

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at A-B Tech, Madison Campus, Marshall, NC.

In attendance were Chairman Wayne Brigman, Vice-Chairman Norris Gentry, Commissioner Bill Briggs, Commissioner Clayton Rice, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, County Manager Forrest Gilliam, Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk Darlyne Rhinehart.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Brigman.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Jim Brown, former Landfill Director.

I.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following changes/additions:

- 8.b. Sara Nichols – Personnel
- 7.c. Forrest Gilliam for Regina Sams – Administrative Specialist Position
- 7.d. Transportation Driver
- 5.a. Jim Huff – Personnel – moved to closed session

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2015 meeting as written.

III.

No public comment was received.

IV.

The board held open Item IV pending the arrival of Travis Kever with the auditing firm Gould Killian.

V.

Upon request from Melanie Morgan, Library Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board granted permission to Mrs. Morgan to apply for the 2016-2017 EZ Literacy and Lifelong Learning grant. The grant amount requested was \$25,786.16 with a 10% county match in the amount of \$2,865.13.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to re-instate the current Children's Programming Coordinator, Amy Shetley, from 58 hours to 80 hours a pay period effective January 25, 2016 utilizing existing funds within the Library budget.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to hire Catherine Nines, Benoit Mailloux-Pilon, and Ray Desjardins for substitute circulation assistant positions. All new hires will be on temporary status at \$7.40 per hour.

VI.

Upon recommendation of Regina Sams, Community Services Director, presented by Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, and upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to employ Casey Danahy as Meal Site Manager for the Center Community Center.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve Otis D. Arrington as a Nutrition Driver for Community Services.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve Brooke Roberts as a Transportation Van Driver.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the advertisement for the position of Administrative Specialist with Community Services.

VI.

The Board received the 2015 Annual Financial Report.

VII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution presented by Chairman Brigman in support of the Connect NC Bond Acts.

VIII.

Upon recommendation of the Soil and Water Conservation Board presented by Sara Nichols, and upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to employ Tyler Ross as a Soil Conservationist.

IX.

Attorney Donny Laws presented an overview of the school building program in advance of the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 19.

Attorney Laws informed the Board that no upset bids were received for the county owned lot at The Cottages at Creekside, for which the Board voted to accept an initial offer at its November meeting.

The offer was advertised in the newspaper for a 10-day upset period. The County acquired the property for delinquent taxes in 2014.

Attorney Laws brought to the Board's attention a tabled offer from Mr. Pete Whitlock of \$70,000 for the old jail in Marshall. Mr. Laws informed the Board that they could vote to accept or reject the offer. If the Board decides to accept the offer, it would have to be advertised in the newspaper for a 10-day upset period, with the 10-day upset period being repeated for any upset bids that are received. The County has the right to reject any and all offers. There was discussion from the Board regarding the value of the building and whether or not an appraisal should be done.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted 3-2 to seek formal appraisals on the old jail, the Sprinkle-Shelton building, and the Island Gym. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioners Brigman, Gentry, and Rice. Voting in the negative were Commissioners Briggs and Wechtel.

X.

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, shared with the Board information regarding the Laurel School Property. Mr. Gilliam had spoken with Mr. Bobby Dean Franklin, spokesman for the group that is interested in leasing the laurel School building for use as a community center, in the event that the county accepts the property from the school system.

Mr. Gilliam presented to the Board a tentative FY 2016-2017 budget development schedule as well as an annual report reviewing some of the major events that occurred in county government in 2015.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution adopting a policy for mutual assistance with other law enforcement agencies as described in General Statute 160A-288. This resolution authorizes the Sheriff to enter into mutual assistance arrangements with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies, provided that the head of the requesting law enforcement agency makes such a request in writing.

Mr. Gilliam presented an update on the courthouse renovations. Contractors have been selected for electrical and structural/finish work. The work that needs to be done to the boiler due to its previous placement in a manner that prohibits the structural work from beginning is being assessed. Electrical work can begin prior to the boiler/structural issues being resolved. There was discussion about other methods of heating and cooling the building in the absence of the boiler. There was also discussion about the long-term cost of the project and the need for a backup courtroom somewhere in the county.

XI.

The Board received the December, 2015 Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #6.

The board deferred action on the tax releases/refunds.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Nursing Adult Care Home Board.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to appoint Linda Freeman, Ann Johnston, and John Fenwick to the Nursing Adult Care Home Board.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to appoint Mark Snelson to the Economic Development Board.

Carroll Askew was nominated by Commissioner Rice and approved by the full board to serve on the Housing Authority Board.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Council on Aging Board.

Commissioner Wechtel nominated Wayne Brigman and Chris Maney.

Nominations for the Council on Aging Board ceased.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to appoint Wayne Brigman and Chris Maney to the Council on Aging Board.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Health.

Commissioner Rice nominated Janet Adams Crowe. Commissioner Wechtel nominated Mike Stevenson.

Nominations to the Board of Health ceased.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Janet Adams Crowe and Mike Stevenson to serve on the Board of Health.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Land of Sky Regional Council.

Commissioner Gentry nominated Matt Wechtel. Chairman Brigman nominated Forrest Gilliam. Commissioner Wechtel nominated Wayne Brigman and Ryan Cody.

Nominations to the Land of Sky Regional Council ceased.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to appoint Matt Wechtel, Wayne Brigman, Ryan Cody and Forrest Gilliam to serve on the Land of Sky Regional Council. Matt Wechtel will serve as the alternate commissioner and Forrest Gilliam will serve as alternate.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Commissioner Wechtel nominated Courtney Brown, Sharon Cupstid, Robert Chambers, Dennis Kooles, and Deana Stephens.

Nominations to the Parks and Recreation Board ceased.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve Courtney Brown, Sharon Cupstid, Robert Chambers, Dennis Kooles, and Deana Stephens to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board.

XII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session to discuss personnel, legal and attorney client privilege matters.

XIII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

XIV.

Upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to include: Personnel/County Manager.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the employment of Rebecca Shook at the Landfill.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to restore the salary of the County Manager retroactive to January 01, 2016.

Upon recommendation from Attorney Donny Laws and upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice the board voted unanimously (1) to rescind the action taken in the 2nd paragraph of Item XII of the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting of the Board wherein the tax assessor was directed to restore the valuations on certain properties changed at the June 2009 Board of Equalization and Review meeting ; and (2) to release the amounts shown on the document entitled "Madison County Tax Department Release Computations" on the following PIN's;

9861 – 19-3123
9861 – 19-3200
9861 – 19-2276
9862 – 20-2071
9861 – 29-0092
9861 – 05-5830
9851 -94-9568

tendered to the Commissioners by the Madison County Tax Assessor and Collector in a total amount of \$8,475.21.

The board scheduled a work session to be held on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

This the 14th day of January, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

By: Wayne Brigman
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart
Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk