
908 victims received assistance to help break the cycle of Domestic Violence	2,345	908 (39%)
209 low-income children attended Head Start to help close the learning gap of their higher income peers, and their families received support services that promote self-sufficiency	473	209 (44%)
31 homes received heating repairs and/or energy reduction services through the Weatherization program	82	31 (38%)
528 senior volunteers provided 9,962 hours in 8 non-profit stations through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	876	528 (60%)
107 Seniors received legal aid to help with wills, power of attorney, or deed transactions	170	107 (63%)
44,046 Senior Congregate and Homebound Meals were served	88,398	44,046 (50%)
5,434 Elderly Transportation trips provided	13,661	5,434 (40%)
36,576 Trips were made to take people to school, work, or medical appointments	104,601	36,576 (35%)
6,079 vehicle trips made through the R.O.A.P.	17,558	6,079 (35%)
84,462 cumulative attendance for activities at the LH Jones Family Resource Center	84,462	84,462 (100%)

19,712 cumulative attendance at Senior Centers located in Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, and Yadkin Valley	47,435	19,712 (42%)
Totals	360,157	198,136 (55%)

County Investment \$150,824 / 198,136 = \$.76 per person or service

\$200k increase is needed to allow us to continue these critical life-sustaining services.

Commissioner Harris advised that he serves as Chairman on the YVEDDI Board and supports their programs. He commended Ms. Payne and Mr. Cockerham for their efforts and advised that there will be a fundraiser held at YVEDDI, in Boonville, on April 27, 2019.

Ms. Payne introduced Bristol Mitchem, L.H. Jones Resource Center Manager. Ms. Mitchem thanked the Board for their support and Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director, for his ongoing assistance.

Vice-Chairman Johnson advised that the Board has started the FY19-20 budget process and will take their request into consideration.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Maintenance Director, presented an offer in the amount of \$5,500.00 for County-owned surplus foreclosed property (tax parcel # 5030-09-16-6792). Mr. Mitchell provided that the property, 108 Luther Ridge Lane, is located across from the N.C. Granite Quarry on Highway 103 in Mount Airy. Mr. Mitchell asked for the Board to consider accepting the offer.

The Board agreed that this was a fair offer. Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to accept the offer in the amount of \$5,500.00.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director, discussed a request from Surry County Schools (SCS) asking for the County to remove the remaining debris from a burned-out house on property they own, adjacent to Meadowview Middle School on McKinney Road. Mr. Mitchell presented three quotes received to remove the debris, dispose of it at the landfill, and then grade and sow grass on the site.

Mr. Mitchell asked the Board to consider granting permission to contract with Steve Tate & Sons Plumbing, with the lowest bid in the amount of \$6,580. Mr. Mitchell asked for the Board's consideration to provide funding for the project because there are no funds currently budgeted for the project.

The County Manager advised that funds are available in General Fund Contingency.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to award the contract to Steve Tate & Sons Plumbing and approve \$6,580 with funds from General Fund Contingency being allocated for the project.

The Board took a ten-minute break.

Tanya Jones, Executive Director, Surry Arts Council, discussed

a capital project for 2019-2022 for a proposed Eng and Chang Bunker, Original Siamese Twins, statue and museum.

Ms. Jones provided an estimated cost of \$4 million, that would include the building and exhibits. Surry Arts Council will be working to raise money, and she has been working with the Thai Embassy, seeking funding support.

Ms. Jones stated that she is seeking local government support from the City of Mount Airy and Surry County to consider \$1 million each, by contributing \$200,000 per year for five years.

Commissioner Harris asked Ms. Jones to contact State legislators for a State allocation. The County Manager advised that the Board will be attending County Assembly Day on May 8, 2019, and could advise the County's General Assembly delegation of the project.

After much discussion, Vice-Chairman Johnson advised that the Board is currently in the budget development process and will give this request consideration.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked the Board to consider granting permission to Emergency Services (EMS) to apply for a Duke Energy Foundation Grant, in the amount of \$50,000 to fund and equip a sheltering trailer and/or swift water rescue equipment. Mr. Knopf added that there would be no required local match.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve EMS to apply for a Duke Energy Foundation Grant in the amount of \$50,000.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked the Board to consider a request from Mount Airy City Schools (MACS) to approve \$80,000 be reallocated to address drainage and flash repairs at Mount Airy Middle School. Mr. Knopf advised that MACS provided that the funds are available from the \$350,000 Jones Intermediate HVAC project allocation, that came in under bid, and MACS will pay for the engineer fee to set up the bid.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, all Board members present unanimously voted to allow \$80,000 from the Jones Intermediate HVAC project be used for drainage and flash repairs at Mount Airy Middle School.

Stephanie Conner, Communications Director, discussed the need to replace parts on the current radio system that allows contact with the main VIPER tower in Surry County. The N.C. Highway Patrol recently upgraded to a 700MHz system on Turner Mountain, allowing for improved communications, but the County's current system is not compatible and issues with field units have had problems contacting CCOM. The upgrade will include a combiner appliance on the existing system and additional towers. Funding for this project was not included in Communications' budget. Ms. Conner asked for the Board to consider funding assistance and approve a quote from Mobile Communications America, in the amount of \$24,031.85.

The County Manager advised that funds were available in General Fund Contingency.

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to contract with Mobile Communications America, for \$24,031.85, with funds from General Fund Contingency being allocated for the project.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked the Board to consider amending his agenda to include an additional item from Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, requesting to appoint two deputy purchasing agents.

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, all Board members present unanimously voted to amend the County Manager's agenda to include the additional item.

Mr. Knopf stated that Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, has advised that the Purchasing Agent position has been posted due to a pending retirement and is asking for the Board to consider appointing two deputy purchasing agents to handle responsibilities during the interim period and assist as needed after the position is filled.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to appoint Don Mitchell and J.P. DeCelle as deputy purchasing agents.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to go into closed session to discuss personnel, economic development and legal matters.

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve but not release the closed session minutes from April 1, 2019.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, all Board members present unanimously voted to approve cross-training and staffing needs as recommended by management.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, all Board members present unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Tammy Johnson
Clerk to the Board

Sandy Snow
Deputy Clerk to the Board