

Surry County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of March 16, 2020

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., March 16, 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
Rhonda Nixon, Budget Director & Finance Officer
John Shelton, Emergency Services Director
Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director
Kristy Preston, DSS Director
Ed Woltz, County Attorney
Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager
Gary Miller, Cape Fear Regional Transport
News Media

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

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 March 16, 2020 agenda, less the Elkin High School April 6 meeting resolution and special recognitions, which will be rescheduled.

Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the minutes of the February 28, 2020 Board Retreat as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Chairman Johnson requested the Board consider the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Goins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

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

Request from the County Manager:

- Approve the following from the Tax Department:
 1. Total releases for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$2,265.92.
 2. Total refunds for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$2,583.16.
 3. Total NCVTS tag and tax refunds for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$1,076.37.
 4. Total real and personal property discoveries for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$11,130.59.
 5. Total motor vehicle discoveries for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$0.

6. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC additions for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$83,998.30.
 7. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC refunds for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$51.31.
 8. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC releases for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$1,645.93.
 9. Total EMS, EMD and EMS-MC collections for the month ending 2/29/2020 in the amount of \$17,033.86.
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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.

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

Kristy Preston, DSS Director, presented a DSS report. Ms. Preston said that the NC Association of County Boards of Social Services is requesting that each Board member, if they so desire, submit their contact information to the Association.

Ms. Preston provided performance measurement data from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, an NC FAST update and recognition of Child Support Agent Susan Reale, who was honored by the State for outstanding collections.

Commissioner Harris complimented Ms. Preston and her staff for the good job they are doing.

Chairman Johnson asked if drug issues that are causing foster home needs has lessened since Ms. Preston's last Board presentation and she said no. They also discussed Coronavirus impacting DSS court cases.

Nathan Walls, Assistant to the County Manager and Clerk to the Board, presented board and commission appointments and reappointments for March.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Brian Moser and Wanda Stanley and reappoint Frank Beals to the Surry County Planning Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Anthony Kiger to his ETJ seat on the Dobson Planning Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jerry Sawyers, Carolyn Sawyers, Larry Hudson and Marilyn Hudson to the Surry County Nursing Adult Care Homes Community Advisory Committee.

John Shelton, Emergency Services Director, presented an item regarding the ambulance service franchise application with Cape Fear Regional Transport.

The Board asked Mr. Shelton to explain what convalescent service is and asked Gary Miller of Cape Fear Regional Transport a series of questions about his service. Mr. Miller discussed the other areas of the state where he provides service.

The Board directed Ed Woltz, County Attorney, and Chris Knopf, County Manager, to work on a lease with Cape Fear Regional Transport for a single office.

Upon motion of Chairman Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to award an ambulance service franchise to Cape Fear Regional Transport for a period of one year.

Don Mitchell, Facilities Management Director, presented an item regarding an all access-handicap connector ramp at the Government Center.

Mr. Mitchell presented three bids from different construction contractors, all of which included the price for Trex decking and labor. The ramp would connect the Government Center to the Service Center. The project is being considered because of liability issues due to walking between the two buildings. Mr. Mitchell said bids were accepted February 27.

All Board members asked questions and deliberated the topic. Reservations about the bid prices were expressed by the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Board voted unanimously to reject all three bids and rebid the project.

An item was added to the agenda about a \$7,000 offer that had been received for 732 E. Pine Street in Mount Airy.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to surplus the property at 732 E. Pine Street, parcel #5030-09-16-5773.

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to accept the \$7,000 offer for the property at 732 E. Pine Street, parcel #5030-09-16-5773, subject to upset bid, to notify the adjoining land owners, to advertise and require the winning bidder to pay advertising costs.

Chris Knopf, County Manager, presented an item regarding cancellation of upcoming meetings due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to cancel the April 6 Surry Board of County Commissioners meeting, April 9 Conference of Local Elected Officials and April 14 Surry Board of County Commissioners Budget Work Session, to reconvene on April 20 for the Surry Board of County Commissioners meeting, and to revise the regular meeting and budget calendars.

Mr. Shelton, Emergency Services Director, presented a draft State of Emergency declaration for Surry County.

Commissioner Tucker said he did not like a statement in the draft that stated, "reserve the right to control dangerous weapons."

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Marion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State of Emergency declaration, less the words "reserve the right to control dangerous weapons."

Upon motion of Commissioner Goins, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:19 p.m.

Nathan Walls
Clerk to the Board