

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of March 19, 2018

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on March 19, 2018. The meeting was held at Mountain Park Elementary School, 505 Mountain Park Road, State Road, North Carolina.

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

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:
Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Kristy Preston, Social Services Director
Ben Pratt, Assistant Finance Officer
Mayor David Rowe, City of Mount Airy
Steve Yokeley, City of Mount Airy Commissioner
Dr. Terry Moseley, Surry County Board of Education
Mamie Sutphin, Surry County Board of Education
Earlie Coe, Surry County Board of Education
Brian Moser, Surry County Board of Education
Clark Goings, Surry County Board of Education
Dr. Travis Reeves, Superintendent, Surry County Schools
Kevin Leonard, Executive Director, NCACC
News Media

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order and expressed appreciation for the invitation to meet at Mountain Park Elementary School and for the hospitality shown by the School Board members and school staff.

Commissioner Tucker delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance, assisted by the Surry Central ROTC Honor Guard.

Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the February 23, 2018 and March 5, 2018 meetings.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

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

Request by the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
Total releases for the month ending 2/28/18 in the amount of \$1,701.82.

Total refunds for the month ending 2/28/18 in the amount of \$2,778.27.

Total NCVTS Tax and Tag refunds for the month ending 2/28/18 in the amount of \$1,784.75

Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 2/28/18 in the amount of \$5,808.27.

Total EMS additions as of 2/28/18 in the amount of \$152.21.

Total EMS and EMD refunds as of 2/28/18 in the amount of \$196.65.

Total EMS and EMD releases as of 2/28/18 in the amount of \$2,817.55.

Total EMS and EMD collections as of 2/28/18 in the amount of \$26,464.32.

- Approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners received an invitation from the Elkin City Schools to host its regular Board meeting at Elkin High School; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners feels it is desirable from time to time to conduct Board meetings at various locations throughout the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Surry County Board of Commissioners will conduct its April 16, 2018 regular meeting at Elkin High School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- Approve spending up to \$6,500 from the Economic Development Account towards the recertification of Elkin Corporate Park in the Certified Sites North Carolina program, administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF HIRING
SURRY COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, the General Statutes of North Carolina in Chapter 105, Article 16 Section 105-294 state, in part: "the board of county commissioners of each county shall appoint a county assessor to serve a term of not less than two nor more than four years; provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for initial appointment to a term of more than two years unless such person is deemed to be qualified "or has been certified by the Department of Revenue"..... "Whenever a vacancy occurs in this office, the board of county commissioners shall appoint a qualified person to serve as county assessor for the period of the unexpired term."; and

WHEREAS, the position of Surry County Tax Administrator became vacant on September 5, 2017 due to the retirement of the former Tax Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of County Commissioners, after an extensive recruitment process,

has selected Penny M. Harrison as their appointee for Surry County Tax Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrison has met all of the requirements of certification by the State of North Carolina for certification as a county tax assessor; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of County Commissioners wishes to appoint Ms. Harrison to serve as Surry County Tax Administrator until June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS Ms. Harrison will maintain certification as a county assessor as provided in regulations of the North Carolina Department of Revenue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners affirms their action taken on March 5, 2018 appointing Penny M. Harrison as Surry County Tax Administrator serving out the remainder of the term of the former Tax Administrator and a two-year appointment through June 30, 2020. The Board of Commissioners congratulates Penny M. Harrison on her appointment as Surry County Tax Administrator, commends her for the service and commitment she has provided to the County of Surry, and looks forward to successful achievements with Ms. Harrison as a part of the County's leadership team.

- Appoint employee #593 as Interim Clerk to the Board. Appoint employee #870 as a Deputy Clerk to the Board. Appoint employee #1535 as a Deputy Clerk to the Board.
- Approve payment up to \$6,625 for additional cost incurred in a building project, with the Assistant County Manager working with the insurance carrier for settlement and claim closure.

Requests from the Finance Officer:

- Approve budget amendment no. 18 as follows:
The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2017-2018 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on March 19, 2018.

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	51010	Salaries & Wages	27,162	2,269	29,431
1054110	52010	Supplies & Materials	870	1,130	2,000
		Increase departmental total	544,127	3,399	547,526
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>					
1054120	51010	Salaries & Wages	142,342	4,004	146,346
1054120	51350	Group Insurance	8,712	245	8,957
1054120	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,650	100	1,750
		Increase departmental total	187,026	4,349	191,375
<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>					
1054122	51350	Group Insurance	40,695	5,350	46,045
1054122	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,595	6,405	8,000
		Increase departmental total	506,028	11,755	517,783

INTERNAL AUDITOR

1054124	51350	Group Insurance	5,810	159	5,969
1054124	52010	Supplies & Materials	0	500	500
		Increase departmental total.	71,506	659	72,165

FINANCE

1054130	51350	Group Insurance	45,992	2,547	48,539
1054130	52010	Supplies & Materials	7,310	3,690	11,000
		Increase departmental total.	614,016	6,237	620,253

TAX SUPERVISOR

1054130	52010	Supplies & Materials	10,500	10,000	20,500
		Increase departmental total.	1,556,650	10,000	1,566,650

BOARD OF
ELECTIONS

1054170	52010	Supplies & Materials	700	10,000	10,700
		Increase departmental total.	466,165	10,000	476,165

REGISTER OF
DEEDS

1054180	51010	Salaries & Wages	304,962	4,917	309,879
1054180	51350	Group Insurance	48,700	1,153	49,853
1054180	51720	Contracted Services	41,000	4,800	45,800
1054180	52010	Supplies & Materials	5,675	10,000	15,675
		Increase departmental total	486,075	20,870	506,945

JUDICIAL CENTER BLDG

1054185	51010	Salaries & Wages	25,596	1,249	26,845
1054185	51350	Group Insurance	5,808	161	5,969
1054185	52010	Supplies & Materials	2,385	1,000	3,385
		Increase departmental total	344,872	2,410	347,282

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - COUNTY

1054190	51010	Salaries & Wages	254,272	3,338	257,610
1054190	51350	Group Insurance	36,732	757	37,489
		Increase departmental total	628,621	4,095	632,716

ADMIN/SOCIAL SERVICES BLDG

1054196	51010	Salaries & Wages	95,900	1,207	97,107
1054196	51350	Group Insurance	23,232	643	23,875
		Increase departmental total	274,700	1,850	276,550

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

1054199	59545	Departmental Contingency	40,006	(4,800)	35,206
1054199	59520	Salary Contingency	790,456	(205,403)	585,053
1054199	59530	Insurance Contingency	100,000	(43,408)	56,592
		Decrease departmental total.	1,024,457	(253,611)	770,846

CENTRAL SERVICES

1054200	52010	Supplies & Materials	347,576	(296,631)	50,945
1054200	52900	Small Equipment	29,791	(11,500)	18,291
1054200	56010	Equipment	308,854	(308,854)	0
		Decrease departmental total	758,112	(616,985)	141,127

FRONT LINE RECEPTIONIST

1054206	51350	Group Insurance	11,615	323	11,938
		Increase departmental total	83,152	323	83,475

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

1054210	51010	Salaries & Wages	248,214	4,764	252,978
		Increase departmental total.	686,892	4,764	691,656

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1054310	51350	Group Insurance	384,937	1,799	386,736
1054310	52010	Supplies & Material	65,300	41,021	106,321
1054310	52012	Tacticle Supplies	37,450	20,000	57,450
1054310	56010	Equipment	0	201,289	201,289
		Increase departmental total.	4,982,039	264,109	5,246,148

MIDDLE SCHOOLSRO

1054314	51010	Salaries & Wages	154,080	22,296	176,376
1054196	51350	Group Insurance	13,449	7,702	21,151
		Increase departmental total	220,250	29,998	250,248

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

1054316	51010	Salaries & Wages	125,772	14,675	140,447
1054316	51350	Group Insurance	11,616	6,290	17,906
		Increase departmental total	182,621	20,965	203,586

COUNTY JAIL

1054320	51010	Salaries & Wages	1,086,090	32,257	1,118,347
1054320	52010	Supplies & Materials	25,250	24,750	50,000
1054320	56010	Equipment	0	21,372	21,372
		Increase departmental total	2,873,437	78,379	2,951,816

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

1054325	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,050	5,000	6,050
1054325	56010	Equipment	0	24,030	24,030
		Increase departmental total	1,192,537	29,030	1,221,567

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1054330	51010	Salaries & Wages	63,855	8,007	71,862
1054330	52010	Supplies & Materials	6,030	1,170	7,200
1054330	52900	Small Equipment	0	4,000	4,000
1054330	56010	Equipment	0	32,000	32,000
		Increase departmental total	121,140	45,177	166,317

FIRE MARSHAL

1054340	51010	Salaries & Wages	156,483	3,070	159,553
1054340	51350	Group Insurance	18,102	422	18,524
1054340	52010	Supplies & Materials	4,775	10,225	15,000
		Increase departmental total	263,751	13,717	277,468

CENTRALPERMITTING

1054348	51010	Salaries & Wages	121,575	2,909	124,484
1054348	51350	Group Insurance	20,069	29	20,098
1054348	52010	Supplies & Materials	500	2,500	3,000
		Increase departmental total	330,960	5,438	336,398

INSPECTIONS

1054350	52010	Supplies & Materials	100	3,900	4,000
		Increase departmental total	393,389	3,900	397,289

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1054370	51010	Salaries & Wages	3,272,224	79,538	3,351,762
1054370	51350	Group Insurance	435,944	7,625	443,569

1054370	52010	Supplies & Materials	69,530	23,310	92,840
1054370	56010	Equipment	237,191	89,383	326,574
		Increase departmental total	6,314,980	199,856	6,514,836

CONVALESCENT SERVICES

1054372	52010	Supplies & Materials	0	15,900	15,900
		Increase departmental total	319,194	15,900	335,094

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

1054910	51010	Salaries & Wages	140,620	2,386	143,006
1054910	51350	Group Insurance	17,422	484	17,906
1054910	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,150	1,850	3,000
1054910	56010	Equipment	0	26,960	26,960
		Increase departmental total	250,377	31,680	282,057

AGRIC COST SHARE PROGRAM

1054962	51010	Salaries & Wages	50,160	8,361	58,521
		Increase departmental total	68,875	8,361	77,236

SOCIAL SERVICES ADMIN

1055312	51010	Salaries & Wages	340,691	8,011	348,702
		Increase departmental total	1,000,560	8,011	1,008,571

CHILD SUPPORT - TITLE IV-D

1055373	51350	Group Insurance	58,050	4,801	62,851
1055373	52010	Supplies & Materials	0	5,000	
		Increase departmental total	497,203	9,801	507,004

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

1055820	52010	Supplies & Materials	550	3,000	3,550
		Increase departmental total	1,000,560	3,000	1,003,560

RECREATION

1056120	51010	Salaries & Wages	135,902	2,145	138,047
1056120	51350	Group Insurance	17,268	2,150	19,418
1056120	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,700	1,000	2,700
		Increase departmental total	343,973	5,295	349,268

FISHER RIVER PARK

1056125	51350	Group Insurance	5,796	768	6,564
1056125	52010	Supplies & Materials	1,500	1,500	3,000
1056125	56010	Equipment	0	15,000	15,000
		Increase departmental total	245,542	17,268	262,810

- Approve budget amendment no. 19 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2017-2018 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on March 19, 2018.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>			<u>PREVIOUS</u>		<u>REVISED</u>
<u>CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>					
1054198	57457	City of Mount Airy	69,575	22,580	92,155
		Increase departmental total	814,411	22,580	836,991

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

1054199	59510	General Fund Contingency	58,995	(22,580)	36,415
		Decrease departmental total.	770,846	(22,580)	748,266

CENTRALSERVICES

1054200	52010	Supplies & Materials	50,945	(600)	50,345
		Decrease departmental total	141,127	(600)	140,527

SHERIFF'SOFFICE

1054310	53040	Vehicle Maintenance	101,755	4,149	105,904
		Increase departmental total	5,246,148	4,149	5,250,297

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1054370	51030	Salaries & Wages Part-Time	150,000	20,000	170,000
1054370	53040	Vehicle Maintenance	142,798	19,991	162,789
1054370	54450	Laundry & Dry Cleaning	25,000	1,000	26,000
		Increase departmental total	6,514,836	40,991	6,555,827

CONVALESCENT SERVICES

1054372	51010	Salaries & Wages	26,892	(20,000)	6,892
1054372	52350	Automotive Supplies	28,000	(16,000)	12,000
1054372	53050	Radio Maintenance	1,000	(1,000)	0
1054372	54450	Laundry & Dry Cleaning	1,000	(1,000)	0
		Decrease departmental total.	335,094	(38,000)	297,094

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1055181	52010	Supplies & Materials	6,900	600	7,500
		Increase departmental total	663,650	600	664,250

REVENUES

1044000	48500	Insurance Refunds	47,969	7,140	55,109
		Increase fund totals	72,312,820	7,140	72,319,960

GENERAL FUND-NARCOTICS FUNDEXPENDITURESNARCOTICS

1854311	52500	Supplies-Narcotics	20,900	23,316	44,216
1854311	56020	Equipment-Narcotics	20,000	23,890	43,890
		Increase departmental totals.	69,145	47,206	116,351

REVENUES

1844311	49900	Unencumbered Balance	69,145	47,206	116,351
		Increase fund totals	69,145	47,206	116,351

AIRPORT FUNDEXPENDITURESAIRPORT

8154985	51500	Professional Services	26,000	10,000	36,000
		Increase departmental totals.	267,671	10,000	277,671

REVENUES

8144985	49950	Retained Earnings	267,671	10,000	277,671
		Increase Fund Totals	267,671	10,000	277,671

- Accept the offer of \$500 from Dr. Challie Minton for the abandoned water tank at North Surry High School, with the understanding that Dr. Minton will be responsible for dismantling and transporting the tank from the site to its new location.
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Chairman Harris then declared the meeting to be an open forum and invited members of the audience to address the Board on any matters of civic concern. He requested that the candidates for the vacant Central District Board Seat use this time to introduce themselves to the Board.

Mark Marion addressed the Board. Mr. Marion stated he is a Surry County native and is an advocate for the youth and veterans of Surry County. Mr. Marion wishes to serve the people of Surry County.

Tony Childs addressed the Board. Mr. Childs commended the friendliness of Surry County's people. He is concerned about safety in the schools, taxes, and the County's drug problem.

Dr. Gary Tilley addressed the Board. Dr. Tilley complimented Commissioner Golding on his service. Dr. Tilley is committed to economic growth, good government integrity, and transparency. He feels his background would be an asset with prudent debt management and leadership.

County Manager Chris Knopf read a letter from candidate Tony Tilley who was unable to attend. Mr. Tilley was born in Surry County. He and members of his family have extensive public service experience. Mr. Tilley would be honored to be appointed to serve the remainder of Commissioner Golding's term as Surry County Commissioner.

Surry County Republican Party Chair Mark Jones presented the Executive Committee's recommendation to the Board for Commissioner Golding's seat and discussed the process to fill the vacancy. Following serious consideration and evaluation, the recommendation was made to the Board to appoint Mark Marion to the vacant seat.

Billy Cave addressed the Board regarding suggestions for school safety. Mr. Cave discussed having metal detectors and an armed presence in the schools. He thinks utilizing retired veterans for assistance should be considered.

Kevin Leonard, Executive Director of the NC Association of County Commissioners, was recognized by the Board.

There being no additional comments, Chairman Harris closed the open forum, and the Board resumed regular business.

Chairman Harris informed the audience that it was time for the special recognition portion of the agenda. The Board recognized the following Surry County School students who are enrolled in the Next Generation Career Academy: Zeke Benge, Neal Borad, Justin Dorsette, Jakob Elswick-Guden, Sarah Fulk, Carter Graham, Yesenia Lara, Nathaniel McCraw, Ray Mendez, Noah Reece, Caleb Snow and Parker Tilley. The Board also recognized Crystal Folger-Hawks, the Academy's Career Coach.

Danny Hodges, President of the Surry County Farm Bureau Board, presented the Board with a check for \$55,000 to be used towards the construction of the conference and training facility at 915 East Atkins Street in Dobson.

Kristy Preston, Social Services Director, provided the Board an update on activities in the Social Services Department. She discussed January and February, 2018 Dashboard information, Child Welfare Achievements, and results of a Child Support monitoring visit from January 23, 2018. The Child Support unit is above State average for total collections and in all but two incentive areas.

Ms. Preston discussed vacancies on the Community Child Protection team and recommended Robin Testerman, Executive Director of the Children's Center, be appointed to fill one of the vacancies.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Robin Testerman to fill an at-large membership on the Surry County Community Child Protection Team in accordance with NC General Statute 7B-1407(d).

Kristy Preston discussed a proposed Subsidized Child Care Policy. Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Surry County Department of Social Services Subsidized Child Care Services Local Policy, as presented.

Kristy Preston discussed legislative changes in the Medicaid and Health Choice overpayment recoupment plan for 2017 audits. Ms. Preston stated there will be no way for the County to correctly budget in advance for repayments.

Ms. Preston discussed NC House Bill 630 and the possible impact on Surry County.

The Board discussed their recent meeting in Washington, D.C. with federal staff, the recent conference call for County Board members and administrative staff, and the value to local governments to have concerns heard at the Federal level.

Chairman Harris recognized Ms. Janet Sutphin, Mountain Park Elementary School Principal.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, discussed a request from the City of Mount Airy for funding assistance related to their downtown development project on the old Spencer's Mill property. Park Place, LLC, which is owned by the City, has committed to building a theater to be leased to a third party. In addition, two private developers have committed to building a hotel and condominiums. Mr. Knopf stated that the City is requesting three methods of funding assistance: 1) a direct financial incentive equal to the County ad valorem taxes assessed on the theater portion of the property; 2) \$1.5M toward construction costs in years 0-5 to match the City's contribution; and 3) equitable sharing of the anticipated increase in the tax revenues within

an area around the Spencer's Mill redevelopment area for a prescribed timeframe. A map was provided by the City showing the land area referenced in Item #3.

Mayor David Rowe and Commissioner Steve Yokeley, City of Mount Airy, addressed the Board. They conveyed that any financial assistance from the County would be helpful but the City is committed to the project regardless of the County's level of participation. The City needs to know in the short term whether the County will participate financially due to a pending meeting with the Local Government Commission (LGC). Any County financial contribution must be factored into the City's presentation to the LGC. The LGC must approve the City's development agreement regarding the theater portion of the project before they can move forward. Construction on the property must begin by June 16, 2018 so that the City and the two developers can take advantage of tax credits that are due to sunset.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he believed this would be a positive project for the City of Mount Airy. Related to the three funding requests as described by the County Manager, he was supportive of funding request #1 as presented. He was not in favor of funding request #2 as presented but would consider a \$500,000 contribution, spread evenly over five years. He was only in favor of funding request #3 if the area described on the map was scaled back to include the parcels related to the theater, hotel, and condominiums.

Commissioner Phillips shared his concerns that the County Board had such a tight time frame to consider the request from the City and would prefer to wait and decide once the County's FY18-19 budget process was further along. The County has some upcoming budget decisions related to school safety, which is his first priority. He stated that he was supportive of funding request #1 as presented and would be supportive of funding request #3 but only if the area described on the map was scaled back to include the parcels related to the theater, hotel, and condominiums. He was not supportive of funding request #2.

Commissioner Harris stated that the information provided by the City shows that it will create significant investment in Mount Airy. He stated that he understood that the City Board had to make some difficult decisions related to the project. He conveyed that he was supportive of funding request #1, which was a basic cash grant incentive that the County has given to a multitude of economic development projects in the past. He stated that he was supportive of funding request #3 but only if the area described on the map was scaled back to include the parcels related to the theater, hotel, and condominiums. He was not supportive of funding request #2.

Commissioner Tucker stated that he hoped the project was a success for the City. He stated that he was familiar with the theater company that the City has identified for the project. He conveyed that he was supportive of funding request #1. He was not supportive of funding request #2 and #3.

The Board discussed the value and term of any financial assistance to the City related to funding requests #1 and #3. The County Manager advised that any cash grant to Park Place LLC could not exceed ten years.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve funding request #1 as presented for a period of six years and to approve funding request #3, but only if the area described on the map was scaled back to include the parcels related to the theater, hotel, and condominiums, for a period of six years, contingent on the approval of agreements between the County and Park Place LLC and the City of Mount Airy.

Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding the planned improvements to the Mountain Park Elementary School campus. These improvements will be financed in the County's FY18-19 debt issuance.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, provided an update on General Fund Contingency expenditures, to date, for FY17-18.

Chairman Harris stated that it was time for the Board to discuss the appointment of an individual, that resides in the Central District, to fill the Board vacancy created by the retirement of R.F. "Buck" Golding. The term for the Central District seat on the Board expires on December 3, 2018. Consistent with G.S. 153A.27, the Board has 60 days following the vacancy to appoint a replacement.

As required by statute, the Board has solicited and received a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Surry County Republican Party, however, the Board's selection is not bound by this recommendation.

Chairman Harris requested that the three candidates in attendance come forward so that individual Board members could ask them questions.

Chairman Harris asked for candidate views regarding consolidation or maintaining three separate school systems. Dr. Tilley stated he believes any entity governs best closest to the people. He supports smaller systems and believes it is not quantity but quality. Mark Marion stated he believes smaller is better. Tony Childs stated he is open to options, supports school choice, and would look at all factors to make an educated choice.

Commissioner Tucker asked if Mark Marion and Dr. Tilley support school choice. Both support school choice.

Commissioner Johnson asked if candidates realize the commitment requirement for being a County Commissioner. Tony Childs is ready and willing to give the time commitment. Mark Marion will devote all time necessary to the position. Dr. Gary Tilley feels being retired will allow him to devote whatever time is needed to the position.

Larry Phillips discussed the challenges of school funding and asked the candidates if they support educational bonds. Dr. Gary Tilley stated he places high priority on the schools capital needs and would encourage bonds, when needed. Tony Childs stated he would like voters to have input and would listen to all reasonable options. Mark Marion stated bonds

could be great but could also be a risk. He could be supportive if necessary.

Commissioner Phillips stated he was talking about State bonds.

Chairman Harris commended each candidate.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, R.F. "Buck" Golding tendered his written resignation from office to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners on or about the 19th day of February 2018; and

Whereas, the Surry County Board of Commissioners accepted the resignation and provided notice of the vacancy to the Chairman of the Surry County Republican Executive Committee pursuant to NCGS 153A-27; and

Whereas, NCGS Section 153A-27 states that the Board of County Commissioners has 60 days to fill a vacancy that opens on the Board.

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Surry County Board of Commissioners acknowledges a vacancy for the Central District seat due to the retirement of R.F. "Buck" Golding on or about the 19th day of February, 2018; and
2. That the vacancy shall be filled by Dr. Gary Tilley pursuant to NCGS Section 153A-27 following a non-binding consultation with the Surry County Republican Executive Committee.

Chairman Harris stated that Dr. Gary Tilley will be sworn in to office during the April 2, 2018 meeting. He thanked all the candidates for their interest in the position and for attending the meeting. Dr. Tilley thanked the Board for his appointment to the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss personnel pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6), economic development pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(4) and 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 Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve but not release the closed session minutes for February 19, February 23, and March 5, 2018.

There was no further business to come before the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by
Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.
The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Sandy Snow
Interim Clerk to the Board