

Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of February 17, 2020

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., February 17, 2020. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Historic Courthouse, Dobson, N.C.

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

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

Chris Knopf, County Manager  
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager  
Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager  
George Crater, Airport Manager  
Rhonda Nixon, Budget Director & Finance Officer  
Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director  
Kim Bates, Planning Director  
Daniel White, Parks & Recreation Director  
Nick Brown, Interim Communications Director  
Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools  
Dr. Sandy George, Mount Airy City Schools  
Marie Wood, Mount Airy City Council  
Steve Yokely, Mount Airy City Council  
Todd Dockery, Dobson Board of Commissioners  
Ed Woltz, County Attorney  
News Media

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Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Chairman Johnson delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Chairman Johnson requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 17, 2020 agenda.

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Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the minutes of the February 3, 2020 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

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Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the consent agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, less an item on Parks and Recreation's Summer Recreation Program and associated fee waivers, which was pulled for discussion. The following items were passed with the consent agenda:

Request from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
  1. Total releases for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$2,097.16.
  2. Total refunds for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$6,732.69.
  3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$1,584.24.
  4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$7,790.86.

5. Total motor vehicle discoveries for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$181.20
6. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$81,570.26.
7. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$0.
8. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$2,439.37.
9. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$21,793.72.

Request from the Finance Officer:

- Approve Budget Amendment #11, which follows the description. The budget amendment adds \$112,225.00 and allows Public Works to purchase an excavator that qualifies as White Goods eligible. This purchase makes Public Works eligible to start receiving funding again from the State.

					Change # 11
The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2019-2020 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on February 17, 2020.					
<b>ACCOUNT</b>			<b>PREVIOUS</b>		<b>REVISED</b>
<b>CODE</b>		<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>LANDFILL/RECYCLING FUND</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>Recycling</b>					
6757415	55750	White Goods Expense	3,000	112,225	115,225
		Increase departmental total	3,000	112,225	115,225
<b>REVENUE</b>					
6747420	49950	Retained Earnings	1,367,567	112,225	1,479,792
		Increase fund totals.	4,264,067	112,225	4,376,292

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve to continue the NACD grant, as submitted by Tony Davis, at no cost to the County.
- Approve for the Sheriff's Office to apply for a grant to outfit a K-9 with a protective vest, at no cost to the County.

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Chairman Johnson advised that it was time for the special recognition portion of the agenda.

The Board recognized Kennedy Dockery, Mount Airy City Schools Beginning Teacher of the Year and Piedmont Triad Region Beginning Teacher of the Year finalist.

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Chairman Johnson declared the meeting to be an open forum and invited members of the audience to address the Board on any matters of civic concern.

Gary York discussed the retirement of Jeff Boyles, City of Mount Airy Public Works Director. Mr. York discussed significant projects Mr. Boyles worked on in Surry County, including connecting water between Mount Airy and Dobson.

Mark Jones thanked the Board for their approval of the Second Amendment Resolution and gave an update about the progress of similar resolutions across North Carolina. Mr. Jones said that, as of last week, about 50 counties have passed a similar resolution with many of the counties using Surry County's resolution language. Mr. Jones anticipates resolutions being passed in approximately 80 counties.

There being no further comments, Chairman Johnson closed the open forum.

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The Board called Daniel White to the podium to discuss the Summer Recreation Program and associated fee waivers that were pulled from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Tucker detailed why he could not vote in favor of the item, saying we have mandated services and programs that should take priority. He complimented Mr. White and his staff for the good work they do.

Commissioner Harris concurred with Commissioner Tucker's statement.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. White if the summer camp was budgeted, to which he responded yes and stated the benefit of having the camp to feed children who need meals. Dr. Travis Reeves of Surry County Schools said 60 percent of children in his school district are on free or reduced lunch. There was further discussion about the topic from Commissioner Tucker, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Goins.

Upon motion of Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted 3-2 (Yeas and Nays below) to approve the Summer Rec program for 2020, with fees set at \$390, and \$5,475 approved for fee waivers:

*Yeas: Chairman Johnson and Commissioners Marion and Goins*  
*Nays: Commissioners Tucker and Harris*

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Kim Bates, Planning Director, presented a rezoning request for properties on Cook School Road to be rezoned from a Rural Agricultural (RA) use to Restricted Residential (RR). The applicant, Treva Kirkman, withdrew the rezoning application the week before the public hearing.

Chairman Johnson opened the public hearing.

Larry Bolden, Roger Taylor, Ashley Marion, Jimmy Rogers and Howard Jones spoke in opposition of the rezoning. All reside in the community and said the rezoning and subdivision would present a safety problem for those traveling Cook School Road.

Treva and Gretchen Kirkman, speaking at different times, stated that the homes would have three bedrooms and two-bathrooms on one-acre lots. They said the homes would be starter and retirement homes and they have a strong, sound business plan, but for now are withdrawing the request.

Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bates said he does not recommend the rezoning.

Chairman Johnson said he did not want to act tonight and hoped both parties continue to discuss the topic to find a solution.

Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Bates about the subdivision ordinance and public water being extended to the subdivision.

No action was taken and Mr. Bates stated any new rezoning requests for the properties would have to start back with the Planning Board.

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Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director, presented the Hope Valley Lease renewal item.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, asked Ed Woltz, County Attorney, about Daniel White's request for using part of the property for County recreational use, to which Mr. Woltz recommended approving the lease agreement tonight and then revisiting the recreational use item in the future.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Hope Valley Lease renewal for 10 years.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented an item to approve emergency funding for a Mount Airy City Schools HVAC project. Dr. Sandy George came to the podium.

Chairman Johnson asked about the locations of the project, and Commissioner Tucker asked about budget specifics to Mr. Knopf.

The Board asked questions about geothermal wells, which are leaking.

Dr. George said this is the only option and that an engineer and Bill Powell advised the current system will fail without this repair.

Commissioner Tucker said it seems we have unknown costs like this coming up a lot that we could hopefully better plan for going forward.

Mr. Knopf asked Dr. George if Mount Airy City Schools could wait until the Board Retreat on February 28 for a decision. Dr. George said yes. Mr. Knopf advised that staff will scour the County budget to locate unused funds to assist with the request.

The Board decided to further discuss the topic at the Board Retreat.

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Dr. Travis Reeves presented an item to utilize Surry County Schools' FY19-20 special capital funding to replace a chiller at Westfield Elementary School.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the replacement of a chiller at Westfield Elementary School utilizing Surry County Schools' FY19-20 special capital funding.

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Nick Brown, Interim Communications Director, presented an item requesting Board approval to apply for a NC911 Board grant to cover costs for upgrading radio consoles.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve permission to apply

for the NC911 Board grant to cover costs for upgrading radio consoles.

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Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented an item to approve a resolution to abandon 0.21 miles of Abe Mayes Road from the State Maintenance System.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve a resolution to abandon 0.21 miles of Abe Mayes Road from the State Maintenance System.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.

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Nathan Walls  
Clerk to the Board