

April 22, 2009

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

At 5:30 p.m. four of the Commissioners attended an Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Martin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council at the Moratoc Restaurant. Commissioner Hurst was unable to attend.

Recessed Meeting – April 8, 2009

ASSEMBLY

Chairman Ronnie Smith, Vice Chairman Elmo “Butch” Lilley and Commissioners C. Mort Hurst, Tommy W. Bowen and Derek Price, County Manager W. Russell Overman, County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen and Clerk to the Board Linda G. Hardison were present. No one was absent.

Chairman Smith reconvened the April 8, 2009 meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Commissioner Price, the Invocation was offered by Commissioner Bowen. Then, Chairman Bowen began the meeting in his usual manner of introducing fellow Commissioners, staff and elected officials in attendance.

WATER DISTRICT 3

Chairman Smith explained that the April 8th meeting had been recessed to April 22 in order to discuss and take action on several resolutions for the proposed Bond Referendum for Water District 3. It was then explained that the Order Authorizing \$3,000,000 Water Bonds had been prepared based on information gathered several years ago. The revised engineering report showed an increase in cost for this project; therefore, Bond Attorney Gundars Aperans requested the Board to hold any action until the May meeting so that the Order and Resolutions can be adjusted.

Chairman Smith explained further that as a result of this delay the referendum may not occur until August instead of July, as originally planned.

With no action to be taken at this meeting, Vice Chairman Lilley made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen, to adjourn the April 8, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously APPROVED, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

April 22, 2009 Special Meeting

Chairman Smith then called the Special Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Everyone was present as listed above.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Two changes were made to the agenda before it was approved: Register of Deeds Tina Manning was not able to make her departmental budget presentation on March 31, 2009 so she was added as #1 under Item 3 and #6 – BHM Regional Library was moved to #2 under Item 3.

Commissioner Price made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Hurst, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Amendments 18, 19 and 20: The following Budget Amendments were presented and explained by the County Manager.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 18

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, 2009.

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

	Increase	Decrease
General Government		
Finance Office	\$ 8,266	

This will result in an increase of \$8,266 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase for the revenue above, the following revenues will be changed.

Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 8,266	
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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.

Note: The amendment covers the increased cost of the annual audit for new standards that were required this year.

BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE – 19

BE IT ORDAINED by the Martin County 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, 2009.

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Water and Sewer District No. 2 and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this district.

	Increase	Decrease
Water & Sewer District No. 2		
Administration		\$ 2,710
Water Operations	\$ 2,710	

Section 2. There is no revenue needed at this time in the Enterprise Fund for Water and Sewer District No. 2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Section 3. Copies of this budget ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk and to the finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Note: This is the same as a line item transfer in the General Fund.

BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE – 20

BE IT ORDAINED by the Martin County 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, 2009.

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Water and Sewer District No. 1 and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this district.

	Increase	Decrease
Water and Sewer District No. 1		
Administration		\$ 4,485
Water Operations	\$ 4,485	

Section 2. There is no revenue needed at this time in the Enterprise Fund for Water and Sewer District No. 1 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Section 3. Copies of this budget ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk and to the Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Note: This is the same as a line item transfer in the General Fund.

Award Airport Bid: On April 14, 2009 bids were opened for the Airport Taxilane project which also includes a PAPI and supplemental windsock. The following six bids were received.

• Roberson Contracting, Williamston	\$ 230,703.79
• ER Lewis Construction, Greenville	243,761.50
• Chesson Construction Co., Williamston	283,830.89
• Barnhill Contracting Co., Elizabeth City	304,730.00
• Trader Construction, New Bern	335,432.25
• Anderson & Co., Tarboro	347,135.80

The LPA Group recommended the bid be awarded to Roberson Contracting with the low bid of \$230,703.79. The LPA Group also presented Work Authorization No. 12 which covers the administration of this project. Both items need approval of the Board.

Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Lilley, to award the bid for the Airport Taxilane project to Roberson Contracting in the amount of \$230,703.79. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

Commissioner Bowen made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Hurst, to approve Work Authorization No. 12 and authorize the County Manager to sign these documents. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

Watts Street Building Renovations – Budget Amendment #21: Previously, Manager Overman had explained to the Board that the Health Department is interested in relocating the Home Health offices to the Watts Street building, the old American Legion Building. Prices have been secured from contractors for the renovations. It is estimated to cost approximately \$85,000 to \$90,000 to complete the job. The Health Department will be paying rent to use the building so the county will be able to recoup these expenses in a reasonable time. The Health Department has proposed to pay \$1,500 monthly and they will be responsible for utilities and housekeeping services. In approximately five years, the cost of the renovations will be paid in the form of rent.

The major components of the work would be:

Flooring	\$ 18,000
Electrical	14,000
General Carpentry	15,000
Window Replacement	8,000
Insulation	6,000
Ceiling	3,000
Ductwork	5,000
Painting	6,500
Plumbing	5,500
Contingency	<u>9,000</u>
Total	\$ 90,000

To facilitate moving forward with this project, the following Budget Amendment needs to be approved. Manager Overman suggested that the rental payments reimburse Fund Balance until this amount is paid back. He also indicated that Home Health would like to move from their existing location by the end of May.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 21

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, 2009.

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

	Increase	Decrease
General Government		
Public Buildings	\$ 90,000	

This will result in an increase \$90,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase for the revenue above, the following revenues will be changed.

Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 90,000
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Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

Commissioner Price made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Hurst, to approve Budget Amendment – 21 as presented and direct that the rental payments go to the Fund Balance until the \$90,000 is repaid. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

Commissioner Bowen expressed his gratitude that the county is utilizing this property. Commissioner Hurst stated that the only drawback that he sees is that the man they have been renting from has lost some major clients.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Register of Deeds: Tina Manning, Register of Deeds stated that she does not have a lot of changes in her budget this year. She explained that she had an employee to retire. When she was in the hiring process she realized that there is little difference in the starting salary and the salary of her long-time employees; therefore, she used the difference in the retired employee's salary and the new employee's salary to increase the other two employees' salaries. The total amount was about \$900.

She then encouraged everyone to try the new on-line program for her department. This site is averaging 60 hits a day to research records.

BHM Regional Library: Ms. Maryjane Carbo, Executive Director of the BHM Regional Library, addressed the Board. She began by introducing the library supporters in the audience. Ms. Carbo stated that she has requested the same amount as last year: \$83,000. She then explained that the Governor has cut all State Departments by 9%. BHM lost more than \$33,000. She then indicated that she may not be able to purchase new books for 2009-10 if these funds are not restored.

Ms. Carbo stated that library usage has increased 40-60%, and this may be due to the economy. She emphasized that her request would result in maintaining the present levels of service. If there is a reduction in funds, the result will be a cut in the staff for libraries and the bookmobile. She asked the Board to talk to Raleigh about restoring the cuts in the budget.

Arts Council: Mr. David Irvine, a member of the Martin County Arts Council, addressed the Board on behalf of the Arts Council. Their request amounted to \$10,000, the same as last year.

Mr. Irvine reviewed recent and upcoming events sponsored by the Arts Council. He also updated the Board on the renovation to the Flat Iron building.

Manager Overman informed Ms. Chris Fariior who has been working on the Moratoc Park project that Martin County did not receive the \$5,000 grant from the Trails Grants but we did receive the \$75,000 grant. We are still waiting to hear from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant.

OPTIONS: Mr. Delma Blinson, Chairman of the Options Board of Directors, addressed the Board. His Board has requested \$11,642 to Options in support of grant applications to the NC Council for Women. This constitutes the 20% local match required by the state to receive this state funding.

This amount is larger than last year's request. Options was forced to exhaust its local fund balance during a period of suspension of state funding this past year. Recently, the Council for Women has resumed state funding. Mr. Blinson also pointed out that the Governor's Crime Commission suspended its state funding in July, 2008 and it has not yet resumed funding Options.

Mr. Blinson encouraged the Board to call if they had any questions concerning Options.

Chamber of Commerce: Ms. Ashley Smith passed out a list of services offered by the Chamber and a list of future hopes and dreams. She informed the Board that the Chamber has grown tremendously this past year. Ms. Smith stated that the Chamber is the Voice of the Business Community. The Chamber is requesting \$22,000, the same as last year.

Martin Community College: Ms. Adrian Smith, Finance Officer of Martin Community College, stated that their request is actually a little less than last year: \$924,098. She stated that there are no salary increases. She said a couple of items, maintenance supplies and contracted services, have been reduced because last year they were going through accreditation and extra funds were used to "spruce up" the campus. One item of concern may be utilities.

Ms. Charlotte Griffin, Chair of the Board of Trustees, stated that Dr. Britt could not attend the meeting tonight because she was at a meeting out of town.

Economic Development Corporation: Mr. Marvin Davis, Martin County Economic Development Corporation, addressed the Board. He stated that he was filling in for Jim Ward who is sick. Mr. Davis stated that the request for Economic Development is the same as last year: \$242,903.

Mr. Davis explained that the Telecenter is serving our community well – providing public Internet access, meeting space, business incubator facilities and support for the Martin County School System's computer engineering and networking courses. Since its inception, the Telecenter has received more than 57,690 visitors as well as logging more than 120,000 training hours for folks like teachers, public officials, and community organizations.

Highway 17 Association: Mr. Marc Finlayson, Executive Director of the Highway 17 Association, stated that there has never been a more important time to advocate for Highway 17 and for transportation infrastructure in eastern North Carolina. The goal of the Highway 17 Association continues to be the creation of a fully-controlled access four-lane US Highway 17 from Virginia to South Carolina.

Two concerns that are being lobbied in Raleigh are: the bill to study an equity formula for the 14 divisions and the bill to give maintenance of secondary roads to counties. The Board asked him to "keep fighting" as he works on these two projects.

Mr. Finlayson thanked the Board for past support and requested an appropriation of \$7,500, the same as last year. He then reviewed a Status Report for US 17 Corridor.

Roanoke River Association: Ms. Lucia Peel was unable to attend because of a prior engagement but her written request was for the same funding as last year, \$2,000.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Lilley made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Bowen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously APPROVED, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Ronnie Smith, Chairman

Linda G. Hardison, Clerk to the Board