

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 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, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk Darlyne Rhinehart.

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

I.

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

Item 3. Public Hearing – Madison County Land Use Ordinance removed from agenda. This item will be deferred to a working session to be scheduled at a later date.

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting and the October 27, 2016 meeting as presented.

III.

During public comment the board heard from Mr. Rick Molland regarding courthouse renovations and the fact that a plan was not in place for furniture at the beginning of the project in 2013 and that although he believed in the project, he questioned how much more would be spent before the public was consulted on the budget for this project. He also expressed a desire that a plan for the project be made public.

IV.

Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator for Community Housing Coalition of Madison County appeared before the board to request that Madison County support and approve CHC's application on behalf of the County to Asheville Regional Housing for the reallocation of 2016-2017 HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds. CHC is requesting \$100,000.00 to provide rehabilitation to at least 5 owner-occupied homes with incomes at or below 80% area median income levels.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Watson's request.

V.

Rory McIlnoil with Appalachian Voices appeared before the board to discuss the French Broad Community Energy Forum to be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Madison County Extension Office. Mr. McIlnoil also discussed the focus and work done by Appalachian Voices to promote the reduction of energy waste.

VI.

Upon recommendation from Tammy Cody, Interim Health Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel the board voted unanimously to approve the employment of Heather Wall as the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor with the Health Department. This position is budgeted for 15 hours per week without benefits.

Mrs. Cody also provided an update regarding several different fundraising efforts by the Health Department to help with the cost of breast and cervical cancer screenings. These efforts included a masquerade ball, selling t-shirts, the Pink Out Football Game and HOSA/Volleyball. \$7,100.00 has been raised.

VII.

Upon recommendation from Ross Young, County Extension Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the employment of Magen Caldwell-Woody as the Administrative Assistant with the Extension Office.

VIII.

Donny Laws, County Attorney, submitted his monthly tax update report. Mr. Laws reported that 10 new files had been submitted by Lori Ray, Tax Collector for collection, 4 foreclosures had been prepared and read to be filed; and 9 services had been obtained on foreclosures pending and ready to proceed with default.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry to reject the offer pending further review of the property and thorough investigation of other options, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted 4 to 1 to decline an offer from Mr. Orville English in the amount of \$60,000.00 for property known as the Van Hart property, the Allen property, and the Wolf Mountain Development parcels so that the board would have sufficient time to further review and thoroughly investigate options.

Voting in the affirmative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Gentry, Commissioner Rice and Commissioner Wechtel. Voting in the negative was Commissioner Briggs.

IX.

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, updated the board on the collection of prior year's property taxes, surplus property, courthouse renovations, the future location of the Hot Springs Library and the United Way Campaign. Mr. Gilliam also informed the board of the search for a Finance Officer due to the retirement of the current Finance Officer, Darlyne Rhinehart.

X.

Upon recommendation of Brooke Smith, Human Resources Director, the board voted 4 to 1 approve the Dress Code Policy for Madison County Government employees. The policy will be effective January 1, 2017.

Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Gentry, Commissioner Briggs, Commissioner Rice, and Commissioner Wechtel. Voting in the negative was Chairman Brigman.

XI.

The board received the October, 2016 Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #03.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the October Tax Releases/Refunds as presented.

No nominations were received from the board replacing Mr. Alan Bradley who did not wish to be reappointed to the Nursing Adult Care Home Community Advisory Board.

XII.

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 for personnel matters, attorney-client privilege and real estate matters.

XIII.


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

XIV.

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

This the 10th day of November, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

By: 
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk