

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 09, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom, Madison County Courthouse, Marshall, NC.

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

In attendance were Chairman Wayne Brigman, Vice-Chair Clayton Rice, Commissioner Jim Baker, Commissioner Bill Briggs, Commissioner Norris Gentry, County Manager Allen Lamberson, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk Darlyne Rhinehart.

I.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions: 3.d. – Dr. Ron Wilcox, 3.e. – Firing Range, 8. i. – HOME Grant. Removed from the agenda was: 6. – Ryan Cody – Personnel.

II.

Commissioner Baker requested that the minutes reflect the time meetings were called to order and the time of adjournment.

Upon motion from Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Briggs, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting. Commissioners Gentry and Rice did not vote due to not having been members at the stated time.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 01, 2014 and the December 04, 2014 meetings.

III.

No action was taken in regards to taking bleachers from the Island Gym.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract with Toshiba for the County's copy machine needs.

Attorney Laws advised the Board that the Big Laurel Collection Center Site lease was ready for signatures. The terms of the lease remain the same.

Dr. Ron Wilcox appeared before the Board to discuss the Proposed Building Program for Madison County Schools. The Board discussed with Dr. Wilcox the idea of putting at least two years of payments into reserve should the building program be approved.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Dr. Wilcox and the Board of Education to proceed with the architectural phase.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Chairman Brigman, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Official Intent to Pursue Financing and to Reimburse Expenditures with Proceeds of a Borrowing.

After discussion with County Manager Lamberson in regards to MoeTac, Commissioner Rice motioned to terminate any future discussion with MoeTac be it through purchase or lease and asked that Attorney Laws handle the notification to MoeTac. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentry.

Chairman Brigman called for discussion. Commissioner Briggs stated he would like to see what could or could not be done with the property (Landfill). Commissioner Baker stated that he would be voting against the motion because it had been previously announced that a public hearing would be held. Chairman Brigman's biggest concern is the fact that MoeTac still is requesting a 100 year lease.

Said motion passed on a 4 to 1 vote. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Rice, Commissioner Gentry, and Chairman Brigman and Commissioner Briggs. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Baker.

IV.

Karen Kiehna appeared before the Board to present an update of the Scattered Site Grant Project.

V.

Jan Shepard appeared before the Board and recognized Stephanie Carter for her contributions to the families in the County through her work at the Health Department including a Positive Parenting program she established called Mommy Monday. On Friday, November 21, 2014, Mrs. Carter was recognized by WLOS as the Person of the Week.

Upon recommendation of Jan Shepard, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted unanimously to employ Amanda Coates for the position of Laboratory Technician II, permanent full time.

VI.

Item deleted.

VII.

Lynn Bowles and Erica Anderson appeared before the Board to present information from the Madison County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan that had been in the works over the last year. The plan, once adopted, is good for ten years and can be used in grant applications.

VIII.

A.

The Board received an update on activities within the IT Department. Commissioner Gentry stated that he would like to see the board meetings streamed live on the internet and archived as well as having a PA system that is more user friendly in the Courtroom. Commissioner Rice had interest in updating the County website to include the ability to pay property taxes online.

B.

County Manager Lamberson updated the Board on the progress of the Courthouse renovations.

C.

The Board received the Ebbs Chapel Progress Report from the Upper Laurel Community Organization.

D.

Also discussed was the upcoming Cycling Championship and repairs/maintenance items that needed to be addressed on the Island. The Island will be a staging point during the Championship.

Leases of tenants at the By-Pass Property were discussed.

No action was taken regarding the purchase of a snowplow to be used by County Maintenance for the clearing of County property during inclement weather.

E.

Mr. Lamberson stated that he expected Mission Hospital to come before the Board in January or February with proposed building plans for the Ambulance Service.

F.

Discussion was held on the plans for work at Barnard Park. The County received a FEMA disaster declaration along with a grant from the Pigeon River Foundation for repair work at the Park.

G.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following board appointments: Clayton Rice – Animal Control Board, Norris Gentry – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Wayne Brigman – County Animal Response Team; and Bill Briggs – Council on Aging.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Briggs, the Board voted unanimously to name Commissioner Jim Baker to the Board of Health.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Briggs, the Board voted unanimously to table further board appointment to the January meeting.

H.

Mr. Lamberson reported to the Board that the surplus Ramsey property was ready for the final closing. Wolf Laurel property had been listed with a realtor and the property at the Little Pine Preserves was in the process of being listed.

I.

Mr. Lamberson reported that a final draft of the HOME Contract was being prepared and that the County would be responsible for the financial records.

IX.

The Board received the November, 2014 Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the Board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #05.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the November Property Tax Releases, Vehicle Releases, and Tax Refunds.

X.

During public comment the Board heard from Mr. Robert Carr who thanked the Board for the outcome of the firing range issue and that he would like to see work done on the polling place at the Island.

Mr. William Klipp commented that he recognized the need for law enforcement to have a shooting range, but, that the shooting range would have devastating effects for the surrounding property owners. Mr. Klipp thanked and congratulated the Board for their vote.

Mr. Pete Orthman welcomed the new Board members. Mr. Orthman spoke to the Board regarding Mr. Lamberson bringing in a speaker for the shooting range who was not on the agenda, that the speaker was coming to state his (Mr. Lamberson's) position, he feels that Mr. Lamberson and Sue Vilcinkas had a dog in that fight. Mr. Orthman further stated that the new Finance Office still looks abandoned and that proper signage was still not in place. Mr. Orthman further commented that Mr. Lamberson be fired without delay.

Mrs. Sheila Treadway commented on the need to take better care of our law officers. Feels that the officers should be taken care of first and foremost.

XI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussion of legal and personnel matters.

XII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry the Board voted 4 to 1 to return to open session. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Rice, Commissioner Gentry, Commissioner Briggs, and Chairman Brigman. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Baker.

Motion from Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Briggs, to adjourn this meeting failed on a vote of 2 to 3. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Briggs. Voting in the negative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Rice.

Chairman Brigman motioned that County Manager Allen Lamberson be dismissed effective immediately and that Forrest Gilliam be named County Manager at a salary of \$60,000 and the same travel expense as Mr. Lamberson received. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rice.

Motion was made by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Briggs to table motion from Chairman Brigman. Motion failed on a vote of 2 to 3. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Briggs. Voting in the negative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Rice.

Attorney Laws explained to the Board that they could not give severance pay to Mr. Lamberson. Commissioner Gentry requested that Mr. Lamberson be kept on an as need basis to assist the County Manager or Board for a period of 60 days and that this action be done in the form of an agreement to be prepared by the County Attorney.

Motion to dismiss Mr. Lamberson passed on a 3 to 2 vote. Voting in the affirmative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Rice. Voting in the negative were Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Briggs.

XIII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:19 p.m.

This the 9th day of December, 2014.

By:

Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk