

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Madison County Public Library Marshall Branch, 1335 N. Main Street, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance was Chairman Craig Goforth, Vice-Chairman Mark Snelson; Commissioners Norris Gentry, Wayne Brigman, and Matt Wechtel; County Manager Forrest Gilliam; Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Goforth.

Agenda Approval

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to include the addition of grant opportunity as item 4a after the budget.

Item 1: Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization and NC Department of Transportation: Transportation Project Prioritization Process

Vicki Eastland, Rural Planning Organization Coordinator of Economic and Community Development with Land of Sky presented a power point presentation and discussed the transportation prioritization process with the Board. Topics Ms. Eastland discussed included state transportation program funding, projects being planned, the strategic investments law, how projects are classified and compete with each other for funding, and the categories that they are submitted in. Ms. Eastland introduced Stephen Sparks and Hannah Cook with North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 13. Also discussed with the Board were upcoming projects being considered including the Cross Roads Parkway Project, the 25/70 project as well as an I-26 project and changes in the Jeff Bowen Bridge. Ms. Eastland also spoke to the Board regarding previous projects that went through the prioritization process, the number of projects that the Rural Planning Organization can submit for consideration, and information for the next meetings of the Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee.

Commissioner Wechtel discussed the Spring Creek Connector Project with the Board.

Commissioner Brigman discussed Madison County projects that are being bumped down on the list for completion and Ms. Eastland discussed the reasoning with the Board.

Commissioner Wechtel discussed why the Jeff Bowen Bridge is a priority and County Manager Forrest Gilliam discussed the formula for deciding projects. Ms. Cook provided references to the Board for projects, estimates, and Strategic Transportation Investments law.

Item 2: NC Association of County Commissioners: County Manager Search

David Nicholson with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners discussed tools available to aid in the County Manager search. A time table for the position to be filled, how to go through the process to review candidates, and the job profile to determine what Madison County is looking for in a candidate were discussed with the Board. Mr. Nicholson also provided recommendations of where to post the job listing as well as information regarding the process in which to receive and notify candidates that their application has been received by the County and how the Board would review applications that were received.

Mr. Nicholson provided a list of potential questions to ask during interviews and the process for interviewing candidates as well as the after interview process including checking references and contract negotiation.

He discussed with the Board to consider what they would be looking for in a candidate and reviewed a profile sketch with Commissioners. Each member of the Board scored the items on the profile in order of importance to them and Mr. Nicholson tabulated the results to give the Board an idea of what they were looking for.

Item 3: Discussion of EMS Service

County Manager Forrest Gilliam presented and discussed with the Board, bids received for EMS service as well as cost for in house service with existing employees.

Mr. Gilliam reviewed expenses vs. revenues for the County if in house service was selected. Commissioner Wechtel discussed with the Board how the current Liability Policy for the County's insurance would be affected if the in house option were to be chosen. Mr. Gilliam advised the Board that the insurance issue was being looked into. Commissioner Gentry discussed if the personnel number for in house service includes an increase in personnel wages per year. Mr. Gilliam advised the Board that a 3% annual increase is included. Chairman Goforth discussed the number of calls vs. transports on the in house report and that there was a possible discrepancy in the quoted number and the actual number. Mr. Gilliam advised the Board that he would double check on the number. Chairman Goforth discussed Medicaid payment for emergency transport and Commissioner Wechtel discussed the calls that the ambulance service goes on vs. the number of patients that refuse transport. Also discussed by Commissioner Wechtel were billing concerns and the cost for billing of in house services if billing were to be sourced to an outside agency and if the County would need a malpractice policy since medical coverage is being provided as well as how to deal with patient complaints.

Commissioner Goforth discussed that he would like for the Board to have a chance to look at the numbers. Discussion was had by the Board concerning issues with prior in house EMS services provided by the County in previous years. Mr. Gilliam noted the possibility of salary concerns and if the County could compete with other provided employee salaries. Commissioner Wechtel discussed that he would like to get the exact number of calls vs. billable transports to better figure the numbers for financial information. Chairman Goforth discussed the need to see about the liability insurance cost as well.

Item 4: Budget

County Manager Forrest Gilliam advised the Board that there is no budget to be reviewed.

Item 4a: Grant Opportunity

Commissioner Wechtel discussed a grant opportunity from Land of Sky for the Dogwood Trust regarding a proposed project for broadband in the County. Commissioner Wechtel discussed that the project would be centered around the upcoming census to provide mobile hot spots at the county meal sites, libraries, etc. which could purchase equipment to provide the service for residents allowing the County to retain the equipment after the programs ends.

Commissioner Wechtel discussed if any department within the County has already began submitting a request for funding from the Dogwood Trust and Mr. Gilliam noted that the Health Department has noting that the Dogwood Trust may only allow for one submission per county and that the broadband project may not be allowed to be submitted if that were the case. Mr. Gilliam also discussed who would oversee the hot spots and Commissioner Wechtel noted that maybe IT or Economic Development could, but that it would need to be discussed. Mr. Gilliam discussed with the Board that he would check with the Health Department to see if they have already submitted for the program and update the Board.

Item 5: Personnel

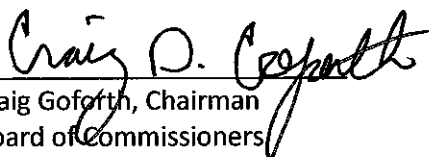
County Manager Forrest Gilliam advised the Board that there is no personnel information to act on. Commissioner Brigman discussed if there have been any openings since the previous meeting. Mr. Gilliam advised the Board that they will meet next week to discuss.

Item 6: Adjournment

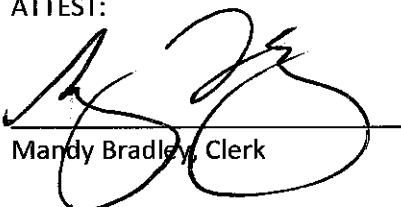
Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Snelson and second by Commissioner Brigman, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

This the 6th day of January, 2020.

MADISON COUNTY


Craig Goforth, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Mandy Bradley, Clerk