November 12, 2008

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

**ASSEMBLY**

Chairman Tommy W. Bowen, Vice Chairman Ronnie Smith, Commissioners Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Alphonzo Perry and C. Mort Hurst, Commissioner-elect 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 Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Bowen. Vice Chairman Smith then offered the Invocation.

Chairman Bowen began the meeting in his usual manner by introducing fellow Commissioners, staff and elected officials who were present for the meeting.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lucy Outerbridge of the Allen Williams Road came before the Board to discuss something that is happening in her area almost every year. She said she wanted to discuss hunters having disregard for personal property. Her concern is the safety and welfare of herself and neighbors. She then told about a hunter who parked by her mailbox and climbed on his truck to wait for the deer to come out of the woods. She explained that she called the Sheriff who dispatched a deputy and instructed her to call Wildlife. The woman in Raleigh told her to talk with her Commissioners. Ms. Outerbridge told of an incident which occurred years earlier where a person’s trailer was shot through and said she is trying to avoid a tragedy.

Manager Overman explained local hunting laws. He then told Mrs. Outerbridge that if the hunter was on private property, he could be prosecuted for trespassing.

Commissioner Hurst stated that the people in Raleigh were just passing the buck. He then suggested that the Manager send a letter to Wildlife Commission.

Vice Chairman Smith restated Mrs. Outerbridge’s concerns. He said that an individual was parked on the side of road, hunting her property without permission and we need to enforce the laws that we have. Vice Chairman Smith emphasized that he has respect for hunters who follow the rules, but he has a problem with those taking advantage of others.

Mrs. Outerbridge ended her comments by commending the Sheriff’s Department for responding and taking action quickly when she called.

Mr. Barney Conway of Williamston informed the Board that prior to the election it had come to light that some of the Board members were meeting before the meetings and having dinner at the county’s expense. Commissioner Hurst stated that they did not meet before the meeting. He said that “eating together” does not constitute a meeting. Mr. Conway said in his mind that constituted a meeting. He said that he understands that they met for dinner before this meeting tonight. He then said that if it is not a meeting then the county should not be paying for the meals and if it is a meeting they are violating the Open Meetings Law. He said that in the opening prayer, Commissioner Smith prayed that they do what is right. He then asked the Board to take this in consideration and do the right thing.
Commissioner Hurst asked Mr. Conway if he wanted the county to take away the Christmas luncheon for the employees or the Christmas party for the senior citizens. Mr. Conway stated that those functions were a completely different situation, but he thought it inappropriate for the Commissioners to meet like that. Commissioner Hurst said the Board had been doing this when he got on the Board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

New employees introduced to the Board included the following: Communications – Braxton Manning; DSS – Ina Slade, Christine Chesson and David Hamrick; and Senior Center – Ed Carman.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairman Smith made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Hurst stated that he would like to pull some items from the agenda. He asked to remove the minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting, Refund for Landfill Fees and Clerk’s Report. Chairman Bowen added these three items to New Business.

Vice Chairman Smith withdrew his previous motion.

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

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda.

Minutes of the September 24, 2008 Special Meeting and September 30, 2008 Special Meeting.


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<tr>
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<th>October, 2008</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
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<td>Property Taxes</td>
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Tax Relief Orders in the amount of $4,617.41.

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2008 Neilson, Lorenzo Out of County 4,060 64.35
2008 Pittman Patricia G High Mileage 2,375 19.71
2008 Rogers Annette L Bill of Sale 2,500 39.63
2007 Simmons Angelia High Mileage 1,475 23.38
2008 Taylor Jimmy D Bill of Sale 5,032 79.76
2008 Warren G Edward Jr Bill of Sale 5,135 43.39
2008 Whitley Samuel B Double Billed 18,080 152.78
2008 Wilkerson Walter Burton High Mileage 3,260 51.67
2008 Williamson Elizabeth Hargett High Mileage 1,275 20.21
2008 Wilson Steve Edgar High Mileage 875 7.40

Total Releases $ 4,617.41

Local Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program: Manager Overman explained in a memo that a letter has been received from the NC Division of Land Resources stating that funds are available to establish local erosion and sedimentation control programs. Without the establishment of a local program, the state rules and regulations apply where necessary. Martin County does not have the staff or the expertise to administer a local program so Manager Overman recommends that Martin County not adopt and develop a local erosion and sedimentation control program.

City of Raleigh Request: Manager Overman submitted a letter which was received from the City of Raleigh requesting a monetary sponsorship for the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference to be held in Raleigh in May, 2010. After reading the letter, the attached list of suggested sponsorship levels and other attachments, Manager Overman recommended that Martin County not share in the sponsorship.

Grant Approval – Senior Center: Ms. Marsha Anderson, Director of the Martin County Department of Aging, requested the approval of a contract between the Martin County Department of Aging and the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Division of Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). She explained there is no monetary match for this mini grant.

Ms. Anderson then requested approval of the Senior Center Outreach and General Purpose Grants. The budget amount and match amount have already been included in the 08/09 budget.

Disposition of Records - Employment Applications: Clerk to the Board Linda G. Hardison requested approval to dispose of employment applications and resumes for applicants not hired during the period of January, 2003 through October, 2006. This is according to the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule – County Management.

Financial Records: The Martin County Finance Office requested permission to dispose of the following items according to Retention and Disposition Schedule.

- 2002-2003 Cash receipt files, original and duplicate copies – state requires retention for three years
- 2002-2003 Green copies of purchase orders, duplicated
- 2002-2003 Building Inspector permits copies, originals kept in another office
- 2002-2003 Paid invoice file, original invoices and duplicate copies of checks – state requires retention for three years. Sprint telephone bill copies.
- 2002-2003 Centura bank statements and cancelled checks – state requires retention for three years
- 2002-2003 Centura payroll bank statements and cancelled checks; original corresponding reports kept on file in the Finance Office
- 2005-2006 Computer generated printouts (Supporting documents will be retained for five years)
- 2002-2003 Landfill billing statements, payments, daily ticket report and financial report
- All years of blue check copies (no longer used)
Tax Collector Records: Tax Collector Christine Blevins stated that record storage as and will continue to be a problem for the Tax Collector’s office. She requested permission to dispose of the following records in accordance with the Amended Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

- 2006 Real & Personal Property Tax Levy Including Omitted Bills
- 2006 Motor Vehicle Levy
- 1997 Motor Vehicle Scrolls
- 2004 Motor Vehicle Tag Surrenders, Release, and Refunds
- 2004 Deposits
- 2004 Prepayments Receipts and Records
- 2004 Attachment/Garnishment Records
- 2004 Deferred Tax Disqualification Records
- 2006 Payment Proofs and Monthly Reports
- 2006 Town Monthly Reports for Checks
- 2004 Accounts Receivable Monthly Reports
- 2004 Annual Settlements
- 2006 Employer Record of Employees for Garnishment
- 2006 Real & Personal Property Tax Bills
- 1998 Drainage Assessment Receipts
- 2005 Beer & Wine Permit Copies
- 2005 Payment Plans
- 2004-2006 Motor Vehicle Block Records

Appointments

Women’s Council: Appoint Emily Tadlock of Williamston High School as the student representative for a one-year term which will expire June 30, 2009.

Parmele ETJ Planning & Zoning Board: Reappoint Alice Lathem and Isabelle Powell to a second three-year term which will expire August 31, 2011.

Firemen’s Relief Fund Board: Reappoint Lonnie Lee (Bear Grass), Kenneth Perry (Griffins Township), Wayne Carlisle (Hamilton), Randy Gardner (Jamesville), and John Pritchard (Roanoke) to another two-year term which will expire December, 2010.

PRESENTATIONS – VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Ms. Marsha Anderson, Director of the Martin County Department on Aging, explained that two people from Martin County have been chosen to receive the Governor’s Volunteer Award for 2008. They are Peggy J. Taylor and Jerry G. Savage. Chairman Bowen presented both recipients with certificates and pins which had been provided by Governor Easley. Ms. Anderson also announced that Mr. Savage is one of 20 chosen statewide to receive the Medallion Award. He will be traveling to Colfax on November 20th to receive this award from the Governor.

OLD BUSINESS

Moratoc Park Update: Manager Overman informed the Board that we are continuing to move forward with the Moratoc Park PARTF grant application process. Manager Overman and Don Christopher met with David Hodges to go over the application and determine who was going to be responsible for each component of the application. Since that time Mr. Hodges has met with Dallis Tucker to go over the application with him. At the December meeting, the Board needs to discuss the proposed project and begin to nail down the scope and cost of the project to be submitted.

The potential bad news is that Martin County may not have a fundable hazard mitigation project. It was planned to use these funds to elevate the building and that would also provide a significant amount of match for the PARTF grant. This is primarily due to the fact that Martin County has only had one loss on that building reported to FEMA. That
loss occurred as a result of Hurricane Floyd and amounted to approximately $11,000. However, Manager Overman stated that he is not ready to give up on receiving this grant.

Albemarle Mental Health Update: Chairman Bowen discussed the cut backs from Raleigh for mental health. He also said that the blame for these cut backs is being tossed back and forth. Nevertheless, an audit has been conducted on Martin Enterprises by Albemarle Mental Health. He discussed how this audit was conducted and how rude the auditors were. The results of this audit should be available December 1\textsuperscript{st}. He also informed the Board that the State will conduct an audit on Albemarle Mental Health.

After discussing the audit, Chairman Bowen stated that Martin Enterprises may lose 37 clients. He went on to say that the income these clients earn is minimal but what is more important is the self-worth these clients will lose. They will have no place to go during the day, and they will miss the fellowship and interaction of fellow clients. Chairman Bowen encouraged everyone to call their legislators in Raleigh to help these clients and keep this program for Martin Enterprises.

EFNEP Position: Manager Overman reminded the Board that this item was tabled from last month’s meeting. Mr. J. B. Coltrain of Cooperative Extension Services and Ms. Susan Davenport of Social Services were present to answer any questions the Board had. Mr. Coltrain passed out a packet of data on the activities of this position during the course of a year. Ms. Davenport stated that this person serves a good purpose with her Food Stamp clients. Both Mr. Coltrain and Ms. Davenport recommended that this position be funded.

Following a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Lilley made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Smith, to approve the funding of the EFNEP position. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

December Meetings: Chairman Bowen stated that the 2008 meeting schedule calls for two meetings in December. He said originally the organizational meeting was scheduled for December 1\textsuperscript{st}, with the regular business meeting scheduled for December 10\textsuperscript{th}. Since December is such a busy month and the Board of Equalization and Review is already scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on December 1\textsuperscript{st} Chairman Bowen suggested that all business for December be conducted at one meeting. After each Commissioners had an opportunity to state his opinion, Vice Chairman Smith suggested that the Board follow the Chairman’s recommendation; therefore, Chairman Bowen stated that all business would be handled at the December 1\textsuperscript{st} meeting.

Budget Amendment 11: Manager Overman explained that this budget amendment is a pass through for an Emergency Management grant. Martin County will be administering the grant.

Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Perry, to approve Budget Amendment 11 as presented. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – 11

BE TO 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.

| Public Safety                   | Emergency Management | $211,421 |

This will result in an increase of $211,421 in the expenditures of the General Fund. To provide an increase in revenue for the above, the following revenues will be changed.
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.

Approval of Supplemental Airport Grant: Manager Overman stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has allocated additional funds to the Martin County Airport under the VISION 100 program. This money is provided to Martin County with only a 10% match. The award was for $38,760 in federal funds and the required match is $4,307 providing a total project cost of $43,067. Manager Overman recommended that the Board wait before making a budget amendment because the Airport budget may be able to absorb the match.

Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley, to approve the match of $4,307 for the VISION 100 supplemental grant for the Martin County Airport. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

October 8, 2008 Minutes of the Regular and Closed Sessions: Commissioner Hurst asked if any of the other Commissioners were reading their packets. He stated that he had found an error in the minutes. Clerk Hardison stated that packets were mailed almost a week before the meetings and if a Commissioner found a mistake to please call her so the minutes could be corrected before the meeting.

Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Perry, to approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2008 minutes of the regular meeting as corrected and the minutes of the October 8, 2008 closed session as presented. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

Refund for Landfill Fees – Harry House: A memo from Tax Assessor Hilton Edmondson explained that Mr. Harry House had submitted a letter requesting a refund for Landfill Fees for years 2005, 2006 and 2007 when there was no electricity running to the home. Mr. Edmondson stated that he had corrected year 2008 before Mr. House paid the bill. Records were received from Edgecombe-Martin Electric Membership Corporation as requested, showing that the power was turned off. Mr. House requested $686.13 for years 2005, 2006 and 2007. This figure is incorrect and should be $660.94. Mr. House wasn’t charged any interest on the Landfill Fees that he was charged for and he received a 2% discount in year 2006. The Department of Revenue tells us each year what interest rate we must pay when a tax payer has been overcharged. The recommended refund is $660.94. Vice Chairman Smith made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley, to approve the refund for Landfill Fees for Harry House in the amount of $660.94. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

Manager Overman wanted to clarify that this request was to correct a mistake made by staff and to correct an amount already refunded.

Clerk’s Report: Vice Chairman Smith made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Commissioner Lilley, to approve the Clerk’s Report as presented. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.

BOARD REPORTS

Martin Community College: Commissioner Perry reported that the pond is close to being finished and they will be through with the drainage project. He also reported that a contract has been sent to Raleigh for rewiring at the college. Since the amount is $43,000 over the appropriation, they may have to rebid the project.

MTW Health Department: Commissioner Perry recommended that next year the Flu Shot Clinic for county employees be scheduled with the Health Department. He also indicated that unity within the health department is the best it has been in over four years.
Bertie-Martin Regional Jail: Commissioner Perry suggested that both counties take a hard look at the Jail. He stated that the jail has a capacity of 90 inmates, yet it is averaging 150 per month. He said something has to be worked out before the State requires additional facilities. The Board discussed several options to help alleviate this situation.

Chairman Bowen thanked Commissioner Perry for the time he has spent on these various Boards. Since this is the last regular meeting for Commissioner Perry, each Commissioner took the opportunity to thank him for his service to the citizens of Martin County.

Commissioner Perry stated that it was his pleasure serving the people of Martin County. He said he tried to be fair and honest and do what was best for all of Martin County.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hurst made a MOTION, with a SECOND by Vice Chairman Smith, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously APPROVED by the Board, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners’ Board Room in the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

Tommy W. Bowen, Chairman

Linda G. Hardison, Clerk to the Board