

April 10, 2019

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Martin County Governmental Center, Commissioners' Boardroom at 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

ASSEMBLY

Those in attendance: Chairman Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Elmo "Butch" Lilley, Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, County Attorney Richard James, Clerk to the Board Jessica Godard and Finance Director/Deputy Clerk Cindy Ange.

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ayers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Smith provided the invocation.

Chairman Bowen extended a welcome to everyone in attendance. Chairman Bowen recognized the following elected/appointed official in attendance: Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin, Sheriff Tim Manning, Williamston Commissioner Ronell Rogers, Parmele Mayor Jerry McCrary, and Hamilton Commissioner Larry Jackson. Chief Deputy Drew Robinson was also in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Lilley made the MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eulah Rogers, 1119 Grimes Drive, Williamston, NC – Ms. Rogers came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss road conditions in her neighborhood off of Bonnie Best Road (Sandy Hill Lane, Grimes Drive, and Shady Lane). The land was purchased in 1998 from Richard Grimes. Ms. Rogers stated the roads in the neighborhood were bumpy with wide gaps which wash away with rain which became hazardous to drive upon. The residents were having to drive three-to-five miles per hour to keep from damaging their vehicles.

Ms. Rogers further stated emergency services that were needed might also be delayed because of the inability for vehicles to go over twenty miles per hour, thus causing potential delays in medical care. Also, mailboxes had been moved because mail delivery drivers had refused to go down the roads in the neighborhood. Ms. Rogers said the residents were tax payers and deserved better services. She had not been able to get any help from the landowner.

Chairman Bowen informed Ms. Rogers that although he understood their situation, counties do not own or maintain roads. There is an assessment process that can be gone through as long as the landowners agree. County Manager Bone stated if Mr. Grimes agreed to convey the road to the DOT and the landowners agreed to pay the cost of improvements (up to DOT standards), improvements could be made by DOT and paid by property owners through an assessment to properties. 75% of the landowners would have to agree to pay the costs, and the process is a long process. County Manager Bone informed the County Manager's office could begin

conversation with her and other residents to see if an assessment would be appropriate, if she followed up with him.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith made the MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

1. **Minutes** for March 13, 2019 Regular & Closed Sessions, March 20, 2019 Special Session (Department Budget Presentations), March 27, 2019 Special Session (Agency Budget Presentations), and March 28, 2019 Special Joint Meeting (Bertie County, Chowan County, BMR Jail Commission)
2. **Financial Report** for February 2019 included for informational purposes.
3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – March 2019 – \$1,432.83**

Account # 10347 – Mr. Charles Rogerson requested a refund for years 2018-2015 (4 years) for a 2013 Tidewater boat that was destroyed in the hurricane of April of 2014. Per General Statute 105-381(a)(1), Martin County was allowed to refund the current year plus 5 additional years due to an error from within the Tax Assessor’s office. If approved, the refund amount would be \$1,432.83 plus any additional interest and fees due from the county. Mr. Rogerson was requesting the refund be applied to any outstanding taxes that he owed and any remaining to be mailed back to him.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners approved the refund request as part of the consent agenda.

4. **Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – March 2019**

Year Levy	Lname	Fname	Reason	Value	Total
2019	Burroughs	Devin Eugene	Sold Vehicle		4.78
2019	Burroughs	Devin Eugene	Sold Vehicle		13.03
2019	Burroughs	Devin Eugene	Sold Vehicle		4.58
2019	Burroughs	Devin Eugene	Sold Vehicle		12.50
2019	Daniels	Shelton Earl	Double Billed		31.71
2019	Francis	Justin	Clerk Error		4.68
2019	Francis	Justin	Clerk Error		2.55
2019	GWA	LLC	Error in Listing		37.00
2019	GWA	LLC	Surrendered Tags		36.03
2019	GWA	LLC	Surrendered Tags		32.42
2019	GWA	LLC	Surrendered Tags		29.74
2019	GWA	LLC	Surrendered Tags		26.76
2019	GWA	LLC	Surrendered Tags		28.59
2019	Jacksons	Agri-Services	Error in Value		287.75
2019	Matthews Jr.	Robert Dale	Sold Vehicle		94.67
2019	Roberson	Jeffrey G	Sold Mobile Home		121.00
2019	Thompson	David Matthew	Error in Landfill Fee		172.00

2019	Villapando	Benjamin	Double List		77.24
2019	Wells	Jonathan Robert	Double List		11.19
2019	Wells	Jonathan Robert	Double List		11.84
2019	Wells	Jonathan Robert	Double List		11.02
2019	Wells	Jonathan Robert	Double List		11.19
2019	Anderson	George Darrell	Situs Error		60.20
2019	Harrell	Howard Leroy	Adjustment		64.09
2019	Miller	Roger David	Over Assessment		34.62
2019	Roebuck	Jerry Lee	Adjustment		86.00
				Total:	\$1,307.18

5. Tax Collector's Report –March 2019

	Category	Mar-19	Mar 19 Y-T-D
Real Property	20	\$381,321.84	\$8,843,246.37
Personal Property	25	<u>59,098.59</u>	<u>4,720,165.68</u>
Total		\$440,420.43	\$13,563,412.05
Motor Vehicle	30	<u>800.16</u>	<u>1,681.65</u>
Total MV		\$800.16	\$1,681.65
All Total		\$441,220.59	\$13,565,093.70

6. ABC Board Requests Approval to Adopt Martin County's Travel Policy

NC General Statute states that travel on official business by the members and employees of the local ABC boards shall be reimbursed pursuant to G.S. 138-6 unless the local ABC board adopts a travel policy that conforms to the travel policy of the appointing authority and such policy is approved by the appointing authority..." [NC General Statute 18-B-700 (g)(2)].

Statute requires annual approval by the appointing authority if the local ABC Board chooses to adopt the appointing authority's travel policy.

The Martin County ABC Board requested approval by the Martin County Board of Commissioners to adopt the Martin County Travel Policy as its own.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners approved the request as part of the consent agenda.

7. Board Appointments/Reappointments

Animal Control Board of Appeals

The Martin County Animal Control Board was established as a quasi-judicial board in 2011 to oversee appeals regarding dogs that have been declared potentially dangerous, dangerous, or vicious. The Dangerous Dog Ordinance calls for a Board of Appeals. The Animal Control Board shall consist of five members: a Commissioner, Veterinarian, and three citizens at large.

The terms for the following individuals on the Animal Control Board will expire April 30, 2019:

Name	Position Represented	Reappointment Term & Expiration Date
Tommy Bowen	Commissioner	2 years, would expire 4/30/2021
Dempsey Bond, Jr.	Commissioner (Alternate)	2 years, would expire 4/30/2021
Steve Smith	Citizen-At-Large	2 years, would expire 4/30/2021

Sheriff Tim Manning recommended the reappointment of the above named individuals. The Board was asked to reappoint these persons for the terms shown above, as part of the Consent Agenda.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners approved the above reappointments, as part of the consent agenda.

Airport Commission

On behalf of the Airport Commission, Chairman Buck Davis requested that the Board of Commissioners reappoint the following individuals for an additional four-year term:

- Buck Davis
- Lynn Howell
- Abner House

The terms for each member would expire January 31st, 2023.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to approve the reappointments of the above named individuals, as part of the Consent Agenda.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners approved the above reappointments, as part of the consent agenda.

8. Clerk Report (included for informational purposes)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE (S)

Finance Director Cindy Ange introduced Ms. Lori White to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. White had been with the Finance Department for approximately 3.5 weeks. Finance Director Ange stated Ms. White was doing very well, and the Finance Department was glad to have her. Ms. White thanked the Board for the opportunity.

PRESENTATIONS

Trillium Annual Report Presentation

Regional Director Bland Baker provided an update regarding the services provided by Trillium. Regional Director Baker cited the coverage changes, legislative changes, funding changes, organizational changes and coverage changes that took place in 2018 and would continue in the following years.

Mr. Baker stated Trillium Health Resources added Columbus County North Carolina to their coverage area in July 2018, totaling 26 counties in the coverage area. 205,000 Medicaid Eligible people were served, and a total of 54,000 people were served in 2018.

Mr. Bland spoke about Legislative changes that were proposing a change in the Medicaid system, which would transition the Medicaid system from a fee-for-service model to a Managed Care model (Senate Bill 403 – Medicaid Transformation). The two plans in the new proposed Medicaid system were a Standard Plan (behavioral health services for mild to moderate needs) and a Tailored Plan (innovations waiver and severe mental health / substance use clients).

Mr. Baker stated under the new Medicare managed care model, clients would receive their coverage through a commercial insurance carrier and would have one insurance card to cover all services together (physical health, behavioral health and pharmacy benefits). Mr. Baker provided a timeline highlighting the implementation of the services under the new Medicare Transformation model. Between July and September 2019, clients would choose between the five commercial insurance carriers for their Medicaid coverage. The first phase of the new system would begin in November 2019, phase 2 would roll out for the rest of the state in February 2020. Plans would be awarded in May 2020, readiness reviews would take place in February 2021, and Tailored Plans would be implemented by selected by managed care organizations in July 2021.

Funding changes included commercial insurance companies being the providers for the new Medicaid system, meaning those companies would be managing a part of the Medicaid dollars. Mr. Baker stated the goal was to develop a whole person care model to cover costs of physical health issues along with behavioral health issues.

Organizational changes included identifying and understanding social determinants of health (housing, food, employment, transportation, and personal safety), and learning how to address those issues in the counties in the Trillium coverage area. Trillium would be working with local Departments of Social Services and Health Departments to identify needs / vulnerable population and address those needs. Neighborhood Connections was a new department with health specialists assigned to each county to help address needs, as well.

Director Bland reported \$8,319,351.00 was spent on consumers in Martin County in 2018. The total amount of consumers served was 1,175. There were 974 mental health consumers served, 248 substance abuse consumers served, and 142 intellectual/developmental disability consumers served.

Director Bland stated Martin County Schools had been a great community partner by accessing many training programs through Trillium to help better serve children / students with mental health/behavioral health issues.

Commissioner Smith stated he had attended the Medicaid Transformation conference in Durham earlier in the day and had the opportunity to speak with CEO's of several commercial insurance companies regarding the specifics of Medicaid transformation. Commissioner Smith stated the Medicaid transformation process was a complicated system and people would begin to learn more as progression occurred. Commissioner Smith stated North Carolina was a pilot state in the Medicaid transformation process and would receive an additional \$650 million in funding. Those additional funds could be used to address needs such as housing, transportation, food, and other issues.

Commissioner Smith stated the commercial insurance companies involved with the Medicaid transformation would be attempting to form partnerships with the counties in order to address needs and issues of its citizens. Commissioner Smith said there would be a series of presentations in the future to keep the community aware of the changes.

Courthouse Security Enhancement Project Analysis

County Manager Bone recalled the County Commissioners approved a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2019-23 at the September 12, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting. The objective of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was to address the capital needs of the courthouse for the following five years.

\$250,000 was included in the CIP for 2019-20 for courthouse security enhancements, namely converting the courthouse facility to a single point of entry for the public. Martin County was the only courthouse in the 5-county judicial district that does not have one point of entry.

At the October 10, 2018 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved a proposal from Oakley Collier Architects to develop the feasibility study regarding courthouse safety. County staff met with Oakley Collier several times to prepare for the study and to review preliminary results.

Ms. Anne Collier presented the proposals regarding potential enhancements to the Martin County Governmental Center. Some of the concerns that would potentially be address were a fully accessible entry way, upgraded courtyard, creating a secure single point-of-entry, and the addition of more handicapped parking spaces. Other proposed changed would include relocating the flag poles, memorial, and drop boxes located in the front of the Governmental Center. Should the primary entry way be located at the main entrance, there would have to be enhancements at the Main Street entrance and the rear entrance near the Sheriff's Office to prevent entry into the building.

At the single entry point, there would be room in the renovated area for proposed metal detectors and Sheriff's Office staff to monitor the entry point. There would be two doors for entry and two additional doors for exiting only.

Other parts of the building were explored, and the Main Street entrance was discussed. There would be room for a secondary secure entrance if desired, but that would require additional staffing and would not be in the single point-of-entry model. The third entrance explored was at the back side of the building, near Social Services. The most feasible place would be to proceed with the single point-of-entry would be at the courtyard entrance.

The total cost for the renovations to the courtyard entrance would be approximately \$538,558. Additionally, renovations to the Main Street and DSS entrances would be \$141,875, as those areas would have to remain exit only doors with alarms/sensors.

County Manager Bone stated the most logical and appropriate location for the single point-of-entry would be the courtyard entrance. The idea of swipe entrances for employees had been discussed. Chairman Bowen stated he was concerned about people trying to let other people in through other doors. Ms. Collier stated that would be the purpose of the alarms/sensors, they would recognize if the door remained open for too long and would alert staff to check the particular door. Commissioner Lilley was concerned about the single exit point because of the amount of walking that citizens would have to do.

Sheriff Tim Manning stated the Sheriff's Office would have personnel patrolling around the courthouse and various other buildings. Sheriff Manning stated the building was not originally designed for a single point-of-entry, but he felt the upgrade was necessary to protect staff and citizens. Commissioner Smith proposed a door similar to ones used by prisons, which was a revolving or spinning door that would allow exits but no entry. Mr. David Griffin from Oakley Collier stated the same programs could be used to control doors but that type of exit could be incorporated. That proposed scenario would be compliant with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations.

Ms. Collier stated the security budget would cover all of the doors, not just the main entrance. Commissioner Lilley stated Martin County had an aging population and felt the proposed renovations would not be feasible for the older generation, due to the amount of walking that would be needed. He felt the proposal was a good starting point but that there would be some needed modifications in order to be ideal for serving all citizens.

Ms. Collier stated more handicapped parking and curb cuts would be needed despite which entrance would be used. County Manager Bone stated there was no action requested at the meeting but the feasibility study and information from the Sheriff could be used in the budget process when deciding whether or not to move forward with the renovations.

Commissioner Smith stated he felt this proposal was a great start. He felt the Board needed to be proactive in regard to safety and felt Martin County had been blessed because nothing bad had happened. He and thanked Oakley Collier for doing a great job. Although he felt there were some needed modifications, Commissioner Smith stated the proposed plan gave the Board something to with which to work.

Vice Chairman Bond asked if the Sheriff's office would provide the same services on nights of Board meetings to ensure the safety of the Commissioners as well as staff/attendees. Sheriff Manning stated that would be provided if that was what the Board desired. Sheriff Manning stated the safety of anyone inside the Governmental Center and in the outlying buildings was a priority.

The Board thanked Ms. Collier and Sheriff Tim Manning for the information.

OLD BUSINESS -- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Rebranding – Martin County Regional Business Park

Martin County EDC President/CEO Jason Semple and Mr. Eddie Stocks with Edgecombe-Martin Electric Membership Corporation were present to discuss the possible rebranding of the Martin County Regional Business Park. President Semple recalled Martin County received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Commerce to perform some work at the current Martin County Industrial Park. One of the projects included was the stripping and repainting of the water tank.

The rehabilitation of the water tank included repainting, which gave the county the opportunity to rebrand the industrial park. The Wooten Company was in the process of preparing design and bid plans, and therefore needed Martin County to provide the new name and color scheme.

On February 21, 2019, Martin County Economic Development Corporation President Jason Semple pulled together a brainstorming team consisting of Emily Cox of the North Carolina Railroad; Winston Howell, Eddie Stocks, and Monica Speight of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC; and Kristie Aldridge, Corporate Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing at North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives. The group met in Tarboro at Edgecombe-Martin EMC's board room.

Mr. Semple asked the group to approach the rebranding effort with the understanding that a stand-alone website will be created, and he wanted to create a new name that would highlight the park's strengths and drive traffic to the website. There was much discussion around these strengths – primarily the rail access, transportation advantages, and electric capacity – and whether the park should include “Martin County” in the name. The group decided that site selection consultants and business owners performing web searches were more likely to use “North Carolina” or “NC” and the important descriptors – like “rail” or “park.” The group also thought it would be good to include “commerce” in the name, because it reflected the existing clientele, as well as took advantage of anyone searching for “NC Commerce Department” or similar queries. There was also much discussion around including “interstate” or “I-87”, but the group eventually felt this to be misleading at this juncture, as well as acknowledging that there were not many queries yet for “I-87”, because it did not yet exist in North Carolina.

The group eventually settled on a suggested name of “North Carolina Rail & Commerce Park” with a slogan of “Global Access – Local Connections”, which segued into content about the strengths of Martin County and the industrial park specifically (Syfan, Weitron, etc.).

After receiving two quotes from professional marketing firms for the creation of a website and new logo, the MCEDC Board of Directors approved the expenditure of up to \$9,500 for this endeavor (creating website and content) at its regular meeting on March 25, 2019. Mr. Howell and Mr. Stocks indicated that EMEMC would consider helping to offset this cost.

Commissioner Smith stated the name “NC Rail” sets Martin County apart from many others, because many counties do not have rail access. Mr. Stocks agreed that the rail system in North Carolina is unique and is a tremendous asset for businesses and industries. Vice Chairman Bond inquired about the airport, and Mr. Stocks stated information regarding the Martin County Airport would be listed under the local attributes on the website. In addition, the Greenville (commercial airport) and Raleigh (international airports) airports would be listed as well.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve the rebranding of Martin County Regional Business Park to the “North Carolina Rail & Commerce Park”, SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Ayers thanked President Semple and partners for their hard work over the years.

Resolution in Support of the Current ABC Control System for the Sale of Liquor

County Manager Bone recalled North Carolina's government-operated ABC System for the sale of liquor had been around since 1937. The 1937 Alcoholic Beverage Control Act establishes a system that controls the distribution and sale of alcohol.

North Carolina is a "local option" state with 50 county and 118 municipal ABC boards operating the retail ABC stores that sell bottles of spirituous liquor in the state. The sale of beer, wine and mixed drinks is legal in jurisdictions across the state which have voted in favor of it.

County Manager Bone stated each year, the subject of privatization of liquor sales was brought up. The proposed resolution would be in support of the current ABC Control System for the sale of liquor, opposing the privatization of liquor sales in North Carolina.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to adopt the Resolution in Support of the Current ABC Control System for the Sale of Liquor, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT ABC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE SALE OF
LIQUOR**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Martin County voted to permit the sale of liquor through the establishment of an ABC Board, which is a part of the North Carolina's control system for the sale of spirituous liquors; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is a "control" state and private retail liquor stores are prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly's nonpartisan Program Evaluation Division (PED) was directed to examine whether other systems for alcohol beverage control, including privatized systems, are appropriate for North Carolina, specially to include the State of Washington, which recently changed its beverage control system from state government control of wholesale and retail control of spirituous liquor to a licensure model; and

WHEREAS, The PED Report, "Changing How North Carolina Controls Liquor Sales Has Operational, Regulatory, and Financial Ramifications", released on February 11, 2019, (1) did not recommend privatization, (2) found that among the southeastern states, NC collects the most revenue per gallon, has the lowest outlet density and has the second lowest per capita consumption; and (3) the PED expects retail liquor consumption to increase by 20% with privatization; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal year ending 2018, local ABC boards distributed \$430,635,861: County-City Distributions \$80 million; State General Fund \$323 million; Local Alcohol Education/Treatment \$13 million; Local Law Enforcement \$8.8 million; Rehabilitation Services \$5 million; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is unique as it allows communities to vote to establish local ABC boards for the sale of liquor in their communities, with liquor profits distributed back to those communities, thereby reducing the need to increase local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Martin County, in voting to permit the operation of ABC stores, did not vote to allow spirits to be sold in private retail liquor stores and did not vote to allow spirits to be sold retail outlets where beer and wine are sold; and

WHEREAS, No State funds are spent to distribute or sell liquor as the state and local operation of the ABC system is receipt supported; and

WHEREAS, Of the 50 states, North Carolina ranks 44th lowest in consumption per capita and 7th highest in revenue per capita and NC's ABC system accomplishes both revenue and public health, welfare and safety objectives; and

WHEREAS, when Washington State privatized its liquor system the number of retail outlets increased from 328 to over 1400, hours of sale/week increased from 73 to 140 hours, and Washington State received only \$30.75 million from auctioning off the rights to apply for retail spirits permits at 167 stores; and

WHEREAS, privatization will result in a marked increase in the number of outlets, longer hours of sale, greater advertising and more promotion and significantly more consumption; and the 9,000 outlets in NC that sell beer/wine off-premises could be permitted to sell liquor in a privatized system; and

WHEREAS, local revenue from ABC stores operations is important to the County; and

WHEREAS, local control over the sale of liquor is an important function.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Martin County desires to retain North Carolina's current control system for the sale of liquor and believes that privatization of liquor will lead to many adverse effects.

Adopted this 10th day of April, 2019.

Offer by Martin County Board of Education to Purchase the Old Jamesville High School (NERSBA) Property

The Board of Education directed Superintendent Chris Mansfield on April 1, 2019 to send a letter to the Board of Commissioners to ask if the County is willing to assume ownership of the former Jamesville High School (NERSBA) property in Jamesville. The Board was provided a copy of the letter of offer for sale of the school.

The disposition of school property is governed by NC General Statute § 115C-518 (attached). Part of this statute states:

“...Provided, when any real property to which the board holds title is no longer suitable or necessary for public school purposes, the board of county commissioners for the county in which the property is located shall be afforded the first opportunity to obtain the property. The board of education shall offer the property to the board of commissioners at a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two boards. If the board of commissioners does not choose to obtain the property as offered, the board of education may dispose of such property according to the procedure as herein provided...”

The statute requires the Board of Education to offer the property to the Board of Commissioners at a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two boards.

The property was currently being used by the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience (NERSBA). NERSBA is a regional high school serving as a statewide model for STEM education in agriscience and biotechnology. The school started in 2012 at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center in Roper. NERSBA had been utilizing the former Jamesville High School property since approximately 2014. NERSBA had an interest in obtaining ownership of the property.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to accept the offer from Martin County Schools for the sale of the former Jamesville High School Building, and to give the County Manager and the School Superintendent the opportunity to work out any details. Commissioner Lilley SECONDED. Commissioner Lilley stated NERSBA was doing well, and he felt the County needed to take advantage of the opportunity to keep a school in that part of Martin County. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Use of Public School Building Capital Fund (NC Education Lottery)

NC G. S. Chapter 18C provides that a portion of the NC's lottery proceeds are allocated to each county within the Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) based on average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with N C G. S. 115C-546.2. The Public School Building Capital Fund is housed in the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and is comprised of two sources of revenue, one of which is a percentage of the net proceeds from the N.C. Education lottery.

The application requested funds from lottery proceeds to assist in making the debt and interest payment on Riverside Middle School. Approximately \$15 million was used to build Riverside Middle School in 2013. The annual debt payment is approximately \$1 million. \$264,000 is included in the PSBCF request for the debt payment. The remainder, \$21,551, was for one-half of the interest we are required to pay due to the federal government sequestration.

A County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education must jointly apply to the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) on a project-by-project basis to access the monies in the Fund. The Martin County Board of Education approved the request at its April 1, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the application / request for funds from the Public School Building Capital Fund, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Recommendation to Discontinue Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) Service Provided by Martin County Communications

Martin County Communications Director Jason Steward recalled Martin County Communications implemented Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) protocol June 29, 2016 after the successful implementation of Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) in 2015. The goal of EFD protocol was to enable telecommunicators to accurately assess each fire situation and send the best response possible, while safeguarding valuable and limited fire services resources and increasing safety for both citizens and responders.

One of the expected benefits of EFD was to share updated scene information to field responders in route. This information would better prepare responders to give precise assistance when they arrive at the scene.

Due to concerns about adverse effects of the program, EFD service was temporarily suspended February 19, 2019, pending further review. Prescribed questions often involved questions regarding high rise buildings, city buses, and alternative fuel inquires. Staff found that the program actually slowed down fire dispatch and caused confusion with callers. Telecommunications Manager Jason Steward suggested the program was designed for large municipalities and focused on types of calls not received in Martin County.

A meeting of several Fire Chiefs in Martin County and the Communications Advisory Board was held on March 13, 2019. Based on the concerns described above, the Fire Chiefs and Communications Advisory Board recommended the cessation of Emergency Fire Dispatch service in Martin County with the understanding that staff would receive localized training. The Communications Department was in talks with Martin Community College regarding a fire and EMS course for 911 Staff that would focus on issues that more suit rural areas such as Martin County.

Martin County remains committed to Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) service. EMD service allows the caller to begin “triage” of the patient, giving lifesaving instructions to the caller in an effort to render medical aid during the first few moments of a critical incident. Martin County had seen multiple positive outcomes from EMD service.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to approve the cessation of EFD service in Martin County, effective immediately, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Ayers asked what would be the alternative to EFD if that service was suspended. Director Steward stated the calls would be dispatched as they were in the past per local protocols along with dispatchers receiving regional training. Director Stewart reported local fire chiefs were involved in the decision-making and were on board with discontinuing the EFD service. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill 179 and House Bill 278 Parity for First Responders

County Manager Bone stated the proposed resolution was in support of local government colleagues across the state. Bills had been introduced in the NC House and Senate that would provide additional retirement benefits to a single class of local government employees. SB 179 and HB 278 had been introduced and would provide firefighters and rescue squad workers with a “special separation allowance” in line with the allowance already afforded law enforcement officers.

County Manager Bone stated this unfunded mandate would be placed on local governments’ shoulders to pay, while local governments already were having to increase employer contributions to the retirement system to offset lower than expected return on investment earnings. Employer contribution rates will be rising for several years, and a new minimum retirement age will likely need to be implemented for future employees.

The NC Local Government retirement system was not fully funded. The retirement system had not been able to afford a cost-of-living adjustment for retirees for many years.

The most recent actuarial study had identified that the special separation allowance for law enforcement had cost the retirement system more than expected. Additional contribution rate adjustments may be needed for law enforcement employees above and beyond the adjustments needed for non-law enforcement employees.

If SB 179 and HB 278 become law, the timing would coincide with the budget pressures of increased employer contribution rates, and could coincide with the elimination of the 30-year service eligibility and a new minimum retirement age for future employees.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to adopt the Resolution in opposition of Senate bill 179 and House bill 278 Parity for First Responders, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
IN OPPOSITION OF
SENATE BILL 179 AND HOUSE BILL 278
PARITY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

WHEREAS, the County of Martin is aware that Senate Bill 179 and House Bill 278 would create an unfunded mandate requiring it to provide and pay for a new retirement benefit for firefighters and rescue squad workers called a “special separation allowance;” and

WHEREAS, county taxpayers would bear the entire cost of this new retirement without their local elected county officials having a say in this decision; and

WHEREAS, the legislation comes just weeks after the board which governs the Local Government Employees Retirement system, to which firefighters belong, made the difficult decision to require counties to increase the amount which they pay into the retirement system by 1.2 percent of payroll in each of the next three years, which is approximately an additional \$75 million in annual costs from local government employers in each of those three years; and

WHEREAS, a “special separation allowance” benefit would be in addition to the firefighter and rescue squad workers’ pension benefit with an actuarial analysis by the state showing the present total value of the additional benefit for all eligible local government employees at roughly \$300 million; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this new retirement benefit would be paid solely by the last employer, creating a deterrent to the hiring of late-career firefighters; and

WHEREAS, counties already have the authority in law to offer this benefit if they choose to do so without any state mandate; and

WHEREAS, counties’ funding of the current retirement system has allowed it to remain one of the best-funded in the country, allowing all classes of employees to be secure in their retirement; and

WHEREAS, counties already have the authority in law to offer this benefit if they choose to do so without any state mandate; and

WHEREAS, counties' funding of the current retirement system has allowed it to remain one of the best-funded in the country, allowing all classes of employees to be secure in their retirement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution in **OPPOSITION** of Senate Bill 179 and House Bill 278, Parity for First Responders.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are transmitted to members of the General Assembly representing the County of Martin to let them know our opposition on this issue.

Adopted this 9th day of April, 2019.

Resolution Declaring Nation Telecommunicators Week in Martin County

Martin County Communications Director Jason Stewart stated every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. Director Stewart stated the Martin County Communications staff works 24-hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year to ensure that every call for help in Martin County is answered and handled properly.

Director Stewart reported in 2018, Martin County Communications staff answered 40,803 calls and performed 35,188 dispatches. Staff also regularly attends trainings to be able to better assist the citizens of Martin County.

Director Stewart stated the week-long event, initially set up in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication.

Director Stewart thanked the Board for the continued support of the Communications Department.

Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION to adopt the Resolution declaring Nation Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 14-20, 2019, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Director Stewart introduced several staff members from Martin County Communications (Chelsea Dickerson, Tobin Wright, Zachary Taylor, LaShonda Cartwright, Vickie Davis, and Sherry Baker), and a picture was taken with the Board of Commissioners.

Resolution
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
April 14-20, 2019

WHEREAS emergencies can occur at any time that require law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS when an emergency occurs the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS the safety of our law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who contact Martin County Emergency Communications Center; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our law enforcement officers, Emergency Medical Technicians, and firefighters by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety; and

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators of Martin County Communications have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS each Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Martin County Board of Commissioners declares the week of April 14 through 20, 2019 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Martin County in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

Adopted this 10th day of April, 2019

NCDOT – Division of Aviation Airport Safety/Maintenance Program Agreement

The Safety, Preservation, and Maintenance (SPAM) Program was created by the Division of Aviation to assist publicly owned and operated airports with airfield safety and maintenance related improvements at 100% state funding. This program had been a great success and had been well received by many airports across our state. To date, the SPAM Program had completed \$12,600,000 worth of projects at 69 airports. It was time to renew the Program Agreement.

In order for the Division of Aviation to continue to fund projects at Martin County Airport under the program, the Division of Aviation requested Martin County complete and return the “Agreement for Airport Safety/Maintenance Projects.”

The new agreement would supersede previous agreements and would ensure all airports were under the same agreement and same expiration date moving forward. Having this agreement executed did not commit the Division to a particular project, but would allow the Division to expeditiously complete a project once a project was identified and selected for completion.

The Martin County Airport had been pursuing the Division of Aviation's assistance with the remarking of the airport's runway pavement through the SPAM Program. The SPAM Program agreement must be completed by Martin County and returned to the Division of Aviation in order for the Martin County Airport to be eligible for runway remarking or other similar project through the SPAM Program. County Manager Bone stated this was just another step in trying to continue to improve the Martin County Airport.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the letter of agreement for the Safety, Preservation, and Maintenance (SPAM) Program, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

NCDOT – Division of Aviation – Request for Aid Application/Grant Agreement for Parallel Taxiway Design/Bid

County Manager Bone recalled Martin County had already received notification of a \$175,000 grant from the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation for the design of a full, parallel taxiway at the Martin County Airport. No local match was required for the grant. A parallel taxiway connects the end of the runway with the terminal, hangars and aprons, and provides the ability to move aircraft so they will not interfere with takeoffs or landings.

Martin County Airport had a partial parallel taxiway, which was funded with mostly grant funds in 2012. A full parallel taxiway would run the full length of the 5,000 foot runway. The full parallel taxiway would help Martin County Airport attract and accommodate larger aircraft and provide an additional layer of airport safety. By having a full, parallel taxiway already designed, Martin County would be ready to pursue an additional grant for the construction of the project.

In November of 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved a work authorization to authorize the County's airport consultant, W. K. Dickson, to proceed with the design and bidding of the Parallel Taxiway project (was already approved by the NCDOT).

The next step of the funding process was the Acceptance of Assurances and "pinning" the Request for Aid (Application) form by the County Manager through the online Grant Management System.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the agreement between the NCDOT-Division of Aviation and Martin County for the Parallel Taxiway Design project and adopt the resolution for Aid Application, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Letter of Support for the Airport T-Hangar Taxilane Apron Project in the NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

County Manager Bone recalled that the T-Hangar Taxilane Apron project was already a part of the Martin County Airport Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), but Martin County was requesting the project be added to the State TIP which would lead to additional opportunities for grant funding.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's transportation plan – called the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – identifies the construction funding and schedule for state

transportation projects over a 10-year period. NCDOT updates the STIP approximately every two years to reflect the state's current financial situation.

Martin County submitted a T-Hangar Taxilanes and Apron project at Martin County Airport for consideration in the STIP.

NCDOT required a letter of support from Martin County for the T-Hangar, Taxilanes and Apron project to be considered in the STIP process. There was no local match associated with this project. There was no guarantee this project would be included in the final STIP.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the submittal of a letter of support for the T-Hangar Taxilanes and Apron project, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Approval of Martin County Audit Contract YE 06/30/2019

The Board of Commissioners was provided with a copy of the proposed audit contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, formerly Pittard Perry & Crone, Inc., to audit our accounts for the year ending June 30, 2019. Finance Director Cindy Ange stated this firm had done a tremendous job for Martin County over the years. The audit contract would have to be approved by the Board of Commissioners and the Local Government Commission for approval, as well. The contract was for \$38,850, which was \$1,850 more than last year's amount.

In addition to the contract, Finance Director Ange stated the County was required to have Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) on our Medicaid and TANF programs. The fee for these services would be \$6,000.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve the contract and engagement letters for the financial audit and AUP, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley. Commissioner Smith stated Martin County was blessed to have had this agency for so many years because many cities and counties were having problems finding auditors for their agencies. County Manager Bone stated there were several jurisdictions who had not received their audit for the previous year yet because of that issue. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Budget Amendment(s)

Budget Amendment #30

Finance Director Cindy Ange stated Budget Amendment #30 was for the AWOS Clearing and Site Prep project budget.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$640,326. 90% of the funds were coming from the State Block Grant / NPE Program and 10% of the project funds would come from the State Aid to Airports Program, due to Martin County's Tier 1 status. No local funds were needed. The State Block Grant / NPE Program are distributed in accordance with federal standards, are the primary funding sources for airport improvement projects nationwide and fund important noise mitigation issues.

Approximately \$532,078 in State Block Grant funds were available, including \$96,000 previously budgeted for this project. In order to complete the project, Martin County would need

to use local funds once the current State Block Grant funds were depleted and then be reimbursed once the State Block Grant funds were disbursed in the fall of 2019.

Budget Amendment #30 would budget the awarded grants funds for the AWOS project.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve Budget Amendment #30, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Budget Amendment #31

Unauthorized substance tax is an excise tax imposed on controlled substances (marijuana, cocaine etc...), illicit spirituous liquor (“moonshine”), mash, and illicit mixed beverages (G.S. 105-113.106). State and local law enforcement agencies can generate revenue from their narcotics investigations if during the investigation, a taxable quantity of drugs are discovered and the agency submits the appropriate referral form to the NC Department of Revenue within 48 hours after making a threshold drug arrest or seizure (tax rates, thresholds and forms attached- Appendix 1). These rates and quantities are established pursuant to G.S. 105-113.107 and 105-113.108. G.S. 105-113.108(b) requires that law enforcement agencies complete either a BD-4 (Controlled Substances) or BD-4L (Illicit Liquor) form within 48 hours after making a threshold drug arrest or seizure.

The State Unauthorized Substances Act does not place specific spending restrictions on the use of these proceeds shared with law enforcement agencies. The clear and unequivocal language of the statute, however, requires the stated portion of the tax to accrue directly to the law enforcement agency to “generate revenue” for the agency. Thus, the proceeds must be used for law enforcement purposes and not for the general operations or activities of the city or county of which the law enforcement agency is a part.

Budget Amendment #31 appropriates the funds collected from the unauthorized substance tax to be used by the Sheriff’s Office. Martin County accounts for these funds in a special revenue fund.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #31, with a SECOND from Vice Chairman Bond. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Budget Amendment #32

The Martin County Department of Adult and Aging Services received notification of award for a MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act) grant in the amount of \$1,318. The MIPPA funds would be used to purchase insulated bags for clients to discreetly transport medicine.

Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to approve budget amendment #32, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Budget Amendment #33

The Martin County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Land Use / Wellness Plan in November 2013. In order to remain timely and effective, the plan should be updated on a

periodic basis. Budget Amendment #33 would provide for an update / amendment to the 2013 Plan.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to adopt budget amendment #33, with a SECOND from Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Bowen asked if the road in the White Oak subdivision had been taken over by the State yet, since the primary Engineer had retired. County Manager Bone stated there was an item on the agenda a month or so ago that should have taken care of that.

Commissioner Lilley stated there was a concern with the amount of time citizens had to wait to get permits for septic tanks (up to a two month waiting period). Commissioner Lilley stated the citizens of Martin County are paying a substantial amount of money and the citizens of Martin County should be receiving better attention.

Commissioner Smith spoke about an upcoming event in Washington, D.C. in which two NCACC Commissioners (including Commissioner Smith) would go to the White House to represent North Carolina in discussions regarding opportunity zones. Opportunity zones would be able to establish areas in which investors could build and rebuild in various parts of the state with little to no capital gain taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bond made the MOTION to adjourn at around 8:46 p.m., with a SECOND by Commissioner Ayers. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

The Martin County Board of Commissioners' next regular meeting would be Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard
Clerk to the Board