

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at A-B Tech, Madison Campus, Marshall, NC.

In attendance were Chairman Wayne Brigman, Vice-Chair 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 by Chairman Brigman.

I.

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

#7. Connie Harris moved to #10

#10. Forrest Gilliam – added: 10.a. Fire Inspection Contract
 10.b. Solid Waste Contract

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016, April 26, 2016; and May 2, 2016 minutes as written.

III.

Connie Molland spoke about the USA Cycling National Collegiate Championships returning to Madison County on Friday, May 13th and Sunday, May 15th. Over 400 cyclists from more than 100 colleges and universities from all over the United States are expected to participate in the races.

IV.

Ryan Cody, Lead Economic Developer, appeared before the board to conduct a public hearing for compliance with CDBG regulations set forth by HUD, in order to apply to receive funding to attend the NC School of Government Training Courses. The NC Department of Commerce offers this program, called NC Commerce Fellows. The program allows units of local government to partner and apply to receive funding to attend beneficial training through the UNC School of Government. This program will pay all costs associated with the courses and also allow some additional funding to begin developing plans to provide opportunities to the medium and lower income residents of the county.

Chairman Brigman called to hearing to order. There were 15 members of the public in attendance. Questions were raised from the Board of Commissioners as well as Linda Jarvis, member of

the public. Rick Molland, member of the public, commented that he had attended these classes in the past and that they were well worth doing.

Chairman Brigman closed the public hearing.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Cody utilizing the NC Commerce Fellows Program.

V.

Dr. Ron Wilcox, Superintendent of Schools, appeared before the board to request 40/42 funds in the amount of \$13,916.00 to use for projectors for classrooms. Projectors are needed for testing at the end of the year.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Dr. Wilcox's request.

VI.

Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator, with the Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, appeared before the board to present a resolution which publicly states the cooperative relationship between CHC and the County, and that the County supports CHC's mission and its application to the Melvin R. Lane Fund. This grant would provide CHC with \$50,000.00 in funding for three consecutive years. The County would not be committing matching funding for this grant.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve an Agreement with the City of Asheville for the reallocation of \$53,064.00 in FY 2015-16 Rural Rehabilitation funds, with the appropriate modifications to be made by Attorney Laws.

Madison County will utilize the HOME funds to rehabilitate two to three housing units belonging to low income residents in order to eliminate threat to life, safety or health of the residents. Madison County will contract with the Community Housing Coalition to perform housing rehabilitation on owner-occupied homes in Madison County.

VII.

Teresa Ogle, 911 Director, appeared before the board with her recommendation of Dillon Cantrell as a 911 Telecommunicator.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Ogle's recommendation of Mr. Cantrell.

VIII.

Attorney Donny Laws updated the board on the collection of delinquent taxes. Mr. Laws reported that 18 new files had been opened and 6 lawsuits had been filed.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Tax Collector to turn over to the County Attorney for collection any account that is delinquent in the amount of \$1000.00 or is two years past due.

Attorney Laws also addressed the issue of drug testing of employees. As a public employer it is illegal to do a blanket "random testing" program but can randomly test "safety sensitive" positions and can test where there is reasonable suspicion or as part of pre-employment criteria. The County would have to have a written comprehensive plan before implementing any kind of drug testing program. The first step would be to identify safety-sensitive positions with the second step being to determine what method of testing is preferred and begin looking for a company and gathering pricing information.

The board requested the Mr. Laws look at this, and present information to identify and develop a policy that is both appropriate and legal.

IX.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution presented by County Manager Forrest Gilliam proclaiming May 8, 2016 through June 19, 2016 as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness month in Madison County.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to contract with Mr. Eddie Fox to provide Level II Fire Inspection services for the County.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to contract with Mr. James Harris to provide consultant services in regards to the Madison County Solid Waste Department.

Mr. Gilliam provided a general update of road projects in Madison County and how the projects are scored.

Mr. Gilliam reported that through the Connect NC Funds the Madison Campus of A-B Tech was estimated to receive \$400,000 in repairs.

The board was updated on the ongoing repairs to the Courthouse.

Mr. Gilliam reported that the current bid for the "old jail" is \$90,000.00.

Personnel item regarding employment of Center Attendants for the Solid Waste Department was moved to closed session.

X.

The board received the April, 2016 Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #10.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the tax releases/refunds for the month of April.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to rescind approval of the tax releases/refunds for review on advice of legal counsel.

Upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to table action on the tax releases/refunds for the month of April, 2016. Attorney Laws recommended that tax assessor personnel be at the meetings to explain releases and refunds and to his knowledge refunds could only go back five years.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the A-B Tech Board.

Commissioner Gentry nominated Frances Ramsey.

Chairman Brigman closed the nominations. Ms. Ramsey was approved by the full board.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Social Services Board.

Commissioner Rice nominated Commissioner Norris Gentry. Commissioner Gentry nominated Commissioner Clayton Rice. Commissioner Briggs nominated Commissioner Matt Wechtel.

Chairman Brigman closed the nominations.

Voting in the affirmative for Commissioner Gentry's nomination to the Social Services Board was Commissioner Gentry, Commissioner Rice and Chairman Brigman. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Briggs and Commissioner Wechtel.

Voting in the affirmative for Commissioner Rice's nomination to the Social Services Board was Commissioner Rice, Commissioner Gentry and Chairman Brigman. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Briggs and Commissioner Wechtel.

No vote was taken on the nomination of Commissioner Wechtel to the Social Services Board.

XI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11; personnel, attorney-client privilege, economic development, and real estate matters.

XII.

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

XIII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to employ Gary Brooks as Center Attendant with the Solid Waste Department.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to employ James Worley as Mechanic/Truck Driver with the Solid Waste Department.

XIV.

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

This the 10th day of May, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

By: Wayne Brigman
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart
Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk