

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of July 20, 2020

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., July 20, 2020. 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 Vice-Chairman Mark Marion, Commissioner Eddie Harris, Commissioner Van Tucker and Commissioner Bill Goins. Chairman Larry Johnson was absent from the meeting due to sickness (excused).

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

Chris Knopf, County Manager
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager
Rhonda Nixon, Finance Officer
Mark Willis, Opioid Response Director
Kristy Preston, DSS Director
Martha Brintle, MIS Director
George Crater, Airport Manager
Ed Woltz, County Attorney
Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager
Robin Testerman and Rich Smith, Children's Center
News Media

Vice Chairman Marion called the meeting to order. Chairman Johnson was absent from the meeting due to sickness (excused). Commissioner Goins delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Marion requested the Board review and approve the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 20, 2020 meeting agenda.

Vice Chairman Marion requested the Board consider the minutes of the June 9, 2020 budget work session as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Vice Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Vice Chairman Marion requested the Board consider the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Vice Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Vice Chairman Marion 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 as follows:

Requests from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
 1. Total releases for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$12,256.18.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$2,036.87.
 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$765.16.

4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$7,799.62.
5. Total motor vehicle discoveries for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$0.
6. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$210,830.53.
7. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$28.40.
8. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$5,156.50.
9. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 6/30/2020 in the amount of \$29,595.25.

- Cancel the Conference of Local Elected Officials meeting scheduled for September 10, 2020.
- Set a price of \$30.00 for members of the general public who request to purchase a County flag.

Requests from the Assistant County Manager:

- Approve the Workers' Compensation settlement activity for quarter ending June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$71,462.96.
- Approve for Dale Harold to function as a Medical Examiner for Surry County.
- Approve the Sheriff's Office request to purchase a K-9 at a cost of \$9,615 with funds from forfeited narcotics money.

Requests from the Finance Officer:

- Approve Budget Amendment #18 to the FY2019-2020 Budget Ordinance, which follows the description. The budget amendment closes out completed capital projects for the Historic Courthouse, Dobson (Plaza) Service Center, Mount Airy Central Office and the original Airport Runway project. This is a housekeeping entry to clean up the ledger accounts and to correct fund balances on the project funds:

					Change #18
The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2019-2020 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on July 20, 2020.					
ACCOUNT			PREVIOUS		REVISED
CODE		DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHANGE	AMOUNT
<u>COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>					
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>Dobson Plaza BLDG</u>					
99154188	51500	Professional Services	21,256	(21,256)	0
99154188	51560	Professional Services-Engineering	141,191	(141,191)	0
99154188	51640	Project Construction	2,071,231	(2,071,231)	0
99154188	55580	Administrative Costs	97,000	(97,000)	0
99154188	59500	Contingency	75,000	(75,000)	0
99154188	59202	Transfer to School Capital Projects	0	1,503,729	1,503,729

		Decrease departmental total	2,405,678	(901,949)	1,503,729
Historic Courthouse Interior					
99154192	51500	Professional Services	127,582	(127,582)	0
99154192	51665	Repairs & Renovations	1,756,321	(1,756,321)	0
99154192	55580	Administrative Costs	52,800	(52,800)	0
99154192	59500	Contingency	100,000	(100,000)	0
		Decrease departmental total	2,036,703	(2,036,703)	0
REVENUE					
99144188	44595	Donations	55,000	(55,000)	0
99144188	49110	Proceeds from Financing	1,760,915	(1,760,915)	0
99144188	49800	Transfer from General Fund	589,763	(589,763)	0
99144188	49900	Unencumbered Balance	0	1,503,729	1,503,729
99144192	49110	Proceeds from Financing	2,036,703	(2,036,703)	0
		Decrease fund totals.	5,894,881	(2,938,652)	2,956,229
SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROJECTS					
EXPENDITURES					
Mt. Airy School Admin. Building					
99255969	51560	Professional Services-Engineering	97,978	(97,978)	0
99255969	51640	Project Construction	1,828,809	(1,828,809)	0
99255969	55580	Administrative Cost	50,200	(50,200)	0
		Decrease departmental total	1,976,987	(1,976,987)	0
REVENUE					
99245969	49100	Proceeds of Sale of Bonds	1,867,687	(1,867,687)	0
99245969	49810	Transfer from GF-Capital Improvement	109,300	(109,300)	0
99245969	49899	Transfer from County Capital Projects	0	1,503,729	1,503,729
99245969	49900	Unencumbered Balance	0	(1,503,729)	(1,503,729)
		Decrease fund totals.	28,739,059	(1,976,987)	26,762,072

AIRPORT CAPITAL PROJECTS					
EXPENDITURES					
Runway Expansion					
99754987	51560	Professional Services-Engineering	560,000	(560,000)	0
99754987	51615	Mitigation Services	747,685	(747,685)	0
99754987	51640	Project Construction	1,077,573	(1,077,573)	0
99754987	59500	Contingency	24,597	(24,597)	0
		Decrease departmental total	2,409,855	(2,409,855)	0
REVENUE					
99744987	43388	NC DOT Grant Aviation	972,916	(972,916)	0
99744987	49800	Transfer from General Fund	1,362,170	(1,362,170)	0
99744987	49900	Unencumbered Balance	74,769	(74,769)	0
		Decrease fund totals.	15,104,002	(2,409,855)	12,694,147

- Approve Budget Amendment #1 to the FY2020-2021 Budget Ordinance, which follows the description, for the Surry Teen Court Program's 20% matching funds of \$9,140.00:

					Change #1
The Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2020-2021 Budget Ordinance at their meeting on July 20, 2020.					
GENERAL FUND					
EXPENDITURES					
Special Appropriations					
1054198	57093	Children's Center	6,300	9,140	15,440
		Increase departmental total	342,561	9,140	351,701
REVENUE					
1044000	49900	Unencumbered Balance	7,702,257	9,140	7,711,397
		Increase fund totals.	74,774,812	9,140	74,783,952

- Approve to surplus the vehicles, which follow the description, and request a transfer of asset #95043 from the Sheriff's Office to Parks & Recreation. Parks & Recreation is turning in a surplus vehicle in exchange for the transfer:

<u>Asset#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN#</u>	<u>Department</u>
95112	2012	Dodge	Charger	2C3CDXAT5CH282434	Sheriff's Office
95124	2013	Dodge	Charger	2C3CDXAT5DH577194	Sheriff's Office
95043	2010	Ford	F150	1FTMF1EW6AKE29927	Sheriff's Office
95153	2014	Dodge	Charger	2C3CDXAT6EH156120	Sheriff's Office
95186	2014	Dodge	Charger	2C3CDXAT5EH348435	Sheriff's Office
95110	2012	Dodge	Charger	2C3CDXAT1CH282432	Sheriff's Office
13080	1999	GMC	Yukon	1GKED13R7XJ791507	C-Comm
95294	2016	Chevy	Ambulance	1GB6GUCLXG1260059	EMS

- Approve the following updated lists:

Deputy Finance Officers (all accounts and actions)

Chris Knopf, Sandra Snow and Jordan Wooten.

Department of Social Services Trust Account Only

Kristina Preston and April McMasters.

Inmate Trust Account Only

Lieutenant Randall Shelton, Sergeant Tim Ward, Sergeant Keith Watson, Sergeant Tony Holyfield, Sergeant Randy Jenkins, Senior Officer Mike Hale, Senior Officer Beau Booker, Senior Officer Jessica Morton, Senior Officer Twain Atkins, Senior Officer James Shumate and Senior Officer Angie Marion.

Sheriff's Levy Account Only

Lieutenant Jeffery Byrd and Sergeant Michael C. Murphy.

Deputy Purchasing Agents

Don Mitchell, Martha Brintle, Mallory Layne and Rita Horton.

- Approve the audit contracts with Gould Killian, CPA Group, for FY2019-2020 to prepare financial statements for Surry County, Mount Airy/Surry County Airport Authority and Flat Rock/Bannertown Water & Sewer District. There is no change to the fee schedule of \$68,900 in total fixed fees and \$3,000 in variable fees for additional major programs.

Vice 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.

Crystal Ritter, who is the homeowner at 791 Galax Trail that recent complainants have referenced in open forum, read a letter prepared by her autistic daughter. She discussed details about buying the property and her family's management of animals and trash. She also discussed disagreements with neighbors and disputed their claims.

Samona Creasy discussed the NAACP joint statement that was signed by Chairman Johnson. She voiced her displeasure with Chairman Johnson and said he should apologize. She said many legal protections are already in place to protect all ethnicities.

Keith Senter discussed the NAACP joint statement that was signed by Chairman Johnson. He said Chairman Johnson should resign. He also requested that all businesses in Surry County be reopened.

Ken Badgett emailed open forum comments, disagreeing with the Board's proclamation to reopen Surry County businesses, saying there are too many cases and deaths from COVID-19.

Kenneth Brannock emailed open forum comments, stating the need for more grocery stores and pharmacies in or around Pilot Mountain.

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

Kristy Preston, DSS Director, presented an Energy Program Outreach Plan (EPOP) for FY2020-2021 and requested the Board's approval. The EPOP is required as part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Energy Program Outreach Plan (EPOP).

Mark Willis, Opioid Response Director, presented a quarterly report, in which he shared overdose numbers and Continuum of Care options to better manage prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.

Mr. Willis discussed impediments to success, including the viewpoint that drug use is a criminal justice problem instead of a public health problem. He said the current drug use strategy is not the most effective and that a Continuum of Care will only work if Substance Use Disorder is viewed as a disease.

Mr. Willis discussed a public survey that he is working on with the North Carolina Training and Technical Assistance Center to identify if the community thinks solving drug use should be approached from a criminal justice or public health angle.

Mr. Willis discussed the Surry County Intervention Team and said that assistance from hospitals has been great. He said some local agencies measure how they address the drug use problem with different metrics. Mr. Willis said that a lack of transportation and transitional housing are also impediments.

Vice Chairman Marion thanked Mr. Willis for the job he is doing.

Mr. Willis' presentation documents are saved on the Government Center shared drive.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented a request to apply for a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Planning Grant, with a maximum total award of \$200,000 between September 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to apply for a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Planning Grant.

Mr. Knopf presented a request to apply for a Fisher River Erosion Repair Grant, totaling \$116,150.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to apply for a Fisher River Erosion Repair Grant, totaling \$116,150.

Mr. Knopf presented a request to adopt the 2021 State Holiday Schedule for Surry County employees.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2021 State Holiday Schedule for Surry County Government.

Mr. Knopf presented a resolution to adopt the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Knopf presented a request to approve an Emergency Management Performance Grant Program - Supplemental. The total amount of the award is \$12,695.45 with a \$12,695.45 match from the County. The funding will be used to purchase seven laptops for EMS staff to telework.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve an Emergency Management Performance Grant Program - Supplemental, with an award of \$12,695.45 and a \$12,695.45 match from the County.

Mr. Knopf presented a Coronavirus Relief Fund update, which detailed a second allocation of \$1,393,161. The State guidelines require that 25% of the total amount received, which equals \$2,811,094, must be allocated to the municipalities in Surry County.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Vice Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the plans presented by the County Manager.

Mr. Knopf requested the Board nominate a voting delegate and alternate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in August.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board unanimously nominated Commissioner Goins to serve as Surry County's voting delegate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board unanimously nominated Vice Chairman Marion to serve as Surry County's alternate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference.

Mr. Knopf requested that the Board amend the agenda to add an item requesting the audit of three volunteer fire departments.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to audit the Franklin, South Surry and Skull Camp volunteer fire departments for FY19-20.

Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager, requested the Board act on appointments and reappointments to Surry County's boards and commissions.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Ken Gulaian to a 3-year term on the Tourism Development Authority.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Jim Lewis to a 4-year term on the Surry Community College Board of Trustees.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Virginia "Jenny" Triplett to a 3-year term as Registered Nurse representative on the Board of Health.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Marion, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Chris White to a 3-year term on the Surry County Board of Adjustment.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint William Woltz, Jr. and Andy Gillespie to 4-year terms on the Northern Regional Hospital Board of Trustees.

Mr. Walls updated the Board on the closing of the 120 Crosswinds Lane surplus property sale, which sold for \$3,000. The initial bid was \$1,000.

The Board recessed for five minutes.

The Board came out of recess and resumed the meeting.

The Board discussed general County business. Each Board member disavowed themselves from the NAACP joint statement and provided detailed comments on how they disagreed with Chairman Johnson signing it. The Board said they would like for Chairman Johnson to explain why he signed the document.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Vice Chairman Marion, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session for legal pursuant to 143-318.11 (a) (3) 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 Commissioner Harris, the Board unanimously voted to approve, but not release, the May 14 and June 9, 2020 closed session minutes.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Nathan Walls
Clerk to the Board