

**Special Called Joint Meeting
January 24, 2019**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in joint session with the Local Elected Officials and the Mid-East Commission on Thursday, January 24th, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Oak City Fire Department, 100 East Commerce Street, Oak City, North Carolina.

Martin County Commissioner/Chairman Tommy Bowen welcomed everyone to the Semi-Annual Local Elected Officials meeting. Introductions followed. Approximately forty-six individuals attended the dinner meeting catered by the Filling Station Restaurant.

Martin County Commissioner Ronnie Smith provided the invocation.

Martin County: Chairman Tommy Bowen, Vice Chairman Dempsey Bond, Jr., Commissioner Ronnie Smith, Commissioner Joe R. Ayers, County Manager David Bone, Clerk to Board Jessica Godard, Clerk of Superior Court Tonya Leggett, Register of Deeds Kimberly Griffin, and Sheriff Tim Manning.

Town of Bear Grass: Mayor Charlotte Griffin, Commissioner Elizabeth Smith, and Commissioner Calvin Owens.

Town of Everett: Mayor Ray Deans and Clerk Nancy Hardison.

Town of Hamilton: Commissioner Mamie Staton, Commissioner Ervin Williams, Commissioner Larry Jackson, Commissioner William Freeman, and Town Clerk Ms. Annie Jones.

Town of Hassell: Mayor Jane Williams.

Town of Jamesville: Mayor Pro-Tem Willis Williams, and wife, Mrs. Delsie Williams and Town Clerk Kim Cockrell.

Town of Oak City: Mayor William Stalls, and Commissioner Sue Harrell.

Town of Parmele: Mayor Jerry McCrary, Commissioner Lula Council, Commissioner Curtis Willet, and Commissioner Glenda Barnes.

Town of Robersonville: Mayor Frank Measamer, Commissioner Eugene Roberson, Jr., and Town Manager Libby Jenkins.

Town of Williamston: Commissioner William Coffield, Commissioner Ronell Rodgers, Commissioner Alton Moore, and Town Administrator John O'Daniel.

Martin County School Board: Board Member Van Health and Board Member Kenneth Harrell.

Mid-East Commission: Executive Director Bryant Buck and Executive Assistant Theresa Harris.

Others present: NC Representative Shelly Willingham, Senator Erica D. Smith, Martin County EDC President Jason Semple, MCC President Dr. Paul Hutchins, MCC Executive Assistant to

the President Kismet Matthews, Assistant to the President for Business and Industry/Special Projects Billy Barber, Mitch Manning with EDC, Tom Winslow with EDC, MTW District Health Director Wes Gray, and Martin County Communications Director Jason Steward.

911 Center Building Project

Martin County Communications Director Jason Steward presented a PowerPoint presentation on the new Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Backup Project. Director Steward provided some background information regarding Martin County Communications, and discussed recent service upgrades including Emergency Medical Dispatch, Text to 911, Critical Incident Team trained staff, In-house quality assurance team under the direction of the County Medical Director, Mobile CAD for officers, auto text for responders, PA Aware, Active 911, and In-house addressing specialist.

The timeline of events for the PSAP project began in early 2013, said Director Steward. Currently, the construction of the PSAP building was 75% complete, and significant completion was projected for May 2019. The building will be just over 5,000 square feet with a “hardened” structure on the operations side of the building to ensure continuous service regardless of any outside conditions. The new PSAP building will also include the latest technologies to allow for seamless transfer of calls in the event of an emergency on site, and lodging and food preparation space for staff in the event of severe weather that would make travel unsafe.

The groundbreaking for the building was in June 2018. The foundation began to take shape in August 2018, the framing began in September 2018. The Martin County PSAP and Regional Backup Center was scheduled to be operational in the fall of 2019. The total cost was approximately \$5.1 million and is completely funded by a grant from the NC 911 Fund. The center will allow for expanded training, quality assurance, and administrative space that will ensure a highly trained staff to assist our communities.

The current facility at the Governmental center will remain in place, to be used as a backup center, if needed. The current temporary backup for the Martin County was at the Martin County Firing Range on Meadows Road in a mobile office. The partnership was between the Martin County Law Enforcement Association and Martin Community College.

Martin-Tyrell-Washington District Health Department – MTW Mobile Clinic; Opioid Crisis Efforts

MTW District Health Director Wes Gray reviewed the current programs available and current medical providers at the district Health Department.

Health Director Gray presented a PowerPoint presentation to show the new dental unit to be used by MTW District Health Department. The presentation included several pictures of the interior of the mobile dental unit. The hope is to increase the no-show rate to zero, compared with the current no-show rate of approximately 30% in fixed site county clinics. The mobile unit will focus mostly on schools around Martin County, and remain on site for approximately three weeks before moving to the next site. The mobile units are fully handicap accessible. Funding for the unit was through grants, and MTW was able to receive donations from other Dental offices for equipment.

Next, Health Director Gray discussed the ongoing opioid epidemic and efforts in place by MTW to combat the issue in the community. Director Gray recalled the multi-county Opioid forum that took place at the Bob Martin Center in October 2017, where the opioid epidemic was discussed. He also referenced an Opioid Grant received through UNC.

Health Director Gray reported the formation of the Second Judicial District Opioid Coalition that meets once a month. The group discusses grants, new statistics, and other information. One of the topics discussed at the Opioid Forum in 2017 was the need for an opioid health educator. Ms. Kirsten Smith was hired in October 2018 as an Opioid Health Educator, the first statewide.

Director Gray reviewed some statewide statistics related to the opioid crisis:

- 1,177 confirmed opioid-related poisoning deaths for 2018
- Opioid-related emergency department visits increased 8% in 2018 (compared to 2017)
- 3,344 Naloxone reversals reported to NCHRC (North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition)
- County level reports for Martin County (12/14/18-01/17-19) include five medication/drug overdoses, one heroin-related ED visit, one unspecified drug-related ED visit, and thirteen counts of drug abuse/dependence.

Health Director Gray discussed the prevalence of synthetic opioids and deaths related to use of opioids nationwide. Additionally, Health Director Gray highlighted opioid deaths, hospitalizations, ED visits, and misuse and dispensing statistics for North Carolina residents (the chart shared was from 2016). Another concern discussed by Director Gray is the rate of outpatient opioid pills dispensed by counties in North Carolina which is a concern of the Opioid Coalition. Further, the rate of acute hepatitis C cases increased more than 900% from 2007 to 2016.

Additional local responses to the opioid overdose epidemic include the formation of a Treatment Court Planning Committee to start a regional treatment court (drug court), which would be the first regional treatment court in North Carolina. In May 2019, there will be a public health fair that will provide medication lockboxes, medication drop boxes, free health screenings, and educational materials/incentives. By the end of 2020, MTW District Health Department will roll out substance abuse prevention education to be implemented in all middle and high schools within the district.

Mid-East Commission Updates

Mid-East Commission Executive Director Bryant Buck reiterated the four primary focuses at Mid-East Commission include the Finance Department, Area Agency on Aging, Workforce Development, and Planning/Economic Development/Community Services Department.

Director Buck discussed the census program, stating the census occurs once every 10 years. Director Buck discussed LUCA (local update of census addresses) was recently performed in Martin County. The purpose of the program was to match data from census to information on file at Martin County, which ensures the most accurate census date. The census program

provides accurate counts to help the federal government allocate funds across the state for various programs and services. \$1200-1500 per person of monies that does not come back to our region if someone is not counted in the census. April 1st, 2020 is when census will roll out.

Director Buck explained Martin County had previously faced some challenges regarding the addressing system for some time, so Mid-East Commission Planning staff worked with several agencies to gather Martin County's data to match that information up with the census data.

Director Buck summarized the importance of all citizens to participate in the census program in order to ensure adequate funding (state and federal) is returned back to the community, and to ensure the most up to date information is available.

Next, Director Buck provided updates and training opportunities from the various departments within the Mid-East Commission, as well as upcoming events. Director Buck also thanked the elected officials that participated in a recent survey from the UNC School of Government.

Handouts were provided with information and contact numbers.

County Commissioner Chairman Bowen recognized Representative Shelley Willingham. Representative Willingham stated the information was encouraging and expressed his thanks for being invited and involved with the event.

County Commissioner Chairman Bowen recognized Senator Erica D. Smith. Senator Smith stated there was an upcoming meeting will allow for discussion regarding the Kerr Dam releases and local flooding issues. The meeting would be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 in Windsor, NC.

County Commissioner Smith reported the UNC School of Government offers great courses, and encouraged all officials/staff to utilize the courses offered.

County Manager David Bone thanked Senator Smith and Representative Willingham for their efforts on behalf of Martin County. County Manager Bone stated the county is working through the current MCRWASA water debt issues, mostly due to construction costs. Manager Bone spoke about the weekly county update that is sent out on Mondays and offered to share that information with anyone interested. Manager Bone asked for delegates to regional mitigation group, related to a letter sent from Holland Consulting Planners.

At 8:04 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman

Jessica Godard
Clerk to Board