#### HAYWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

#### **REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 19, 2021**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman L. Kevin Ensley convened the regular meeting of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Courtroom at the Haywood County Historic Courthouse, Waynesville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman L. Kevin Ensley, Vice-Chairman Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk"

Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long and Jennifer M. Best

Absent: None

Staff members present were County Manager Bryant Morehead, County Attorney Frank Queen, Interim Finance Director Kristian Owen and Clerk to the Board Tracy Wells.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ensley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **INVOCATION**

Chairman Ensley observed a moment of silence.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearing(s).

# **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Chairman Ensley opened the public comment session.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Ensley closed the public comment session.

# **CONSTITUENT CONCERNS**

Commissioner Long updated the Board on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Virtual Conference for 2021-2022. He stated the number one legislative goal is to seek legislation funding to expand infrastructure and broadband capability to underserved areas and residents across the state.

Vice-Chairman Rogers and Commissioner Best stated they each had received phone calls pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccinations.

# ADMINISTRATIVE/AGENCY REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS COVID-19 Update

Chairman Ensley recognized Interim Health Director Garron Bradish. Mr. Bradish provided the Board with a vaccination update stating the Health Department is finishing up the 1600 doses that were received from the state. He further stated the Haywood Regional Medical Center is sharing its 1,675 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and will provide help administering all the doses this week during two (2) drive-through clinics. Mr. Bradish informed the Board there currently are 7,000 individuals registered to be vaccinated - 3,000 of whom are in the target group of age 75 and up.

Vice-Chairman Rogers stated several constituents contacted him asking if there was any way to publish the waiting list. Mr. Bradish explained the appointment scheduling would be changing and instead of using a lottery system, individuals in the appropriate group would be called according to the order in which they registered. Due to North Carolina falling behind in the vaccination process, state officials are working on a system to send doses out regularly to counties that are successful in administering them as quickly as they are received. He stated the planning is about to get more complicated. The Health Department has received the Moderna vaccine, but the doses being shared by the hospital are Pfizer, a vaccine that has to be mixed and kept cold. The vaccines have differing lengths of time between the first and second dose, and individuals need to have the same vaccine for their second dose as their first. Mr. Bradish informed the Board the biggest hurdle thus far during this whole process, is the amount of paperwork that has to be sent to the state.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick expressed his concern for the frontline County employees who interact with the public on a daily basis. He recommended these employees be among the first to receive the vaccination when appropriate.

Commissioner Long inquired if there is a waiting list so that the vaccine(s) do not go to waste if someone does not show up to their vaccine appointment. Mr. Bradish stated if there are unused doses at the end of the vaccination clinics, a list of law enforcement officers or other essential workers is maintained and used to quickly recruit individuals to come in and receive the vaccine.

The Board commended Mr. Bradish, the Health Department and participating agencies regarding the success of the drive through clinics.

Chairman Ensley recognized Medical Director Dr. Mark Jaben. Dr. Jaben informed the Board Haywood County ranks 75th out of the 100 counties in the State of North Carolina for having the lowest COVID-19 cases. As of today, there are 2944 positive COVID-19 cases in the County.

# **DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA**

There was no discussion/adjustment to the agenda.

# **CONSENT AGENDA**

J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Tommy Long seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None

Request approval of December 21, 2020 and January 4, 2021 regular meeting minutes

Request approval of December 2020 Releases, Refunds, Adjustments and **Discoveries** 

Request approval of December 2020 Tax Collections Update and Refunds

Request approval to accept I-CON Water Mitigation System quote and purchase said system in the amount of \$62,807 to be paid from FY 2020-2021 budgeted funds and approval for County Manager to sign all documentation pertaining to said quote and purchase

Request approval of budget amendment - Elections - \$8,681 - to appropriate USC University Schwarzenegger Institute of Democracy Grant to support 11 new part-time poll workers

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Request approval of budget amendment - Elections - \$5,810 - to appropriate One Stop Bonus Grants from the NC State Board of Elections

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Chairman Ensley requested Tax Collector Greg West to speak about the tax collections report. Mr. West addressed the Board stating the collection rate as of December 31, 2020 was 72.19% v. 76.24% in 2019. He explained to the Board there is approximately a 30-day mail delay. Currently, the tax office is receiving mail dated November, 2020. He further stated at the end of January, 2020 the collection rate was 92.29% and as of today, the collection rate is at 90.25%. He believes the collection rate will equate last year's collection rate at the end of January. Mr. West informed the Board the delinquent tax bills will be mailed in February.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

# Request approval to purchase LED lights from CED Waynesville in the amount of \$21,082 to be paid from FY 2020-2021 budgeted funds for the conversion of all lighting in the Justice Center

Chairman Ensley recognized Operations Director Kris Boyd. Mr. Boyd stated this request is to replace all of the fluorescent light fixtures in the Justice Center with LED light fixtures. The return on this investment will be an annual savings of \$15,000 on the electric cost(s) for the 90,000 square-foot building. He further stated County employees will be performing this replacement.

Tommy Long motioned to approve the purchase of LED lights from CED Waynesville for \$21,082 to replace all fluorescent lights in the Justice Center. Brandon C. Rogers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None

# Request approval of Resolution of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners Authorizing the Negotiation of an Installment Financing Contract not to exceed \$2,000,000 and Providing for Certain Other Related Matters

Chairman Ensley recognized Interim Finance Director Kristian Owen. Ms. Owen summarized the Resolution stating it gave herself and County Manager Bryant Morehead the authority to negotiate on behalf of the County a loan for up to \$2.0 million (for the School Administration Office - Annex II Building), gives her approval to file the necessary paperwork with the Local Government Council to do the financing, gives herself and Mr. Morehead authority to work with Scott Leo at Parker Poe who is the County's bond counsel, authority to use Davenport as the financial advisors and to provide the notice of public hearing.

Mr. Morehead addressed the Board stating the public hearing will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and the Notice of Public Hearing will be advertised in tomorrow's issue of the Mountaineer newspaper and on the County website.

J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III motioned to approve the Resolution of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners Authorizing the Negotiation of an Installment Financing Contract 01192021

not to exceed \$2,000,000 and Providing for Certain Other Related Matters. Brandon C. Rogers seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SETARING

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#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Ensley recognized County Manager Bryant Morehead.

Request approval of appointment of James Rogers to the Clyde Planning Board - ETJ Mr. Morehead stated the Town of Clyde Aldermen requested the appointment of James Rogers as a full member to this Board. Mr. Rogers previously served as an alternate.

Tommy Long motioned to approve the appointment of James Rogers to the Clyde Planning Board – ETJ. Jennifer M. Best seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES: L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES: None

Request approval of appointment of Bryant Morehead to the Haywood Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees and approval for Bryant Morehead to serve on the Investment Committee pursuant to Section 6b of the Restricted Fund Management Services Agreement; approval of reappointment of Kirk Kirkpatrick to the Haywood Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees

Mr. Morehead stated this request is for his appointment to the Haywood Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees and to serve on the Investment Committee for the vacated seat of Julie Davis. Also requested is the reappointment of Commissioner Kirkpatrick to this Board.

Brandon C. Rogers motioned to approve the appointment of Bryant Morehead to the Haywood Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees and approve Bryant Morehead to serve on the Investment Committee pursuant to Section 6b of the Restricted Fund Management Services Agreement; and approve the reappointment of Kirk Kirkpatrick to the Haywood Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees. Jennifer M. Best seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES: L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long.

Jennifer M. Best

NOES: None

# Request approval of appointment of John Denton of the Center Pigeon Fire Department to the Firefighter Relief Fund Board

Mr. Morehead stated this appointment request is for John Denton of the Center Pigeon Fire Department to be appointed to the Center Pigeon Fund Board of Trustees. This appointment is for the vacated seat of Cody Parton.

Brandon C. Rogers motioned to approve the appointment of John Denton of the Center Pigeon Fire Department to the Firefighter Relief Fund Board. J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None

# Request approval of the following appointments/reappointments to the Smoky Mountain Event Center Board:

- Appointment of Anessa Jaynes and Patricia Blake for a three (3) year term;
- Reappointment of Jonathan Jackson and Vickie Reece for a two (2) year
- Reappointment of Edward Bryant and Benjamin Wilder for a one (1) year

Mr. Morehead reviewed the requested appointments/reappointments as requested by the Smoky Mountain Event Center Board for the purpose of staggering the terms of its Board members.

Tommy Long motioned to approve the above appointments/reappointments to the Smoky Mountain Event Center Board. Jennifer M. Best seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None

# **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

## <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Commissioner Long brought to the Board's attention the time and effort given by Doyle Teague of the County Elections Department in obtaining the USC University Schwarzenegger Institute of Democracy Grant. The Board commended Mr. Teague for his hard work and due diligence in looking for ways to help the County.

With no further business, Tommy Long motioned to adjourn the regular Board meeting. J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Motion carried 5 - 0

AYES:

L. Kevin Ensley, Brandon C. Rogers, J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, III, Tommy Long,

Jennifer M. Best

NOES:

None

Time of adjournment was at 6:23 p.m.