

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of February 5, 2018

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on February 5, 2018. The meeting was held in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, Surry County Government Center, Dobson, North Carolina.

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

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

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Conchita Atkins, Clerk to the Board
Edwin Woltz, County Attorney
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer
Penny Harrison, Interim Tax Administrator
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director
Daniel White, Parks and Recreation Director
Bryan Cave, Cooperative Extension Director
News Media

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Harris delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda.

Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting.

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

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

Requests by the County Manager:

- Approve Emergency Services to apply and accept, if awarded, the North Carolina Emergency Management HMEP Grant.
- Approve Emergency Services to apply and accept, if awarded, a Local Emergency Planning Committee Tier II grant.
- Approve the Ingleside Phase 6, Lots 28 and 30 final two-lot subdivision.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager for Human Resources and Operations:

- Approve the following retiree resolutions:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, William F. Komraus, affectionately known to everyone as Skip, was employed by Surry County Emergency Medical Services from March 20, 2001 until his retirement on August 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, during his term of service, Mr. Komraus has served as EMT-Paramedic, AirCare Paramedic, Assistant Shift Supervisor/Field Training Officer, and Shift Supervisor, a position he held from December 17, 2016 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Komraus has made significant contributions to Surry County Emergency Medical Services and to the County of Surry, achieving numerous certifications, demonstrating exemplary skill levels, and contributing to his department and to his fellow employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Komraus, in his supervisory role, has led by example, bringing a high level of integrity and professionalism to Surry County Emergency Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, during his years of faithful and dedicated service, Mr. Komraus has earned the admiration and respect of his friends, colleagues, and the employees he has supervised; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners wishes to publicly commend Mr. Komraus for his commitment to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to William F. Komraus its best wishes for many years of happiness during his retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Michael Paul Lineback worked for the Surry County Department of Social Services from December 11, 2000 until his retirement on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, during his employment with the Department of Social Services, Mr. Lineback held the positions of Social Worker I, Social Worker II, Social Worker III, Social Work Supervisor III, and Social Work Program Manager, a position he held from October 1, 2014 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his years of employment, Mr. Lineback has exhibited a strong work ethic, worked well under pressure, and always stood up for what was right. For years, he worked tirelessly for children of Surry County to give them a safe environment to grow and thrive. In his later years of employment, Mr. Lineback supervised and led by example, serving as Supervisor, Program Manager and Director of Social Services in the Director's absence.

WHEREAS, in performing his duties with the Surry County Department of Social Services, Mr. Lineback demonstrated a compassionate and professional attitude in his interaction with

clients, co-workers and community representatives and always exhibited honesty and integrity in dealing with others; and

WHEREAS, Michael Paul Lineback has faithfully served Surry County as a caring and conscientious public servant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board publicly commends Michael Paul Lineback for his service to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to Michael Paul Lineback its best wishes for many years of happiness during his retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Rita W. Johnson worked for the Surry County Department of Social Services from October 24, 1972 until her retirement on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, during her employment with the Department of Social Services, Mrs. Johnson held the positions of Social Worker II, Social Worker III, and Social Work Supervisor III, a position she held from November 1, 1989 until her retirement on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, through the years, Mrs. Johnson advocated tirelessly for children and families of Surry County, especially abused and neglected children. She had a special place in her heart for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, during her faithful service, Mrs. Johnson has earned the admiration and respect of fellow employees, friends, and colleagues. She has exhibited a true desire in helping abused and neglected children and their parents, supporting her staff, and working to help stop domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, in performing her duties with the Department of Social Services, Mrs. Johnson has always demonstrated a compassionate, respectful and professional attitude in her interactions with clients, co-workers, subordinates, community stakeholders and others. In her supervisory role, Mrs. Johnson, has led by example, bringing a high level of integrity and professionalism to Surry County Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, Rita W. Johnson has faithfully served Surry County as a caring and conscientious public servant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board publicly commends Rita W. Johnson for her service to the citizens of Surry County and wishes to express its appreciation for her years of dedicated employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends to Rita W. Johnson its best wishes for many years of happiness during her retirement.

- Approve the monthly internet charges for Public Works at North Surry and Mountain Park Recycling Centers.
- Approve fees and fee waivers for Summer Day Camp.

- Approve the Parks and Recreation Operating Schedule for 2018.

Requests from the Finance Officer:

- Approve budget amendment no. 15 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on February 5, 2018.

ACCOUNT			PREVIOUS		REVISED
CODE		DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHANGE	AMOUNT
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</u>					
1054330	52010	Supplies & Materials	5,950	80	6,030
1054330	54350	Printing	0	920	920
		Increase departmental totals.	120,140	1,000	121,140
<u>HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT MT. AIRY RESCUE SQUAD (NEW)</u>					
1054338	56010	Equipment (NEW)	0	45,000	45,000
		Increase departmental total.	0	45,000	45,000
<u>PCM</u>					
1055161	52010	Supplies & Materials	50	10,000	10,050
		Increase departmental total.	167,200	10,000	177,200
<u>TRANSFERS</u>					
1059810	59210	Trans. To Capital Improvement	4,681,895	300,000	4,981,895
		Increase departmental total.	6,113,376	300,000	6,413,376
<u>REVENUES</u>					
1044000	49900	Unencumbered Balance	4,974,989	300,000	5,274,989
1044330	43136	LEPC Tier II Grant (NEW)	0	1,000	1,000
1044338	42314	HazMat Equipment Grant (NEW)	0	45,000	45,000
1045161	42324	NCCN Carry Forward	28,150	10,000	38,150
		Increase fund totals	71,696,138	356,000	72,052,138
<u>GENERAL FUND - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</u>					
2554245	59130	Transfer to School Capital	2,464,193	300,000	2,764,193
		Increase departmental total.	9,198,278	300,000	9,498,278
<u>REVENUES</u>					
2544245	49800	Transfer from General Fund	4,681,895	300,000	4,981,895
		Increase fund totals	9,198,278	300,000	9,498,278
<u>SCHOOLS' CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>CAPITAL OUTLAY-SCHOOLS</u>					
2755912	57020	County Schools - Land & Property	57,900	300,000	357,900
		Increase departmental total.	2,988,332	300,000	3,288,332
<u>REVENUES</u>					
2745912	49810	Trans. From General Fund Cap. Imp.	2,464,193	300,000	2,764,193
		Increase fund totals	2,988,332	300,000	3,288,332

- Approve Emergency Services to apply and accept, if awarded, a Hazard Mitigation Grant.

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.

Bryan Cave, Cooperative Extension Director, introduced Carmon Long, Family Consumer Science Agent. Ms. Long stated for the last several years she has worked with assisting Seniors on Health Insurance Programs. They assist individuals who need help deciding on health care plans. In 2017, there were 6 volunteers that assisted 640 individuals for a savings of \$984,670. Ms. Long stated a lot of effort goes into educating the public on health care.

Rick Webster, Commander of the General Jeb Stuart 1598 Camp, spoke in support of leaving the monuments that are located on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse in their current state. Men and women who served our Country in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and the Korean Conflict are not here to stand for their honor. The monuments honor our history. The monuments represent wars that our ancestors fought. Why would we want to change history, history will be erased if it is changed? Mr. Webster stated if any plans are made to change the monuments, please consider, at one point in time, they were a part of everyone's history.

Angela Haws stated she was here to speak in honor of her ancestors and their history. Ms. Haws stated there are 70-80 million decedents of federal soldiers across the world. Over 1,000 confederate soldiers served from Surry County. 259 confederate soldiers died in the war from Surry County. Their names are on the war memorial in Mount Airy. Memorials have been erected across the state, paid for by family members, in honor of soldiers who did not return home from the war. Ms. Haws requested to leave the monuments at the Historic Courthouse in place as they are for the people who sacrificed for their Country.

Chairman Harris stated this topic came before the Board a few meetings back. Chairman Harris stated from his perspective that he does not support any changes or alterations to the monuments on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse. He would oppose any attempt to remove them. Surry County suffered during the Civil War and is still being affected by a conflict that happened 150-years ago. Surry County citizens deserve the monuments for the individuals who died fighting in the Civil War. Chairman Harris stated he is not prepared to make any changes to the memorials at the Historic Courthouse.

Commissioner Golding stated that history is what it is and without history it is hard to determine where you are going. History is important and will guide you in the future. We need documentation of our history and the monuments serve that purpose.

Commissioner Tucker stated history is history with some being good, some bad and some being ugly, but it is still our history. Taking down monuments is over the top in trying to repaint history. You cannot go back and clean it all up, it is hard to purge one's nation of history. Commissioner Tucker has no plan to vote to make any changes to the monuments at the Historic Courthouse.

Commissioner Phillips stated the opportunity is being missed to teach children history at the Historic Courthouse. Let them read the names on the monuments and teach them what happened 150-years ago. Explain to them why we do not want to

repeat what happened and ask them what they will do to insure it does not happen again. We need to explain history to the next generation so they will learn from it and not repeat it.

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

Penny Harrison, Interim Tax Administrator, addressed the Board regarding the amount of unpaid current year taxes that are lien on real property. Ms. Harrison stated pursuant to NCGS 105-369(a), each year the tax collector must report to the governing body the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property as of February 1st. Ms. Harrison stated the amount of unpaid taxes for the current year that are liens on real property is \$1,562,813.91.

Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Interim Tax Administrator to advertise the tax liens.

Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, addressed the Board regarding a request to enter bond trustee contract with BB&T and DEC Associates for the Limited Obligation Bond Issuance in 2018.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously for the County to enter into contract with BB&T and DEC Associates for Limited Obligation Bond Issuance 2018.

John Shelton, Emergency Services Director, stated as an on-going project with the Central Branch of the North Carolina Emergency Management, Surry County's Emergency Services has been asked to host a regional grant project. The grant involves upgrades of 17 regional message boards for counties in Disaster Preparedness Region 5. Surry County Emergency Services will be the direct recipient of three message board upgrades. The boards can be remotely programmed and tracked via on-board modems and GPS devices. Mr. Shelton stated the signs are used for recreation, controlled burns, emergencies on the interstates and any health issues. The grant is a reimbursement grant for up to \$32,052 from the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management for the first 24-months. The costs after the 24-month period would be \$390 annually for the three units.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve Emergency Services to apply and accept, if awarded, reimbursement funds for a North Carolina Emergency Management Regional Grant Project.

Chairman Harris informed the audience that it was time for the special recognition portion of the agenda. The Board recognized the following individual:

William F. Komraus for his many years of faithful service to Surry County.

The Board took a ten-minute recess.

The Board resumed regular business.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding Surry County's upcoming 250th Anniversary in 2020. Mr. Knopf recommended a committee to be tasked with planning events and coordinating the anniversary. Mr. Knopf presented a list of suggested members.

Mr. Knopf will address at a future meeting.

Chairman Harris stated the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I is this November. A ceremony needs to be organized commemorating the end of World War I.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, discussed the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Regional Meeting on Child Welfare. The meeting was organized to facilitate education and discussion related to the passage of HB 630 last year. The bill addressed the creation of a regional supervision structure for social services, reforming the child welfare system, improving accountability and oversight of the child welfare system and other issues related to social services. Changes are coming in how these services will be administered in North Carolina and it may go from more of a decentralized model to a centralized model.

Commissioner Tucker stated the meeting was a regional meeting sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Association on HB 630. The bill will regionalize the supervision of County Social Services Departments. When Surry County fulfills the mandate of the state of the Department of Health and Human Services, they currently have some leeway in how they organize their department. HB 630 will have a different model of supervision. Commissioner Tucker stated he did not feel that the Department of Health and Human Services came to discuss HB 630; he feels they came to soften the blow of a future decentralized model. It will have to go into law and pass, but the Department of Health and Human Services has a lot of momentum towards the end.

Commissioner Phillips stated the State of North Carolina traditionally gave local governments the right to do what the Surry County Board of Commissioners did by dissolving the Department of Social Services Board and assume control. Once dissolved, the Board of Commissioners required eyes on safety inspection on all children in foster care. With HB 630, the County Commissioners will lose the ability to tweak the Department of Social Services which we have the flexibility to do currently. The North Carolina Association was against HB 630. Once a regional Department of Social Services Board is created, will any County Commissioner be a part of the Board to monitor how the tax dollars are spent?

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding a petition and resolution to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for abandonment of a portion of Elkin Landfill Road. Mr. Knopf stated there is illegal dumping and litter on

that portion of the road. The County will place a gate across the road to control the issue.

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

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY
SAFETY REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT FROM STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY
ROAD SYSTEM**

**NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SURRY**

Road description: Portion of Elkin Landfill Road (SR 1191)

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Surry requesting that the above described road, be removed from the Secondary Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be removed from the Secondary Road System, if the removal meets criteria established by the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation and Highway Safety Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Surry that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above-described road, and to abandon the road if it meets established standards and criteria.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding the Surry County Farm Bureau Board has offered to contribute \$55,000 towards the construction of the conference and training area in the Dobson Plaza. In return, the Farm Bureau Board requests that the conference and training area be named after the Surry County Farm Bureau. Their interest is related to the beneficiaries of the conference and training center who will be participants in services provided by the Cooperative Extension Services, as well as Surry Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA. Mr. Knopf stated this is similar to an arrangement in Yadkin County where Farm Bureau's name was placed on their conference and training center. Mr. Knopf stated that Surry County has a history of allowing naming rights at Fisher River Park.

Commissioner Johnson asked how do we advertise naming rights? There may be another company in Surry County who wants their name on the conference room.

Mr. Knopf discussed the Fisher River Park Gift catalog process. Mr. Knopf stated the reason Farm Bureau was interested is because the facility will be used in many instances to benefit the agricultural community.

Attorney Woltz stated it does not have to be formally advertised.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the County could table the request for 30-days and post the issue publicly.

It was the consensus of the Board to table the issue for 30-days.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented the Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squad audits.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to approve and not release the January 16, 2018 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to amend the County Manager's agenda to include an additional item.

Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding a request from the Surry County Board of Education, as required by General Statutes, to use existing capital outlay funds for property acquisition. Dr. Reeves discussed school need studies that have been completed. In the studies, it showed a need for additional acreage at East Surry High School. The Board of Education is asking to utilize existing capital outlay funds to purchase 6.4 acres of tax parcel 5966-10-45-0303. It would be purchased at tax value and the owner is willing to finance the purchase for three years at the lowest legal interest rate. There is a need for additional parking and practice fields at East Surry High School.

Chairman Harris asked was there was any discussion on a first right of refusal on the remainder of the Harris property.

Dr. Reeves stated that he and Attorney Johnson have had that conversation with Mr. Harris, but not recently.

Commissioner Tucker discussed the importance of a first right of refusal in hopes that someday the school system may own the land between the school and the Harris property.

Commissioner Golding asked about grading costs estimates.

Dr. Reeves stated there are no estimates, but that when the school board looks at the comprehensive needs study, this property is phase 2 and the school system is just starting phase 1. This is a long-range visionary item in the next 50-years. There is double digit growth in the East Surry High School District. The school board is planning long term.

Commissioner Phillips asked if the school obtains the property, how many pieces will that give the school system in proximity of the school. Dr. Reeves stated two. Commissioner Phillips stated that the school system has the two key pieces needed so the Harris property would be a good fit.

Commissioner Tucker stated the Board of Commissioners have an obligation to approve how the school systems utilize their funds for the purchase of property. The General Assembly requires the Board of County Commissioners to approve the request. Commissioner Tucker asked Dr. Reeves if the school board members are in favor of the purchase. Dr. Reeves stated their vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to allow the Surry County Schools to purchase tax parcel 5966-10-45-0303 using existing capital outlay funds. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Golding stated he feels this is a strange footprint and the funds will be appropriated again for other needs. Commissioner Golding asked what will the school system do with the property if not utilized in the long-range plan.

Dr. Reeves stated that moving the home is an option, renting the home, and housing for teachers would be short term options. Long term would be space needs at East Surry High School.

Commissioner Golding stated he does not like the idea of not getting the entire parcel.

Commissioner Phillips stated we looked at this last year, this property, minus the two adjacent lots and his fear was if the school system purchased the Harris property, the adjacent owners will increase the value on those properties. Now that those properties have been secured, it makes this request a more viable project. The school board has leverage now that they did not have last year.

Commissioner Tucker stated if there was ample time to secure first rights of refusal and put the properties together as one, he would be inclined to support the project wholeheartedly. If not now, certainly in the future, East Surry High School could utilize the parcel to expand with buildings, practice fields and parking, but because they do not yet have first rights of refusal to absolutely put the entire project together and because there is some uncertainty on what might be the short-range plan or the long-range plan there are contingencies. One of the options may never be to place a facility on the property because the school system may never obtain all the property between the Harris and school properties. Commissioner Tucker stated that the school system may someday be able to purchase the other two properties, but he is not one-hundred percent sure it can be accomplished. Commissioner Tucker stated he would rather take more time to nail down the first rights of refusal and because of that he will be inclined to vote no.

A vote was taken on the matter.

Ayes: Chairman Harris, Commissioner Phillips, Commissioner Johnson

Nays: Commissioner Golding, Commissioner Tucker

The vote passed with by a 3-2 vote.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss personnel pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6).

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

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 8:20 p.m.

Conchita Atkins
Clerk to the Board