

February 11, 2015

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Martin County Governmental Center at 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Commissioner Tommy Bowen, Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen, Clerk to the Board Marion B. Thompson, and Finance Officer /Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ayers led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Bowen offered the invocation.

Chairman Smith welcomed all and recognized elected officials, Judge Regina Parker, Sheriff Dan Gibbs, as well as ABC Board Member James Hill. Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin was also in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chairman Lilley made the MOTION to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bowen SECONDED the motion. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Roy Lilley, of 217 Cedar Lane, Williamston, NC and **Judge Regina Parker**, of 1481 Fairway Dr., Williamston, NC both made passionate appeals, while providing statistical information (stated below) and real life examples (efforts made during adjudication to reform youth) to support the need for the requested funding assistance for the proposed Boys and Girls Clubs (2) for Martin County.

Mr. Lilley reported according to the Roadmap of Need, an in-depth needs assessment of North Carolina youth, produced annually by the Public School Forum of North Carolina’s Center for Afterschool programs, out of 100 counties (with #1 being best), Martin County ranked: 94th in child obesity; 94th in graduation rate; 94th in child poverty; and 100th in juvenile delinquency.

CONSENT AGENDA

When Chairman Smith asked for a motion of approval for the Consent Agenda, Vice Chairman Lilley recommended that the Board remove from the Clerk’s Report, and consider adopting at the next meeting the resolution regarding “In God We Trust” being displayed in the Board of Commissioners’ room.

Commissioner Bond made the MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

1. **Minutes** for January 7, 2015, Regular & Closed Sessions, January 15, 2015, Special Called Session, and January 26, 2015, Special Called Session.
2. **Financial Report** for December 2014 included for informational purposes.
3. **Finance Office – Request to Dispose of Old Records**

The Martin County Finance Office requested approval to dispose of the following old personnel related items:

- Prior to 2007 Monthly accumulators (FYTD & CYTD), payroll, payroll deductions records, terminated employees' time sheets – state law requires retention 7 years.
- Prior to 2007 Payroll earning records – state law requires retention for 7 years.
- Prior to 2010 Supporting documents to W-2, W-3, 1099 – state law requires retention 4 years. (W-2, W-3, & 1099 maintained permanently)
- Prior to 2009 Leave Reports and Payroll Transmittal Reports – state law requires 5 years for leave reports.
- Prior to 2011 Local Government Retirement Reports – state law requires retention 3 years.
- Prior to 2011 Cafeteria Plan records – state law requires 3 years after audit.
- Prior to 2011 Personnel correspondence/Memoranda – state law requires 3 years.
- Prior to 2011 Receipts for County Retiree Payments of Insurance – State law requires 3 years.

4. **Tax Refund Requests**

a. **Parcel #10-00878**

Mr. Wilber Bryant requested a refund for trash pick-up for year 2014 on parcel #10-00878. Tax Assessor Hilton Edmondson visited the property and agreed that there is not a home of any type on this property. The refund amount would be \$172.00.

b. **Parcel # 08-00246**

Mr. Wayne Raynor, of Raynor Brothers requested a refund for two trash pickup fees for year 2014 on parcel #08-00246. It was stated that the lot has been vacant for the last five years or more. Tax Assessor Hilton Edmondson visited the property and agreed that the property is vacant. The refund amount would be \$344.00.

5. **Tax Relief Orders – Real & Personal** for January 2015 in the amount of \$ 1,582.66.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lname</u>	<u>Fname</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Total</u>
2014	Williamston	Town of	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00

2014	Cullipher	Low Rawls	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2014	Francis	Michael	Plate Surrendered	354	3.12
2014	Hill	James E & Hattie Heirs	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2014	Howell	Mary Heirs	Error in Landfill Fee		344.00
2014	Morring	William R. Jr.	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2013	Peele	Joseph Darrell Jr.	Error in Landfill Fee		162.00
2014	Peele	Joseph Darrell Jr.	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
2014	Reddick	William Jr. heirs	Double List	5,430	41.54
2014	Williamston	Town of	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00
				Total	1,582.66

6. Tax Collector's Report – January 2015

	January	January
Real (20)	\$968,736.09	\$7,487,442.58
Personal (25)	<u>440,943.79</u>	<u>4,057,136.53</u>
Total	\$1,409,679.88	\$11,544,579.11
MV (30)	<u>1,121.63</u>	<u>68,407.47</u>
Total MV	\$1,121.63	\$68,407.47
All Total	\$1,410,801.51	\$11,612,986.58

7. Tax Collector's Request to Advertise Unpaid Taxes

As of February 2, 2015, the total of unpaid 2014-15 taxes that are liens on real property was \$2,026,939.27. Tax Collector Christine Blevins requested authorization to advertise all unpaid property taxes in the local newspaper, Enterprise & Weekly Herald, on April 3, 2015 or as soon as is possible thereafter according to NC G.S. §105-369 of the Machinery Act of North Carolina.

8. Board Appointments / Reappointments & Resignations

a. Airport Commission Board

On behalf of the Airport Commission, Chairman Gene Powell requested that the Board of Commissioners appoint Mr. Milton Bennett as a citizen representative to replace Commissioner Joe Ayers, who now serves a Commissioner Representative for that Board. Mr. Bennett's term would expire January 31, 2019.

Additionally, Chairman Powell requested the reappointment of the following individuals for another four year term, which would expire January 31, 2019: Mr. Buck Davis, Mr. Junious Horton, Mr. Abner House and Mr. Gene Powell.

b. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board

The Board of Commissioners is being asked to appoint Mr. Mark Leggett to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board to complete the unexpired term of Mr. James “Jimmie” Horton, which would expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Horton resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

c. Martin County Council on Aging Board

On behalf of the Martin County Council on Aging, Department of Aging Director Charmaine Hardison recommended the reappointment of the following individuals for another three year term, which would expire February 10, 2018: Ms. Angela Bell, Mr. Wayne Peel, Ms. Nola Pritchett, and Mr. John Quellette.

Additionally, Ms. Fannie Smith submitted her resignation, as a member of the Martin County Council on Aging, for personal medical reasons. This term would have expired on February 10, 2017. The Council of Aging plans to recommend an individual to complete Ms. Smith’s term before the March meeting.

d. Tourism Development Authority Board

Tourism Director Barney Conway forwarded a letter concerning the resignation of TDA Board member Susan B. Bothern, citizen representative, due to an increase in work related responsibilities.

At its February 2, 2015 meeting, the TDA Board tabled making the decision as to whom to recommend as a replacement to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Bothern, which would expire June 30, 2015, until next month’s meeting.

9. Resolution Supporting a Change in Speed Limit on a Portion of Grand Canyon Road

The resolution below is a continuation of a previous effort in April 2011 to have the speed limit changed from 55mph to 45 mph on a portion of Grand Canyon Rd, Williamston, NC due to serious safety concerns. If adopted, the resolution would be forward to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for further consideration.

Approval of the Consent Agenda with the inclusion of this item would constitute the Board’s approval.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CHANGE IN SPEED LIMIT
ON A PORTION OF GRAND CANYON ROAD**

WHEREAS, Grand Canyon Road (SR 1114) is a heavily traveled secondary road with a posted speed limit of 55 mph; and

WHEREAS, due to its design, the road allows people to easily travel above the speed limit, which creates safety issues particularly in the vicinity of Fire Department Road, where it is a congested area that bisects a dual residential-agricultural business area with a high volume of pedestrian traffic; and

WHEREAS, the NC Department of Transportation right-of-way decreases from 60 feet to 20 feet along this portion of the road, and having vehicles travel 55+ mph within a 20-foot right-of-way creates additional safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners are concerned about the safety of those living and working in this high volume pedestrian traffic area.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners supports changing the speed limit on Grand Canyon Road from the Smithwick Creek bridge east to the intersection with Fire Department Road from 55 mph to 35 mph; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

Adopted this, the 11th day of February, 2015.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

10. **East Carolina Behavioral Health Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report** for period ending December 31, 2014 is included for informational purposes.
11. **The Clerk Report** is included each month for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE (S)

County Manager David Bone introduced new Dept. of Aging Director Charmaine Hardison. Sheriff Dan Gibbs presented new full-time Deputy Sheriff Scott Cooper. Social Worker Supervisor Nancy Conner recognized new full-time Social Worker Kevia Griffin. Income Maintenance Caseworker Supervisor Teresa Canady introduced new full-time Income Maintenance Caseworker Tasha' Watts. Income Maintenance Caseworker Supervisor Judy Moses presented new full-time Income Maintenance Caseworker Rhonda Waters. Tax Assessor Hilton Edmondson recognized new full-time Tax Clerk Erica Davis. The Board of Commissioners welcomed all to the Martin County workforce family.

PRESENTATION (S)

Martin-Tyrrell-Washington (MTW) District Health Department

Chairman Smith stated the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington (MTW) District Health Department provides an array of services to the citizens of the Martin, Tyrrell and Washington Counties. The Health Department is funded by federal, state and county tax dollars as well as grants, and fees generated for services.

The Health Department is governed by the MTW District Health Board of Directors, which is composed of members appointed by the Board of Commissioners of each of the three counties.

During her presentation to the County Board of Commissioners, MTW District Health Director Terrell Davis commented on the following services provided by the MTW District Health Department:

- Maternal Health, STD/Communicable Disease, Immunizations
- Environmental Health, Home Health Care
- General, Child Health, and Family Planning
- Other Services such as vaccines, TB skin test, outside labs, etc., Tuberculosis
- Dental Health Services, WIC (Womens', Infants, & Children's program)
- Preparedness, Healthy Communities
- Health & Wellness, MCCCHC (The Martin County Child Care Consultant program)
- Martin County TOP & Martin County Teen Court
- Diabetes Education & Prevention
- Pregnancy Care Management / Care Coordination for Children
- Juvenile Restitution / Community Service
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) & Safe Kids Riverbend Coalition
- Primary Care

MTW District Health Director Davis stated the MTW District Health Department continues to experience a revenue shortfall. Statistics for the last several years' revenue / expenses were provided. Efforts, thus far, to reduce costs have not eliminated the need to dip into savings in recent years.

Cost saving measures implemented:

- A reduction in workforce;
- Furloughs;
- Use of agency vehicle for travel, when possible;
- Renegotiated contracts;
- Suspended employee education allowance; and
- Canceled the Christmas luncheon.

The MTW District Health Department Board approved the sale of its Hospice agency in 2012 to Amedisys for the amount of \$300,000. MTW District Health Director Davis stated the use of savings would have been greater, if the Hospice agency had not been sold.

At its meeting on January 27th, the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Board voted to eliminate primary care services for adults, effective April 1, 2015, as a means to help control cost. Expenses were continually exceeding revenue for primary care services. As with other programs, many grants have been discontinued for adult primary care services.

Concerned about the discontinuation of primary care to adults, the MTW District Health Board are soliciting interested individuals to formulate a committee to find more cost efficient ways to administer primary care services.

Currently, each county contributes \$10.63 per capita per year. This equates to approximately the following amounts:

Martin County	\$255,000
Washington County	\$135,000
Tyrrell County	\$ 46,000

Annual Child Community Protection Team Report

As part of a mandated requirement of NC G. S. §7B-1406, Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) Chairman Nancy Conner, Dept. of Social Services Social Worker Supervisor, presented the following information to the Board of Commissioners for the year 2014.

In May of 1991, the CCPT was established by law as a means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. The composition of the CCPT is mandated by law and includes appointed members of an interdisciplinary group of community representatives who meet regularly to promote a community-wide approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The CCPT is not a Department of Social Services team.

Representatives of the Department of Social Services, local law enforcement, the director of the local community action agency, a local mental health professional, a local guardian ad litem, public health officials, a member of the county's DSS board, an individual from the local school system, community partners and citizens collaborate on the Community Child Protection Team.

The Community Child Protection team duties and responsibilities include reviewing active cases in which abuse, neglect or dependency was substantiated, and identifying where resources may be lacking, which as a result affected the outcome of the case. Cases may also be brought for review at the specific request of a team member or the Department of Social Services.

Domestic Violence, the illegal use of prescription medication and mental illness are the current major factors that are impacting the Martin County community.

In 2014, Martin County DSS received 267 Child Protective Services (CPS) Reports; 161 reports were screened in and investigated (Accepted). In December 2014, there remained 37 children in foster care (FC). Sixty percent (60%) of the children in foster care are five years old and under.

Below is a table of comparison for the last five years of the number of cases CCPT received, accepted, and year ending number of children in foster care:

Year	FC	CPS Reports	Accepted
2014	37	267	161
2013	33	221	136
2012	41	312	215
2011	34	249	169
2010	28	315	215

The CCPT also collaborates with the Tedi Bear Child (name stands for Tender Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention for a Better Abuse Response) Advocacy Center of Greenville quarterly. The community based multi-discipline teams serve children who are alleged victims of child sexual abuse throughout eastern North Carolina. The team reviews cases within the county and receives updates from local law enforcement, DSS and the district attorney. CCPT Chairman Nancy Conner stressed the importance of the attendance of the district attorney, along with local law enforcement during case reviews with the Advocacy Center of Greenville.

In April 2014, the team launched a “Blue Ribbon Campaign, to raise awareness during child abuse prevention month. In October 2014, a “Balloon Release Ceremony” to honor 24 children that lost their lives as a result of child abuse in North Carolina was sponsored by the team.

CCPT Chairman Nancy Conner concluded the presentation by using the illustration of a small singular acorn, which multiplies to many, to describe the impact on a community, when many in the community work together on a common cause.

Housing Grants Update

Chairman Smith commented that Martin County currently has 2 active housing programs – the 2012 NC Housing Finance Agency (HFA) A Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR) program, and the 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Hook-up program. An application for funding has been submitted from the 2015 Single Family Rehabilitation funding program.

2012 Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR) Program

Through the Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR) program, the NC Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) makes funds available to local government and nonprofit agencies to facilitate the comprehensive rehabilitation of single-family homes owned and occupied by very low- and low-income homeowners with one or more elderly and/or disabled fulltime household members or with a child under the age of 6 whose health is threatened by the presence of lead-based paint hazards in their area. Participants must have an income level below 80% of the area median

income. Participants receive funds in the form of an interest-free, deferred-forgiven loan, forgiven at \$3,000 per year, to pay for the necessary rehabilitation of their homes.

Project Manager Mike Barnette, of McDavid Associates reported that for the 2012 SFR Grant, Martin County received an initial award of \$160,000 and completed 3 rehabilitations with these funds. The County has been able to secure \$98,095 in “pool” funds to do an additional two units in Williamston. The two additional units are under contract with an expected completion by the project deadline of June 30th of this year.

2011 Community Develop Block Grant (CDBG) Hook-up Program

The Infrastructure Hook-Up Program enables eligible local governments with existing public water and/or sewer line(s) to connect or "hook-up" low and moderate-income (LMI) households to non-CDBG funded line(s). CDBG funds may only be used to connect LMI owner-occupied dwellings and LMI tenant-occupied dwellings provided the landlord is also LMI. Eligible activities include:

- Tap-on or assessment fee to connect to the line
- Service connection for the private property
- Use of special equipment such as grinder pumps or vacuum pits to transport residential wastewater to the existing sewer lines
- Cost to remove septic tanks or cap wells, as required by the health department
- Repairs to a LMI household's leaking water pipes provided that the leaking pipes are a result of connecting to the public water line

Project Engineer Barnette stated the 2011 CDBG Hook-up program grant award of \$75,000 was used to connect thirteen (13) homes to the Martin County water system and nine (9) more units are currently under construction / in process. All construction in this program will be complete by the end of March 2015.

2010 Community Develop Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered Site Housing (SSH) Program

Scattered Site Housing (SSH) grants enabled local governments to address the most critical housing needs of very low income families (incomes at or below 50% of the area median income) throughout the county, including participating municipalities. Grants are made to approximately 33 county governments across the state on a non-competitive rotating basis.

Project Engineer Barnette stated the 2010 CDBG Scattered Site Housing (SSH) grant received by Martin County was a grant of \$400,000 and no local match was required. The project contained 2 clearance / reconstruction units, 4 rehabilitation units and 6 emergency repair units (repairs totaling \$5,000 or less). This project is currently closed-out, pending approval of the County audit.

Loss of Scattered Site Housing Program

Project Engineer Barnette stated since 2001, approximately \$1.6 million in Scattered Site Housing grants have been awarded to Martin County.

In 2013, the NC Legislature removed the state's portion of federal Community Development Block Grant funding (approximately \$7.2 million) for the Scattered Site housing program in favor of increasing CDBG funding for infrastructure. This does not affect the use of CDBG funds in entitlement cities (population of at least 50,000) and urban counties (population of 200,000 or more, excluding the population of metropolitan cities within their boundaries).

2015 Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR)

On behalf of Martin County, Project Engineer Barnette reported the McDavid Associates recently submitted an application for funding from the 2015 Single Family Rehabilitation (SFR) funding program. The County has requested an initial allocation of \$170,000 to rehabilitate 3 houses. Martin County will be notified after April 9, 2015, if it has been recommended for SFR funding from the 2015 pool.

NCACC February Board Update Video

The NC Association of County Commissioners produced a new legislative update video that was five minutes in length. The NCACC requested that the County Commissioners view the video in the February board meeting. The video provided an overview of the 2015 Legislative Goals Conference, which took place in Moore County. Of the final 45 goals listed as priorities, the counties selected five top NCACC legislative goals:

1. State funding of Medicaid and healthcare access for all citizens
2. Restore lottery funds to counties
3. Repeal authority for school boards to sue county boards
4. Oppose any shift of state transportation responsibility to counties
5. Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of State responsibilities

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Adopting a Policy for Mutual Assistance with Other Law Enforcement Agencies

Earlier this year, the Sheriff's Association expressed the importance of each county's governing body adopting by resolution a policy to govern the cooperation and mutual assistance between law enforcement agencies. In accordance with NC General Statute §160A-288, the Martin County Sheriff's Office has provided mutual assistance to other local and out-of-county law enforcement agencies for many years.

The resolution would authorize the Martin County Sheriff to enter into mutual assistance arrangements with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies, provided that the head of the requesting law enforcement agency makes such a request in writing.

Vice Chairman Lilley made the MOTION to approve the Resolution Adopting a Policy for Mutual Assistance with Other Law Enforcement Agencies as presented below, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bond. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
ADOPTING A POLICY FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE
WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-288, the governing body of a county may adopt appropriate guidelines for the purpose of mutual assistance with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said laws, the law enforcement assistance to be rendered authorizes lending officers to work temporarily with officers of requesting agencies, including in an undercover capacity, and lending equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens of Martin County to adopt a resolution policy and guidelines whereby reciprocal law enforcement assistance can be both rendered to and obtained from other governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, such reciprocal assistance is necessary for effective law enforcement for the protection of the citizens of Martin County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into mutual assistance arrangements with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies, provided that the head of the requesting law enforcement agency makes such a request in writing.
2. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to permit officers of the Martin County Sheriff's Office to work temporarily with officers of the requesting agency, including in an undercover capacity, and the Sheriff may lend such equipment and supplies to requesting agencies as he deems advisable.
3. All such requests and authorizations shall be in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-288, as applicable.
4. While working with a requesting agency, an officer shall have the same jurisdiction, powers, rights, privileges and immunities (including those relating to the defense of civil actions and payment of judgments) as officers of the requesting agency in addition to those the officer normally possesses.
5. While on duty with the requesting agency, an officer shall be subject to the lawful operation commands of the officer's superior officers in the requesting agency, but the officer shall for personnel and administrative purposes remain under the control of the officer's own agency, including for purposes of pay. An officer shall furthermore be entitled to worker's compensation and the same benefits to the extent as though he were functioning within the normal scope of the officer's duties.
6. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into mutual assistance agreements with other law enforcement agencies in accordance with such reasonable arrangements, terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the respective heads of the law enforcement agencies.

7. It is understood that when entering into a mutual assistance agreement the Sheriff shall remain within the annual budget approved by the Board of Commissioners unless a budget amendment is approved by the Board of Commissioners.

This the 11th day of February, 2015.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Consideration of Funding for Boys & Girls Club Initiative

Representative from the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Plain made a presentation at the January 7th Board of Commissioners meeting. Representatives present included:

- Misty Marston, President and CEO
- Donyell “DJ” Jones, Vice President of Operations
- Steve Stephenson, former Chairman
- Roy Lilley, local volunteer
- Stephanie Reynolds, Director of Training & Outcome Measurement

Martin County received a letter requesting funding (\$40,000) for the Boys and Girls Club initiative for Martin County for three consecutive years. In comparison, the following jurisdictions provide the following amounts in annual funding for the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Plain:

- Beaufort County – \$40,000
- City of Greenville - \$22,280 (CDBG / HUD funds)
- City of Washington – \$18,000
- Town of Farmville – \$18,000
- Town of Belhaven – \$6,300
- Town of Grifton – \$2,000
- Town of Winterville – \$2,500

The Martin County Board of Education have committed to aid-in-kind in the form of the use of two buildings, transportation, and utilities.

Chairman Smith asked each Commissioner to comment on the funding request for the Martin County Boys and Girls Club initiative.

Overall, the Board agreed this was a great program that was run by professionals, and that the statistics show how seriously Martin County needs more programs that benefit youth at an early age. However, some Board members were not quite ready to make a three year commitment before the 2015-16 budget workshops. There was also concern about adding new programs at the expense of others already receiving allocations from the County without seeing next year's budget.

The majority of the Board consensually agreed to look seriously at the Boys and Girls Club funding request during the budget process.

Appointments / Reappointments – Equalization & Review

a. Board Appointments / Reappointments

N C G. S. §105-322 (e) requires the Board of Equalization and Review meet annually. Tax Assessor Hilton Edmondson would like to start the Board of Equalization and Review sessions this year on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 5 p.m., and adjourn on Monday, April 27, 2015, if applicable. Meetings would be held in the Martin County Board of Commissioners room in the Governmental Center.

Tax Assessor Edmondson contacted Mr. K. Pittman, Mr. Hugh Kennedy, Ms. Ella Thigpen, Mr. Donald White and Mr. Tracy Gurganus concerning being reappointed, and all have agreed to serve on the 2015 Martin County Board of Equalization and Review, if approved.

b. Chairman & Vice Chairman Appointments

Staff recommended the reappointment of Mr. K. Pittman as the Chairman and Mr. Hugh Kennedy as the Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Bowen made the MOTION to reappointment the five named individuals and to reappoint the current Chairman and Vice Chairman, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Lilley. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Farmers Market Management Contract

Martin County Cooperative Extension Office is responsible for renting the Farmers Market building located at 4001 W. Main Street Ext., just off Highway 64. The building is used for numerous events, such as the Farmers Market, yard sales, various community auctions, receptions, 4-H livestock sales, family reunions, and arts and craft shows.

Local farmers and crafters make up the Martin County Farmers Market Association. Members sell locally-grown produce, farm raised pork products, homemade baked goods, homemade jams and jellies, handmade crafts and other items. The Farmers Market Association typically operates from May through September and holds two specialty markets during other times of the year.

Cooperative Extension Director Al Cochran reported that in September, Martin County was awarded a \$5,000 Tobacco Trust Fund grant for a part-time Farmers Market Manager position

for a one-year period, thus the 2015 season. The part-time manager would work with the Farmers Market Association for the expected 5-month seasonal period, and be supervised by the County Extension Director. The Farmers Market / Cooperative Extension may apply for additional grant funding past the initial one-year period and is in the process of doing so for the 2016 season.

The County is providing in-kind funds by allowing the Farmers Market Association rent-free use of the Farmers Market building. The County provides a part of the County Extension Director's salary as well.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to approve the Farmers Market Management Contract with Jean Brownfield, as presented.

Vice Chairman Lilley made the MOTION to approve the Farmers Market Management Contract as presented below, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Prepared by J. Melvin Bowen, of
Bowen & Batchelor, Attorneys.

NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN COUNTY

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this the _____ day of _____, 2015, by and between **Jean Brownfield** (hereinafter referred to as the "Independent Contractor") of 2501 McCaskey Road, Williamston, North Carolina 27892, party of the first part, and the **County of Martin** (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer"), of P. O. Box 668, Williamston, North Carolina 27892, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH:

THAT for and in consideration of mutual promises each to the other as hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

The Independent Contractor hereby agrees to provide professional services as the Market Manager for the Martin County Farmers Market as follows:

1. To open and close the Farmers Market each day the Market is open for vendors.

2. To assign booth spaces to vendors and work with the Treasurer of the Association to see that booth fees are collected and submitted in a timely manner to the Extension Office for processing.
3. To meet with the Martin County Farmers Market Association at their regular monthly meetings.
4. To assign groups to sell concessions at each market event.
5. To manage disputes between vendors and work with Extension advisors in necessary matters.
6. To administer the rules of the Market set by the Martin County Farmers Market Association and the Martin County Cooperative Extension Service.
7. To work with the President of the Martin County Farmers Association to advertise Farmers Market Events.
8. To manage and maintain on file the vendor application paperwork.

As a 1099 Independent Contractor, the party of the first part shall make all tax payments to the federal and state governments of the full amount of the contract as required by law.

The Employer hereby agrees:

1. To pay the Independent Contractor for the year of 2015 the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900.00) per month for the months of May through September (which are the months the Market is open) plus the sum of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) for two (2) specialty markets in the month of November, for a total annual payment of \$5,000.00. At the end of the year 2015, the parties will negotiate and review said contract for any extensions beyond the year 2015.

Independent Contractor Status. The party of the first part is an independent contractor within the meaning and definition of case laws and/or statutory laws of the State of North Carolina.

The Employer shall not be held liable for any fringe benefits or other employee benefits under this contract. As an independent contractor, the party of the first part hereby waives any right to

benefits under the North Carolina Workers Compensation Act that might arise out of and in the course of the work as a contract employee of the County of Martin.

Entire Agreement. The parties have read this Agreement and agree to be bound by its terms, and further agree that it constitutes the complete and exclusive statement of the Agreement between them, superseding all other proposals or agreements, oral or written, and all other communications between them relating to the subject matter of the Agreement.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, the day and year first above written.

Jean Brownfield (SEAL)

COUNTY OF MARTIN

By: _____
Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk

Budget Amendments

Budget Amendment #15

Finance Officer Cindy Ange reported the Martin County Cooperative Extension Service received an award of \$1,000 from the NC Department of Agriculture for its pesticide container collection. Cooperative Extension plan to use these funds for program materials.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-15

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Martin County, North Carolina, that the following amendments be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

Increase

Decrease

Economic and Physical Development
Cooperative Extension \$1,000

This will result in an increase of \$1,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Pesticide Container Recycling \$1,000

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

MOTION by Commissioner Bowen and SECONDED by Commissioner Bond to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 11th day of February, 2015. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Budget Amendment #16

The NC Department of Human Services released the final allocations for Low Income Energy Assistance effective December 1, 2014. The County's allocation for these funds was \$1,923 less than what was budgeted. These funds, also known as Low-Income Home Energy Assistance funds, are used to assist citizens with heating and cooling bills.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-16

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Martin County, North Carolina, that the following amendments be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows.

	Increase	Decrease
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Human Services		
DSS LIEAP	\$1,923	

This will result in a decrease of \$ 1,270 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide a decrease in the revenues for the above, the following revenues will be changed.

Restricted Intergovernmental \$1,923

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

MOTION by Commissioner Bowen and SECONDED by Commissioner Bond to adopt the above budget ordinance amendment this 11th day of February, 2015. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Smith commented that legislation has been revised to require two primaries in North Carolina in 2016; presidential and general primaries, to allow North Carolina to play a more active role rather than after-the-fact decision in the Presidential Primary (Super Tuesday). South Carolina's presidential primary would determine the date of the North Carolina presidential primary. The general primary would be in May as usual. Absentee ballot (early voting) could be as early as December 28, 2015 for the North Carolina presidential primary.

NC G.S. § 163-213.2 mandates that "on the Tuesday after the first Monday in May, 1992, and every four years thereafter, the voters of this State shall be given an opportunity to express their preference for the person to be the presidential candidate of their political party." In August 2013, the statute was amended and ratified to include the following "except that if South Carolina holds its presidential primary before the 15th day of March, the North Carolina presidential preference primary shall be held on the Tuesday after the first South Carolina presidential preference primary of that year."

This may be an added expense for counties. There is also concern two primaries may effect voter turn-out. To that end, some lawmakers have had discussions about overturning the 2013 legislation regarding the presidential primary.

Chairman Smith added voters 70 years of age and older may use their driver's license as identification (ID), even if it has expired. Those less than 70 years of age would need a valid driver's license. Currently, a state issued photo ID such as a driver's license would not be needed for curbside voting.

CLOSED SESSION – NC G. S. §143-318.11(a)(3), Attorney/ Client Privilege

Around 8:45 p.m., Commissioner Bond made the MOTION to enter Closed Session in pursuant of NC G. S. §143-318.11(a)(3), Attorney/ Client Privilege, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Around 9:15 p.m., Vice Chairman Lilley made the MOTION to end Closed Session in pursuant of NC G. S. §143-318.11(a)(3), Attorney/ Client Privilege, with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

No action in open session was taken regarding the closed session discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bond made the MOTION to adjourn at 9:17 p.m., with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

The next regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

Marion B. Thompson, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board