

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 12, 2020**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on May 12, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair
Ron Mau, Commissioner
Gayle Woody, Commissioner
Absent: Mickey Luker, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) COUNTY OPERATIONS RELATED TO COVID-19: Mr. Adams stated that he wanted to provide a brief the Board regarding upcoming potential plans for county operations related to COVID-19, including the Telework Program for the employees. He felt it was necessary to remind the Board of all the benefits that were in place for the employees to help assist them with multiple areas of which employees could access leave.

One of the first items done by the Board was to issue a State of Emergency Leave, which gave all employees access to 20 days of this leave. The leave could be used if an employee had exposure, to care for sick family members, manage eligible COVID-19 issues due to public closure of county facilities, due to daycare issues for their kids. This leave was only allowed to be used during the State of Emergency.

Later, the Board was made aware of was the Families First Coronavirus First Act, which was specifically granted through the Federal Government and required all employers to abide by. This act provided leave for individuals that had child care issues for their children. This leave extended out for twelve weeks, but the employee was not allowed to be paid for the first two weeks. After this, it would allow the employee to be paid 2/3 of their salary.

Commissioner Woody asked if the 20 days and extra child care were some of the provisions that could be reimbursed through the funding from the federal or state government for COVID-19?

Mr. Adams stated it was clear to them at that point that if it was a federal program, yes.

Darlene Fox, Finance Director, stated that anything that was put in place before March 27th would not apply. The second ten days would possibly apply. All the leave acts went into effect April 1st.

Mr. Adams stated that all of the federal programs, such as the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Policy, which was also April 1st would allow a couple more weeks available to employees. It was available to help pay for child care issues, but also had a myriad of other areas in which they were able to stay at home, if necessary. There were several items in place that had been and would continue to be a benefit to employees as they continued through the state of emergency.

One of the final items that was passed by the Board was the Telework Policy, which allowed for the county to operate with less people in the facility. It helped create the separation needed in order to fight the virus and had been a great benefit to allow the county to continue to be productive in a safe manner. He believed the Telework Policy should remain in effect all the way through the crisis. In discussing employees coming back to work they would limit telework to certain categories of people. He thought they should always reserve the right to revert back to the current situation where they had the most people teleworking at one time.

As they proceeded forward, there had to be some type of plan of action on how the county should operate during internal work and allowing the public to come to the facilities. One of the strategies he was trying to employ was going off the Governor's recommendations of his three phase plan. On May 8th, the Governor went into a Phase One Plan until May 22nd, which teleworking was highly recommended. At that point, there were no recommended changes as far as how teleworking was handled.

As they went into Phase Two, the question would become at what point would they try to open the facilities. They were currently open to the public, but it was in a restrictive manner. He was looking to proceed forward to a May 26th date regarding transitioning the telework program to allow employees that would fall under certain conditions to continue to telework, but having a lot of employees come back to work in order to accomplish their tasks and to serve the public.

They would have the majority of employees back to work prior to May 26th. Currently, the Tax Office employees were transitioning back from teleworking and Code Enforcement had a timeline of opening their office for walk-in service on May 26. He talked with all of the larger departments and asked for written feedback regarding transitioning employees back to work on May 26th.

The categories he was looking at to allow employees to continue telework would include high risk employees and he was trying to keep himself open to other concepts for particular situations that may not fit within the policy. He asked departments to start providing him with examples. One that he received was from Social Services. They had certain employees that did home visits, so they were exposed to the general public outside a controlled work space. They did have to provide them with the proper PPE, but the concern was if they would be considered a high risk and should they be coming back on a daily basis to the rest of the employees and exposing them. Those were the types of circumstances that he thought should be considered in the Telework Policy.

The way the policy was written, it was left to the discretion of the County Manager and County Manager's Designees. There was no change in the policy necessary to allow those social workers to continue teleworking, it would allow management to make those types of decisions. They did have other potential areas that may be valid issues or concerns that he thought management and department heads should be able to make a decision on without it being part of a policy.

There were a couple of items they would have in place by the May 26th date. All of the plexiglass had arrived that day and Maintenance would start installing the plexiglass dividers. These would mainly be setup between people greeting or working directly with the public coming into the offices. He thought they did have plexiglass separating employees in some areas also. The priorities would be to install in areas where they already had employees back.

They had found some vendors to buy more masks, more cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer from. They would make sure there was ample hand sanitizer throughout all of the operations. He planned to order between 2,000-2,500 washable cloth masks from American Sewing Company in Sylva. He would make those available to every employee and they could use them if they wanted to. He was not looking to institute a policy to require them to wear a mask. This would make sure protection was available, if the employee deemed it appropriate. They also ordered floor markers to allow for social distancing in areas that had walk-in traffic, such as Code Enforcement.

The idea would be to have enough hand sanitizer to keep hands clean, have face masks available when necessary and to keep the distancing recommendations as best they could between the public and employees. All of this would be in place on May 26th. The transitioning of employees back to work from teleworking would be with the understanding that if things spiked or turned that deemed them to go backwards, they retained the ability to shift back and send people home to telework.

He received a couple of responses from departments regarding transitioning back about child care. The high school would stop online instruction on May 27th and elementary would stop on May 22nd with the idea that all of the end of May would be used for makeup work. Even though school would be out, they did have individuals that had child care issues that were twofold. One was the gap between the end of May and summer camp or daycare. The other was not having access due to daycares that were not open.

They had 400 or so employees and the amount of people claiming child care issues were much lower than he expected. He did not believe they could make a countywide policy based on the numbers that were being reported to him as far as what the need was. He thought a combination of continuing with a version of the telework along with the federal policies that were assisting with allowing employees to stay home to take care of their child care needs would assist employees. He would not state that they would be able to take care of every need that was out there.

He received comments about making sure they had the appropriate sanitizers and separation. Also, he did receive feedback that there were concerns about placing more people into a building, which increased the chances of being infected. Unfortunately, he thought that would be an issue until they had a cure or vaccine. The safest thing would be to stay home, but if that was not what they were doing, what really needed to be enforced was to make sure people washed their hands, sanitized their hands, adhered to the distancing and provide protection such as the plexiglass.

Commissioner Woody asked if there were any provisions to take people's temperature when they entered the building? The outbreak at the Hermitage was mitigated because the person that was sick self-quarantined and then was tested positive. If she had gone to work with those symptoms, it could have spread. She thought they should stress to everyone continually, if they had any symptoms to please stay home until they got tested. That would prevent the spread in enclosed areas.

Mr. Adams stated that type of messaging needed to go to the employees and the public. There had been variations of discussions about temperature taking within county operations. The first question that had to be asked was about the legality of it.

Ms. Baker stated that they could check temperatures if they chose to do so.

Mr. Adams stated that as they went forward with this, he thought it would be an operation by operation decision. They had some departments that started out with that and then began transitioning from doing that. His conversations with departments were whether or not they could keep the social distancing in place in the facility, if not, then the temperature taking would need to be considered more.

An example would be with Maintenance and their shifts being split up to work with half the people. When the shifts came back they would have to ride in the same vehicle together. It would become difficult to social distance when they were sharing vehicles. In this situation, they would need to be sure the employees were not coming to work sick. The other reason for the 12 hour shifts was because of Emergency Management. They were requiring them to work on the weekends and was fairly shifting everyone through the week and weekends. They were working to transition them back to a normal shift, but the challenge would be the separation.

There could not be one policy to meet all circumstances. In general terms, they were talking about how they were transitioning back. As far as long-term teleworking, he and Ms. Fox discussed this during the budget process. The way capital was done, it was approved per department and then was shifted into a line item for capital. They controlled when they were purchased and they would continue to have the conversations about if they should buy a desktop or switch to a laptop. They would propose to place it in the budget as a normal replacement schedule, but before the actual purchase took place, they would develop a plan. Two issues when teleworking were having equipment at home and internet access.

Commissioner Woody asked if any of the department heads had expressed feedback about the productivity of the employees as they teleworked.

Mr. Adams stated no. He believed if they ever went into a long-term situation for more than a few months, each department head would develop a plan themselves on how to monitor productivity.

Commissioner Woody stated that she had not heard any complaints in the community.

Mr. Adams stated that the May 26th date was somewhat of a surprise when the Governor stated they would move into Phase Two. When direction was given a couple weeks ago, he believed that departments had the first or second week of June in mind, so it did create some concern if they were coming back too early. He thought they could get the physical infrastructure in place, but the virus was still there and they would have to deal with it.

Commissioner Mau stated that on the temperature taking, since the virus was not going to go away, would it make sense for some departments to go ahead and order some of the infrared devices. They may not arrive until later in June, but it was probably something they would want over the next year.

Mr. Adams stated that the answer was yes, but he was not making any definite statements that was what they would do since they did not have the devices.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he was on a conference call with Mountain Projects earlier. Some of the things they were concerned about were some of their workers being at home and were they really able to do what they needed to be doing because they were having to take care of their children too. They came up with a policy that strongly suggested if someone was working from home that they have some means to take care of their kids while they worked. Also, everyone, public and employees that came into their building would have their temperature taken.

Commissioner Woody stated that they were doing the same at the high school for employees and volunteers helping prepare the lunches.

Commissioner Deitz stated he thought they were checking the temperature on Transit in Haywood County.

Mr. Adams stated that Jackson County Transit was doing certain limited trips. They had a plastic barrier between the driver and the passengers. Also, working with recreation, they were developing a transition back timeline which was different than what they just discussed. There were certain things that could not be opened such as the playgrounds. There were certain other issues they needed to figure out how to deal with such as they had the bathrooms closed. Once they opened the playgrounds, they felt they needed to open the bathrooms. When they started talking about the recreation facilities themselves, as far as how to handle the weight rooms, aerobic rooms, the basketball courts and the day camps, these would all require a different level of thinking than the traditional admin building.

They were looking to run the normal camps in the summer, but they were still waiting to understand what type of potential occupancy restrictions would be going to be in place in Phase Two and Phase Three with participants and the facility as a whole. When they would run the day camp, there would be separation requirements with the kids, which would take up more space in the facility. It would be a discussion between day camp and access to the facility by the general public. If someone paid a fee to use the facility, would they pay the normal fee and have limited access. These were issues that were being discussed prior to opening.

They also had the pools, which was a complicated conversation. The issues they were dealing with included how they would maintain the required separation in the pool. They were also discussing if swim lessons would be possible and other safety issues that would have to be put in place in order for the pools to open. They all knew that the kids had been stuck inside for months and they did not want to say it was impossible to open the facilities because they would have taken away a recreation from the community. These were things they were struggling with.

The final thing they were working on and trying to figure out was a plan for the lifeguards. When looking at a transition plan for the rec center, it had several components. One was to open parks, public restrooms, rec center and the pools. These were currently being worked on. He hoped that by the June work session they could give a report to the Board of what the plan would be.

Commissioner Deitz asked if the Board would be going through each one of the items he discussed? It seemed to him that the rec department should decide what they should do and then let the Board know. Then, if there was a problem they could talk about it. They could not go through every department and everything that was going to happen. The Board could not make the decisions for all of these people and details or did they need to?

Mr. Adams stated he was saying they would come back to the Board and give them the plan. Recreation was a big issue for the community. Generally speaking, when they came and gave reports, it was for the Board, for the public and for the public records. The report would be what they thought they could do unless the Board disagreed.

Commissioner Mau asked what phase could the pools potentially open, according to the Governor? Mr. Adams stated that he would not associate that with a phase at that time. To really get a benefit, they would need to open by July.

Commissioner Mau stated that they were talking about recreation and kids being at home for a long time. If something happened and things were looking really good and they were not going to discuss the plan until June – or did they know they could not open the pools up before sometime in June?

Mr. Adams stated that he did not think that would happen.

Commissioner Mau stated that he heard some people discussing the upcoming three-day weekend.

Mr. Adams stated that unfortunately, he did not feel they were there. Their conversation was about in order to have an effective season and provide a month and a half of activity - they backed it up from July. They believed that in the month of June, all depending upon what was happening with the stats, if they prepared themselves, there was a potential, with the right rules in place, they could open and maybe get a month or month and half worth of activity in the pools. A lot of that may still be dependent upon what the state was directing them to do. They did not want to take a month to get opened when they figured out they could open. So they were in some ways taking a risk in doing things to be prepared to immediately open the pool when they could do so.

Chairman McMahan stated that it was going to be a work in progress and they did not know what would happen. It was not unlikely that they would have to prolong some of the dates as it was a moving target.

Informational item.

(2) BALSAM WEST EASEMENT: Ms. Baker stated that Balsam West had requested an easement from the county. She provided a map with a drawing to show the exact location of the requested easement, which was near the ECU Dental School and County Services Park Road. Balsam West currently had fiber that ran along County Services Park to a box that was used by the ECU Dental School, a current client. They approached Mr. Adams a few months ago requesting an easement over county property onto the property of Sam Bartlett.

There were some discussions that took place and it was agreed to bring the request to the Board for consideration. Balsam West would pay \$400 for the easement and the property owner, Sam Bartlett would pay for the installation and putting the land back as it was. The potential advantage to the county would be to possibly give an opportunity to open high speed internet up to the Webster area. They were talking with Travis Lewis about a potential tower and there were other discussions with neighbors in the area. However, there was nothing in the works at that time and this would only serve one property owner.

There were a lot of discussions about the easement language in particular about the relocation of the easement area. They wanted to make it clear that if the county needed the property for any reason, they would be required to relocate the easement to another area on the property that the county chose, which was agreed to. They were also careful to make sure it did not look as if the county was giving an easement over property owned by the state with the ECU Dental School or the Rescue Squad property. Although the Rescue Squad property was owned by the county, there was a long-term lease in place. This information had been added to the description of the property and was clearly stated that it did not include the Rescue Squad Property or the ECU Dental School property.

Mr. Adams stated that when they first approached him, they were asking for an easement for free, so he had to go through a “public purpose” conversation with them that unless they could show him the true public purpose, which may eventually be true, they would have to pay for the easement. The second part was that he was trying to get them to not split the property down the middle. They were resistant because they wanted to take the least expensive path.

It took multiple months because they told them the only way they could place the line where they proposed would be to move it if the county deemed it was in their way and they would have to bear all of the costs. So, this was not a traditional utility easement and he did not believe it devalued the county property. From that perspective, he recommended the Board proceed forward with the easement.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(3) NCDOT – GARY SMITH ET AL CONDEMNATION SETTLEMENT: Ms. Baker stated that occasionally the county would be named as a defendant in a NCDOT condemnation action. When this happened, it meant that at the time the lawsuit was filed, county taxes were not paid current. The county would remain a defendant the entire time, even if they paid the taxes.

In this particular case, NCDOT vs. Gary Smith et al, which was part of the road in the Tuckasegee area at Jimmy's Mini Market, the case had been settled. The county filed an answer asking the taxes be paid and they had now been paid. The attorney general's office was requesting that the county sign a settlement agreement. There would need to be a consensus to allow the Chairman to sign the agreement. She had copies in her office if anyone wanted to look at the documents.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(4) BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARIES: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, provided the Board with Non-Profit Grant Application Notebooks and stated that they had two new grant requests from Equinox Ranch and Uncomplicated Kitchen. She still had four that had not submitted grants, but thought some of them were displaced from their offices at that time. They would work with those to get them in.

Ms. Fox presented:

- Non-profit Grant Applications received: \$491,193.00
- Capital Outlay Detail: \$2,464,633.00

Commissioner Mau stated that he thought they talked about some of these items in February at the Retreat and obviously things had changed drastically since then. Had the requests been updated?

Ms. Fox stated that they had been updated.

Commissioner Mau asked how much money the county would receive from the state? He had seen a dollar amount from Macon County, as it was published, but he had not seen anything for Jackson County.

Mr. Adams stated that the amount for Jackson County was just under \$965,000.00. Currently, he and Ms. Fox were going through and trying to understand the rules associated with it. When the federal leave policy was implemented, everyone was told it would be funded, but no one was told how it would be funded. Now they knew it would be funded through this allocation. When they were trying to figure out how to utilize the \$965,000.00, with all of the different caveats and restrictions, one of the things they would have to calculate would be how they would estimate how much of the leave would be used. Also, there were certain capital items that would apply to the dollars, especially when it came to sanitation.

During the daily stakeholders meeting that day, he mentioned that he and Ms. Fox received the amount and were trying to come up with a strategy about what rules apply to the funds and what monies they had already encumbered. He mentioned to the stakeholder group that he would follow up with them to set up a meeting to discuss what their needs may or may not be. It was up to the counties how the funds would go to the cities, but they first needed to understand the rules. He would look at the county's internal needs and then go through a process with the stakeholders about future needs. When they were finished with that, they would come back to the Board. At that point, the priority was to get the budget done and transition back into operations. They had until December, 2020 to expend the funds.

Commissioner Woody stated that when the North Carolina Legislature met there was a discrepancy between the Senate and House bills. They went with the Senate bill that had more money going directly to the counties and then the counties had to give some of that to the municipalities. In one instance, Charlotte wanted that money, but they knew that the counties funded the emergency services, the health departments and DSS. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners lobbied hard for the money to come to the counties first. She was pleased that the bill passed and the money was coming to the counties, but they had to give a percentage of it to the municipalities, was that correct?

Mr. Adams stated that there were no rules and no mandatory requirement for distribution to the cities. However, that was not how he was viewing this. He was trying to develop a strategy of how they appropriately identify what was encumbered, what was available, what the rules were and what it could be expended on. He thought they could then sit down with the stakeholders, which included the Town of Sylva, to develop strategies on how to expend the funds. These were not open funds, they had to be related to the COVID issue.

Commissioner Woody stated that when they had the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Zoom call, they stressed that accountability was a huge piece in this because they hoped this was not the last of the money allocated. If they expected to receive more down the line, they had to show they used it in an appropriate manner.

Mr. Adams stated that there was \$300,000,000 going to local governments. They were currently only talking about \$150,000,000 being distributed across the state and they were withholding \$150,000,000 for future discussions. If that fell under the same guidelines of being expended by December 31st, they needed to immediately figure out how the money would be distributed. They did mention that they were having discussions about this being used for offsetting revenue loss.

Ms. Fox presented:

- Capital Improvement Detail: \$3,710,637.00
- Requested Personnel Changes: \$1,136,815.54

Chairman McMahan stated they would get into these into much more detail at a later date.
Informational item.

The Board took a recess.

It was noted that Commissioner Deitz left the meeting due to not feeling well.

(5) **MEETING SCHEDULE:** Mr. Adams presented an upcoming meeting schedule with requested changes:

- Tuesday, May 19th at 1:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting: *Move to Tuesday, May 26th at 1:00 p.m.*
- Thursday, May 21st at 8:30 a.m. - Special Budget Work Session: *Move to Thursday, May 28th at 8:30 a.m.*
- Friday, May 22nd at 8:30 a.m. - Special Budget Work Session: *Move to Friday, May 29th at 8:30 a.m.*
- Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting/Budget Public Hearing 5:55 p.m.: *No Change*
- Thursday, June 11th – Budget Meeting to make final adjustments, if needed
- Friday, June 12th – Budget Meeting to make final adjustments, if needed
- Tuesday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m. – Work Session and Budget final adjustments
- Tuesday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting and Budget Adoption: *Potential request to move Budget Adoption to June 30th*

Mr. Adams asked Ms. Baker about holding a public hearing prior to a regular meeting in the Zoom format?

Ms. Baker stated that there had been a recent change to the law regarding public hearings in remote meetings and that a remote meeting was any meeting where at least one Board Member was participating remotely by video or phone. One of the issues was that if they held a public hearing in a remote meeting, it required that public comment be received for 24 hours after the public hearing. That would mean that the Board would need to come back for a Special Called Meeting to vote on it after the 24 hours or the meeting could be recessed until a time after the 24-hour period.

Mr. Adams stated that the Board would not be making a decision on the budget until the end of June.

Ms. Baker stated that should then be fine.

General discussions were held.

Chairman McMahan stated they could suspend the rules to vote on the requested meeting schedule changes.

Mr. Adams stated that there was time sensitivity on the previous item: NCDOT - Gary Smith Condemnation Settlement. He requested to vote on that issue as well.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to suspend the rules to allow for a vote on two items: NCDOT - Gary Smith et al Condemnation Settlement and Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

(6) NCDOT – GARY SMITH ET AL CONDEMNATION SETTLEMENT:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to authorize Chairman McMahan to sign the NCDOT – Gary Smith et al Condemnation Settlement. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(7) MEETING SCHEDULE:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve the recommended meeting schedule changes. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER: Mr. Adams stated at that point, with the architect and design, everything paused because they were ready for the next step. The next step would be to go out and get an updated version of estimated costs. As long as they stayed in the realm of the original, they already had the Project Ordinance. They would then direct him to proceed forward. The architect would start developing bid specifications and they would go through the bidding process. At that point, did they want to continue or did they want to have other discussions?

Chairman McMahan asked what the options were? If they chose to continue with getting the assessments, what did the time schedule look like?

Mr. Adams stated that the next step would be to bring an AIA document to the Board at the next meeting to formalize the entire contract with the architect. They had already expended the vast majority of the cost in design. They would be looking at an estimate of 30 days to finish out the bid specs, 30 days to bid and then within the next 30 days to award the bid for a total of 90 days. Normally, after awarding the bid, it may take another 30 days before they were on-site. This was generally an average of time it would take.

There were a lot of unknowns with how COVID-19 would impact the budget and what they would need to do with other facilities. He thought all of those things were legitimate and needed to be raised and discussed as to whether or not they needed to proceed with major projects. If there were concerns or questions about that, this would be the time to pause.

This project would be to build a 10,000 SF Animal Rescue Center, parking, the circular drive around the campus, repurpose the closed landfill to a walking trail, remove the SRC and turn that area into a shared parking/storage area/picnic space between Green Energy Park and the walking trail. At that point, they were still discussing a new location for SRC and that would have to be a continuing conversation. He could not tell the Board that a new SRC would be operational prior to closing of the current Dillsboro SRC facility.

Chairman McMahan asked if they wanted to pause the project, what would be the advantages?

Mr. Adams stated that from a construction standpoint, he would try to move faster than the timeline he stated before. He would want a contractor to be out at the latest in August. A large portion of the project would be grading and they would want to give as many months as possible in the summer and fall to get the grading completed and stabilized. The worst time to start construction would be in December/January. They either needed to hit the ground running or if they paused, it would need to be around March 2021. Also, timing wise if they paused, he thought they would see an escalation factor potentially from August until next spring.

Chairman McMahan stated that they discussed at the last meeting how this all would affect pricing. It could be that it would come in cheaper.

Commissioner Woody stated that she had been thinking about this and projects that were pending. She had to admit a personal bias with this. One of the things that stayed open during the whole time was greenways and places for people to walk and be outside. That was an important part of physical and mental health and a component of the project was walking space. She felt that for her that was one reason she wanted to see them go forward with this and the fact that they desperately needed a new animal rescue center. They had identified that as an ongoing need that would not go away. Many of the citizens saw the need for that and that was why they approved it. She thought it was a very positive thing to move forward with. She did not think it would get cheaper if they waited.

Commissioner Mau inquired if the funding was there?

Ms. Fox stated that it was there and had already been moved over.

Commissioner Mau stated that if something happened, they could always not award the contract.

Chairman McMahan stated that was a good point. That could be a potential pause button in the future.

Mr. Adams stated that the majority of the architectural funds had been spent. They were probably on the last 20% of the contract and they were to the point of drawing up specs. When he presented the budget, there would be a theme regarding unknown revenues with the sales tax. There would be some expenses that he would recommend to put off until January when they got the actual data in. If the sales tax dropped off much more than they thought, it did not mean they would back off the project, it would give them information about what may occur in six months. Also, they would have May's sales tax figures in August.

Consensus: *Continue on course and add the AIA contract to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(9) INDOOR POOL REFERENDUM: Mr. Adams stated that they were getting ready for the next steps to start taking place on this item.

Commissioner Woody stated that in thinking about this project, two big questions came to mind. One was the plan to have two pools was in large part due to having a school swim team utilize the space. The way things were with sports and schools, they did not know what was in the future. She had an issue about two pools, it seemed like it was so much money and there were so many unknowns. She had concerns.

Mr. Adams stated that currently Ms. Fox was working on the LGC application that had to be filed by the end of May. The next major item would be to introduce the Bond Order and the scheduling of the public hearing on June 9th. Then, the next action as a Board would be to hold the public hearing on July 7th and formally set the ballot question and referendum.

Chairman McMahan stated that the amount of money to be expended from that point forward would be to place it on the ballot and marketing/educational materials. He thought they had expended the greatest part of the costs to get where they were going. Why not go ahead and let the citizens vote on it. If they voted it down, it was a dead issue. If they voted yes, they would reevaluate and see where they were financially.

Commissioner Woody stated that if it did make it to the ballot in November, she thought the entire community would have a better picture about where they were.

Consensus: *Continue to stay on course.*

(10) OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Woody stated that the Library would be opening on May 18th for limited services. They were being very careful, social distancing, wearing masks and taking a lot of precautions. Also, the Board of Health would be holding a Zoom meeting May 13th.

Informational item.

(11) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal and G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman