

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of January 19, 2021

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., January 19, 2021. The meeting was held in the Board Room, Historic Courthouse, Dobson, N.C., virtually via Zoom and YouTube.

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

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

- Chris Knopf, County Manager
- Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
- Rhonda Nixon, Finance Officer
- Ed Woltz, County Attorney
- Martha Brintle, MIS Director
- Johnny Easter, Development Services Director
- Jessica Montgomery, Interim Facilities/Public Works Director
- Kristy Preston, DSS Director
- Susan Campbell, DSS Attorney
- Daniel White, Parks & Recreation Director
- Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager
- Paul Barker, Sheriff's Office
- Carter Spradling, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- Jesse Day, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools Superintendent
- Robert Draughn, Surry County Schools
- News Media

Mr. Woltz, Ms. Brintle, Mr. Spradling, Mr. Day and Ms. Campbell attended virtually.

Chairman Marion called the meeting to order. Commissioner Johnson delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Marion requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting agenda.

Chairman Marion requested the Board consider the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Chairman Marion requested the Board consider the consent agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Requests from the County Manager:

- Approve the following Project Connection Resolution:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	}	AMENDED
	}	RESOLUTION
COUNTY OF SURRY	}	

WHEREAS, there has been described to the Board of Commissioners ("Board") of Surry County, North Carolina ("County") a proposal for Surry County to provide certain incentives to Project Connection in

connection with the Company's investment in a manufacturing and distribution center to be located in Surry County.

Proposed incentives to the Company include the following appropriations and expenditures:

- A. Following payment of taxes by Company to County, the County shall make an incentive grant to the Company of not more than \$37,056.17 over a five-year period.

The incentive grant shall be reduced proportionately if Company fails to achieve or maintain benchmark minimums of investment.

An Incentive Agreement ("Agreement"), including or addressing the County and Company and describing proposed incentives in detail shall be executed subject to approval and review of the County Manager and County Attorney. A copy of the Agreement will be filed in the County's records.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Surry County:

1. Surry County hereby undertakes to provide certain incentives to Company in connection with its investment within Surry County, as described in the Agreement. The County hereby finds and determines that such undertaking will increase the taxable property, employment and business prospects of the County.
2. That the Chairman of the Surry County Board of Commissioners is authorized and directed to execute the Agreement in a form that has been approved by the County Manager and County Attorney and to deliver the same to the appropriate counter-parties and the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to affix the County seal to the Agreement and attest the same. The Agreement shall be in a form substantially as described above with such changes as may be approved by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. The Chairman's execution of the Agreement shall constitute conclusive evidence of his approval of any change.
3. The Agreement in final form, however, must provide:
 - a. That the total amount to be expended by the County be an incentive grant over five-years of not more than \$37,056.17.
4. That Company's minimum investment of \$2.02 million be made substantially as follows: 70% of the investment by December 31, 2021; 10% by December 31, 2022; 10% by December 31, 2023; and 10% by December 31, 2024.
5. That County's payment of the incentive grant portion is to be paid to Company only after Company provides evidence that its investment benchmark has been made as described above and after assessed property taxes are timely paid by Company to County.
6. The actions of the County officers and officials in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution and in furtherance of the execution and delivery of the Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.
7. All of the Board proceedings or parts thereof, in conflict with this Resolution or, to the extent of such conflict, are hereby repealed.
8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
9. This Resolution shall supersede that of October 19, 2020.

This is the 19th day of January, 2021.

- **Approve the following from the Tax Department:**
 1. Total releases for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$4,293.46.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$3,383.55.

- 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$1,010.23.
- 4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$23,348.37.
- 5. Total motor vehicle discoveries for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$0.
- 6. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$81,976.84.
- 7. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$327.33.
- 8. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$0.
- 9. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 12/31/2020 in the amount of \$14,178.23.

- Approve the following Board Planning Retreat Resolution and meeting date change from February 26 to February 24, 2021:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners holds a meeting each February as a Planning Retreat; and

WHEREAS, the Surry County Board of Commissioners feels it is desirable from time to time to conduct Board meetings at various locations throughout the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Board of Commissioners will conduct its February 24, 2021 meeting at the Surry County Service Center, 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, at 8:15 a.m.

Adopted this the 19th day of January 2021.

Requests from the Finance Officer:

- Approve the following surplus vehicle auction sale requests:

Asset #	Vehicle Description	VIN#/Serial#	Department Requesting to Surplus	Disposal Method for Board Consideration
12296	2002 Chevy Impala	2G1WF55K829267792	Facilities	Request to Sell on Auction with Rogers Realty
50480	2005 Ford Ranger	1FTZR45E95PA25373	Soil & Water	Request to Sell on Auction with Rogers Realty

- The following Board of Elections grant update was approved as part of the consent agenda, although no action was needed since it was an informational item:

BOE Grant Information											
Granting Agent	Grant Name	Purpose of Grant	Funding Period	Date Received	Amount Awarded	Amount Received	Match	Application Required	App Completed	Comments	CARES Act
HB 1169 CARES Act	HAVA Election Security	An act to make various changes to the laws related to elections and to appropriate funds to the State Board of Elections in response to the Corona Virus pandemic. Became law on 6/12/2020	July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021		\$10,000.00	\$1,518.57	No	Reimbursement Only Award - Must Submit Invoices for Reimbursement After Payment	N/A	Submitted \$1,518.57 and will be submitting \$1,305.27 per Michella on 1/11/21 - We do not plan to submit anything else.	N O T T O S F U E D J E R C A T L
HB 1169 CARES Act	BOE - CARES Act	Providing for increased postage costs for mail-in absentee ballots sent out by BOE. Ensuring adequate number of poll workers by use of advertising or public awareness campaigns or offering incentive compensation and other pay increases, recruiting members and promoting the use of multipartisan assistant teams.	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	10/16/2020	\$89,970.00	\$89,970.00	No	No	N/A	Subject to the same federal CARES Act rules and guidelines as CRF	S U B J E C T T O C A R E S A C T
Center for Tech & Civic Life	One Stop Bonus	One Stop Bonuses		12/3/2020	\$10,732.00	\$10,738.44	No			Revenue in 1044000-48900	
Center for Tech & Civic Life	Election Support	Drive-through voting, Poll worker recruitment, hazard pay, training, temporary staffing	June 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020		\$37,852.00		No	Yes	Yes	Waiting on Receipt - CFCL tried to pay, but they said they had incorrect account data - supposed to be corrected now but we have not received - Michella is checking on status	
USC Schwarzenegger Institute	Democracy Grant	To support nonpartisan efforts to increase voter access and the operations of polling.	October 2, 2020 to November 30, 2020	12/8/2020	\$63,030.00	\$63,030.00	No	Yes	Yes	Revenue in 1044000-48900	
S.L. 2020-97 HB 1105	Supplemental Funds	Election Day Voting	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020		\$10,000.00		No	No	N/A		
S.L. 2020-97 HB 1105	Supplemental Funds	Pollworker \$100 Bonus	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020		\$19,300.00		No	No	N/A	Original \$26,500 awarded based on estimate by Michella - we had 193 Poll Workers, which includes some full time employees - opportunity for additional funds under HB1105 if not spent in the required allotments to counties	
					\$240,884.00	\$165,257.01					

The Board provided comments about the deaths of Emergency Services Director John Shelton and retired Assistant Emergency Services Director Wayne Cooke.

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

J.T. Henson praised the professionalism of the Health & Nutrition Center staff for their COVID-19 vaccination efforts. He said citizens often complain in open forum, but he wanted to make a positive comment this time.

Crystal Ritter spoke about issues with neighbors on Galax Trail, including a dismissed lawsuit, which was dismissed because Ms. Ritter didn't show up in court as the plaintiff. She went into detail about animals she owns and various issues she and her neighbors have with each other. She encouraged the Board to thoroughly review the draft Chapter 92 public nuisance ordinance.

Jenna Ritter also spoke about issues with neighbors on Galax Trail. She went into detail about her family growing their own food and raising animals, and how some cities allow farms on 1 acre or less.

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

Chairman Marion opened a public hearing about a rezoning request for 174 New Street in Mount Airy, Tax Parcel ID # 5939-05-28-3378, from Residential Limited District to Multi-Family Residential District. Development Services Director Johnny Easter said that the item, Rezoning Case # ZCR1203, was presented to the Planning Board last week and approved unanimously with one condition: If the apartment complex is hooked up to municipal sewer, it should also be hooked up to municipal water.

Joseph Melendez, a realtor for Manuel Contreras, who owns the property, spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Randy Parker, who lives near the property, said he opposes the rezoning because there was previously a large amount of thefts, vulgar music, partying and drinking in the proposed area of the apartment complex.

Haywood Easter said Mr. Contreras' development work in the neighborhood has cleaned up some of the past issues that Mr. Parker discussed, but said other problems need to be addressed before a rezoning is approved. Mr. Easter detailed the narrow road, how the road is not scraped by the State after winter precipitation, and the nearby water branch that has been polluted and contaminated with glass, chemicals, sewage and other debris.

Chelsea Ward, who owns the property adjacent to the proposed apartment complex, said she thinks the complex will hurt the resale value of her property. She would like to see trees buffer the complex from other properties.

The Board asked questions of Johnny Easter, the property owner and the citizens who spoke to formulate a better path forward for the rezoning request.

Chairman Marion closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to send the rezoning request for 174 New Street, Mount Airy, Tax Parcel ID # 5939-05-28-3378, Rezoning Case # ZCR1203, back to the Planning Board for further review. Commissioner Harris' virtual connection cut off, so only four votes were taken.

Chairman Marion opened a public hearing about a rezoning request for a property on Key Street in Pilot Mountain, Tax Parcel ID # 5957-00-81-1750, from Rural Agricultural District to Highway Business District.

Johnny Easter spoke and said the Planning Board recommended the rezoning, with Rezoning Case # ZCR1204. The business that would be located there would be a furniture refinishing and repair business.

Lorn Perkosky, the property owner, spoke in favor of the rezoning and said the location is good for his business.

Chairman Marion closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Statement of Consistency.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to rezone the property on Key Street, Pilot Mountain, Tax Parcel ID # 5957-00-81-1750, Rezoning Case # ZCR1204, from Rural Agricultural District to Highway Business District.

Chairman Marion opened a public hearing about a rezoning request for 1112 Tom Jones Road, Ararat, Tax Parcel ID # 5925-00-94-3470, Rezoning Case # ZCR1205, from Rural Agricultural District to Rural Business Conditional District.

Johnny Easter spoke and said the Planning Board recommended the rezoning of a 0.918-acre portion of property. He said the applicant, Tony Tilley, wants to sell golf carts and automobiles on the property.

Mr. Tilley spoke and asked if he could use the property for other purposes than to sell golf carts and automobiles. Mr. Easter said the Rural Business Conditional District rezoning would restrict use of the property to selling golf carts and automobiles, which is stated on the permit. Mr. Easter said any additional uses would have to be brought to the Planning Board.

Chairman Marion closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Statement of Consistency.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to rezone 1112 Tom Jones Road, Ararat, Tax Parcel ID # 5925-00-94-3470, Rezoning Case # ZCR1205, from Rural Agricultural District to Rural Business Conditional District.

Carter Spradling, of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, presented a draft resolution for the Yadkin Valley Regional Bicycle Plan and discussed various projects that the plan would address. Mr. Spradling said the projects provide economic development efforts for Surry County and the area.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Yadkin Valley Regional Bicycle Plan Resolution, which follows:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING

THE YADKIN VALLEY REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN

WHEREAS, cities, towns, and regions around the country are increasingly recognizing the benefits that bicycle-friendly communities offer in terms of quality of life to residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, representatives from counties, municipalities, transportation agencies, planning agencies, bicycling clubs, trail organizations, and multiple NCDOT divisions in the Yadkin Valley region of North Carolina have worked cooperatively for over a year on the Yadkin Valley Regional Bicycle Plan (the Plan) in order to make bicycling a safe and accessible form of transportation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, there were 264 reported bicycle crashes from 2007-2015 that have resulted in five bicyclist fatalities in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will improve the quality and safety of bicycling through new and improved infrastructure, policies and programs, for all types of bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will increase transportation choices by improving connectivity of the bicycle network while increasing accessibility to key destinations throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, BlueCross BlueShield North Carolina has stated that every \$1 investment in trails for physical activity can save about \$3 in medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will improve health and wellness by increasing access to bikeways, thereby offering more opportunities for recreation, active transportation, and physical activity; and

WHEREAS, a 2018 study that evaluated the economic contribution of shared use paths in North Carolina found that every \$1.00 of trail construction supports \$1.72 annually from local business revenue, sales tax revenue, and benefits related to health and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Plan promotes bicycle-related tourism and economic development for communities in Surry, Stokes, Forsyth, Yadkin, Iredell, and Davie counties; and

WHEREAS, this Plan included an open and participatory process, with hundreds of mapping comments and public comment forms and in-person public outreach opportunities in each county; and

WHEREAS, over 80% of comment form respondents said they would be very likely to bike more often if more greenways and bicycle lanes physically separated from roadways were available; and

WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a more bicycle-friendly Yadkin Valley region would offer multiple quality of life benefits to residents and visitors by increasing public safety, supporting health and the environment, expanding choices for mobility, and growing the economy and tourism in local communities throughout the region, and;

WHEREAS, supporting this resolution does not replace local plans nor dedicate funding, but rather indicates a willingness to support the Plan's recommended bicycle projects and programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby supports Surry County's recommendations within the Yadkin Valley Regional Bicycle Plan.

This the 19th day of January, 2021.

The PDF that Mr. Spradling presented is saved on the Government Center shared drive.

Interim Facilities/Public Works Director Jessica Montgomery presented a general services proposal from Tremco/Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. to provide inspections and maintenance of roofing systems.

The Board discussed with Ms. Montgomery the cost of the proposal, which is \$7,256 for 13 facilities.

Commissioner Tucker asked the length of the contract. Ms. Montgomery said it is for one year.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the general services proposal from Tremco/Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. to provide inspections and maintenance of roofing systems at a cost of \$7,256 for 13 facilities.

DSS Director Kristy Preston provided a Director's Report.

She discussed a DSS Confidentiality Agreement that the Board of County Commissioners would need to sign. The Board members were provided the agreements for signatures, which they signed.

Ms. Preston requested a one-time special Board of County Commissioners meeting to discuss DSS items. County Attorney Ed Woltz said the Board could hold a special meeting or recess a regular Board of County Commissioners meeting. Ms. Preston requested the meeting in the next six to eight weeks. The Board asked County management to schedule the special meeting or recessed meeting.

Ms. Preston also provided a Medicaid transformation update. She said that the State is switching the model for how Medicaid is provided to recipients. Ms. Preston said the call volume will subsequently go up at Surry County DSS.

County Manager Chris Knopf presented a request from the Town of Pilot Mountain on the Mount Airy interconnect project bid, which is to connect Pilot Mountain with public water from the City of Mount Airy.

Mr. Knopf said the winning bid for the project came in higher than anticipated. In 2019, Surry County entered an interlocal agreement with the Town of Pilot Mountain on the project, which stated the County would make 20 payments over 20 years of \$32,500. With the increase in bid cost, the payments will now go up to \$56,584 per year over 20 years, for a total cost to Surry County of \$1.1 million. The City of Mount Airy would make an

identical contribution. Mr. Knopf detailed multiple reasons that added to the increased cost.

Commissioner Tucker asked questions and expressed his disappointment in the cost of the project going up so much but said he would vote in favor.

Upon motion of Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to enter into the Mount Airy interconnect project amendment.

Mr. Woltz discussed three options for the surplus property on Rawley Avenue: Public auction using a realtor, accepting sealed bids and restarting the upset bid process.

The Board discussed the options at length with Mr. Woltz.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to reject the last upset bid received of \$100,000, provide the bidder his bid deposit and restart the upset bid process.

Mr. Knopf requested that the name of the Opioid Response Department and Advisory Committee be changed to Substance Abuse Recovery Department and Advisory Committee.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the name change of the Opioid Response Department and Advisory Committee to Substance Abuse Recovery Department and Advisory Committee.

Mr. Knopf presented a request from the Shepherd's House for Surry County to reimburse construction permit fees from Surry County Inspections for \$2,798.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to reimburse construction permit fees directly to the Shepherd's House for \$2,798.

Assistant to the County Manager Nathan Walls presented a request from the Surry County Health Director to reappoint Eddie Jordan to the Board of Health.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Eddie Jordan to the Surry County Board of Health.

In General County Business, Commissioner Tucker encouraged citizens to apply for the Pilot Mountain specialty license plate, for which the Friends of the Sauratown Mountains are seeking 300 applicants. He discussed recent related media stories.

Chairman Marion and other Board members discussed how roadside litter has increased. Problems with communication and coordination with DOT were discussed and Commissioner Tucker requested a meeting with them. Mr. Knopf discussed the \$5 a bag litter pickup program through Development Services. Commissioner Johnson said he would like to present a proposal for consideration at a future time.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve, but not release, November 16, 2020 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve, but not release, January 4, 2021 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve comp payout in excess of 80 hours for Health & Nutrition Center employees, at the employee's option, and revisit in three months.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to extend the Emergency Family Medical Leave/Emergency Sick Leave provisions under COVID-19 until March 31, 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve requirements for the Wellness discount/incentive to be combined for calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:15 p.m.

Nathan Walls
Clerk to the Board