

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at A-B Tech, Madison Campus, Marshall, NC.

In attendance were Chairman Norris Gentry, Vice-Chairman Wayne Brigman, Commissioner Bill Briggs, Commissioner Clayton Rice, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, County Manager Forrest Gilliam, Attorney Donny Laws, Clerk Amanda Cutshaw and Deputy Clerk Brooke Smith.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gentry.

I.

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

- Item 10C. Amendment to Contract to Audit Accounts - Replace with Transportation Call for Capital Projects Resolution
- Item 10G. Surplus Property Offers - Added
- Item 10H. Personnel - Added

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 13, 2016 with a spelling correction to Item V.

III.

The board heard public comment from Sallie Klipp with an update regarding operations of the Beacon of Hope Food Pantry. Mrs. Klipp informed the Board that Beacon of Hope is currently providing food boxes for 1,200 people a month.

IV.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to appoint Amanda Cutshaw Clerk to the Board of Commissioner. Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to appoint Brooke Smith Deputy Clerk to the Board.

V.

Forrest Gilliam presented to the Board the FY 2016 Audit performed by Gould Killian CPA Group. Mr. Gilliam then introduced Travis Keever from Gould Killian who thanked County staff for their cooperation during the audit and gave a brief overview of the findings detailed in the audit document. Mr. Keever also answered questions regarding findings at the Department of Social Services brought by the board.

Connie Harris, Director of the Department of Social Services, also answered questions from the board regarding audit findings and detailed an action plan designed by the department to address those findings.

VI.

Dr. Todd Holden, Superintendent of Madison County Schools, came before the board to request \$57,000 in 40/42 Funds to replace Rural Low-income Schools (RLIS) funds that Madison County did not qualify for this year. These funds will be used for technology needs in the schools system, including licensing fees for the software used by staff and students.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the allocation of \$57,000 in 40/42 funds for use by the Madison County School System.

Dr. Holden also gave an update on the school system, including news that Leslie Schoof, a science teacher at the Early College is a finalist for North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Dr. Holden also updated the board on Madison County's current standing of 23rd out 115 school systems in the state and his plans to market Madison County Schools in order to draw new residents to Madison County.

VII.

Ryan Cody, Madison County Development Services Director, appeared before the board seeking approval of a Resolution between Madison County and North Carolina Rural Planning Center for services to assist Madison County in the development of an Economic Development Strategic Plan and for authorization for the County Manager to sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution and associated Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Cody also presented the board the Development Services fourth Quarter update.

VIII.

Melanie Morgan, Madison County Library Director, appeared before the board with personnel recommendations.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Morgan's recommendation of Caroline White for the temporary part-time Substitute Circulation Assistant position.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Morgan's recommendation of Celine Uribe for the permanent part-time Children's Programming Coordinator position.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve Mrs. Morgan's recommendation to increase the hours of the Administrative Manager position from 60 hours per pay period to 64 hours per pay period.

Mrs. Morgan also gave a general update regarding the Madison County Library including the acceptance of the Library in the NC Cardinal Program and the completion of renovations to the new Hot Springs site. Staff should begin the moving process by January 12th and the scheduled opening date is January 23rd.

IX.

Attorney Donny Laws updated the board on the collection of delinquent taxes. Mr. Laws reported that seven files had been opened and six lawsuits would be filed the following day.

Attorney Laws also updated the board on the recent Tax Sale held on January 5th.

X.

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, presented the board with a 2016 Report which included accomplishments from the previous year, as well as goals for the coming year.

Mr. Gilliam gave the board a general update, including the continued search for a new Finance Director, research into a screen for presentations at Commissioners meetings, the courthouse mini-split project and discussions with Mission Health regarding a new building for the ambulance service in the county.

Mr. Gilliam presented to the board, on behalf of the Madison County Transportation Authority, the Public Transportation Consolidated Capital Call for Projects Program Resolution. Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Mr. Gilliam brought to the board the need to assign authorization for signatory purposes on all banking documents related to the county. Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Gilliam's recommendation to give signatory authorization to Kary Ledford Deputy Finance Officer, Forrest Gilliam County Manager, Norris Gentry Chairman and Wayne Brigman Vice-Chairman, Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Gilliam presented the board the December Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice the board voted unanimously to approve the December 2016 Tax releases and refunds.

Mr. Gilliam presented a list of offers made by individuals four parcels of surplus property owned by the County.

After discussion and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Brigman the board voted unanimously to reject all offers made on the properties in question.

XI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Brigman, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11: personnel, attorney-client privilege, and acquisition of property.

XII.

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

XIII.

Upon motion from Commissioner Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Rice the board voted unanimously to appoint Forrest Gilliam as interim Finance Officer, with no additional compensation.

XIV.

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

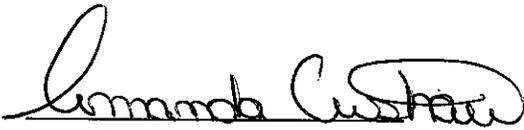
This the 10th day of January, 2017.

MADISON COUNTY

By:


Norris Gentry, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


Amanda Cutshaw, Clerk