

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of January 21, 2020

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., January 21, 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
Jessica Montgomery, Public Works Director
Rhonda Nixon, Budget Director & Interim Finance Officer
George Crater, Airport Manager
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director
Kristy Preston, DSS Director
Daniel White, Parks & Recreation Director
Steve Hiatt, Sheriff
Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director
John Spane, Ra-Tech
Marie Wood, Mount Airy Commissioner
Ed Woltz, County Attorney
News Media

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

Chairman Johnson requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the January 21, 2020 agenda.

Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

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

Requests from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
 1. Total releases for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$8,379.05.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$3,659.30.
 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$1,662.45.
 4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$52,330.22.
 5. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$172,730.75.
 6. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$332.09.

7. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$744.26.
8. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 12/31/2019 in the amount of \$28,014.98.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve the Workers' Comp settlement activity, totaling \$115,765.19, for quarter ending December 31, 2019.

Requests from the Interim Finance Officer:

- Approve a list of vehicles included in the agenda packet, saved on the shared drive, that need to be declared as surplus to post for sale on GovDeals.
- Approve the asset transfer of Asset #95039 from Inspections that needs to be assigned to Parks & Recreation. Parks & Recreation would like to turn in a Ford Ranger that has several mechanical issues.
- Approve the Health Director's authority to approve grant fund revisions during the year after the initial Health & Community Care Block Grant has been approved.
- Approve the Health and Nutrition Center's Debt Write-off amounts of \$3,111.87 for dental and \$4,999.72 for medical, totaling \$8,111.59, to be written off due to inability to collect.

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.

Lee Stalcup of Mayberry 4 Paws provided the Board her suggested changes to the animal control sections of the code of ordinances related to adequate shelter, shade and outdoor space for outdoor animals. Ms. Stalcup also requested a meeting with Board members about the topic once they have had time to review the suggested changes.

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

Kristy Preston, DSS Director, presented a proposed Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation Policy.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation Policy and authorized DSS to implement the new policy effective immediately.

Kristy Preston, DSS Director, presented a proposed Confidential Intermediary Policy.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Confidential Intermediary Policy and authorize DSS to implement the program effective February 1, 2020.

Kristy Preston, DSS Director, provided an update on the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, stating that the program has exhausted its funding. Ms. Preston stated that crisis funds can be used for any future low-income energy requests. Non-profits would be the final option for the public to turn to, should those funds be exhausted, the Board and Ms. Preston said.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, discussed his County Manager Agenda Items and called Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, to the podium to present an item about new exterior light poles being placed outside the Historic Courthouse.

Mr. Mitchell stated, if approved, the County would enter into a 10-year contract with Duke Energy, in which they would be responsible for all maintenance of the poles and lamps for the duration of the contract. The cost for the new lights would be \$229.28 per month (\$28.66 X 8), \$2,751.36 annually and will be added to the Historic Courthouse utility budget each year. The new poles, fixtures and LED lamps would replace the current outside lights that are in poor condition, and the new lights would be less expensive to operate.

Upon motion of Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 10-year contract with Duke Energy and erect the new poles, fixtures and LED lamps outside the Historic Courthouse.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Director, and John Shelton, EMS Director, presented an item about approving the construction contract with Eagle Carports for adding an enclosure to the entrance of the County Morgue. The enclosure will provide more security and privacy.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the construction contract with Eagle Carports for adding an enclosure to the entrance of the County Morgue.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marion, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Sonya Cheek to the Opioid Response Advisory Council.

The Board requested from Mr. Knopf that the Elkin City Schools gym project item be added to the Board's February 3, 2020 agenda.

Commissioner Harris presented a General County Business item to the Board, requesting that Ms. Joyce Andrews be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Committee. He asked Daniel White, Parks and Recreation Director, to come to the podium. Ms. Andrews' appointment was discussed.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Joyce Andrews to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Chairman Johnson discussed with the Board that Governor Roy Cooper was in Mount Airy today and also acknowledged Mount Airy Commissioner Marie Wood, who was in the audience.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session for legal matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3), economic development pursuant to 143-318.11 (a) (4), and personnel matters pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6).

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the January 6, 2020 Cooperative Extension Director motion, which follows: Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to split Bryan Cave's Cooperative Extension Director position with Yadkin County, where he will work two days a week and three days a week in Surry County, and for a separate County Livestock Agent, in which Yadkin County and Surry County will cover 25 percent each and the State will cover 50 percent of the salary for a difference of \$2,729.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve, but not release, the January 6, 2020 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to reclassify an Administrative Assistant position #531201 to a Business Officer position, contingent upon final approval from State Personnel.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to create four detention officer positions, with funding coming from the General Fund Contingency.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Nathan Walls
Clerk to the Board