MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
MARCH 7, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886

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1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN LEONARD WIGGINS AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mr. William Wooten, Mrs. Evelyn Powell and Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Donald Boswell.

OTHER PRESENT: Mr. Eric Evans, County Manager, Mr. Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney, and Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board.

Mr. Felton requested a moment of silence for Mr. John Vines Cobb, former of Mayor of Pinetops, who passed away on Friday, March 4, 2016. He stated that Mr. Cobb was very distinguished and served on the Board of Education for a number of years and served as an Edgecombe County Commissioner. He stated that he was an outstanding citizen in the County and deserves recognition.

Without any objections a moment of silence was observed.

2. **PRAYER.**
Prayer was provided by Rev. Hines.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.**
Mr. Wooten moved to approve the February 1, 2016 and the February 26, 2016 as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
   1. **Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to the naming and/or renaming of state maintained roads and private lanes as required in the "Ordinance Establishing Policies and Procedures for Addressing all Public and Private Roads in Edgecombe County."**

      Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

      Mr. Wiggins called for public comment. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

      Rev. Hines moved to approve the road name "Brads Way" located off of East Main Street in Sharpsburg as recommended by the Planning Board. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

   2. **Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a proposed amendment to Section 3-1.2 (B&C) "Appointment and Terms of Planning Board Members" of the County's UDO.**

      Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

      Mr. Evans stated that after some discussion at previous meetings it has been recommended that the terms of the Planning Board members go from three five-year terms to two three-year terms. This is more consistent with the terms of Planning Boards in surrounding counties, as well as with other boards and commissions to which the Board of Commissioners make appointments. Mr.

Evans asked to Board to consider that the existing members be "grand-fathered" in under the existing terms. He stated that if they were to be switched to the new terms we would have a significant number of members that will be coming off of the Board in a short term. He recommended that this be applied to the new appointees.

Mr. Wiggins felt that they should not be "grand-fathered" in, which would give them fifteen more years on the Board. He asked Mr. Eric if this was his recommendation.

Mr. Evans stated that they would be able to finish out their existing terms.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he had no objection to that. They also would still be eligible for reappointment.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment. There being none the public hearing was adjourned.

Mrs. Harris moved to amend the text of the Unified Development Ordinance to change the Planning Board members terms from three, five-year terms to two, three-year terms and existing members to serve out their current terms. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion.

Mr. Felton expressed his concern regarding the Planning Board's unfavorable recommendation to the amendment.

Mrs. Harris stated that this amendment will put Edgecombe County in line with surrounding counties.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT(S):

(1) Mrs. JoAnne Crabtree, Finance Director and Ms. Erica Brown, representative from Martin Starnes & Associates provided a presentation on the audit:

- General fund summary
- Total fund balance – general fund
- Fund balance
- Fund balance position – general fund
- Available fund balance as a % of expenditures – general fund
- Ad Valorem taxes
- Restricted Intergovernmental
- Sales and services
- Public Safety expenditure
- Education expenditures
- Human Services expenditures
- Enterprise funds

(2) Mr. Jerry Spruell, Elections Director, provided an elections update.

- Mr. Spruell provided the Board with information regarding the new NC Voter ID law that was implemented this year. Every person that votes a regular valid ballot has to have a valid ID. Provisional voting can be arranged if you do not have an ID, then the local Board of Elections will have to approve it. Mr. Spruell provided information on what can be used for ID and how someone can get a free ID and reasons why you do not have to have an ID.
- Mr. Spruell stated that this will be the first full year of implementation of electronic voting at every precinct.
- He provided times and locations of early voting and other important dates.
- Talked about the redrawn Congressional map.

6. **PUBLIC PETITIONS.**

Mr. Milton Bullock, 407 Mutual Blvd, Princeville, stated that Mr. Vines Cobb served on the TDA Board with him and suggested that Mr. Claude (C.B.) Daughtridge be considered to fill his vacancy.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, NC, stated that Mr. Vines Cobb has been one of the better County Commissioners we have had since he has been following the trend. He stated that he was compassionate and did a lot for Edgecombe County. He stated that Mr. Cobb advocated the district concept for County Commissioners, which was passed in 1995.

Mrs. Harris stated that she had mentioned to Mr. Evans that she would like for the Board to introduce a resolution for the Cobb family because of all the contributions of Mr. Vines Cobb.
There being no objections Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans to prepare a resolution.

Mr. Jonathan Govara, 219 King Road, Whitakers, stated that he was speaking on behalf of Mrs. Lorraine Dickens who could not attend the meeting. He read a letter prepared by Mrs. Dickens:

"I am speaking in reference to Willow Grove Sunshine Community Park, Highway 33 North of Leggett, North Carolina on the outskirts of Whitakers, North Carolina. Speaking on behalf of the citizens in the surrounding area, they have major concerns about the park and the upkeep. During the Spring and Summer of each year calls have to be made to the County time after time for someone to come out and cut the grass. The walking trail is not feasible to walk because of the length of the grass. There are so many times the grass is too high the children cannot swing in the swings and the grass is all around the monkey bars. The signs that are put up around the trail are blown down when the wind is blowing too hard. Also, we would like to have a shelter put up. I, and the citizens of the area appreciate what you do, just ask for a little more. Please consider our request."

Mr. Wiggins asked Mr. Evans if it was a County park.

Mr. Evans stated that it belongs to the Community but the County has been providing some upkeep.

Mr. Wiggins suggested that we continue to provide the upkeep of the park and look into the possibility of providing a shelter during the budget season.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Approval of budget amendments.**
Mr. Felton moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B. **Approval of setting dates for the Board of Equalization and Review to convene on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and to adjourn Monday, May 2, 2016.**
Mrs. Harris moved to approve the dates for the Board of Equalization and Review to convene and adjourn as presented. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**

A. **Human Services Board.**
Mrs. Powell moved to appoint Ms. Marsha Cooper. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. **CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Felton moved to approve the contracts as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. **AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**
Mr. Felton moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW: ***Received*****
A. Water Services.
B. Veterans Service.
C. Financial Summary report.

12. **MANAGER'S REPORT: ***Received*****
A. Dates of importance:
- **Joint meeting with School Board, April 18, 2016.**
- **Commissioners Retreat, March 22, 2016, 9am – 5pm.**

B. Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility National Recognition Award.
C. Economic/Workforce Indicators.

13. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**
Mr. Wiggins stated that he heard from Chairman Belfield of the Nash County Board of Commissioners in terms of a joint meeting regarding the school merger issue. He stated that he had polled the Board and there was no opposition and he asked Mr. Evans to check with the Nash County Commissioners to proceed with that meeting.

Mr. Felton stated that he mention a couple of month ago about the trash on highways. He stated that it is getting worse. He asked if there was a way that the fines for lettering could be increased from $250 to $500. He stated that the Sheriff needed to be more involved in finding out who these people are that are throwing whole bags of garbage out on the highways. He asked Mr. Evans to explore the possibility of inmates cleaning up the roads.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the fines are State laws.

Mr. Wooten asked if it was possible to put up cameras, especially at the Kingsboro exit.

Mr. Evans stated that we can explore what the cost would be.

Mr. Wiggins suggested that we get some suggestions from the Keep America Beautiful organization.

Mr. Wiggins stated that one item needed to be added to the agenda regarding the anniversary of one of the oldest African American churches in the County and asked Mr. Wooten to read the proclamation.

Mr. Wooten read the Proclamation for Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He stated that they asked that the Board of Commissioners proclaim March 27, 2016 Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church day for their 150th anniversary.

Mrs. Harris moved to adopt the Proclamation as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

14. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT.**

15. **CLOSED SESSION.**
Mr. Wooten moved to go into closed session to discuss economic development. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wooten moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Rev. Hines seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

16. **REV. HINES MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL MARCH 22, 2016 AT 9:00 P.M. FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RETREAT. MR. WOOTEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Approved April 4, 2016.

Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board