

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 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.

Chairman Wayne Brigman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Sandy List.

I.

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

Add: 10.e – Proclamation – Law Enforcement Appreciation
10.f – Norris Gentry – Literacy Project
10.g – Personnel – Closed Session

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 09, 2016 and August 25, 2016 minutes as written.

III.

No public comment was received.

IV.

Meg Pressley, Fairgrounds Committee Member, appeared before the board to request financial assistance to replace a wall at the Fairgrounds Building that was destroyed by wind. Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve \$3,269.32 in funds to the Fairgrounds Committee. Said funding to be taken from funds budgeted for economic development grant matching.

V.

Bobby Dean Franklin appeared before the board to discuss the Laurel School property and the potential for a community center located at this property. Mr. Franklin presented to the Board the names of those who would be spearheading the Laurel Community Center Project; Sam Adams, Keith

Ray, Quentin Ramsey, Darlene Shelton, Michelle Chandley and Lee Ball. The Laurel Community Center Advisory Board will consist of Louie Ray Zimmerman, Bobby Franklin, Gary Franklin, Joyce Thomas and Charles Cutshall. Three area churches have agreed to act as groundskeepers for the Community Center as well as holding events at the Community Center to act as fundraisers. No action was taken.

VI.

Dr. Todd Holden, Superintendent of Madison County Schools, appeared before the board to request funds for teacher supplements, a coordinator for the 1:1 laptop program, and a half time mechatronics teacher for the Career and Technical Education Program.

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, advised the Board of the current balance of 40/42 sales tax reserves that are restricted for school construction and indebtedness, as well as the level of Current Expense appropriation for the public schools. By allocating an additional \$78,262 in 40/42 funds to offset a portion of the school system's energy savings loan payment that is currently paid entirely from Current Expense funding, funds in the same amount within Current Expense funding would be freed up to pay for a teacher supplement as requested by Dr. Holden. There would still be enough money in 40/42 reserves to cover two annual debt payments on the current Qualified School Construction Bond for the school system's ongoing capital improvement program as well as other future capital outlay needs over the next fifteen years.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve a change in the funds used to pay the energy savings loan to allow funding for teacher supplements in the amount of \$78,262.00.

Mr. Gilliam also advised the Board of \$98,000 in education/economic development sales tax funding that was set aside in the budget for workforce development efforts through the school system.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve funding for a coordinator for the 1:1 laptop program at Madison Middle School as well as a ½ time Mechatronics position for Madison High School in the amount of \$77,000.00.

VII.

Connie Harris, Director of the Department of Social Services, and Molly Campbell, Executive Director of the Madison County Partnership for Children and Families (Smart Start) appeared before the board to present the 2016-2017 Memorandum of Understanding between the Madison County Partnership for Children and Families, Inc. and the Madison County Department of Social Services.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU as presented by Mrs. Harris.

VIII.

Attorney Donny Laws presented the monthly update on delinquent tax accounts.

IX.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the following emergency hires presented by County Manager, Forrest Gilliam.

Melissa Hensley – School Nurse (Health Department)
Samantha Silver – Addressing Assistant (Emergency 911)
Stephen Rector – Animal Shelter Worker, Temporary Part Time (Animal Shelter)
Brenda Cutshaw – Center Attendant, Part Time (Solid Waste)

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve the CDBG-Commerce Fellows Capacity Building Grant Ordinance with the necessary corrections.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the Equal Employment and Procurement Plan as required for acceptance of the Commerce Fellows grant.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the Fair Housing Plan as required for acceptance of the Commerce Fellows grant.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution approving the acceptance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commerce Fellows Capacity Building Grant Award No. 04-D-2711 from the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Mr. Gilliam informed the board that the Friends of the Hot Springs Library is under contract for property located at 170 Bridge Street as a new location for the Hot Springs branch. The Friends group plans to finance the purchase of the building with a five-year loan that is amortized over 25 years, and they are currently raising funds to cover the down payment as well as furnishings for the building. The Friends have spoken with the county manager about the county entering into a lease with the Friends for a five year period at a rate of \$900 per month. With the rent money from the county, the Friends group would continue to raise funds to cover the balloon payment at the end of the five year loan. Once the building is paid off by the Friends, the building would be transferred to the county. The county would have no stake in the loan.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to authorize the county attorney to draft a lease between the county and the Friends for a period of five years for \$900 per month to offset loan payments. The board would consider this lease at the October meeting.

Mr. Gilliam updated the board on the courthouse renovations.

Upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve a Proclamation declaring October as Law Enforcement Appreciation Month in Madison County.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve funding in the amount of \$6,260.00 for the Madison County Jail Literacy Project, \$1,500 of which will come from the Library budget, \$2,000 from the Sheriff's Department budget, and \$2,760 from Contingency.

X.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #01.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the tax releases and refunds as presented.

XI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11.

XII.

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

XIII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to employ Caleb Dispenza in the position of full time 911 Telecommunicator.

Upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to promote Eden Payne to the position of full time Animal Shelter Specialist.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to promote Stephen Rector to the full time Animal Shelter Worker I.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Chairman Brigman, the board voted unanimously to employ Cathy Brackins in the position of Program Assistant for 4-H at Cooperative Extension. This would be an internal transfer of Ms. Brackins from the Solid Waste Department.

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

This the 13th day of September, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

By: Wayne Brigman
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart
Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk