

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brigman.

I.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following items being moved to closed session: Item 7: Tammy Cody – (a) Personnel, (b) Personnel; Item 8: Regina Sams – (b) Personnel; and Melanie Morgan – (a) Personnel, (b) Personnel.

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 08, 2016 minutes with a correction to spelling in Item IX, second sentence.

III.

No public comment was received.

IV.

Ruth Price, Lead Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman with Land of Sky Regional Council, appeared before the board to present the annual Community Advisory Committee report. This committee serves as an advocate for persons living in long term facilities.

V.

Bruce Murray, Director of Communities in Schools of Madison County, appeared before the board to present an annual update. Currently the program is serving 82 students.

VI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution in support of Bailey Mountain Park presented by Lee Hoffman. Bailey Mountain Park is a 200 acre tract of conserved land on the southern slope of Bailey Mountain.

VII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution presented by Connie Harris, Director of Social Services, recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Harris, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Madison County Department of Social Services and Smoky Mountain Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization for Work First and Child Protective Services Substance Use Initiative.

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Harris, and upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2016-2017 Services for the Blind Budget. The total budget amount is \$12,577.71, with Madison County's portion being \$1,572.21.

VIII.

Tammy Cody, Deputy Health Director, presented the 2015 Madison County Community Health Assessment. The assessment is a year long process that results in a description of the health status of the community, produces a report that serves as a resource for the Madison County Health Department, Mission Health, and other community organizations as well as providing direction for the planning of disease prevention and health promotion services, programs and activities.

IX.

Upon recommendation from Regina Sams, Community Services Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the NC Department of Transportation Certification of Equivalent Service for the Madison County Transportation Authority. By signing this certification, the Madison County Transportation Authority is certifying that it has a mechanism in place to provide rides to individuals with disabilities. The ride must be provided in a manner equivalent to the service provided to individuals without disabilities.

X.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution In Support of Equitable Apportionment of Connect NC Bond Funds Allocated to AB-Tech as presented by Forrest Gilliam, County Manager. In March of 2016 the voters of North Carolina approved the Connect NC Bond, which includes \$5,400,000 for construction and renovation projects at AB-Tech. In approving this resolution the Madison County Board of Commissioners requested at least \$1,000,000 of the \$5,400,000 in Connect NC Bond funds allocated to AB-Tech be set aside for construction and renovation projects at the Madison Campus.

Upon recommendation from Mr. Gilliam, and upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Approving Back-Up PSAP Agreement between Madison County and Yancey County. House Bill 797 requires that a public safety answering point must have a plan and means to serve as a back-up PSAP and must maintain the plan

and measures for 911 call taking in the event that 911 calls cannot be received and processed at the primary answering point.

Mr. Gilliam reported to the board that DOT and the Governor's Office had signed off on final paperwork to receive grant for construction of Crossroads Parkway connection in Mars Hill. Final approval will come from the Appalachian Regional Commission office in DC.

Along US 25/70 a long-term project is to widen to four lanes from NC 251 to Brush Creek. Traffic volume makes this project a long-shot under the new scoring criteria. A potential re-stripping of lines to create a turn-lane at AB-Tech is being considered per the County's request last year. DOT is optimistic about doing this project since the cost would be minimal. DOT is also scoring/studying the widening of US 25/70 in order to create a turning lane at Long Branch Road.

In the Mars Hill area, DOT is awaiting a response from the Town of Mars Hill regarding proposed mini-bypass of 213 that would run from Hardee's to Gabriel's Creek on the south side. The purpose of the road is to divert traffic away from campus. Congestion data on 213 would help the project score well but the cost per mile may hurt the project. The widening/straightening of Bruce Road from the school entrance back to North Main has been a long-term priority of the Town. The project was previously funded and constructed on the other side toward Riddle Hill Road, but right-of-way could not be obtained for the project on the North Main end. Right-of-way acquisition is still an issue for this project, but this project would likely not be funded under the new scoring formula.

NC 208 – A project to straighten some curves and widen shoulders on NC 208 from Mill Wheel to Tennessee line has been on the books for about ten years. It is highly unlikely to score well under the new scoring criteria. The project has been divided into two segments that may score better (25-70/Mill Wheel to 212/Belva and 212/Belva to State Line). It will still be difficult for this project to get funded since most funding is based on traffic volume.

The Spring Creek Connector Project has been discussed since 1968 and remains on the project list.

DOT should select preferred route for the I-26 connector in April, which will necessitate another public hearing and comment period.

Mr. Gilliam also update the board on the 2016-17 budget process, bids on the sale of the "Old Jail", and Courthouse renovations.

XI.

The board received the March, 2016 Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #09.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the March, 2016 Tax Releases and Refunds as presented.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the EMS Advisory Board. Commissioner Rice nominated Norris Gentry. Chairman Brigman closed the nominations. Voting in the affirmative were

Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Rice, Commissioner Briggs, and Commissioner Wechtel. Commissioner Gentry recused himself from the vote.

Chairman Brigman opened the floor for nominations to the Farmland Preservation Board. Commissioner Gentry nominated David Wyatt. Commissioner Rice nominated Ricky Reeves. Commissioner Rice nominated Harold Hunter. Commissioner Briggs nominated Maurice McAlister. Commissioner Gentry nominated Stephen Robertson. Chairman Brigman closed the nominations.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve David Wyatt, Ricky Reeves, Harold Hunter, Maurice McAlister, and Stephen Robertson to the Farmland Preservation Board for a three year term.

XII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session to discuss personnel and attorney client matters.

XIII.

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

XIV.

Upon motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to employ Kathy Price as the CC4C Care Manager with the Madison County Health Department.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to move Catherine Nines from substitute Circulation Assistant (temporary part-time) to Circulation Assistant (permanent part-time) with the Public Library.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the promotion of Shawna Bryce to the Mars Hill Library Branch Manager position.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to employ Catherine W. Proffitt as Administrative Assistant with Community Services.

XV.

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

This the 12th day of April, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

By: Wayne Brigman
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart
Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk