

Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of February 6, 2017

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on February 6, 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  
Michael Hartgrove, Tax Administrator  
Teresa Odell, Clerk of Court  
News Media

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Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Johnson 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 Golding, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

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Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, 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 Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items:

Request by the County Manager:

- Pursuant to NCGS 105-396(a) approve the Tax Administrator to advertise tax liens in the amount of \$2,010,059.60.

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

- Approve Workers' Compensation claims and settlement activity in the amount of \$5,267.34 for the quarter ending December 31, 2016.
- Amend the Position Classification Plan by adding Assistant Purchasing Agent to Grade 64.

- Approve the Sheriff's Office to utilize grant funding to purchase a server to download videos from patrol vehicles.
- Reclassify position #531348 from a Social Worker Supervisor III to an IM Supervisor III.

Request from the Finance Officer:

- Approve budget amendment no. 16 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on February 6, 2017.

| <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>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</u> |       |                          |                 |               |                |
| 1054199                 | 59510 | General Fund Contingency | 87,477          | (7,500)       | 79,977         |
|                         |       | Decrease departmental    |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | total.                   | 711,622         | (7,500)       | 704,122        |
| <u>CENTRAL SERVICES</u> |       |                          |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | Prof. Services           |                 |               |                |
| 1054200                 | 51560 | Engineering              | 50,000          | 7,500         | 57,500         |
|                         |       | Increase departmental    |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | total.                   | 130,000         | 7,500         | 137,500        |
| <u>SHERIFF'S OFFICE</u> |       |                          |                 |               |                |
| 1054310                 | 52010 | Supplies and Materials   | 125,902         | 15,353        | 141,255        |
| 1054310                 | 56010 | Equipment                | 186,589         | 9,135         | 195,724        |
|                         |       | Increase departmental    |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | total.                   | 5,019,435       | 24,488        | 5,043,923      |
| <u>JAIL</u>             |       |                          |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | Miscellaneous -          |                 |               |                |
| 1054320                 | 55658 | Commissary               | 35,000          | 15,000        | 50,000         |
|                         |       | Increase departmental    |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | total.                   | 2,443,408       | 15,000        | 2,458,408      |
| <u>REVENUES</u>         |       |                          |                 |               |                |
|                         |       | Governors Crime Comm.    |                 |               |                |
| 1044310                 | 42325 | Grant                    | 0               | 24,488        | 24,488         |
|                         |       | Miscellaneous -          |                 |               |                |
| 1044320                 | 48980 | Commissary               | 40,000          | 15,000        | 55,000         |
|                         |       | Increase Fund Totals     | 70,355,804      | 39,488        | 70,395,292     |

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.

Robin Angel stated that she is in the process of purchasing property on Shay Street in Mount Airy. Ms. Angel expressed concerns regarding the water quality of her well. Ms. Angel stated an analysis had been completed by Research and Analytical Laboratories and the results were 2490 mg/L. The standard for drinking water is 0.3. Ms. Angel stated that people in the neighborhood need clean drinking water. Ms. Angel stated that the home has a filtration system but a plumber told Ms. Angel it

would be difficult to keep the filters changed due to the bad water quality. Ms. Angel stated the water is unusable in any capacity.

Commissioner Tucker asked Ms. Angel if a home inspection has been completed on the property and Ms. Angel stated it was a foreclosed property. She was told to drill a well and hope for better results. After consulting with a plumber, he stated it would be costly and probable not to obtain good water.

Commissioner Johnson stated the County was responsible for the questionnaire sent to property owners and the issue will be discussed later in the meeting.

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

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Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer, addressed the Board regarding an articulated truck lease for Public Works. Ms. Bowen discussed three leasing options. Ms. Bowen stated the Public Works Director feels the governmental option is the better option. This option allows for 60 monthly payments of \$5,768.37 for a 60-month total of \$346,102.20 with a balloon payment of \$91,120 at the end of the lease, where Surry County takes complete ownership of the vehicle. The total amount for a five year period is \$437,222.20 at a fixed rate of 3.2%. The lease does allow for the equipment to be returned with no consequences if there are no budget allocations made for the next fiscal year.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve Public Works to move forward with the governmental option for the articulated truck lease.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding a resolution supporting and endorsing the continued funding of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's contracted litter collection. The resolution was requested by the Litter Committee in support of this effort. The resolution will be mailed to local legislators.

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

A RESOLUTION BY THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUPPORTING AND ENDORSING THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE NORTH  
CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S CONTRACTED LITTER  
COLLECTION

WHEREAS, it is one of the goals of the Board of Commissioners to protect the roadways and the environment by promoting a litter free County; and

WHEREAS, the beauty of Surry County and a clean environment are sources of great pride for our County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, clean roadways help increase awareness of the importance of not littering; and

WHEREAS, Surry County strives to promote tourism and aid in the recruitment of new industry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Surry County Commissioners continually encourages citizens, communities, businesses, churches, community leaders, civic and community organizations to take an active role in keeping Surry County litter free; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners voted to supplement the efforts by the State and instituted a \$20,000 anti-litter budget and created a Litter Committee that encourages local non-profits to collect litter along secondary roads; and

WHEREAS, Surry County has made significant changes to the Solid Waste Ordinance to better address the secured transportation of trash within the County; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (Division 11) has made a positive impact on the County with the contracted litter collection; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation's contracted litter collector has performed an outstanding job with the removal of unsightly litter from the roadways that has been accumulating for years; and

WHEREAS, Surry County does not want the contracted litter pick-up to be hampered by the lack of funding for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Surry County Board of Commissioners encourage Legislators to continue to support funding of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's contracted litter collection efforts in the future.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented a recommendation from the Voluntary Agriculture District to appoint Travis Love to fulfill the term of Mike Midkiff, who recently resigned from the committee.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Travis Love to the Voluntary Agriculture District to fulfill the vacant position with a term expiring April 2017.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding the County's loan to the Mount Airy City Board of Education for the Mount Airy Middle School financing which was paid in full in 2009 and the property needs to be deeded back to the Board of Education. The North Surry Cafeteria and Kitchen loan was paid off in 2016 and this property needs to be deeded back to the Surry County Board of Education.

Upon motion of Commissioner Golding, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously for the Chairman to execute the warranty deeds.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board about extending a lease for the USDA Service Center located on Cooper Street. The lease agreement begins January 1, 2017 and ends on December 31, 2018 at a rate of \$75.00 per month for 2,520 usable square foot in arrears. A long term lease will be discussed at the end of the extended lease period.

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

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

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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:

Eion Byerly, Stephanie Cervantes, Victor Flores, Luke Fowler, Emma Hutchens, Connor Lane, Abby Needham, and RoyBeth Kiser for their teamwork resulting in the Savin' Ravens Lego Team earning the Judges Award Trophy and the title of Overall Champion of the 2016 Surry First Lego League Tournament.

Janna Blakeney, Peter Kulsziski and Allen Myers for their leadership role resulting in the Savin' Ravens Lego Team earning the Judges Award Trophy and the title of Overall Champion of the 2016 Surry First Lego League Tournament.

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Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding the replacement of a chiller at Dobson Elementary School at a cost of \$75,000. Dr. Reeves stated the chiller has a leak due to severe corrosion and delamination of the chiller barrel. The chiller is a 1989-75 ton unit with three compressors. Dr. Reeves stated the school would like to install the chiller before the cooling season begins.

The Board discussed the life expectancy for a new chiller and funding the request.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to approve the funding for the chiller with the monies coming from the North Carolina Lottery Funds.

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Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding the purchase of Emergency Call Stations for two high schools. The call stations offer a two button kiosk, one for emergencies and one for non-emergency situations. Dr. Reeves stated there had been some miscommunication on the request. Dr. Reeves stated the call stations would be for North Surry and Surry Central High Schools at a costs of \$83,970. The system would be a notification system for students who leave for college classes, return to the school campus while an emergency is occurring. Dr. Reeves also discussed the School Resource Officer's grant fund. Dr. Reeves

stated he would not ask for funds unless they were needed; the request stemmed from all three high school principals. Dr. Reeves discussed each high school enrollment and campus layout. Dr. Reeves stated that he would table the request until there could be more communication on the issue.

Dr. Reeves stated the system is not a tracking system. It would be installed in the parking lot, and the system has a loud speaker with a blinking light and an audible repeated message for the students.

Commissioner Phillips stated he understands what the school system is trying to achieve but thinks there are other cost effective ways to meet the goal. Commissioner Phillips stated that universities are moving away from this type system.

Commissioner Tucker stated the Board wants the best education and services for the students. Commissioner Tucker appreciates the School Board and staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Phillips stated he has grandchildren in the County school system that he loves very much but just wants to see how they can be safer by installing the system.

The Board discussed how the system would work, the efficiency, cost and effectiveness of the system.

Chairman Harris thanked Dr. Reeves for coming.

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Commissioner Johnson discussed a grading bill at the Bannertown Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$55,000. The Board delayed the request to obtain an itemized statement which has been received. Commissioner Johnson would like the Board to pay the invoice.

Commissioner Golding stated the bill was directed to the fire department, and the fire department was to be reimbursed by the Airport Authority and that situation did not work out. Commissioner Golding does not feel the issue has run its full course.

Chairman Harris stated that contractually the airport was supposed to provide a graded site for the fire department.

Commissioner Johnson stated the grading bill will not be a part of grant funds received by the airport, and Surry County will need to pay the invoice.

Commissioner Johnson stated the fire department will be moving into the new facility this week. Commissioner Johnson stated the fire department has performed well, and he does not want them to borrow any money for the project.

The County Manager stated there was a purchasing agreement between the fire department and the airport. The agreement is vague concerning the new graded site for the fire station. Both parties have different opinions on the interpretation of the agreement terms.

Commissioner Phillips discussed the building and site plan. The fire department was relocated due to the expansion of the airport.

Commissioner Tucker stated the fire department had to move due to the expansion of the airport runway.

The Board discussed the airport's grant funds. Surry County is only obligated to pay a 10% match on grant funds from the State.

The County Manager questioned whether the grading for the relocation of the fire department should have been grant eligible much like the grant funds for the relocation of Holly Springs Church Road. Surry County only paid 10% of the road relocation. Surry County has not been a party to the negotiations between the airport and the fire department.

Commissioner Tucker feels the contactor should be paid but the issue is the amount that each entity should pay. The contractor should be paid through the proper channels.

Chairman Harris stated that the Airport Authority Chairman stated the Authority will not pay the bill due to the Airport Authority not being a part of selecting the grading contractor. The Authority was not contacted prior to the contactor beginning the grading work.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for the County to pay the \$55,000 to the Bannertown Fire Department for the grading. Commissioner Johnson will work with the Airport Authority on obtaining any grant money for the project. The funds will come from the County's FY 16-17 airport allocation.

There was no second on the motion, so the motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Phillips discussed researched compiled on the airport for the Board to review in the near future.

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Commissioner Johnson continued discussion on the water line to Shay Street and Kimberly Drive outside of Mount Airy. Commissioner Johnson stated there is a need for public water in this area and the City of Mount Airy voted to fund one-half of the project. Commissioner Johnson discussed County funding for the other portion of the project.

The Board discussed the following motion that was unanimously approved at the November 21, 2016 meeting:

*Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Chairman Golding, the Board voted unanimously for the County Manager to work with the City of Mount Airy to split the cost of the project equally and to survey the property owners to gauge interest in their financial participation. (November 21, 2016)*

Commissioner Tucker discussed whether thresholds had been met on the proposed project.

The Board discussed the cost of the project, hook-up and tap fees, water rates, whether mandatory connections and availability fees should be imposed, and responses/deadlines for the surveys.

The County Attorney discussed how availability fees could be imposed on vacant land to cover a portion of the project cost.

The County Manager stated that for the County to proceed, we would need (1) an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mount Airy which would address mandatory connections and availability fees, (2) an engineering plan, and (3) proper permits and easements. He estimated that negotiations with the City and the engineering and planning process could be lengthy and that it may be several months before the project could be ready to bid.

Commissioner Golding stated that he would like for all the contingencies be met before the County commits to the project.

The Board discussed funding for the project.

The County Attorney stated the County would need an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mount Airy which would identify cost sharing. The County would need to identify where the funds will come from for the project. He stated that the City and County would need to make a decision on mandatory connections and finalize an engineering plan. The project would be placed for bid and the City and County would work with the engineer to determine the suitability of the bids.

The County Manager stated the engineer had presented a cost estimate of \$139,150 for the project in November 2016.

Chairman Harris called the question.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for Surry County to work with the City of Mount Airy to develop an Interlocal Agreement for a water extension to Shay Street and Kimberly Drive, where costs are shared equally between the County and City. The Agreement will need to identify where the funding will come from on the project. The County will work with the Engineer to develop a suitable engineering plan that is acceptable to City and County. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioner Tucker, Commissioner Golding, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Phillips

Nay: Chairman Harris

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to enforce mandatory hook-ups on Shay Street and Kimberly Drive and to incorporate availability fees on vacant property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Commissioner Tucker, Commissioner Golding, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Phillips

Nay: Chairman Harris

Chairman Harris stated the reason for his nay vote is there are locations all over Surry County that have poor water quality and Surry County cannot afford to address each situation. Chairman Harris also stated the City of Mount Airy charges double rates for out-of-city customers which is not beneficial.

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Commissioner Johnson discussed ownership of Graham Field. The County Manager stated that Surry County owns the field and leases it to the City of Mount Airy. The City of Mount Airy asked to rezone the property and the request was granted by Surry County.

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Commissioner Johnson discussed the following events:

- Special Olympics will take place on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Surry Central High School.
  - Polar Plunge for Special Olympics will take place Saturday, February 10, 2017.
  - Children's Center fundraiser dinner on February 10, 2017 at Cross Creek Country Club.
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The Board took a ten-minute recess.

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The Board resumed regular business.

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

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

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Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to approve a promotion salary offer to Grade/Step 68-12 for a selected candidate.

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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 Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

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Conchita Atkins  
Clerk to the Board