

State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 08, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at A-B Tech, Madison Campus, Marshall, NC.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

I.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the addition of 10. B.1. – Capital Project Ordinance.

II.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 11, February 22, and February 24, 2016 minutes with the correction to the minutes of the February 22, 2016 minutes, Item V to include “the board voted unanimously to approve the request for road closure”.

III.

During public comment the board heard from Justin Shelton, Terry King, Terry King, Sr., Levy Roberts, and Ricky Clinton who voiced their concerns regarding the tethering of dogs.

IV.

Upon recommendation from Tammy Cody, Deputy Health Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve new rates for water testing. This increase is due in part to the increase last year in fees charged by the state laboratory.

Upon recommendation from Mrs. Cody, and upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve the movement of Jennifer Puglisi, RN from clinic nurse to a school nurse position. This position is 100% funded by Madison County Schools.

V.

Upon recommendation from Connie Harris, Social Services Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution declaring March as Social Work Month.

VI.

Upon request from Melanie Morgan, Library Director, and upon motion from Commissioner Wechtel, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the advertisement for two substitute circulation assistant positions within the library.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve French Broad EMC to provide Ethernet connections to all library locations. E-Rate is the commonly used name for the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, under the Federal Communications Commission. The program provides discounts to assist schools and libraries to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. It is estimated that the program will save the Madison County Public Libraries \$15,000.00 a year.

VII.

Lee Hoffman appeared before the board to present on behalf of the Hoffman Foundation regarding their plan to purchase an 80 acre parcel of land adjacent to property already owned by the Foundation. The purchase would expand the property currently in conservations and allow access to the property from Banjo Branch and Forest Street in Mars Hill. Mr. Hoffman requested that a resolution of support from the County in support of the Bailey Mountain project be approved. The resolution would be used to show support to potential funders.

VIII.

Ryan Cody, Lead Economic Developer, appeared before the board to discuss the Madison County Economic Development Board's recommendation to proceed with the Madison County Broadband Initiative. The Madison County Broadband Initiative will be a collaborative effort among county staff and the Economic Development Board to take the necessary steps to increase fiber connectivity and broadband speeds within the County.

IX.

Forrest Gilliam, County Manager, informed the board that an appraisal of the "old jail" property had been completed and the appraisal had come in at \$85,000.00. Mr. Gilliam also informed the board that a prior offer in the amount of \$70,000.00 was still on the table.

Motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to counter the offer at \$85,000.00 failed on a vote of two to three. Voting in the affirmative were Commissioner Gentry and Commissioner Rice. Voting in the negative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Briggs and Commissioner Wechtel.

Motion from Chairman Brigman, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, to accept the offer of \$70,000.00 was approved on a three to two vote. Voting in the affirmative were Chairman Brigman, Commissioner Wechtel, and Commissioner Briggs. Voting in the negative were Commissioner Rice and Commissioner Gentry.

Mr. Gilliam provided an update on Courthouse repairs as well as an update on the ongoing delinquent tax collection efforts.

X.

The board received the February Financial Report.

Upon motion from Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, the board voted unanimously to approve Budget Amendment #08.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Wechtel, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2016 Qualified School Financing Capital Project Ordinance.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to approve the February Tax Refunds/Releases.

XI.

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session for the purpose of attorney-client privilege and personnel matters.

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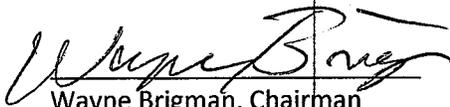
XII.

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

Upon motion from Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Rice, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

This the 8th day of March, 2016.

MADISON COUNTY

BY: 
Wayne Brigman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Darlyne Rhinehart
Darlyne Rhinehart, Clerk