

July 10, 2019

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

ASSEMBLY

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

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

Chairman Bowen recognized those public/elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Tim Manning, Register of Deeds Ms. Kim Griffin, Parmele Mayor Mr. Jerry McCrary, Town of Williamston Commissioner Mr. Ronell Rodgers, and Town of Williamston Mayor Ms. Joyce Whichard-Brown. Chief Deputy Drew Robinson was also in attendance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

1. **Minutes** for June 12, 2019 Regular and Closed Session
June 26, 2019 Special Called Session
2. **Financial Report** for May 2019 included for informational purposes.
3. **Tax Assessor – Tax Refund Requests – June 2019 -- NONE**
4. **Tax Assessor – Tax Relief Orders – June 2019**

| Year Levy | Lname | Fname | Reason | Value | Total |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| 2019 | Lilley | Marion Farms | | | 111.27 |
| 2019 | Lilley | Marion Farms | | | 110.47 |
| 2019 | Lilley | Marion Farms | | | 77.84 |
| 2019 | Everett | Troy Marcus Jr. | Situs Error | | 124.86 |

| | | | | | |
|------|----------|-----------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| 2019 | Lockamy | Kevin Daniel | Situs Error | | 48.88 |
| 2019 | Meshulam | Shalom Itzhak | Situs Error | | 49.65 |
| 2019 | Meshulam | Shalom Itzhak | Situs Error | | 91.87 |
| 2019 | Wiggins | La'Tisha Monee' | Situs Error | | 50.69 |
| 2019 | Wynne | Robert Dail Sr. | Adjustment | | 48.22 |
| | | | | Total: | 713.75 |

5. Tax Collector's Report –June 2019

| | Category | Jun-19 | June 19 Y-T-D |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Real Property | 20 | \$83,018.48 | \$9,155,899.26 |
| Personal Property | 25 | <u>25,243.40</u> | <u>4,842,250.89</u> |
| Total | | \$108,261.88 | \$13,998,150.15 |
| | | | |
| Motor Vehicle | 30 | <u>14,293.39</u> | <u>16,464.45</u> |
| Total MV | | \$14,293.39 | \$16,464.45 |
| | | | |
| All Total | | \$122,555.27 | \$14,014,614.60 |

6. Board Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations -- NONE

7. Order to Collect Taxes

NC G. S. § 105-321 states that before delivering the tax receipts to the tax collector in any year, the board of county commissioners or municipal governing body shall adopt and enter in its minutes an order directing the tax collector to collect taxes charged in the tax records and receipts. A copy of this order shall be delivered to the tax collector at the time the tax receipts are delivered to him, *but the failure to do so shall not affect the tax collector's rights and duties to employ the means of collecting taxes provided by this Subchapter.*

The Board of Commissioners APPROVED the order to collect taxes, as part of the consent agenda.

To the Tax Collector of the County of Martin:

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the offices of the Martin County Tax Assessor and Tax Collector and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth *for fiscal year 2019-20*. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Martin, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 10th day of July, 2019.

8. Clerk Report included for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE(S)

Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension Director Laura Oliver introduced Ms. Liz Baker to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Baker started her position in June 2019 as the County Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. Ms. Baker brought many years of experience and education in the field of health science education. Ms. Baker works at both the Martin County and Bertie County Extension offices.

Adult and Aging Services

Adult and Aging Services Director Charmaine Hardison introduced Ms. Jerrica Webb to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Webb had been working part-time at Adult and Aging Services since October 2018, and transitioned to a full-time position on July 1, 2019, as the Home Health Coordinator.

Sheriff's Office / Animal Enforcement

Sheriff Tim Manning introduced Mr. Ben Hardison, Animal Enforcement Officer, to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hardison previously worked with Animal Enforcement when it was under the direction of the County Manager. Mr. Hardison brought years of experience and hopes of increasing outreach regarding the adoption of animals at the Martin County Animal Shelter.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of NERSBA Students – FAA Competition Participants

On April 12, 2019, the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience (NERSBA) Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter competed at the Northeast Regional Rally at Beaufort County Community College. There were a total of six teams and twenty participants at the event. Rising Sophomore Javian McMillan placed 1st in Prepared Public Speaking, out of eight competitors. Rising Sophomore Courtney brown placed 1st in Creed speaking, out of nine competitors. Mr. McMillan went on to finish in 3rd place (out of 24 competitors) at the 91st North Carolina State FFA Convention in June 2019. Ms. Brown placed 4th at the State Convention.

NERSBA Principal Hal Davis recognized Ms. Heather Shay as the newest faculty member. Principal Davis also recognized the following students: Autumn Kraft (Beaufort County), Olivia Briley (Pitt County), and Kaleigh Jordan (Beaufort County) – Third Place winner for the State FFA Introduction to Horticulture Career Development Event. Also recognized were Ms. Courtney Brown (Washington County) – Fourth Place winner for the State FFA Creed Career Development Event and Mr. Javian McMillian (Martin County) – Third Place winner for the State FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event.

Ms. Courtney Brown recited the FFA Creed from memory. Mr. Javian McMillan recited his prepared speech on “The Global Hunger Crisis”. Mr. McMillan discussed the topic of hunger around the world and how it is usually connected to poverty, but could easily be connected to agriculture. Mr. McMillan stated the issue of hunger could be solved by reducing food waste, increasing sustainable agriculture and farming methods, and leveling the playing field for all parties involved in farming.

Commissioner Lilley commended Mr. McMillan on his presentation and encouraged him to keep learning and exploring the field of agriculture. The Board of Commissioners applauded the students and Principal Davis.

Update on Child Support Collection Services through YoungWilliams

DSS Director Letecia Loadholt introduced Ms. Tammy Pearson and Ms. Preslee Liedecker from YoungWilliams. They presented a quarterly update and shared the progress of the Child Support Collection staff.

Information was provided on performance in specific areas. Areas covered included cases under order (90% goal, actual 90.15%), establishing paternity (goal 96.17%, actual 96.94%), current support (what was ordered to be paid on a monthly obligation basis) (goal 61.79%, actual 61.15%). Ms Liedecker stated the current support category constantly fluctuated. Staff hoped to meet their goal in that category in the upcoming fiscal year. Other categories highlighted included arrears (funds/balances that were still unpaid) (goal 61.40%, actual 58.24% with only 57 cases short of meeting goal), and total collections (goal of \$2.9 million, actual was \$2.7 million in collections, or 93.25% of goal).

Ms. Liedecker discussed the Self-assessment Report, which are monthly goals to ensure that performance measures were routinely quality assured. Out of nine goals set forth in the self-assessment tool for the child support collection staff, seven were met/exceeded. The staff would continue to work on enforcement and establishment. The current caseload was 2,194 cases. Ms. Liedecker reviewed monthly and ongoing performance improvement measures to ensure staff would meet/exceed established goals. Ms. Liedecker also shared several pictures of the new workspace at the Child Support Collection office.

YoungWilliams had made great strides and had increased performance outcomes in the areas of total collections, paternity establishment, cases under order, current support, and arrears. Currently, all areas were not meeting the standards established by the state and federal government; however, the numbers were trending towards meeting the goals. YoungWilliams had done an outstanding job with increasing performance in the short amount of time the agency has been administering the program.

Chairman Bowen commended the YoungWilliams staff on their hard work to improve the child support collection program. The Board thanked the YoungWilliams staff for their presentation.

Medicaid Transformation – DSS Director Letecia Loadholt

DSS Director Loadholt stated North Carolina was in the process of transforming the Medicaid program into a managed care program throughout the state. In a managed care program, the care would be administered by prepaid health plans (PHPs), as opposed to the current fee-for-service model. The state had been separated into six regions to include all 100 counties. The first roll-out would be with Regions 2 & 4 in September 2019. Martin County is in Region 6 and was on schedule to roll out February 2020.

The PHP providers statewide would be AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc., Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, United Healthcare of North Carolina, Inc., and Wellcare of North Carolina, Inc. Mandatory managed care enrollees would be most family and children's Medicaid beneficiaries, pregnant women, and non-Medicaid ABD (aging, blind, and disabled). Those that would be excluded would be individuals with family planning services, MQB only, medically needy, HIPP (health insurance premium payment program), PACE (programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly), RMA (refugee medical assistance), etc. Persons who were dually eligible for Medicare/Medicaid, foster care/adoption clients, CAP-C clients, and some others would have a delayed enrollment. Exemptions included federally recognized tribal members and individuals eligible for behavioral health tailored plans (until available).

The enrollment process would include selecting a plan preference for beneficiaries. An auto assignment into a plan would be completed for beneficiaries who did not select a plan within a ninety-day period. Beneficiaries would be able to change the carrier during an open enrollment period or at time of redetermination of benefits.

DSS Director Loadholt provided dates to remember regarding the transition period. After September 2, 2019, beneficiaries would begin receiving welcome packets and a letter, along with the ability to select a provider or plan. Open enrollment would begin October 14, 2019. Plan automatic assignments would occur for beneficiaries who had not selected a plan on December 13, 2019. Members would begin receiving their insurance cards from December 2019 through February 2020. Regions 1, 3, 5, and 6 (Martin County) were designated to rollout with managed care in February 2020.

Some of the potential impacts of Medicaid transformation included additional work volume for the Income Maintenance Caseworkers, citizens (beneficiaries) not understanding the process of selecting a PHP, and non-emergency medical transportation (would have to be contracted with providers to continue this service). DSS Director Letecia Loadholt stated she would be working on getting contracts together for Board approval in the upcoming months.

Commissioner Smith recognized DSS Director Loadholt, highlighting her expertise and knowledge regarding the process of Medicaid Transformation. Commissioner Smith discussed the obstacles that would be met during the transition. DSS Director Loadholt explained there would be a call center available to assist the beneficiaries in North Carolina, but assured the Board the DSS staff would additionally ensure the citizens of Martin County would have their questions answered by local staff.

DSS Director Loadholt announced that Martin County Transit had moved into the new location on Ray Street and invited the public to the ribbon cutting ceremony on July 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Bullying Presentation – Sylvia Walton

Ms. Sylvia Walton, a school counselor at Aulander Elementary and Colerain Elementary Schools in Bertie County, North Carolina discussed her belief that investing in children will enrich their lives, as well as the community as a whole. Ms. Walton wrote a novel, entitled *One Voice*, which tackles the topic of bullying.

Ms. Walton discussed the impacts of bullying in our communities, schools, and daily lives. Ms. Walton had witnessed bullying in schools in all levels (elementary, middle, and high school). Ms. Walton supported being proactive in the war against bullying. Ms. Walton's novel, entitled *One Voice*, addresses bullying, as well as self-image, grief, and family dynamics.

Ms. Walton shared two stories of children she had worked with in the past to overcome bullying, and states her novel helped those children work through the personal issues that come along with being bullied. Ms. Walton encouraged adults to talk with their children and help them identify and overcome any issues with bullying they may be experiencing. Ms. Walton reported a statistic showing one in five children are bullied, and many cases are not reported.

Ms. Walton shared several anti-bullying methods that were being used in Bertie County, and discussed the importance of reaching out to children to identify bullying. Ms. Walton further explained the importance of reaching out to children not only in schools, but in churches, at home, and in the community.

Ms. Walton thanked the Board for allowing her to make her presentation. Ms. Walton had already reached out to Dr. Chris Mansfield, Martin County Schools Superintendent. Chairman Bowen recommended Ms. Walton try to get on the agenda for the Martin County Board of Education meeting agenda. Staff would assist Ms. Walton with getting in contact with Board of Education staff.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Bids / Award of Contract to Precision Approach, LLC -- For the Beacon Replacement Project at Martin County Airport

County Manager Bone stated airport beacons help a pilot identify an airport at night. The beacons are operated from dusk until dawn.

Martin County was notified in 2018 that it received a \$95,000 grant from the state for a beacon replacement project at the Martin County Airport. No local match was required.

In October 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the County's airport consultant, W. K. Dickson, to proceed with the design, bidding and construction of the Beacon Replacement project.

County Manager Bone recalled construction bids were received on June 21, 2019. Three bids were received. W. K. Dickson is recommending the award of the project to Precision Approach, LLC,

with a bid price of \$138,243. Some additional funds were needed for the project, and Martin County was requesting additional funds from the State to complete this project. County Manager Bone stated that item would be on State Department of Transportation Board's August agenda.

Commissioner Ayers made a MOTION to award the project to Precision Approach, LLC, contingent on an additional state funding award to cover the balance of the construction costs above the current grant amount, with a SECOND from Commissioner Smith. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Designation of NCACC Voting Delegate

County Manager Bone recalled the NCACC 112th Annual Conference would be held in Guilford County August 22-24, 2019. During the business session on Saturday, August 24, 2019 (scheduled from 2:00-4:00 p.m.), each county would be entitled to one vote on items that come before the membership, including election of the NCACC Second Vice President. In order to facilitate this process, each county was asked to designate one voting delegate prior to Annual Conference.

Commissioners Smith and Bond, and County Manager Bone plan to attend.

Commissioner Smith made a MOTION to designate Vice Chairman Bond the primary voting delegate and Commissioner Smith the alternate voting delegate, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

Update on Horse Trail Project

County Manager Bone recalled Martin County had been working with various partners about a possible nature trail / horse trail project on part of the Kehukee Park property where trees were timbered (Fall of 2018). This involved an approximate 85 acre tract that has recently undergone a clear-cut forestry operation on approximately 66 acres.

County Manager Bone stated the conversation began when the NC Forestry Service approached Martin County about a possible nature trail on part of the property. This initial conversation with the NC Forestry Service led to additional conversations about potential uses for other parts of the timbered land at Kehukee Park. Conversations focused on the development of a horse trail as Phase 1, with a nature trail as Phase 2.

County Manager Bone said the development of a nature trail could provide an educational benefit and provide an opportunity for collaboration between Martin Community College, the NC Forestry Service, Martin County Cooperative Extension, Martin County Soil and Water Conservation and other partners. The development of a horse trail could provide another tourism asset, as well. Meetings with various partners had been ongoing.

David Hodges, who assisted the County with the PARTF grant at Moratoc Park, had been assisting the county on this project. At its February 13, 2019 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved a budget amendment to pay David Hodges for consulting services to help develop the grant application. A second budget amendment for David's services was approved on June 26, 2019.

The NC Recreational Trail Program (RTP) was identified as a potential funding source for the horse trail. The RTP grant application was a two-stage process: the pre-application and the final application. The maximum grant award was \$100,000. A 25% local match was required. The pre-application requested general information and scope of the project. The application deadline for the pre-application was March 15, 2019. Martin County's pre-application was approved, and the county was invited to submit a final application. The final application required more technical and in-depth verification of the project's status. The final application deadline was August 2, 2019.

If Martin County received a grant, trailhead facilities were planned to be constructed via upgrades to the USDA-Agricultural Service Center and Public Works Maintenance facility and parking areas. Approximately 3-5 miles of new Equine trails would be constructed beginning at this trailhead and connecting to the Martin Community College Equine facilities. The addition of a cross-country training field was planned to offer additional equine exercise opportunities.

David Hodges, Lynn Whitehurst and Justin Harrison had worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers concerning a wetlands delineation for the project. The scope of the project had changed in order to avoid the wetlands impacts

The partners in this project met again on June 27, 2019. Even though the project scope had been reduced to comply with the wetlands delineation, the consensus of the group is that the project, if funded and constructed, would have a positive impact for the community.

No action was needed on this project at this time. This project update was being provided for the benefit of the County Commissioners and public. County Manager Bone stated he and David Hodges would continue to develop the grant application for submittal by August 2nd, 2019.

Commissioner Smith requested clarification about the distance of the trail and the amount of wetlands within the tract of land. Commissioner Smith stated there could be "good money" in a horse trail. County Manager Bone discussed the proposed use of the land, and included that Martin Community College was considering adding a Trail Management program to the curriculum. Commissioner Lilley stated the location was ideal with the parking, access to bathrooms, and proximity to the college. There was a potential to partner with the NC Forest Service in this project, as well. Commissioner Ayers added the trail would be less than two miles, and felt that would defer people from coming in for such a short trail ride. County Manager Bone agreed, stating the project would be more worthwhile for Martin Community College and local citizens, and would still be a worthwhile project.

BOARD REPORTS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Bowen recognized Finance Officer Cindy Ange and the entire staff in the finance office for their hard work.

Commissioner Smith recognized NAACP President Mr. Lon Moore and his wife, NAACP officer Ms. Gray, and other staff who were in attendance. Commissioner Smith also recognized Representative Shelley Willingham, who was also in attendance. Commissioner Smith thanked everyone who was in attendance for their support of his grandson.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Bond made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, with a SECOND from Commissioner Lilley. Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard, Clerk to the Board