

Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of April 3, 2017

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on April 3, 2017. 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 for Human Resources and Operations  
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer  
Citizens  
News Media

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Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

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

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Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda.

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

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Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the March 20, 2017 and March 21, 2017 meetings.

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

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

Requests by the County Manager:

- Approve the Parks and Recreation Department to waive all user fees for all facilities at Fisher River Park for Surry County Schools.
- Approve the following from the Tax Department:  
Total releases for the month ending 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$1,186.95.  
Total refunds for the month ending 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$2,776.71.  
Total NCVTS Tag and Tax refunds for the month ending 2/28/17 in the amount of \$291.32.

Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$6,224.44.

Total Motor Vehicle Discoveries for the month ending 2/28/17 in the amount of \$291.69.

Total EMS and EMD additions as of 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$137,966.15.

Total EMS and EMD refunds as of 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$28.74.

Total EMS and EMD releases as of 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$370.79.

Total EMS and EMD collections as of 2/28/2017 in the amount of \$5,570.54.

**Requests from the Finance Officer:**

- Approve the Health and Nutrition Center to lease a new copier for Administration.
- Approve the Sheriff's Office to declare a 20136 Ford Edge VIN# 2FMDK4KC5DBA14275 and trade the vehicle for another vehicle to be used by Narcotics.
- Approve budget amendment no. 23 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on April 3, 2017.

<u>ACCOUNT CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PREVIOUS AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>REVISED AMOUNT</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>				
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
<u>SCC M&amp;O</u>				
1055921 51665	Repairs & renovations	505,000	(65,000)	440,000
	Decrease departmental total.	2,860,000	(65,000)	2,795,000
<u>REVENUES</u>				
1044000 49900	Unencumbered balance	4,273,374	(65,000)	4,208,374
	Decrease fund totals	70,370,576	(65,000)	70,305,576

- Approve budget amendment no. 24 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on April 3, 2017.

<u>ACCOUNT CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PREVIOUS AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>REVISED AMOUNT</u>
<u>SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS</u>				
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
4055916 57500	Elkin City Schools	934,623	37,000	971,623
4155915 57500	Mount Airy City Schools	793,640	32,000	825,640
4254381 57500	Ararat Fire	94,074	5,000	99,074
4354382 57500	Bannertown Fire	239,964	47,000	286,964
4454384 57500	C.C. Camp Fire	139,611	8,000	147,611
4554383 57500	Central Surry Fire	163,601	4,000	167,601
4654385 57500	Four-Way Fire	184,184	4,000	188,184
4754386 57500	Franklin Fire	332,299	11,000	343,299
4854387 57500	Jot-Um-Down Fire	100,750	9,000	109,750
4954388 57500	Mountain Park Fire	124,267	5,000	129,267
5054389 57500	Pilot Knob Fire	183,016	6,000	189,016
5154390 57500	Shoals Fire	90,161	3,000	93,161
5254391 57500	Skull Camp Fire	167,270	8,000	175,270

5354392	57500	South Surry Fire	185,592	8,000	193,592
5454393	57500	State Road Fire	74,003	4,000	78,003
5554394	57500	Westfield Fire	79,584	4,000	83,584
5654395	57500	White Plains Fire	163,052	6,000	169,052
5754396	57500	Pine Ridge Fire	125,917	5,000	130,917
5854397	57500	Pleasant Hill	440	100	540

REVENUES

4045916	41100	Elkin City Schools	871,373	35,000	906,373
4045916	41102	Elkin City Schools Mount Airy City Schools	2,500	2,000	4,500
4145915	41100	Ararat Fire	699,840	32,000	731,840
4244381	41100	Bannertown Fire	81,254	5,000	86,254
4344382	41100	C.C. Camp Fire	209,664	47,000	256,664
4444384	41100	Central Surry Fire	129,240	8,000	137,240
4544383	41100	Four-Way Fire	140,251	4,000	144,251
4644385	41100	Franklin Fire	154,584	4,000	158,584
4744386	41100	Jot-Um-Down Fire	283,814	11,000	294,814
4844387	41100	Mountain Park Fire	87,840	9,000	96,840
4944388	41100	Pilot Knob Fire	108,367	5,000	113,367
5044389	41100	Shoals Fire	165,216	6,000	171,216
5144390	41100	Skull Camp Fire	78,936	3,000	81,936
5244391	41100	South Surry Fire	145,920	8,000	153,920
5344392	41100	State Road Fire	161,304	8,000	169,304
5444393	41100	Westfield Fire	65,683	4,000	69,683
5544394	41100	White Plains Fire	68,674	4,000	72,674
5644395	41100	Pine Ridge Fire	140,352	6,000	146,352
5744396	41100	Pleasant Hill	108,192	5,000	113,192
5844397	41100	Increase Special Districts' Totals by	340	100	440
				206,100	

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.

Chairman Harris recognized Mount Airy City Commissioner Shirley Brinkley.

David Raborn, Honor Guard Post 2019, stated the Honor Guard utilizes a 1992 van to carry veterans to funeral services for veterans. Mr. Raborn stated the van needs repairs and has high mileage. Mr. Raborn stated the Honor Guard can perform two or three funerals per day. Mr. Raborn stated the Honor Guard has raised over \$6,000 for a van and the City of Mount Airy has committed \$20,000. Mr. Raborn asked the County for support in the purchase of a van for the Honor Guard.

Samuel Gunter, Honor Guard Post 2019, stated he is the driver of the van and the van needs repairs. The van has no air conditioning. Mr. Gunter stated the Honor Guard needs the van to safely carry the Honor Guard to various locations.

Shirley Brinkley stated the City of Mount Airy committed to give \$20,000 toward the van and challenges the Board of Commissioners to follow suit.

The Board will take under consideration at the April 6, 2017 budget work session.

Cindy Brannock, Dobson Community Library Branch, discussed library services and community outreach. Libraries are a resource for the community. All libraries have WIFI and offer tax services, job assistance services, story time for Pre-K Programs, and a summer reading program.

Joan Sherif, Interim Northwest Regional Library Director, stated the libraries are currently working on e-rate with five libraries in Surry County which try to provide the best service possible for citizens. Ms. Sherif discussed the NC Cardinal Program. Citizens can borrow approximately six million items across the State from libraries. Ms. Sherif discussed the many services provided by the libraries.

Don Miner stated he supported those in the military services and thanked the Honor Guard for their service to Surry County. Mr. Miner presented the Honor Guard with \$50 to go toward the purchase of a van.

Roy Thomasson, newly elected Chairman of the Democratic Party, gave the Board a brief background of himself and stated the Democratic Party will present a recommendation for Sheriff, since Sheriff Atkinson will be taking a job with the Governor. The next Democratic meeting will take place on April 28, 2017. Mr. Thomasson stated there were two Sheriff candidates: Jimmy Combs and Mike Creed. Mr. Thomasson stated that Mike Creed withdrew his name on April 1, 2017.

Joe Barr stated that he appreciated and prays for the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Barr stated that he and his family support local libraries. Mr. Barr also stated the he supports the Surry County litter program.

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

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

Destini Hudson, East Surry High School, for her participation in the Surry County Litter Logo Design and placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the contest.

Megan Parker, Michele Utt, Meredith Dickens, Nikki Cannoy, Sarah Mooneyhan, Ramona Parker, Rebekah Hatton, and Sarah Marshall, Department of Social Services, for their successful completion of Surry County's flagship NC FAST course offered in partnership with Surry Community College.

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The Board took a five-minute recess.

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The Board resumed regular business.

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Maggie Simmons, Assistant Health Director, distributed the 2016 State of the County Health Report and County Health Rankings. Ms. Simmons gave a presentation on the State of the County Health Report and briefed the Board outlining how Surry

is addressing the top priorities that were selected from the Community Health Assessment. Ms. Simmons discussed priority interventions for obesity, substance abuse prevention, and access to affordable healthcare. Ms. Simmons discussed new and emerging issues affecting healthcare and the new initiative for living health. Ms. Simmons showed results of the top five leading causes of death in Surry County, the County health rankings for 2016 and the 2017 North Carolina Child Health Report Card.

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Chairman Harris recognized Clerk of Court Teresa Odell.

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Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, addressed the Board regarding a FY 2016-2017 contract for our audits. Ms. Bowen stated the County has utilized Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A. for the audits of Surry County and the Flatrock/Bannertown Water and Sewer District. The County has used Martin Starnes and Associates for several years and has been satisfied with their services. This is the final year of our 3-year contract.

Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to enter a one-year contract with Martin Starnes and Associates for audit services.

Commissioner Phillips asked if Surry County takes control of the Mount Airy/Surry County Airport, will the auditors assist with the audit at no costs. Ms. Bowen stated it will depend on how the airport will be organized under County government.

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Attorney Edwin Woltz discussed two proposed mandatory connection ordinances: An Ordinance requiring mandatory sewer connection and payment of availability fees under certain circumstances within the Interstates Water and Sewer District and An Ordinance requiring mandatory sewer connections and payment of available fees under certain circumstances between the Mount Airy City Limits and the Interstates Water and Sewer District. The ordinances are tools that would permit mandatory connections and availability fess to the gravity sewer portion of the sewer project. There are two separate ordinances; the District Board Members would approve one and the Board of Commissioner would approve the other. Mandatory connections would require new construction, a building permit and be located within 200 feet of a gravity sewer line to connect. Developed property, where there is one or more structures existing, located within 200 feet of the sewer line, would have the option of paying an availability fee for connecting. Any connection to the sewer line would require water availability. The difference in the availability fee and a mandatory connection fee is that one deals with consumption and use of water and the other does not, it is the cost of putting the pipes in the ground. The legislators have permitted local governments to require an availability fee be paid which is the overhead associated with the project. Mr. Woltz discussed City rates, fee schedules, availability fees and usages.

Commissioner Golding asked if citizens do not have water available are you still required to connect to sewer. Mr. Woltz stated if no water is available you do not have to connect to

sewer. A portion of the project is force main and a portion is gravity.

Chairman Harris stated that gravity is easier to connect to and force main is difficult and costly to connect too.

The County Manager stated that letters were mailed to all effected property owners along the gravity portion of the project area.

The Board discussed mandatory sewer connection sites and the availability of water at those sites.

Commissioner Phillips discussed addressing the two ordinances as separate issues. Individuals inside the district discussed mandatory connections at the beginning of the project.

Commissioner Golding asked about Cedar Ridge Elementary School which is two miles from the end of the sewer line. Mr. Knopf stated the school is not in the district but the system could be extended to the school in the future.

Chairman Harris opened the floor for public comments.

J.T. Henson stated that individuals within the district should be required to have mandatory connections and availability fees which would impact him.

Hampton Beamer asked if he will be required to connect to sewer.

Chairman Harris stated that if the ordinance between the Mount Airy City Limits and the Interstates Water and Sewer District is not adopted, it will not affect Mr. Beamer's property.

Commissioner Phillips stated that there are very few things that the current Board does that is binding on future Boards and that is a concern. The current Board does not want to force connections between the Mount Airy City Limits and the Interstates Water and Sewer District, which was not the intent of constructing the sewer system within the district. It had nothing to do with the residents but everything to do with economic development within that district.

Josh Nixon opposes the ordinance that could require mandatory connection between the Mount Airy City Limits and the Interstates Water and Sewer District.

Harold Hooker owns four separate adjoining parcels of property and asked if he would have to pay four tap fees.

Mr. Woltz stated if a water line and gravity sewer are available at each parcel, you may be obligated to hook on the sewer. Mr. Hooker stated one parcel is only 2/10's of an acre. Mr. Woltz stated if you cannot get a building permit you, would not be obligated to connect on sewer. Another option would be to combine the parcels.

Hampton Beamer stated he had not settled on his easements since they were relocated and there is not a signed easement.

The County Manager stated he is waiting on the as-built surveys after construction, and you should be able to see where the sewer lines are located. He should have the information by the beginning of next week.

Mr. Beamer stated he has received one payment for an easement.

Chairman Harris stated that Surry County will act in good faith and asked Mr. Beamer to work with the County Attorney and County Manager on the easement.

Ray Smith asked if the Interstates District boundary will change since there is commercial property across the street from his property. Mr. Woltz stated that it would not change.

Chairman Harris closed the public comment period.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between Surry and Stokes counties for Back-up 911 Communications.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Surry and Stokes counties.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, stated the Shay Street Water Project and Graham Field request had been pulled from his agenda items.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve and not release the March 20, 2017 and March 21, 2017 closed session minutes.

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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) and property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

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

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Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the bid from J.G. Coram Construction for the relocation of Communications to the Human Services Center.

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Attorney Woltz stated the Board directed him to make a counter offer in the amount of \$1.5M for the Dobson Plaza located at 911 Atkins Street. The property owners accepted the offer and have signed an Offer to Purchase Contract. The County Manager would sign on behalf of the County.

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

County Manager to sign the Offer to Purchase Contract for the property located at 911 East Atkins Street and deliver a \$10,000 earnest money deposit.

Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, discussed a resolution, Capital Project Ordinance and budget amendment no. 25 for the purchase of property located at 911 East Atkins Street.

Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution, Capital Project Ordinance and budget amendment no. 25 as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SURRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
DECLARING ITS OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE  
EXPENDITURES UNDER UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
TREASURY REGULATIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") for the County of Surry, North Carolina (the "County") as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby finds, determines and declares the following:

(a) Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations (the "Regulations") prescribes specific procedures which will be applicable to certain bonds or notes issued by or on behalf of the County including, without limitation, a requirement that the County declare its official intent to reimburse certain expenditures with proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County prior to, or within sixty (60) days of, payment of the expenditures to be reimbursed.

(b) The County intends to advance its own funds in order to pay certain capital costs (the "Original Expenditures") relating to the (i) acquisition and renovation of the Dobson Plaza building, (ii) renovation of the Historic Courthouse and (iii) renovation of the Judicial Center, all for use by the County for additional office space (collectively, the "Project").

(c) The County reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the Original Expenditures from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

(d) \$8,000,000 is the maximum principal amount of debt expected to be incurred for the purpose of paying the costs of the Project.

(e) This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

(f) The funds heretofore advanced or to be advanced by the County to pay the Original Expenditures are or will be available only on a temporary basis, and do not consist of funds that were otherwise earmarked or intended to be used by the County to permanently finance the Original Expenditures.



(g) All Original Expenditures to be reimbursed by the County were paid no more than sixty (60) days prior to, or will be paid on or after the date of, this declaration of official intent, except with respect to certain amounts incurred before such 60-day period not exceeding 20% of the issue price of the proceeds of the debt to be hereinafter incurred which are expended for "preliminary expenditures" within the meaning of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations (the "Preliminary Expenditures"). The County understands that, except for the Preliminary Expenditures, such reimbursement must occur not later than eighteen (18) months after the later of (a) the date the Original Expenditures were paid and (b) the date the Project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three (3) years after the Original Expenditures were paid.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

#### CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

##### DOBSON PLAZA PROJECT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Surry that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, this capital project ordinance is hereby adopted:

SECTION 1: The project authorized by this ordinance includes purchase, repairs and renovations to the existing property.

SECTION 2: The officers of this governmental unit are hereby directed to proceed with this capital project within the guidelines set by the budget herein.

SECTION 3: The costs of the project are:

A. Property Purchase	1,500,000.00
B. Property Assessment	7,500.00
C. Other Costs	2,274.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,774.00</b>

SECTION 4: The following financing sources are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

Transfer from General Fund	<u>1,509,774.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,774.00</b>

SECTION 5: The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly to the Board of Commissioners on the financial status of the project.

SECTION 6: The Budget Officer is directed to include an analysis of past and future costs and revenue for this capital project in each annual budget submitted to the Board of Commissioners for as long as this ordinance shall remain in effect.

SECTION 7: Any balance of appropriated funds which are unexpected at the conclusion of this project shall be reserved by the Board of Commissioners for use as provided by applicable law or regulation.

**SECTION 8: Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.**

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2016-2017 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on April 3, 2017.

<u>ACCOUNT CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PREVIOUS AMOUNT</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>REVISED AMOUNT</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>				
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
<u>TRANSFERS</u>				
1059810	59175 Trans. to Cap.Proj.County Bldg. (NEW)	6,721,792	1,509,774	8,231,566
<u>REVENUE</u>				
1044000	49900 Unencumbered Balance	4,273,374	1,509,774	5,783,148
	Increase fund totals.	70,305,576	1,509,774	71,815,350
<u>COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND</u>				
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
<u>DOBSON PLAZA</u>				
99154188	51500 Professional Services (NEW)	0	7,500	7,500
99154188	55150 Insurance and Bonding (NEW)	0	2,274	2,274
99154188	56550 Buildings (NEW)	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Increase departmental total.	0	1,509,774	1,509,774
<u>REVENUES</u>				
99144188	49800 Transfer from General Fund	0	1,509,774	1,509,774
	Increase fund totals	0	1,509,774	1,509,774

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There was no further business to come before the Board.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to recess until April 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. for a budget work session, Room 335 of the Government Center. The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

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Conchita Atkins  
Clerk to the Board