

HAYWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING – December 2, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark S. Swanger convened the regular meeting of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic Courtroom at the Haywood County Historic Courthouse, Waynesville, North Carolina, with Chairman Mark S. Swanger, Vice-Chairman J.W. “Kirk” Kirkpatrick III, Commissioners L. Kevin Ensley, Michael T. Sorrells and Bill L. Upton present. Staff members present were County Manager Marty Stamey, Public Information Officer David Teague, DSS Director Ira Dove and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Amie Owens.

County Attorney Leon M. “Chip” Killian, III, and Finance Director Julie Davis were not present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Swanger led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Ensley offered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Chairman Swanger opened the public comment session. Comments are generally limited to three minutes per individual, unless the speaker is representing a group for which the comment period may be extended to five minutes. No one addressed the board.

CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Commissioner Upton noted that since funds provided via the county appropriation and contributions from local churches were sufficient, the roof at the Pigeon Community Center would be repaired.

DISCUSSION / ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE/AGENCY REPORTS

Chairman Swanger recognized Eric Romaniszyn, Executive Director, Haywood Waterways Association (HWA). Mr. Romaniszyn provided an update of activities within the Pigeon River Watershed including: receipt of over \$1.8 million in grants, 74 septic system repairs, improvements to impaired waterways of Richland Creek, and removal of trash and debris.

He highlighted projects funded by grants including storm water designs for Waynesville Plaza and Mountain Creek Plaza. Mr. Romaniszyn noted that one of the goals of HWA is to promote low impact development and creating safe stable home sites with minimal impact on creeks and streams. The HWA is committed to protecting and improving the water

quality in the area. There are three creeks still listed as impaired due to sediment or bacteria concerns – these are Raccoon Creek, Richland Creek and Inman Branch.

Commissioner Ensley asked what could be done on Inman Branch to improve water quality. Mr. Romaniszyn answered that education is being provided for developers on planting of trees and grass to prevent runoff.

Chairman Swanger thanked Mr. Romaniszyn for his report and the good work done by Haywood Waterways Association.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ensley made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from the November 18, 2013 meeting, as the only item on the consent agenda. Commissioner Sorrells seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Request Approval of Armed Resource Officer Agreement between Haywood Community College and Haywood County Sheriff's Office

Chairman Swanger recognized Jeff Haynes, Chief Deputy, Haywood County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). Mr. Haynes explained that the agreement for an armed resource officer (ARO) would supplement the existing agreement with Lankford Security who provides only unarmed resource officers. Haywood Community College (HCC) would pay the salaries and benefits for two (2) positions from the HCSO to provide ARO services for one year. Mr. Haynes noted that the agreement was for a twelve month period beginning January 1, 2014. The HCC Board has approved this agreement and it was reviewed by County Attorney Killian with no concerns noted.

Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick inquired if these would be new positions for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Haynes answered that one would be an officer who was transferring from Lankford Security to the HCSO and the second position would be posted internally – allowing for transfer. Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick asked if the officers were aware that this was an annual contract. Mr. Haynes assured that any individual applying for the ARO position would be made aware and that a similar agreement had been in place previously.

Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick also questioned whether the officer would be able to move freely to assist if there was an emergency near HCC. Mr. Haynes confirmed that the AROs could assist and would have a vehicle for their use that would be retrofit by HCC to meet HCSO standards.

Mr. Haynes explained that there would be two regular shifts with supplemental coverage available for after-hours and weekend events.

Commissioner Sorrells motioned to approve the Armed Resource Officer Agreement between Haywood Community College and Haywood County Sheriff's Office as presented. Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of Haywood County Property Bids and Offers to Purchase initial offering for Parcel 8666-08-2739 at 27 Winfield Street, Canton

Chairman Swanger recognized David Francis, Tax Administrator. Mr. Francis explained that this property was acquired recently via the foreclosure process. The bid was received on November 26, 2013, and per the approved procedure is being brought before the Board for approval.

Parcel 8666-08-2739 is located at 27 Winfield Street, Beaverdam area of Canton – the bid is \$400 by Claudia Howell McClarrin. The property is 0.15 acres and there is no structure.

Commissioner Upton motioned to approve the bid for parcel 8666-08-2739 as presented. Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of 2014 Valuation Schedules for Personal Property

Mr. Francis explained that there were minimal changes to the 2014 Valuation Schedule for Personal Property including:

- Minimum value for campers dropped from \$500 to \$300
- Minimum value for utility trailers dropped from \$300 to \$200
- Value of antique vehicles (35 years or older) increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Francis added that if a taxpayer wished to appeal the value, the Assessor's office would review on an individual basis.
- Special body vehicles are now included with all other automobiles using depreciation schedules set by the NC Department of Revenue in the new NC Vehicle Tax System (tax and tag); these vehicles would no longer be priced through business property.

Mr. Francis added that this pricing now mirrors TEC Data, which is the vendor that the NC Department of Revenue contracts with regarding valuation.

Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick motioned to approve the 2014 Valuation Schedules for Personal Property as presented. Commissioner Upton seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of Bid and Contract for Randy Best Excavating, Inc. for Francis Farm Landfill Storm Water Maintenance Services

Chairman Swanger recognized Stephen King, Solid Waste Director. Mr. King explained that proposals were submitted in October 2013 for improvements needed at the Francis Farm Landfill. He added that due to aging storm water structures and the excessive rainfall this year, repairs are required to ensure environmental safety. Mr. King noted that Randy Best Excavating, Inc. (Best) had the lowest bid and requested approval of the bid and the resulting contract for services. The contract has been reviewed by Mr. Killian, and Ms. Davis is aware of the project costs, which have been budgeted.

Commissioner Sorrells clarified that there were five (5) bidders and that Best was the winning bidder. Mr. King confirmed.

Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick highlighted the fact that some of the bidders bid jobs within the project separately, while others bid collectively as one job. He inquired as to whether this had any impact on the winning bid. Mr. King explained that those individuals who did not itemize the jobs were still included in the bid process.

Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick motioned to approve the Bid and Contract for Randy Best Excavating, Inc. for Francis Farm Landfill Storm Water Maintenance Services as presented. Commissioner Upton seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of 2014 Meeting and Holiday Schedule

Chairman Swanger recognized Marty Stamey, County Manager. Mr. Stamey presented the proposed 2014 Meeting and Holiday Schedule and explained that in order to create less confusion for the public the County would follow the State Holiday schedule. This would mean that the Courthouse and Justice Center would be closed on the same dates. Mr. Stamey respectfully requested approval of the 2014 meeting and holiday schedule.

Commissioner Sorrells motioned to approve the 2014 Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Ensley seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Upton made a motion to adjourn the regular Board meeting. Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

The time of adjournment was 9:28 a.m. The DVD is attached by reference to the minutes.

CLERK

CHAIRMAN