

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MINUTES
Monday, November 2, 2009

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 2, 2009, in the Yadkin County Human Services Building (Commissioners' Meeting Room), 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, North Carolina.

Present were:

Chairman Chad Wagoner
Vice Chairman Kevin Austin
Commissioner Tommy Garner
Commissioner David Moxley
Commissioner Brady Wooten

Staff present: County Attorney, James Graham; Interim Manager, Jim Haynes; and Clerk to the Board, Gina Brown.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Wagoner at 9:00am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Wagoner.

INVOCATION led by James Graham.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Moxley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Austin second.

Vote: 5/0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments portion of the meeting opened at 9:04am. There were no speakers under this heading. Public Comments portion of the meeting closed at 9:04am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Wagoner noted page 6 of the October 19, 2009 regular meeting minutes and requested a word change from “never” to “rarely.”

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to approve the October 19, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 19, 2009 Closed Session Minutes with noted adjustment. Commissioner Moxley second.

Vote: 5/0

PUBLIC HEARING

(1) The Board held a public hearing on the RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF YADKIN TO LEASE, SELL OR CONVEY HOOTS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

The Public Hearing opened at 9:06am.

Kay Davis, a Hoots Hospital employee of 35+ years, spoke in support of the sale of the hospital to the current management firm of HMC/CAH. Ms. Davis remarked that HMC/CAH has experience in managing small facilities and is doing a great job.

Elizabeth Winebarger, a patient of the pulmonary rehabilitation unit, spoke in support of the sale of the hospital to HMC/CAH. Ms. Winebarger reported that she is now able to walk greater distances than before through her care at the pulmonary rehabilitation unit. Ms. Winebarger believes that the hospital is currently managed very well.

William Fulp, a Forbush resident, urged the Board to sell the hospital to HMC/CAH. Mr. Fulp reported that he has COPD and that his care through the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program now allows him to walk up to one mile and exercise for 30 minutes. Mr. Fulp added that having a local facility is very convenient.

Lewis Hughes, Dietary Manager for Hoots Hospital, stated that he was in full agreement with the sale of the hospital to HMC/CAH. Mr. Hughes commented that the HMC/CAH administrators follow through on their word and hold staff accountable. Mr. Hughes believes that an agreement with HMC/CAH could be profitable for Yadkin County.

Gwen Baranoski, a patient of the pulmonary rehabilitation program and an occasional inpatient, spoke in support of the sale of the hospital. Ms. Baranoski remarked that she has been well cared for by the facility and is very grateful for the care she has received.

Joey Smith, employee of respiratory care at Hoots Hospital, appeared before the Board. Mr. Smith reported that he is not a resident of Yadkin County but drives 55 minutes to work at Hoots Hospital. Mr. Smith stated that he has been with Hoots Hospital just short of 3 years after leaving Baptist Hospital with over 24 years of employment. Mr. Smith stated that he loves the people of Yadkin County. Mr. Smith commented that there has been a renewed and rekindled fire since HMC/CAH began managing in April. Mr. Smith remarked that HMC/CAH offers a new state-of-the art facility that will draw quality surgeons, revitalize the interest in the local hospital, and lift the moral of the County. Mr. Smith supports the sale of Hoots Hospital to HMC/CAH and believes that great things will continue under its management.

Ted James, employee of Hoots Hospital, stated that he has been employed with Hoots for 3 months since retiring from Baptist Hospital. Mr. James commented that Hoots Hospital, under the management of HMC/CAH, is providing good care of its patients and is doing an excellent job in caring for this community.

Pete Knight, 14 year employee of Hoots Hospital, stated that he had experienced “bad, ugly, and now pretty” at the hospital. Mr. Knight believes there has been much improvement since the transition in April. Mr. Knight reported that the current CEO is motivated, makes contact with the staff, and boosts morale. Mr. Knight stated that there is a history of slow payments to vendors. Mr. Knight expects this to improve under the new management and would like all local vendors to be aware of the anticipated improvements.

Steve Potts, a resident of the Courtney area and an employee of Hoots Hospital for over 30 years, appeared before the Board in support of the sale of Hoots Hospital. Mr. Potts reported that Hoots Hospital had 72 beds in the first years of operation and that there were overflow patients in the halls. A steady decline continued over the next 20 years and it became exceedingly difficult to attract quality physicians. Mr. Potts remarked that he is beginning to see a “light in a dark tunnel” for the first time in 20 years. Mr. Potts reported that he is very happy with the current management company and supports the sale of the hospital to HMC/CAH.

Commissioner Garner remarked that Hoots Hospital will never be the facility that it was in the beginning, but that small hospitals fill a niche in the community that larger hospitals cannot.

Commissioner Wooten reported that he had spoken with several citizens that have visited Hoots Hospital in the last few months and have been well pleased with their treatment. Commissioner Wooten further remarked that he had not heard one negative comment since April. Commissioner Wooten feels that the sale of Hoots Hospital through the bid process is a step forward and will improve the healthcare availability of the community.

Vice Chairman Austin echoed Commissioner Wooten’s statements and added that it is great testimony to the employees of Hoots Hospital to accept the management change and embrace the transition with a positive outlook.

Chairman Wagoner referred to comments of Mr. Fulp and remarked on the ease and convenience of receiving treatment locally in the pulmonary rehabilitation unit and the dialysis center for patients that are ill and cannot travel well. Through his association with Yadkin Health Services Alliance and others, Chairman Wagoner has had opportunities to visit Hoots Hospital in recent weeks and is able to see much more activity than 1 ½ years ago. Chairman Wagoner stated it was very reassuring to see the hospital in use by the community, not just the employees.

Commissioner Moxley reassured the audience and the public at large that the sale of the hospital did not mean the closing of the facility. Sale of the current facility could result in a new building, new equipment, and an opportunity to improve the availability of local healthcare.

The public hearing closed at 9:26am.

(2) The Board was asked to set public hearings for a zoning text amendment and a Solid Waste Household Fee Ordinance text amendment.

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to set a public hearing for a zoning text amendment and a public hearing for a Solid Waste Household Fee Ordinance text amendment on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00pm. Commissioner Moxley second. It was noted that the Solid Waste text amendment refers to waste collection at mobile home parks.

Vote: 5/0

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board appointments during today's meeting.

BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS

Bobby Todd, representing the Yadkin Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership, appeared before the Board for the following updates:

1. Activity was high in October for the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership.
2. Several economic development proposals were prepared. One particular proposal required the aircraft flight plan over Yadkin County.
3. The Grape Festival brought many visitors to Yadkin County. Specialty advertising drew visitors from California, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Maryland. Attorney Graham noted that there were also visitors from London.

4. Mr. Todd recently attended an Agriculture Energy Partnership (AEP) meeting. The AEP is designed to work with energy companies to develop alternate energy sources. Mr. Todd will keep the Board updated as this group continues to meet.
5. The Boonville STEP program continues to explore ways to stimulate the Boonville economy.
6. The grand opening of the Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center was held recently. Thousands have already visited the center.
7. Mr. Todd attended the community open house at Forbush Middle School on the previous Saturday. Mr. Todd remarked that there is visible excitement among the staff and community.

Commissioner Moxley asked Mr. Todd what comments had been made by California visitors concerning North Carolina wines. Mr. Todd explained that most visitors have the impression that all North Carolina wines are sweet; made from muscadine and scuppernong; and are very surprised to find the variety that is offered.

Commissioner Wooten asked about the Yadkin County unemployment rate. Mr. Todd reported that the current rate is 9.2%, which is the lowest in the piedmont region. Further, Mr. Todd stated that Yadkin County has been able to replace many lost jobs with Nonni's and growth at Unifi.

BOARD ACTION

(1) Jason Walker, Soil and Water Director, appeared before the Board to present NRCS Grant Agreement – Amendment #2. Mr. Walker reported that the amendment reflects only a change in form number for a required State document.

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to approve the NRCS Grant Agreement – Amendment #2. Commissioner Moxley second.

Vote: 5/0

(2) Budget amendments were reviewed.

Date: October 20, 2009

General Fund

Dept: Surry Community College

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Contribution to move mobile units	1055920-57002	-0-	60,000.00	60,000.00
Transfer from Capital Reserve	1044212-42412	141,057.00	60,000.00	201,057.00

To amend to move money from the Capital Reserve Fund to assist in the move of mobile units to the Yadkin Center as stated in the July 6, 2009 minutes.

Date: October 20, 2009

Capital Reserve Fund

Dept:

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Transfer to General Fund	2154213-57070	141,057.00	60,000.00	201,057.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	214213-49000	2,478,713.00	60,000.00	2,538,713.00

To amend to transfer funds to move mobile units to the Yadkin Center as stated in the July 6, 2009 minutes.

Date: October 23, 2009

Dept: EMS

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amend
Equipment – Capital Outlay	1054330-56010	\$20,000	\$29,200	\$49,200
Food & Provisions	1054330-52200	\$500	\$650	\$1,150
Gasoline/Diesel Fuel	1054330-52350	\$82,000	\$158	\$82,158
EM- 2007-GE –T7-0048-8001-1124 Grant	1044330-42310	\$0	\$30,008	\$30,008

Budget amendment is for the FY 2007 Emergency Management Exercise Grant.

Date: October 20, 2009

General Fund

Dept: Soil and Water

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Amended Budget
NC DENR-matching funds	1044960-42120	-0-	3,800.00	3,800.00
Equipment	1054960-56010	10,817.00	3,800.00	14,617.00

To amend for matching funds received from NCDENR to be used for equipment.

Date: October 23, 2009

General Fund

Dept: Animal Control

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Contracted Services-Vet	1054380-51700	3,540.00	2,500.00	6,040.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	1044000-49000	1,453,721.00	2,500.00	1,456,221.00

To amend for increase in costs of lethal injection.

Date: October 20, 2009

Subject: Health Department Budget Amendments

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Dental				
Dental Contract Services	105518551700	\$217,320	(250.00)	\$217,070
Dental Equipment	105518556010	-0-	\$250.00	\$250.00

***Moving monies from Dental Contract Services to Dental Equipment to cover cost of needed equipment. No new monies.**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS-Family Planning	104516444203	\$52,795	\$3,018	\$55,813
Expenditure				
Family Planning Contract Services	105516451700	\$17,500	\$3,018	\$20,518

***Additional State Monies to provide Out of Wedlock birth prevention for TANF eligible clients.**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS-Summer Food Program	New Line Item	-0-	\$127	\$127
Expenditure				
Food and Lodging Supplies	105518052010	\$6,500	\$127	\$6,627

***Additional State monies for Summer Food Program Inspection.**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS Immunizations	104516244198	\$15,358	\$7,000	\$22,358
Expenditure				
Immunizations Capital Outlay	105516256010	-0-	\$7,000	\$7,000

***Additional State Funds received for to purchase equipment in the vaccine-preventable disease program.**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS Immunizations	104516244198	\$22,358	\$16,063	\$38,421
Expenditure				
Immunization Contract Services-School	New Line Item	-0-	\$8,032	\$8,032
Immunization School Flu Supplies	New Line Item	-0-	\$8,031	\$8,031

***Additional State Funds received to provide flu immunizations to school age children.**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS-Preparedness	104512044171	\$42,018	\$6,033	\$48,051
Expenditure				
Preparedness Contract Services	105512051700	\$40,018	\$6,033	\$46,051

***Additional Emergency and Response Funds received**

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
Revenue				
DHHS-Preparedness H1N1	1045120 New Line Item	-0-	\$60,000	\$60,000
Expenditure				
H1N1 Supplies	1055120 New Line Item	-0-	\$16,450	\$16,450
H1N1 Contract Services	1055120 New Line Item	-0-	\$16,450	\$16,450
H1N1 Capital Outlay	1055120 New Line Item	-0-	\$27,100	\$27,100

***New State Funds received for Pandemic Influenza Activities.**

Date: October 20, 2009
Subject: Health Department Budget Amendments

Description	Account Number	Original Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	Amended Budget
REVENUE				
DHHS-WIC Client Services	104516744208	146,434	12,960	159,394
EXPENDITURE				
WIC Client Services Supplies	105516752010	2,250	3,000	5,250
WIC Client Services Equipment	105516756010	9,797	9,960	19,757

***Additional WIC monies received for Client Services.**

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to approve budget amendments for Surry Community College, EMS, Soil and Water, Animal Control, and the Health Department as presented. Vice Chairman Austin second.

Vote: 5/0

MANAGER REPORTS/COMMENTS

(1) Interim Manager Haynes reported a recent email from the Wilkes Transportation Authority (WTA). The WTA is placing a garage facility and dispatch center on the eastern edge of Wilkes County. This is not an attempt to replace or invade the operation of YVEDDI. The efficiency of the WTA simply encourages development in that area of Wilkes County.

(2) In reference to an earlier comment regarding the aircraft flight plan of Yadkin County, Interim Manager Haynes reported that a building in the Fall Creek area was once used as a target for a simulated bombing exercise by Pope Air Force Base.

CALENDAR NOTES

Chairman Wagoner noted that County offices would be closed for Veterans' Day on November 11 and for Thanksgiving on November 26 and 27.

Chairman Wagoner noted the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new middle schools. Chairman Wagoner reported that the first meeting of December is a reorganization meeting and business is typically light for that meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman Wagoner had these additional comments:

(1) Chairman Wagoner referred to this month's edition of *Wildlife in North Carolina*. The Forbush Shooting Teams are featured on page 38 of the magazine. Chairman Wagoner read from the magazine as follows:

"Once again, teams and individuals from North Carolina topped the competition at the Youth Hunter Education Challenge held at the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, N.M.

Yadkin County's two Forbush teams took first place in both senior and junior divisions at the 24th annual national championship. Park Ridge Sharpshooters of Stanly County came in third in the junior division.

Austin Warner of West Montgomery High School took first place in the overall senior individual division, while Todd Patterson of Forbush Elementary School won first place in the junior individual division, and Nick McDonald of Fall Creek Elementary School came in third. Farmville Central High, Jones County High, North Davidson High and South Stanly High also represented North Carolina.

The Youth Hunter Education Challenge is a weeklong series of events, featuring shooting competitions of .22 caliber rifle at knock-down targets, muzzleloader at knock-down targets, shotgun on a sporting clays course and archery at three dimensional game targets. The non-shooting competitions consist of orienteering skills, wildlife identification, a written hunter responsibility and ethics exam and a hunter safety trail test."

Chairman Wagoner stressed the final paragraph noting that Hunter Safety is not just about 'shooting a gun'; it is teaching firearm safety and responsibility.

(2) Chairman Wagoner attended the community open house event at Forbush Middle School. Chairman Wagoner stated that Yadkin County Schools were overcrowded and had no middle school structure. Though the previous Board received much criticism, the decision to build middle schools was the most economical means to address these issues. Chairman Wagoner believes that the new middle schools offer an incredible opportunity for Yadkin County students. Chairman Wagoner believes that students will receive a better education and that, in a few years, test scores will reflect the improvement.

Commissioner Wooten had no additional comments at this time.

Commissioner Moxley had this additional comment:

Commissioner Moxley had read literature from Appalachian State University. Statistics indicate that middle schools are effective and do improve test scores.

Commissioner Garner had these additional comments:

(1) Commissioner Garner stated that he had an opportunity to speak with many citizens through his work. Just recently, one parent of a middle school student expressed ill will for the new middle schools while the child of this same parent expressed great enthusiasm. Commissioner Garner stressed that the citizens must 'see past tomorrow' and must change with the changing times.

(2) Commissioner Garner reported that payments on the jail construction loan are being paid even though construction has not yet begun. Commissioner Garner believes this to be a waste of taxpayer money and felt that the public had a right to know this information.

Vice Chairman Austin had these additional comments:

(1) Vice Chairman Austin had also attended the open house at Forbush Middle School during the prior weekend. Vice Chairman Austin noted the red lockers and commented on the pride of the Forbush community. Vice Chairman Austin stated that excitement was evident in the parents, teachers, and staff. Following experiences with Starmount Middle School, Forbush Middle School seems to be prepared for its opening. Forbush Middle School will offer more options in courses and class schedules and is a great opportunity for students.

(2) Discussions with the Town of Jonesville regarding a variety of water issues continue. New issues are being explored as a result of development of a large number of acres in the Arlington area. This area will require water and possibly a storage tank. Vice Chairman Austin stated that he would continue to update the Board as these discussions progress.

The Town of Jonesville has asked that Yadkin County modify the Rural Center grant application to reduce its commitment of funds. In June 2009, the Board agreed to defer this matter to the utility committee. On behalf of the utility committee, Vice Chairman Austin is now recommending that Yadkin County submit a revised commitment of other funds form to the Rural Center thus easing the application process for the Town of Jonesville.

Commissioner Garner made a motion authorizing Interim Manager Haynes to complete the Commitment of Other Funds Form for the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center revising the assistance amount to only the matching portion of \$500,000. Commissioner Wooten second.

Vote: 5/0

Attorney Graham had this additional item for discussion:

Attorney Graham reported the receipt of an additional application for the county manager position. Attorney Graham surmised that the Board would likely not interview the candidate as his sole experience has been in Georgia and Colorado. Commissioner Garner asked if knowledge and experience with North Carolina Statutes should be a determining factor. Attorney Graham

stated that it should not be a determining factor, but should be considered. Interim Manager Haynes agreed. Interim Manager Haynes added that knowledge of North Carolina General Statutes and experience with the North Carolina Legislature would be helpful.

Chairman Wagoner called for a recess at 9:58am. Meeting resumed at 10:15am.

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to enter a Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) regarding a personnel matter. Vice Chairman Austin second.

Vote: 5/0

Vice Chairman Austin made a motion to end the Closed Session. Commissioner Moxley second.

Vote: 5/0

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garner second.

Vote: 5/0

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Prepared by Clerk to the Board

Date Approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners