

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of September 5, 2017

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on September 5, 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 Larry Johnson and Commissioner Larry Phillips.

Commissioner R.F. "Buck" Golding was unable to attend.

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
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Harris requested the Board review and approve the agenda.

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

Chairman Harris requested the Board consider the minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting.

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

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

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

- Approve the following Opioid Response Efforts resolution:
- RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SURRY COUNTY OPIOID RESPONSE EFFORTS

WHEREAS, because of the growing number of people affected by opioid addiction and in an effort to enhance the health and well-being of opioid users and to prevent opioid addiction, there is a growing and urgent need to confront the opioid addiction epidemic and its devastating impact on

the health, safety, social and economic welfare of the community with immediate action; and

WHEREAS, opioids are a class of drugs that include the illicit drug heroin as well as the prescription pain relievers oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, fentanyl and others; and

WHEREAS, individuals, families, communities and health care systems are struggling to cope with substance use, misuse and substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, opioid use disorder, which is also referred to as opioid abuse, opioid dependence and opioid addiction, is based on specific criteria such as unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use, as well as use resulting in social problems and a failure to fulfill obligations at work, school, or home; and

WHEREAS, opioid use disorder is a problematic pattern of opioid use that causes clinically significant impairment or distress; and

WHEREAS, in November 2016, the U.S. Surgeon General released "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health" ("Report"); and

WHEREAS, on January 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") reported that since 2000 the rate of deaths from opioid overdoses in the United States increased 200 percent; and

WHEREAS, according to a June 2016 report from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the economic impact of the opioid epidemic is \$55 billion in health and social costs related to prescription opioid abuse each year and \$20 billion in emergency department and inpatient care for opioid poisonings; and

WHEREAS, through raising awareness and knowledge of the possible adverse effects of opioid use, identifying effective responses to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses and prevention efforts, facilitating improved access to health care, developing and increasing treatment options, identifying and removing barriers to medication-assisted treatment options for opioid use disorders and developing action plans to address said barriers, this Board seeks to prevent opioid addiction and improve opioid use outcomes, and

WHEREAS, According to preliminary data compiled by The New York Times, deaths last year likely topped 59,000 -- 19 percent more than the year before.

WHEREAS, according to a June 2016 report from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the economic impact of the opioid epidemic is \$55 billion in health and social costs related to prescription opioid abuse each year and \$20 billion in emergency department and inpatient care for opioid poisonings; and

WHEREAS, health care systems and practitioners are adopting guidelines for more cautious prescribing of prescription pain medications, improving prescribing practices for chronic pain, increasing use of CSRS, recommending non-opioid pain treatments, intensifying efforts to educate community members, distributing naloxone overdose rescue kits, enhancing access to substance use disorder treatment and implementing harm reduction services to address the epidemic of opioid abuse, addiction and overdose in our communities; and

WHEREAS, The County of Surry recognizes a need for taking a proactive and prevention-oriented approach to the assurance of public health, welfare and safety of the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners is committed to taking immediate measures, as a County Government, to fight the opioid epidemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board instructs County Management and department heads to work together in implementing plans for the control of the opioid epidemic and to educate the citizens on awareness of the problem in Surry County.

Request from the Finance Officer:

▪ Approve budget change no. 3 as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on September 4, 2017.

ACCOUNT CODE		DESCRIPTION	PREVIOUS AMOUNT	CHANGE	REVISED AMOUNT
<u>BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-COUNTY</u>					
1054190	55020	Rent - Buildings & Equipment	4,000	9,000	13,000
		Increase departmental total	600,871	9,000	609,871
<u>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</u>					
1054199	59510	General Fund Contingency	140,000	(9,000)	131,000
		Decrease departmental total	1,047,360	(9,000)	1,038,360
<u>SCHOOLS' CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>CAPITAL OUTLAY-SCHOOLS</u>					
2755912	57171	Elkin - Dixon Auditorium	15,050	11,410	26,460
		Increase departmental total.	15,050	11,410	26,460
<u>REVENUES</u>					
2745912	49900	Unencumbered Balance	488,848	11,410	500,258
		Increase fund totals	2,812,391	11,410	2,823,801

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.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the new scoreboard is in operation at the Mount Airy High School Football field. The school recognized the Board of Commissioners for their contribution to the scoreboard at their last football game.

Commissioner Phillips stated he was proud that his former alma mater, Liberty University, defeated Baylor University in football this past weekend.

Chairman Harris stated he had recently spoken to former Mount Airy High Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Hartness, and Dr. Hartness gave Board members his regards.

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 individuals:

Nathan Webb and Chase Needham for six life saves to the citizens of Surry County.

Corey Searce and Chas Graves for four life saves to the citizens of Surry County.

Jami Eldridge and Timothy George for three life saves to the citizens of Surry County.

Stephany Blizard for two life saves to the citizens of Surry County.

Lisa Hodges, David York, Ryan Dillon, Kayla Hawks, Timothy Haymore, and Donnie Harmon for one life save to the citizens of Surry County.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding a request from Carolina West Wireless to construct a cell tower at the Human Services Center in Mount Airy. Mr. Knopf stated Carolina West Wireless would like to set up a temporary tower until the permanent tower can be constructed. There is a need for a tower in the area. Mr. Knopf presented a map showing where the permanent site and temporary sites would be located. Once Carolina West Wireless receives their permits, they will begin constructing the temporary site. The permanent site would take six to nine months for the permitting process. The tower would serve their customers and Verizon's customers in the area. The proposed lease area would be 60x60 feet and the proposed monopole tower would be 100 feet in height. The temporary site would be a 35X35 foot area with an enclosed security fence. Carolina West Wireless proposes to lease the temporary site for \$1,000 monthly and secure a long-term lease with the County for the permanent tower.

Mr. Knopf discussed the term of the lease.

Commissioner Phillips asked what would be the difference between Surry County building the tower and leasing Carolina West Wireless space on the tower.

Mr. Knopf stated that Carolina West Wireless would be willing to give the County space on the tower at 70 feet. Mr. Knopf stated the County would have to market the tower, and he was not sure the County had the expertise in that business framework.

Attorney Woltz stated if the County obtains the lease it could be an income generator.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board determined that Surry County had no immediate need for the 35 x 35-foot site upon which the temporary tower is to be located and voted unanimously to approve the temporary tower, contingent upon the security fence not damaging the parking lot and to instruct staff to begin negotiations with Carolina West Wireless on a license for the permanent site.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding a request from Surry County Schools to remove underground storage tanks and replace a chiller at Central Middle School. Neither project was in their Capital Project requests for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Mr. Knopf discussed the issues with the underground storage tanks. There is no estimated dollar amount on this request.

Mr. Knopf discussed the chiller at Central Middle School. The chiller is twenty-eight years old and needs to be replaced. The cost for the replacement is \$110,000. The chiller has been operating at ½ capacity. Mr. Knopf stated there is a second chiller there of equal age which is not causing any issues at the current time. The school system had discussed replacing both chillers at the same time. Mr. Knopf stated that the Finance Committee had discussed funding the request from the previously allocated Special Capital Projects fund, and readdress at the Budget Retreat in February.

Commissioner Johnson stated the school will be there for a long time, and we need to replace both chillers.

Mr. Knopf stated that Dr. Reeves did have a recommendation from an engineer with the Department of Public Instruction who had mentioned replacing both. Mr. Knopf stated that Dr. Reeves feels replacing both chillers could be cost effective. If this occurs, it would potentially double the cost of the project.

Commissioner Tucker stated it is the County's mandate to fund capital for the school systems. Commissioner Tucker stated that if the system needs to replace two chillers at one time, it is a decision the system needs to make. Commissioner Tucker discussed the Special Capital Request set aside for school issues. Commissioner Tucker stated for good financial practices, the Board should allow the schools to dip into their Special Capital Request funds and spend the money wisely. It should be the school's decision. Rather than allocate new funds, he suggested the County remain with the financial plan and let the system do their own prioritizing.

Commissioner Phillips stated the school systems need to know they are not responsible for aging facilities, and the County has their back. Commissioner Phillips stated that this is a good approach on how to move forward with projects in the future.

The Board discussed the steps needed for the schools to request the Capital Project Request funds.

Chairman Harris discussed the underground storage tanks. Mr. Knopf stated an estimated cost was not included from the system.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Surry County School System to utilize Special Capital Request funds for the Central Middle School chillers.

Sarah Bowen, Finance Director, discussed projects that can be funded with lottery funds and projects that cannot be funded with lottery funds. Ms. Bowen stated Special Capital Requests are case specific.

Mr. Knopf stated that Surry County has a finite amount of money in the dedicated capital improvement fund for pay as you go projects. Mr. Knopf discussed per pupil funds and special project funds. The total amount is \$3 million which has been allocated. If Surry County gives the schools additional funding, it would come from the General Fund. There is only \$150,000 in General Fund Contingency this fiscal year.

Chairman Harris stated any school expenditures can be addressed at the Budget Retreat in February.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, discussed a request from the Surry County Schools to purchase property located at 1310 McKinney Road. The property is adjacent to Meadowview Magnet Middle School. The school system offered \$50,000 for the property and there was a counteroffer of \$57,900. The tax value is \$84,120. Mr. Knopf stated there are funds in the Dedicated Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase.

Chairman Harris discussed the dilapidated property.

Upon motion of Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the counteroffer of \$57,900, contingent upon funds coming from Schools Dedicated Capital Improvement Funds.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed the Board regarding the renovations of both Dobson Plaza, Historic Courthouse, as well as the initiative to secure the Judicial Center. These projects will require the relocation of various County, State and Federal functions.

Mr. Knopf stated Dobson Plaza will be renovated and allow space for the following County, State and Federal Offices: Tax Department, Board of Elections, Surry Soil and Water Conservation District, North Carolina State Cooperative Extension Service, USDA-Farm Service Agency, USDA-NRCS and USDA-Rural Development.

Mr. Knopf discussed the Historic Courthouse being renovated and recommends the following departments be moved to the Historic Courthouse: Governing Body, Human Resources/Employee Wellness, Finance and Facilities Management. Also, an office will be provided for the Surry County Historic Society.

Mr. Knopf discussed the following departments be located in the basement floor of the Judicial Center: District Attorney's Office and related functions. Mr. Knopf discussed the agencies that work in the court system and how they can operate with accessibility through a secured front entrance. Centralizing offices and departments associated with the court system, to the Judicial Center will better serve the citizens.

There was discussion of the utilization of the third floor of the Government Center.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the plans.

Upon motion of Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve and not release the August 21, 2017 closed session minutes.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, stated at the last meeting the Board approved \$2,300 to fund the Neuropsychological Evaluation for a citizen ordered by Judge Key. An addition \$225 is needed for the evaluation.

Upon motion of Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to allocate an additional \$225 for the evaluation.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, 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.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, addressed a resolution designating the Finance Officer of the County of Surry, North Carolina to declare official intent to reimburse expenditures under United States Department of Treasury regulations on behalf of Surry County.

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE FINANCE OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SURRY, NORTH CAROLINA TO DECLARE OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES UNDER UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY REGULATIONS ON BEHALF OF SAID COUNTY

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

Section 1. It is hereby found, determined and declared by the Board for the County as follows:

(a) Section 1.150-2 of the United States Department of Treasury Regulations (the "Regulations") prescribe specific procedures which will be applicable to certain bonds or notes issued by 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 Regulations expressly permit the statement of official intent to be declared by any person designated by the County to declare official intent on behalf of the County.

(c) The Board for the County believes that it is in the best interest of the County to designate the Finance Officer of the County to declare official intent on behalf of the County for such purposes.

Section 2. As permitted by the Regulations, the Finance Officer of the County, now or hereafter serving in such capacity, is designated by the Board for the County to declare the official intent on behalf of the County to reimburse any and all expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to create an Opioid Response Advisory Council and an Opioid Response Director position and add Opioid Response Director to the Position Classification Plan at Pay Grade 72. Chairman Harris seconded the motion.

Commissioner Phillips stated that he wanted his position to be on the record. Commissioner Phillips stated that he will vote no on the motion because the Health Director was unable to publicly assure the Board that the program would exclude a Needle Exchange Program in the future. Commissioner Phillips feels that a vote for this motion is a vote for a Needle Exchange Program which will cause heroin use to increase.

Commissioner Tucker stated he needed more education on the Needle Exchange Program, but this motion is not about the Needle Exchange Program. It is about an overall strategy to address opioid use.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chairman Harris, Commissioner Tucker Commissioner Johnson

Nay: Commissioner Phillips

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Penny Harrison as interim Tax Administrator as recommended,

effective September 6, 2017, with the Board evaluating the position no later than December 4, 2017.

The Board discussed hurricane relief efforts. It was the consensus of the Board for the Assistant County Manager for Human Resources and Operation to bring some recommendations to the next Board meeting.

There was no further business to come before the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Conchita Atkins
Clerk to the Board