MINUTES
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886

****

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, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Powell and Mr. William Wooten.

   MEMBERS ABSENT: Rev. E. Wayne Hines.

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

2. **PRAYER.**
   Prayer was provided by Mrs. Viola Harris.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.**
   Mr. Felton moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2015 meeting 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 obtain citizen input on the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. The application will request up to $258,315 in CDBG Building Reuse funds. The County intends to use the funds to assist in the renovation of a building located at 5006 NC Highway 33 East near Tarboro. Wada Farms plans to open a sweet potato processing facility in the building. In order to move into the building, extensive renovations including air upgrades, lighting, insulation, roofing, doors and dock upgrades are needed.**

      Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

      Mr. Carmon stated that this is the second public hearing of the required two regarding the $550,630 project. He stated that 25 jobs will be created.

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

      Mr. Wooten moved to approve the submission of a CDBG application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. 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 the consideration of proposed amendments to Article II "Animal Control" Section 4-45 "Public Nuisance" of the Edgecombe County Code of Ordinances.**

      Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

      Mr. Carmon stated that concerns were raised at a previous meeting regarding vicious dogs and our ability to protect our citizens. The County does not have an ordinance that requires citizens to keep dogs on a leash. He stated that passing such an ordinance is not recommend at this time because it would be extremely

difficult to enforce. He stated that changes to the existing ordinance will go a long way in enabling better protection of citizens. Mr. Carmon stated that increasing the penalty, as well as shortening the number of violations required before an animal that is causing a public nuisance is taken will encourage compliance and better protect citizens. He recommend that the penalties for such animals go from: 1) written warning, 2) $200 fine, 3) $400 fine and impoundment of animal.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment.

Mr. Calvin Sherrod, 909 King Avenue, Princeville, expressed his concern regarding dogs barking while riding inside of passing vehicles. He felt that this was a nuisance and should also be enforced.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the County Manager will look into the matter.

Ms. Betty Abrams, 234 Everette Road, came forward and complained about a neighbor's dog that is chained in the front yard that barks all day and night.

Mr. Felton stated that the proposed amendment to the ordinance should take care of this situation if it is passed tonight.

Ms. Abrams stated that the Sheriff's department has been out and nothing has ever been done. She stated that the dog is vicious.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the Board is attempting to put an ordinance in place to help deal with the issue. He stated that when animal control comes out they have to see a violation of the ordinance in order to move forward.

Mr. Johnny Carson, 259 Everette Road, stated that he lives across the street from the animals in which Ms. Abrams is talking about. He stated that they are breeding one litter after another, they hang them up together and hit them against the house, which makes them mean. Mr. Carson stated that the animals are vicious and he disagrees with the leash law. He felt that the dogs should be on a leash or in a pin. He stated that he, along with other neighbors, have been attacked and they should not have to live in terror.

Mr. Wiggins stated that based on the amendment to the ordinance, it is hopeful to bring some relief.

Mrs. Harris asked that the proposed amendment to the ordinance be read for the public.

Mr. Carmon read the amendment as follows:

Proposed Amendments to Animal Control Ordinance
Article II: Animal Control
Section 4-45

(4) If after 24 hours or such lesser time as is designated in the abatement order, the nuisance is not abated, a civil penalty shall be issued and/or criminal summons may be issued. The civil penalty shall initially be $200. If the nuisance is still not abated after 24 hours from the issuance of the first civil penalty, or other such time as indicated on the abatement order, a second civil penalty of $400 shall be issued. Then if the nuisance is still not abated within 24 hours from the issuance of the second civil penalty, or other such time as indicated on the abatement order, the animal may by impounded. The owner or keeper of the animal shall be responsible for and shall pay all expenses and fees per Section 4-43 of this article.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the existing ordinance is weak and this is an effort to strengthen the ordinance and give the animal control officers more authority to remove the dog much quicker than they could under the old ordinance.

There being no further comments Mr. Wiggins adjourned the public hearing.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the amendment of the animal control ordinance as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

3. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to Edgecombe County's plan to consider declaring its intent to sell or otherwise convey its home care agency.

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that this item was discussed during the budget process realizing that the County could not compete with the private sector when it came to Home Health and Hospice. He stated if approved staff will have the authority to solicit proposals for the sale and disposition of the County's Home Health and Hospice.

Mr. Wiggins called for public comment.

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, NC, stated that he understood that the County could not continue to afford the service. He stated that this is a very valuable service, you will never appreciate the fullest of it until you really need that service. He encouraged the Board to make sure no one goes without the service.

There being no further comments the public hearing was adjourned.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the sale of Edgecombe Homecare & Hospice as recommended and to authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposal related to the sale. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Wiggins called a public hearing to order to receive citizen comments and questions relative to a request from Franklinton Center property owners to rezone property located at 281 Bricks Lane, Whitakers from CU (Conditional Use) to OI (Office and Institutional).

Mr. DeLoatch read the public notice as published.

Mr. Carmon stated that the Planning Board forwarded this request to the Board of Commissioners with a favorable recommendation.

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

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the rezoning request as submitted and recommended by the Planning Board. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Vivian Lucas, Director of the Franklinton Center, was present and introduced her staff.

5. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

A. Bridget Chisholm, with BWC, was present and updated the Board on the Edgecombe Community College BioTech Project.:
- Project overview
- Capital project update:
  - NMTC compliance
  - Budget Reconciliation
  - Construction
- MWBE Report

- **Construction in progress**
- **BWC Consulting**

****

Mr. Wiggins stated that Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, will retire at the end of the month after fourteen years of service. At Mr. Wiggins' request Mr. Felton read the following resolution:

Resolution in Recognition and Appreciation of the Dedicated Service of Mr. Lorenzo Carmon as County Manager

Whereas, the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners has the daunting task of selecting the individual in whom it will place its trust and confidence to manage the staff, budget and mission of the County; and

Whereas, in August of 2001, the Board of Commissioners put its trust in Mr. Lorenzo Carmon to lead us through the recovery from Hurricane Floyd and head on into the day to day challenges we face on behalf of our citizens; and

Whereas, Mr. Lorenzo Carmon has diligently and faithfully served our county with **honor, integrity and great distinction, with many accomplishments to his credit.**

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners, hereby acknowledge and extend our profound appreciation to Mr. Lorenzo Carmon for fourteen years of service to us and the citizens of Edgecombe County, on this the 8th day, September 2015.

Leonard Wiggins, Chairman ***Attest: Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board***

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

Mr. Wiggins presented a plaque to Mr. Carmon on behalf of the Board and staff.

Mr. Carmon thanked the Board, staff and citizens for their support.

At the request of Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Felton moved to recess the meeting for five minutes. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting resumed with Mr. Eric Evans, Assistant County Manager, taking Mr. Carmon's seat.

****

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mr. Calvin Sherrod, 909 King Avenue, Princeville, NC, came forward to express his concerns regarding the increase in water bill rates in the Town of Princeville and asked for an explanation on the increase.

Mr. Evans stated that as the rates stood with the Town of Princeville the system was not sustainable. Not collecting enough money for the system to be able to pay for maintenance, operations and ongoing costs with the system. When we bought the system in with our overall county system we had to raise the rates to be consistent with the rates in all of our districts.

Mr. Wiggins stated that Princeville is a district of its own and that system has to pay for its own debt. He asked Mr. Evans if Princeville had any debt on the system.

Mr. Evans stated that there is minimal debt on the system, but there is also some considerable amount of repairs that is going to have to be done on the system. All of that is factored in when we review our rates every year for all of our districts, all of those factors are bought into consideration. The Town's rate structure was

different from the way we structured ours. They charged a base rate around $19.00 up to 3500 gallons of water, which was not collecting enough to sustain the system.

Mr. Wiggins stated to Mr. Sherrod that the rates did increase, and the County is also looking for grants and other means in order to repair the system.

Mrs. Harris stated that she spoke with the Local Government Commission and was told that the average bill did increase about $35.00 and there is approximately $69 million worth of repairs needed on the Princeville system.

Ms. Mary Harper, 804 King Avenue, Princeville, stated that last month her bill was $75.00 and this month her bill is $131.00. She stated that she did not understand why the bill increase that much.

Mr. Wiggins asked if the water usage is on the bills in compared to last month's bill and the current bill. He stated that maybe the County should do some education on the billing process to help the citizens better understand it.

Ms. Laura Andrews 718 King Avenue, stated that water customers received no warning about the increase.

Mr. Wiggins agreed that citizens should have been informed about an increase.

Mr. J. Ed Bridgers, 402 Otis Avenue, Princeville, NC, thanked the Board for all they have done in the past for the Town of Princeville. He stated that he was concerned about Shiloh and other areas in the ETJ. He stated that he is hearing that a golf course and recreation building would be placed at Shiloh Landing. He stated that he hoped that a public hearing would be held before any money is spent at Shiloh. He stated that he was not objecting, but speaking for the citizens of Princeville. Mr. Bridgers provided a brief history of Shiloh Landing.

Mr. Evans stated that the County came to own the Shiloh Landing property after Hurricane Floyd. A house was located there that flooded and purchased through the buyout program. He stated that what can be done on the property is very limited because there are deed restrictions on the property because of federal money. He stated that the County, in partnership with a lot of groups of people, have been exploring ideas on how to develop a passive park, which means there will not be a building, not a lot of equipment there

Rev. Roosevelt Higgs, Speed, North Carolina, stated that he was not against the Shiloh Landing project but suggested that a public forum be held for citizens to be told what the plans are. Rev. Higgs gave each Board member a package and asked that they pay close attention to an article in the package regarding Shiloh Landing and the sale of slaves. He asked that the Board to give the citizens a chance to know what is going on and not have to second guessing it and worrying about hear-say. Rev. Higgs stated that he could not see how any Black person in American can celebrate slavery from a positive perspective. He asked the Board, as the leadership of the County, to generate a resolution condemning all past acts of slavery, racism and all other acts of unkindness towards any and all citizens of Edgecombe County. His second request to the Board was to generate a resolution praising contributions and efforts that continue to be made to help foster good race and human relations in Edgecombe County. He asked the Board for a resolution in support of the good law enforcement and other emergency personnel.

Mr. James Sherrod, Speed, North Carolina, expressed his concern regarding lack of recreation in the rural areas of the County.

Mr. Wiggins explained the agreement that the County has with the Board of Edgecombe regarding the use of their sites for recreational purposes.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

B. **Approval of Change Order No. 1 to the contract of Carolina Civilworks, Inc. for the Hwy 33 & Logsboro Road Sewer System Extension project.**
Mr. Evans recommended approval of change order No. 1 in the amount of $93,218.73. He stated that this change order will increase the construction contract amount from $3,577,326.98 to $3,670,545.71. Mr. Evans stated that this change order will cover additional excavation of rock, outside the current contract, in order to properly set the sewer wet well for this project.

Mrs. Harris moved to approve the change order as presented. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C. **Approval of a request to support the Twin Counties Positive Image Campaign.**
Mr. Evans stated that the work of the Twin Counties Visioning Process resulted in the formation of eight action groups. These committees were formed to identify concrete objectives and near-term actions to further vision and goals. He stated that one of those committees is working to positively impact the image of the Twin Counties and the group has already raised funds to kick-off its Positive Image Campaign, and seeks to raise additional funds to sustain that effort. Mr. Evans presented a letter from the Co-Chair of the Positive Image Action group requesting financial support to reach its $200,000 goal. And recommended the Boards show of support and help to sustain this important initiative by committing $5,000 to the campaign. He stated that the money has been identified in the existing budget and does not require an additional appropriation.

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

D. **Approval of a request to transfer property interest in 218 Tarboro Street, Rocky Mount, N.C.**
Mr. Evans stated that Edgecombe County jointly owns the property at 218 Tarboro Street with the City of Rocky Mount. The City is interested in using that property for future parking for its Events Center. He stated that Mr. Charles Penny, City Manager, has requested that Edgecombe County convey its interests in the lot to the City and recommended that Edgecombe County transfer its property interests in 218 Tarboro Street.

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the transfer of property interest in 218 Tarboro Street as requested and recommended. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

8. **APPOINTMENTS.**
A. **Eastpointe Board of Directors.**
Mr. Felton moved to reappoint Mrs. Addie Carmon. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

9. **CONTRACTS FOR REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL.**
Mr. Wooten moved to approve the contracts as presented. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

10. **AFTERLISTS AND RELEASES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**

Mr. Boswell moved to approve the afterlists and releases as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR REVIEW.***Received***
A. Water Services.
B. Veterans Service.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT.***Received***
A. Financial Summary report.
B. Economic/Workforce Indicators.
C. Martin-Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A. letter regarding audit of Edgecombe County TDA.
D. Workforce Summit *Victory in Vets*
October 8, 2015, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm
Gateway Convention Center, 101 Gateway Blvd, Rocky Mount, NC
E. Keep America Beautiful Edgecombe County *Big Sweep Cleanup Day*
September 26, 2015, 8:00 am – 12 noon
Meet at Shiloh Landing, 2233 US Highway 258 North, Tarboro, NC
F. Community Update – Twin Counties Visioning
September 16, 2015, 4:00 pm – 5:30pm
Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount, NC
G. Update on Food Lion property issue.
H. Water Hook-up reduced fee flyer.
I. SuddenLink.

13. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.
Mrs. Harris reported that at the NCACC Conference in Greenville they voted for a new Second Vice-President, Mr. Larry Phillips from Surry County. She provided an update on sales tax redistribution

Mr. Wiggins asked staff to prepare a resolution of support regarding the sales tax redistribution. Mr. Felton moved to approve the drafting of a resolution in support and authorize staff to forward to local legislative delegation. Mr. Boswell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Harris reported that Counties now have the option to publish public notices on their websites as opposed to having to publish in newspapers.

Five year moratorium has been set on the appeal for school boards being able to sue county commissioners;

She received her Passport to Learning from the Local Elected Leaders Academy; 230 credits, which makes her a practitioner.

14. ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

15. CLOSED SESSION.
Mr. Boswell moved to enter into closed session to discuss economic development and a legal matter. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Felton moved to go out of closed session and resume the regular meeting. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

16. MR. WOOTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. MRS. POWELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Frangie Mungo

Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board