

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm at A-B Tech, Madison Campus, Marshall, North Carolina.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Brigman.

**Agenda Item 1: Approval of the Agenda**

Additions:

1. 3a - Discussion of the quarter-cent sales tax proposed by the Board of Education
2. 10 - Closed Session
3. 11 - Adjournment
4. 9b - Contract for zoning services

Deletions: None

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**Agenda Item 2: Approval of September 18, 2018 (Special and Regular Meeting) Minutes and September 25, 2018 (Special) Minutes**

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the September 18, 2018 (Special and Regular Meeting) Minutes and September 25, 2018 (Special) Minutes as submitted.

**Agenda Item 3: Public Comment**

- a. Public Comment – none
- b. Discussion of the quarter-cent sales tax proposed by the Board of Education  
Each Commissioner spoke individually and each Commissioner stated that if the sales tax increase is approved by the voters in the upcoming election, they will honor the will of the citizens of the County and commit to giving that money to the school system each year.

**Agenda Item 4: NC Department of Public Safety and Madison County Sheriff's Office Memorandum of Agreement to House Juvenile Inmates**

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, presented the board with some background information about how this discussion came to be. He stated that in September of 2016, the board voted to approve housing federal inmates in the Madison County Jail. The board also approved the creation of two transport positions and the purchase of a van in order to make this program work. In the fall of 2017, there was an influx of local inmates due to the opioid epidemic, and the number of federal inmates fell, which meant that the revenue to the county fell. That is part of the reason that the juvenile inmate proposal exists. Mr. Gilliam stated that the jail and law enforcement is a vital service to the County. He stated that the Sheriff has been working with the State to come up with a plan to house juvenile inmates because the juveniles have a higher reimbursement rate to the county than the federal inmates have. For the first year, after accounting for personnel costs including hiring and training additional detention officers, this program would provide a \$269,194 savings to the county, because half of the year will still include 16 federal inmates. In the second year, this program will provide a \$719,082 savings to the county. Mr. Gilliam then introduced the representatives from the State and the Sheriff's Office.

James Speight from the NC Department of Public Safety and Coy Phillips from the Madison County Sheriff's Office stated that they are happy to be with the board to answer any questions about the juvenile inmates program. The Commissioners took turns asking specific questions about the program costs and liabilities, as well as the ability of the jail staff to manage this program. Through the discussion, it was discovered that there are still several items that need to be finalized, including the education requirement for the juvenile inmates, which involves discussion with the school system.

Each Commissioner and Mr. Gilliam thanked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Speight for their time and for answering the questions. No action was taken by the board.

**Agenda Item 5: Dee Heinmuller, Director of Madison County Community Services  
Public Hearing: Madison County Transportation Authority Budget**

Chairman Brigman opened the public hearing, which Dee Heinmuller, Director of Community Services, then conducted.

The FY2019-20 Transportation Budget Grant Application (attached)

**Project Funding Request Form**

This document outlines the different funding sources and amounts.

- Federal Funding - \$433,609
- State Funding - \$42,125
- Local Funding - \$81,276
- Total Funding - \$557,010

**Public Comment**

There were no names present on the sign-in sheet for public comment

**5311 Administration Budget for the Madison County Transportation Authority**

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2019-20 Administration Budget for the Madison County Transportation Authority.

**5311 Capital Budget for the Madison County Transportation Authority**

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2019-20 Capital Budget for the Madison County Transportation Authority.

**5310 Active Living Center Routes**

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Chairman Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2019-20 Active Living Center Routes for the Madison County Transportation Authority.

Chairman Brigman closed the public hearing.

**Agenda Item 6: Donny Laws, County Attorney**

**Hot Springs Community Learning Center Lease**

Attorney Laws presented the Hot Springs Community Learning Center Lease renewal to the board. In August of 2018, the renewal of the lease was discussed. The notice was advertised in the local newspaper. The lease has the same terms as the previous lease.

Upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gentry, the board voted to approve the renewal of the Hot Springs Community Learning Center Lease.

**Agenda Item 7: Brooke Smith, Human Resources Director**

**Personnel**

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gentry, the board voted unanimously to hire Elizabeth Stephens as a Temporary Part-Time Dental Assistant in the Dental Center in the Health Department.

**Agenda Item 8: Rhea Hollars, Finance Officer**

**a. September 2018 Financial Report**

Mrs. Hollars presented the board with the attached September 2018 Financial Report.

**b. Budget Amendment #4**

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Chairman Brigman, the board voted unanimously to approve attached Budget Amendment #4.

Mr. Laws presented the proposed contract for the services of the DSS attorney. The County funds this, so the county is the party that enters into the contract. The recommendation is for the current DSS Attorney, Mr. Daniel Hockaday, to continue to perform the services under the same contract terms as the previous year. The DSS board has already approved the contract on their side. This is a standard contract with forms required by the state. The expenses are already accounted for in budget.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the contract for DSS legal representation with Mr. Daniel Hockaday.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Forrest Gilliam, County Manager**

##### **a. County Manager Update**

Mr. Gilliam provided the board with an update on the maintenance issues at the County Administrative Building. During a regular maintenance project, a small amount of asbestos was discovered. The County called in certified contractors and conducted an air test. The air came back clean by both EPA and OSHA standards. The County is moving forward with the certified contractors to finish the abatement and completion of the project. During this time, five offices have been relocated. Mr. Gilliam thanked all of the employees who have been relocated and those who are now housing relocated employees. Mr. Gilliam commended the IT Department staff and the Maintenance Department staff for their work during this time.

Mr. Gilliam stated that there was a celebration at the Library to honor the staff for the Best Small Library in America Award that the Library recently won. The celebration was also a sendoff for former Library Director, Melanie Morgan. Mr. Gilliam thanked Mrs. Morgan for all of her dedication and wished her well on her new endeavor. Mr. Gilliam announced that long-time Library employee, Peggy Goforth, will be serving as the Interim Library Director.

Mr. Gilliam stated that the Rock Building has officially sold. As part of the terms of the sale, the County has agreed to allocate some funds to the School Board to build a new fence and awning. Mr. Gilliam thanked the board for working through this to move forward with the sale.

##### **b. Contract for Zoning Services**

Mr. Gilliam announced that Inspections and Zoning Director, Tony Williams, has accepted a new position within another organization. Mr. Williams also served as the County's Zoning Administrator. In order to preserve these services, Mr. Williams made the offer to continue to provide Zoning Administrator services to the County through a contract.

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board unanimously approved the contract for zoning services between the County and Tony Williams.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Closed Session**

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session for the discussion of Personnel and Property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11a 6 and 5.

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

**Agenda Item 11: Adjournment**

Upon motion from Vice-Chairman Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Briggs, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

This the 9th day of October, 2018.

MADISON COUNTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Brigman, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brooke Smith, Deputy Clerk