

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Madison County Public Library Marshall Branch, 1335 N. Main Street, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Mark Snelson, Vice-Chairman Craig Goforth, Commissioner and Interim County Manager Norris Gentry, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, Commissioner Michael Garrison, and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Snelson.

Item 1: Solid Waste Ordinance Amendment Consideration

Item 1 held pending arrival of the County Attorney.

Item 2: American Rescue Plan Contingency Funding

Contingency funding for a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds was discussed by Commissioner Gentry who proposed that a portion of the funds be set aside for COVID related expenses. Discussion was had by the Board and Finance Officer Kary Ledford regarding guidance for American Rescue Plan Act funds.

County Attorney Donny Laws joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Further discussion was had by the Board regarding usable allowances for the funds and counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding a directive for setting the funds aside at this time.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Commissioner Garrison, the Board voted unanimously to set aside \$1,000,000.00 of the current \$2,000,000.00 for ongoing pandemic continuation with the Finance Officer and Interim County Manager working to bring back suggestions to the Board to use the funds with the funds remaining in an investment account as segregated money.

Item 1: Solid Waste Ordinance Amendment Consideration (cont.)

County Clerk Mandy Bradley presented and discussed the proposed amended Solid Waste Ordinance to the Board, a copy of which is attached in the Madison County Ordinance Book. Counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws. Discussion was had by the Board regarding proposed changes including tire disposal, the possible creation of a subsidy program, and forms of identification that could be provided for use of solid waste facilities with Clerk Mandy Bradley verifying the information with the Board. Discussion was also had by the Board regarding alternatives to the current program.

Counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding the creation of a subsidy program and qualifications for such a program upon its creation by the Board with Attorney Laws noting that the Board could create a sub-committee to research the proposed program. Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to form a committee to research a subsidy program for nonprofits. Further discussion was had by the Board regarding possible members for the committee including Chairman Snelson, Commissioner Garrison, the Solid Waste Director, a representative from the Tax Office, the County Clerk, and two community members as well as the timeline for review by the Board with Commissioner Garrison noting that information could be gathered and brought back to the Board at the end of the year.

Commissioner Gentry called for a decision regarding the proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Vice-Chairman Goforth with discussion being had by board members, the Board voted unanimously to implement and edit going forward.

Item 3: Capital Finance Planning

Commissioner Gentry discussed the process for capital planning and the mechanisms to put into place as well as discussed long and short term building and repair projects for the County including the possible creation of a working group. Counsel was

provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding the process of the working group. Discussion was had by the Board regarding potential members for the group with Board members and County Attorney Laws including the Clerk of Court, the Register of Deeds, Tax Office representative, representatives from the towns located within the County, and other community members including electricians, plumbers, and builders all being named as possible members. Projects and funding sources were also discussed by the Board with Commissioner Gentry noting that the issue could be included for further consideration at the next meeting based on further recommendation of Board members.

Item 4: County Owned Property Disposal Discussion

Commissioner Gentry discussed County owned property and noted that there are two entities who could potentially be interested in acquiring property for subsidized housing. Discussion was had by the Board regarding the projects, potential sites, amenities available in the County, and funding that the entities might seek as well as current and potential uses of the properties.

Discussion was had with members of the Board and County Clerk Mandy Bradley regarding current County owned surplus property and previous bids that have been received for the properties. Counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding available mechanisms for disposal of surplus property.

Discussion was had by the Board regarding surplus properties located at Wolf Laurel near the airport, which was a larger tract previously subdivided and the possibility of offering the individual parcels as one large tract with a minimum bid requirement instead of accepting bids for the individual lots. Upon motion by Chairman Snelson and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to set a minimum bid of \$150,000.00.

Item 5: Building Maintenance Requirement

Quotes from Bolton Service of WNC for air conditioner and heating units for the IT building and the county owned building located on the Marshall By-Pass were presented to the Board by Commissioner Gentry. Discussion was had by the Board regarding obtaining quotes from other companies as well as allocating funds in the future for building maintenance. Information regarding the need for an updated heating and cooling unit at the Ebbs Chapel Community Center was also discussed with the Board with Commissioner Gentry noting that the Community Center would incur the cost of the system.

Proposed repairs to the roof at the Sheriff's Office were discussed with the Board by Commissioner Gentry. Discussion was had by the Board with counsel provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding the repair of the roof and any warranty that might help to provide the repairs.

Item 6: Pandemic Overtime Pay Consideration

Information regarding overtime pay for the Sheriff's Office was presented to the Board by Commissioner Gentry.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion was had by the Board regarding overtime at the Sheriff's Office during the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond.

Information regarding the request for overtime pay for the Health Department was presented and discussed with the Board by Commissioner Gentry. Human Resources Director Brooke Ledford discussed information regarding employee classifications and the accrual of compensatory time in the event of overtime being worked and subsequent payout of that time as allowable by County policy. Counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws regarding employee classification and discussion was had by the Board regarding exempt employees acquiring overtime and the potential for the County to offer a retention bonus to Health Department employees pending the approval from the Board of Health as they oversee the Health Department.

Vice-Chairman Goforth exited the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Further discussion was had by the Board regarding the ability to offer a retention bonus, the amount that could be considered, and that County Attorney Donny Laws would present the information to the Board of Health at the request of the Board of Commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Goforth returned to the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Gentry with discussion being had by the Board, the Board voted unanimously that exempt employees receive \$3,500.00 and nonexempt employees receive \$1,500.00 as a retention bonus. Further discussion regarding the Board of Health was had by the Board.

Commissioner Gentry discussed an electronic filing received by the Register of Deeds Office regarding the courthouse by a sovereign citizen. Counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws.

Discussion regarding the Town of Hot Springs sewer system was had by the Board.

Discussion regarding moving Finance and Human Resources information to an earlier part of the agenda was had by the Board.

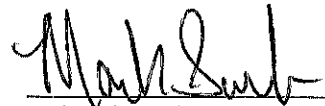
Finance Officer Kary Ledford discussed information regarding financial deposits for the Health Department with the Board and counsel was provided by County Attorney Donny Laws.

Item 8: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Gentry, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

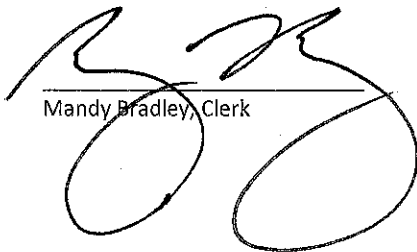
This the 27th day of September, 2021.

MADISON COUNTY



Mark Snelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Mandy Bradley, Clerk