

April 20, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 121, the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, North Carolina, met for its Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. via an electronic meeting (Zoom) with the following Commissioners present: Chairman Sidney E. Dunston, Vice-Chair Shelley Dickerson, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Mark Speed, Cedric K. Jones, Sr., David Bunn and Michael Schriver.

Please note that due to mass gathering restrictions as outlined in Executive Order 121, the public was not allowed to physically attend this meeting; however, the meeting was livestreamed on YouTube at <http://franklincounty.today>. Citizens were also able to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom.

Chairman Dunston called the meeting to order and asked the Board to remove item 1-A from the consent agenda in order to convene the Board of Equalization & Review separate and apart from the consent agenda. Commissioner Speed made a motion to remove Item 1-A from the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bunn. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Dunston called for a brief recess in order to convene the Board of Equalization and Review.

Commissioner Speed made a motion to convene the 2020 Board of Equalization and Review, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Tax Administrator Dan Williams stated the Tax Office is processing over a dozen open appeals and will continue to accept appeals until adjournment which is expected in May, 2020. Mr. Williams then asked the Board to recess until the Board's next meeting.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to recess the Board of Equalization and Review, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE"

Commissioner Speed then made a motion to reconvene the Board's regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Schriver. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Chairman Dunston then asked the Board to consider approval of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schriver and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

The items approved are as follows.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- ~~A. Convene the 2020 Board of Equalization & Review~~
- B. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- C. Municipal Tax Collection Agreement – Town of Wake Forest
- D. Tourism Development Authority (TDA) grant request for \$5,500 for Annual Bunn Fun Day
- E. Tourism Development Authority (TDA) grant request for \$5,000 for visual media for County Website
- F. Budget Ordinance Amendment #4 (Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-15, the County Finance Officer is requesting a budget ordinance amendment in the amount of \$57,979 to amend the General Fund to recognize Board action from previous meetings, Crisis Interventions funds received from NC DHHS, additional Duke Energy Progress Project Share funds received from NC DHHS, additional Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP) funds received from NC DHHS, additional Wake Electric Project Share funds received from NC DHHS, and insurance proceeds received from water damage to the Franklinton Library.)
- G. Grant Application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in the Amount of \$496,311 to assist in funding Phase II Development of V.E. and Lydia H. Owens Recreational Park at Bull Creek.

## Item 1-F

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #4			
BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Franklin, North Carolina, that pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-15, the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.			
Section 1. To amend the General Fund to recognize Board action from previous meetings, Crisis Interventions funds received from NC DHHS, additional Duke Energy Progress Project Share funds received from NC DHHS, additional Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP) funds received from NC DHHS, additional Wake Electric Project Share funds received from NC DHHS, insurance proceeds received from water damage at Franklinton Library.			
Expenditures	Account #		Amount of Increase
Clerk of Court - Capital Outlay	10-515-0740		\$ 7,200
DSS - Crisis Intervention	10-612-0350		18,733
DSS - Duke Energy Project Share	10-612-0420		\$ 424
DSS - Low Income Home Energy Assistance	10-612-0351		\$ 9,928
DSS - Wake Electric Project Share	10-612-0430		\$ 99
Public Buildings- Building Maintenance	10-500-0150		\$ 10,120
Library - Building Maintenance	10-630-0150		\$ 11,475
	Total		\$ 57,979
=====			
Revenues	Account #		Amount of Increase
GF Fund Balance	10-399-0000		\$ 7,200
DHHS Crisis/LIEAP	10-377-0010		28,661
Energy Neighbor	10-377-0011		424
Wake Electric	10-377-0012		99
Proceeds From Insurance Claims	10-335-9901		21,595
	Total		\$ 57,979
=====			
Section 2. Copies of this amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, the Budget Officer, and the Finance Officer for their direction.			
Adopted this 20th day of April 2020.			
Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners			
Clerk to the Board			

## 2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

This was the time set aside by the Board of Commissioners to allow individuals to address the Board on issues concerning the county. Members of the public were asked to submit public comments in writing via one of three methods:

- Email comments before 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020 to [publiccomments@franklincountync.us](mailto:publiccomments@franklincountync.us)
- Hand-delivery to the reception area of the County Manager's Office, 113 Market Street, Louisburg, North Carolina (must be delivered before noon on April 20, 2020)
- Mail to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, 113 Market Street, Louisburg, NC 27549 (must arrive prior to noon on April 20, 2020)

Comments were read aloud at the meeting by the Clerk to the Board.

### **Fran Spinola, 184 Mort Harris Road, Louisburg, NC**

- “I'm urging you to send a letter to Governor Cooper requesting he does not extend his Stay at Home order and that future decision-making regarding Covid-19 and the reopening of businesses and restaurants be granted to you at the local level. I'm aware of two counties, Gaston and Lincoln, which have already made such a request. Here is a link to a news story containing the letter sent by Gaston County Commissioner Tracy Philbeck: <https://www.wbtv.com/2020/04/14/gaston-county-urges-governor-cooper-end-state-wide-order-before-may/> [wbtv.com] Governor Cooper held a press conference on April 15<sup>th</sup> outlining three criteria for easing restrictions: testing, better tracing, and improving trends – which take time. He also indicated he expects a vaccine will not be available for another year. His comments lead me to suspect he will do little to reopen our state on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This worries me very much. We're heading towards an economic disaster. Our businesses and workers are suffering. As leaders at the local level you are most familiar with the needs of your communities and are in a better position than the Governor to decide when to reopen. P.S. Even with President Trump's three phase plan to reopen the country I fear Governor Cooper will make few changes. I heard a report today saying the peak in Covid-19 cases in North Carolina is not expected until June. Also, FYI I'm retired, and my life hasn't changed much since the pandemic. However, I'm a very concerned citizen. Thank you for your consideration.”

### **John Edwards, 101 Lake Royale, Louisburg, NC**

- “Dear Commissioners, County Manager and Staff: Since 2012, when Harris Communications launched their \$11 million radio system in our county, there has been endless complaints by law enforcement, rescue, and other county agencies about distorted, garbled sound, as well as getting no signal at all. During these eight years, Harris Communications keeps trying to patch up their radio system, but the results have not been good for the most part. Now there is a request on tonight's agenda, Item 6, to extend yet another deadline for Harris

Communications to continue trying to fix the system. When will this boondoggle end? I disagree on another extension, and urge the commissioners to take action, and tell Harris Communications they will get no more extensions. Commissioners, most of you, have expressed disdain with how slow Harris Communications has been trying to patch up their radio system. I would support the county suing Harris Communications for the amount of \$11 million. They have been nothing but a money pit for the county's taxpayers. Meanwhile, in my opinion, the county should work with other counties in our state who have a better radio system, and consider an alternative radio system to replace Harris Communications' defunct system.”

**Sid Reynolds, 434 Moore Perkerson Road, Spring Hope, NC**

- “It is my understanding that the topic of emergency communications will once again be on your agenda. As a citizen of Franklin County, I am aware of the recurring issues and multiple extensions related to the county’s contract with its current emergency radio services provider. May I encourage Commissioners to ask relevant questions of the County Manager, such as:
  1. Has the contractor managed services in alignment with the contract? If not, how many times has an incident been reported by an emergency services entity? Of those reported, what percentage of those have been reviewed by County official(s) in charge of contract oversight?
  2. Has the contractor adhered to the timelines specified within the contract?
  3. Has the contractor met the contractual delivery requirements and, if not, has the contractor corrected the issue within a period of time that was agreed upon by the County and the contractor?
  4. Have the supplies met requirements of the contract?
  5. Have the services met requirements of the contract?
  6. How many unofficial concerns/complaints has any County management employee received from emergency responders and others who use the equipment?
  7. Has the contractor been consistently responsive, professional, and courteous?
  8. Are the technical experts highly qualified and effective in performing the required services?
  9. Are the appropriate number of contracted professionals assigned to this project?
  10. How long has corrective action taken per reported incident?
  11. What is the total delay time logged, since the beginning of the contract service period, as a result of the radios working improperly?
  12. Has there been loss of life, loss of property reported during an incident when the equipment wasn’t functioning? If so, what are those numbers?

It seems it’s time to consider this contract based on total number of successful outcomes/deliverables, expenses and performance compared to adjacent counties, cost adherence versus cost overages (including county staff time (broadbanded) costs) and

continuing asset service-reliability. Thank you for your service to all of us.”

**Frank Winstead, Pincroft Subdivision, Youngsville, NC**

- “Is there a county regulation requiring un-elected paid county government decision-makers to actually live in Franklin County? If not, when can one be put in effect?”

**Bob Polanco, 8804 Albright Road, Raleigh, NC**

- “I am the development Manager of the Essex Mixed-Use project located in Franklinton on US Hwy 1.

#### **Essex, Best Returns for Franklin County**

Nestled between South Cheatham Street and US-1A (Main Street) and fronting US Hwy 1 in Franklinton is Essex, a 125-acre Mixed-Use Community destined to become the Town of Franklinton’s marketing flag on the Highway at its entrance. With the Essex Place portion nearing completion, we plan to open two new projects that will bring the total residential lot count to 294. We also have 41.54 acres of land fronting US Hwy 1 proposed for commercial use.

In the last couple of months, we have seen more inquiries on the commercial lands than we have ever seen since project inception. One inquiry was a new car dealer that would bring 150 jobs. On the residential side the Essex Place, an 87 lot, single family homes component has enjoyed stellar sales performance introducing more new residents to the Town at a higher average sales price than any other project.

In order to improve the marketability of the commercial parcels and prepare the residential land for the construction of the remaining 207 lots, we are less than a month away from starting a \$1.4 million mass grading project and installing a sewer pump station projected to cost an additional \$500,000. This is a huge upfront commitment that will require a revenue stream from both the commercial as well as the residential sides of the project to service the loans that make this project possible. Our bank recently approved the grading loan because they believe in the potential of the area, its highway fronting location and this project. This approval is contingent on our ability to create the two revenue streams. The two sides of this project are symbiotic in that no one side can be constructed alone, marketed alone or reach maximum revenue return for the local governments alone. The whole project needs a commitment from local leaders to perform to its optimum for our bankers as well as the local governments and its citizens. The southern commercial land lays too high and is laden with solid rock yet this rock when processed will provide the fill needed for the residential component on the southeastern quadrant and fill the northwestern commercial quadrant making it marketable. This is truly a Mixed-Use Community not only in how it will perform when completed but also in how it must be constructed thus forcing huge upfront financial outlays.

The current water allocation system, where water resources are allocated from two buckets, one being the much larger commercial bucket and the second being a smaller residential bucket does not work for a Mixed-Use project. Serving those that come first rather than serving the projects that provide the best opportunity for revenue returns for the County's investment of its scarce water resource. Essex was the only Mixed-Use project annexed into a Town seeking water from the residential bucket that also had a job growth component included from the list of those seeking allocations at the UAC meeting.

We have been a strong financial supporter of the community since we agreed in 2009 for Essex to be annexed into the Town of Franklinton at the Town's request. We have paid almost \$170,000 in taxes to the Town for the promise the project would have water and sewer when it was time to build. This promise went away when the County purchased the assets of the Town's Utilities Department and chose not to accept the liabilities, but the taxes paid since have remained very real.

A county official once told me revenue generated from residential development does not cover the cost of delivering government services, the difference is made up from revenue provided by commercial development. Essex was the only project seeking water allocation which had both components given its Mixed-Use design.

Essex Village is a project that will have 96 single family homes with a garage and Essex Townes will have 111 townhouses with a garage. What is needed to make this project work is 50 taps for each of the two projects this year and next then just seven taps the third year. We have always realized the value this project brings to the County and Town, given its Mixed-Use design, we have always preferred to work within your water allocation system, as it is a necessity given the lack of this scarce resource. We have always chosen to work with the County in the cooperative manner we always have.

The completion of this project at the Town's front door is a beacon to the world that Franklinton is primed for growth and its next chapter. Its completion will give Town leaders something very positive to point to as they work to improve investment in the Downtown area and attract new businesses to spur job growth. Essex provides a unique opportunity where when the County's scarce water resources are invested, it gets more than just another residential rooftop, it gets stronger revenue returns, business and job growth and a powerful marketing tool for the Town as well as the County."

**Scott Strickland, 40 Sheila's Lane, Louisburg NC**

- "Radio system is still not up to par the paging is not working like it's supposed to radios are still going in out of CC scan and this is just unacceptable. I would like to know why we would even consider giving them extra time to work on this radio system when they've had ample time to fix this system everything that y'all have

asked them to do they have done the opposite after giving them a letter and requesting them to fix our emergency service radio system that we purchased from Harris and from listening and seeing the system work it has not gotten any better you still hear dispatch asking the Trucks to repeat their self because the radio is cutting in and out or so garble you just can't hear them and some cases they had to send trucks and deputies out to check on the truck that was on scene because they could not get Radio to work because it was in cc scan this Information comes from individuals that are paid staff Within Franklin County I think it's time that we move forward and look for a better solution like going viper before someone ends up getting hurt with this radio system that is not working up to par the engineer or even quoted that it only works 50% of the time we just can't take that risk anymore we are putting our personnel in bad situations with this system when they need help they need help they don't need to have to keep repeating their self sometimes they may not even have time to do that if the situation is really bad law enforcement fire and rescue deserve a much better working radio system!"

Dwight Neal, 1322 Hickory Rock Rd, Louisburg, NC

- "I would like to thank all the EMS, Fire Department, Health Department, School and Cafateria employees of Franklin County. We really appreciate y'all stepping up to help the kids and citizens of Franklin County. Also would hope everyone would pray for these workers, the workers at hospitals and rest homes and all the people that have been effected by this Coronaviruse and the families who have lost their love ones. Also I hope the public broadcast of this meeting goes well and that it will become the standard for County meetings in the future. And lastly, please do what you can to remedy the poor emergency radio fiasco and internet service that effects so many, especially in rural areas."

### 3. UPDATE: COVID-19

Health Director Scott LaVigne provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier in the day, the Emergency Operations Center released information regarding the 11<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 related resident death at Louisburg Nursing Center on Smoke Tree Way in Louisburg. Additionally, nine of the center's residents are currently hospitalized related to the outbreak.

In addition to the guidance already provided by the Health Department to skilled nursing facilities to date, Franklin County is increasing its outreach to leadership at all Nursing Homes in the county to individually ensure each facility has the latest guidance and PPE needed to effectively prevent a COVID-19 outbreak, and if necessary, to effectively manage an outbreak should one occur. He said these non-regulatory outreach efforts are to ensure the Franklin County COVID-19 EOC and the Franklin County Health Department can effectively advocate for these facilities to receive the training, PPE, and staffing needed to ensure the impact of COVID-19 is as low as possible in their respective facilities.

At this time, Franklin County has 71 confirmed cases of the virus. Only seven counties in North Carolina do not have the virus presence according to Mr. LaVigne.

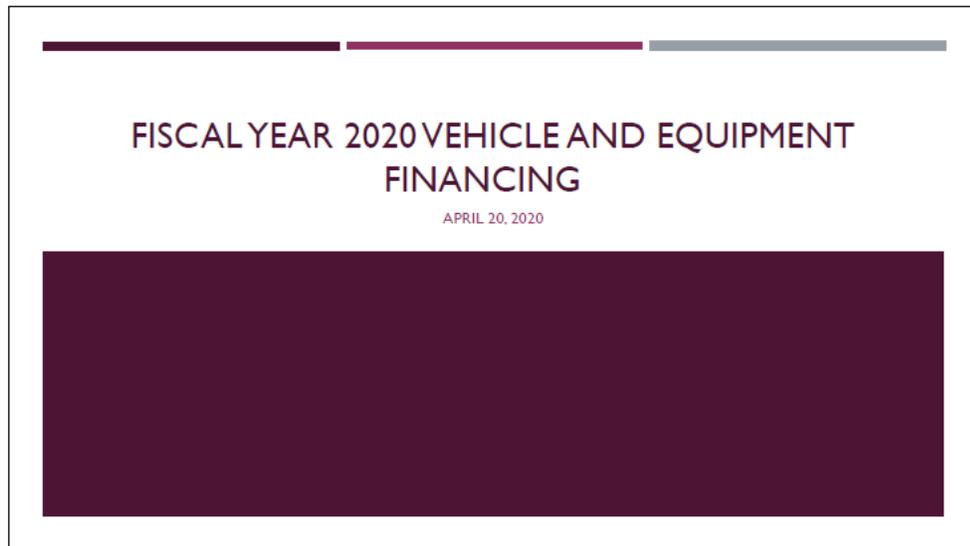
Commissioner Schriver asked Mr. LaVigne to speak to the impact Franklin County's curfew may have had in alleviating the spread of the virus. Mr. LaVigne stated it was too early to assess efficacy, but said he supported the curfew based on his observance of the overall lack of compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders to reduce gathering sizes in various places. He said the curfew was never intended to be a police matter, but rather a public health matter. He felt some needed an extra "nudge" to stay home and away from others to prevent the spread of disease. He said the curfew was necessary based on the contagious nature of the virus and said the Health Department will assess the impact of the curfew as best it can.

No action was requested.

#### 4. INSTALLMENT FINANCING FOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

The County received quotes from four banks for the financing of vehicles and equipment in the amount of \$1,202,663. First Citizens Bank & Trust proposed a four-year loan at an interest rate of 1.75% with no closing cost. Finance Director Jamie Holtzman recommended the Board award the loan to First Citizens Bank & Trust Company and adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of the related documents.

Mrs. Holtzman's presentation follows.



## VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT FINANCED

- (2) 2019 Dodge 4500 Ambulances with Power PRO XT Stretchers (EMS)
- (13) 2019 Dodge Chargers with equipment packages (Sheriff-12, Jail-1)
- (16) Lucas Chest Compression Systems (EMS)
- 2019 Chevrolet Silverado (Inspections)
- 2019 Ford Fusion (Health)
- 2020 Ford Escape (DSS)

## FISCAL YEAR 2020 VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT FINANCING

- Total Amount to be financed \$1,202,663
- Term of four years
- Payment once a year

**FINANCING TIMELINE**

- March 19, 2020 – County sent request for proposals to fourteen financial institutions
- April 1, 2020 – County received responses to Request for Proposals
- April 20, 2020 - Board of Commissioners adopts resolution approving the financing and the documents relating thereto.
- May 1, 2020 – County closes on installment financing

**BID TAB**

BANK	INTEREST RATE	CLOSING COST	TOTAL FINANCING COST
US Bank	1.792%	0.00	\$54,357.73
First Citizens Bank & Trust	1.75%	0.00	\$53,072.88
Regions Equipment Finance Corporation	1.72%	\$5,000	\$57,691.32
BB&T	2.42%	0.00	\$73,630.89

## CONCLUSION

- Request for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to award the vehicle financing in the amount of \$1,202,663 to First Citizens Bank & Trust at the interest rate of 1.75% for the term of four years and authorize the County Manager and the Finance Director to execute and deliver the required closing documents.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to accept the loan proposal from First Citizens Bank & Trust for \$1,202,663 at an interest rate of 1.75% and adopt Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Installment Financing Agreement, A Security Agreement and Related Documents in Connection with The Financing of Various Vehicles and Equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Speed and duly carried approval with all present voting “AYE.”

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Franklin, North Carolina was held remotely by electronic means at 7:00 p.m. on April 20, 2020.

Present: Chair Sidney E. Dunston, presiding, and Commissioners Shelley Dickerson, Mark Speed, David Bunn, Harry Foy, Jr., Cedric Jones and Michael Schriver.

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Absent: Commissioners

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Also Present: County Manager Angela L. Harris, Assistant County Manager Kim Denton, Clerk to the Board Kristen G. King, Finance Director Jamie Holtzman and County Attorney Pete Tomlinson.

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Chairman Dunston introduced the following resolution the title of which was read and a copy of which had been distributed to each Commissioner:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT, A SECURITY AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING OF VARIOUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) for the County of Franklin, North Carolina (the “County”) as follows:

Section 1. The Board does hereby find and determine as follows:

(a) There exists in the County a need to finance the cost of various vehicles and other equipment for use by the County (collectively, the “Equipment”).

(b) The County has determined that the most efficient manner of financing the Equipment will be through the entering of an Installment Financing Agreement (the “Agreement”) with First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company (the “Lender”) pursuant Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Lender will advance moneys to the County in an amount sufficient to pay the costs of financing the Equipment and paying certain financing costs relating thereto, and the County will repay the advancement in installments, with interest (the “Installment Payments”).

(c) In order to secure its obligations under the Agreement, the County will execute and deliver a Security Agreement, dated as of the date of delivery thereof (the “Security Agreement”), granting a security interest in the Equipment.

(d) There has been presented to the Board at this meeting drafts of the Agreement and the Security Agreement.

Section 2. In order to provide for the financing of the Equipment, the County is hereby authorized to enter into the Agreement with the Lender and receive an advancement pursuant thereto in the principal amount of \$1,202,663. The County shall repay the advancement in installments due in the amounts and at the times set forth in the Agreement. The payments of the installment payments shall be designated as principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Section 3. The Board hereby approves the Agreement and the Security Agreement in substantially the forms presented at this meeting. The Chair, the County Manager and the Finance Director of the County are each hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the County said documents in substantially the forms presented at this meeting, containing such modifications as the person executing such documents shall approve, such execution to be conclusive evidence of approval by the Board of any such changes. The Clerk to the Board or any Deputy or Assistant Clerk to the Board is hereby authorized and directed to affix the official seal of the County to said documents and to attest the same.

Section 4. No deficiency judgment may be rendered against the County in any action for breach of any contractual obligation authorized pursuant to this resolution and the taxing power of the County is not and may not be pledged directly or indirectly to secure any moneys due under any contract herein authorized.

Section 5. The Chair, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board of the County, and any other officers, agents and employees

of the County, are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such closing certificates, opinions and other items of evidence as shall be deemed necessary to consummate the transactions described above.

Section 6. The County hereby represents that it reasonably expects that it, all subordinate entities thereof and all issuers issuing obligations on behalf of the County will not issue in the aggregate more than \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations (not counting certain current refunding obligations and private-activity bonds except for qualified 501(c)(3) bonds, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”)) during calendar year 2020. In addition, the County hereby designates each of the installment payments under the Agreement as a “qualified tax-exempt obligation” for the purposes of the Code.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Upon motion of Commissioner Schriver, seconded by Commissioner Speed, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: unanimous

Noes: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

I, Kristen G. King, CMC, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Franklin, North Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of so much of the proceedings of said Board of Commissioners for said County, at a regular meeting held on April 20, 2020, as it relates in any way to the adoption of the

foregoing resolution and that said proceedings are to be recorded in the minutes of said Board of Commissioners.

I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY that proper notice of such regular meeting was given as required by North Carolina law, including the notice of the holding of such meeting by electronic means as required by Section 143-318.13 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said County this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

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Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

[SEAL]

##### 5. UPDATE: EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

County Manager Angela L. Harris provided an update on efforts underway to relocate the program to the Vance Granville Community College Franklin County Campus.

*As discussion began, Commissioner Foy lost connection to the meeting. Commissioner Bunn made a motion for a brief recess until Commissioner Foy could reconnect to the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Speed and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE." Minutes later, Commissioner Foy rejoined the session. Commissioner Jones made the motion to reconvene, seconded by Commissioner Schriver. The motion duly carried with all present voting "AYE."*

Mrs. Harris stated the successful Early College High School Program is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year in the county and facing space restraints. The program continues to operate out of modular units housed on the Franklin County Campus of Vance Granville Community College (VGCC). A solution has been reached by Franklin County Schools and VGCC to temporarily remedy the problem by moving Early College High School students into VGCC's newest building known as Building 5. In turn, VGCC staff in Building 5 would temporarily relocate to the Early College modular units.

Mrs. Harris said if all details are agreed upon by the Board of Commissioners, VGCC Board of Trustees and Board of Education, relocation could occur as early as this fall within the respective budgets of VGCC and Franklin County Schools.

Mrs. Harris stated the VGCC Board of Trustees met February 24, 2020 and voted to move forward with the condition the modulars could be leased for a period of up to five years with the agreement that within one-year plans for construction to expand VGCC facilities would be reached. Mrs. Harris stated Franklin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Rhonda Schuhler and VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais will present additional details to the Board on May 4, 2020.

Commissioner Schriver asked the County Manager for a written plan for expansion including projected costs.

No action was requested at this time.

## 6. UPDATE: RADIO PROJECT

County Manager Angela L. Harris provided an update and stated Mike Axford (Harris Corporation) and the county's consultant Nick Tusa (Tusa Consulting) were available for comment.

Mrs. Harris reminded the Board of its demand letter of February 17, 2020 to Harris Corporation, outlining specific defects that needed to be corrected by an April 30, 2020 deadline. Since then, she said, work has been done and Tusa provided the Board a report, in the form of a letter, providing an idea of what corrective measures had been taken.

This week Harris has been working with local fire departments and over the last several weeks, they have developed corrective software for some of the XL200 radios as well as a hardware change that will require hands-on correction. She said Harris also has plans for proper sanitation while working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Tusa has made clear that Harris made corrections in large to the items listed as 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the county's demand letter. Some of the items listed will require work that has to be done in the next couple of weeks. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Tusa recommended the completion date set for Harris be extended from April 30, 2020 to June 8, 2020. Mr. Tusa then suggested a deadline of June 19, 2020 for him and county personnel to complete final inspection. Staff supported the extension and felt it warranted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

County Attorney Pete Tomlinson stated he would connect with Mr. Tusa and prepare next steps if work is not completed by deadline. Further discussion on next steps warrants closed session discussion.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to extend time for Harris to complete radio repairs (June 8, 2020) and allow time for consultant inspection (June 19, 2020). The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Bunn and was approved 6 to 1. Commissioner Speed voted in opposition.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Schriver asked if the implementation of a curfew would in any way prevent the County from being able to apply for federal or state funding that would assist the county or its citizens. Mrs. Harris said she was not aware a curfew would cause ineligibility and noted the sense of urgency to impose the curfew had to do with containing the spread of the virus and saving lives.

Chairman Dunston noted the curfew was implemented in the week where the case count tripled and reports were received by law enforcement that many large gatherings were being held throughout the county and stay at home orders were being ignored. He said he felt the 9pm-6am curfew would be the most amenable and in the best interest of citizens in order to preserve life.

Commissioner Schriver reminded others of the authority granted to the Board Chairman in a State of Emergency as well as the additional responsibility placed upon the Chair. He thanked Chairman Dunston for making difficult decisions during the pandemic and asked if the Board should consider adjusting the curfew timeline whether giving it more “teeth” or getting rid of the curfew altogether. At this time, the curfew remains in effect.

## 8. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK’S COMMENTS

This is the time set aside for the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Clerk to the Board to report on various activities. The Board may also discuss other items of interest.

**Clerk to the Board Kristen G. King** – Ms. King thanked the Information Technology staff and administrative team for the research and testing phases of the electronic meeting. She stated future meetings, including budget sessions, would likely be held in the same fashion as the pandemic continues.

**Commissioner Dunston** – Commissioner Dunston thanked county staff and the Administration Team for pulling together a successful electronic meeting using Zoom technology during the historic COVID-19 pandemic.

**Commissioner Dickerson** – No comments were offered.

**Commissioner Foy** – Commissioner Foy stated his hope the COVID-19 pandemic will soon end in order that the State and County can begin functioning as it customarily does.

**Commissioner Bunn** – Commissioner Bunn thanked staff for putting together the electronic meeting via Zoom. He felt the meeting was successful using the technology.

**Commissioner Speed** – No comments were offered.

**Commissioner Jones** – Commissioner Jones stated he too would like to see activity return to normal in light of the pandemic, but felt it best done with the advice of those who can make recommendations on when it is safest in order to preserve life.

**Commissioner Schriver** – Commissioner Schriver echoed comments of thanks to staff for preparing the meeting in such a way it could be conducted electronically.

**County Manager Angela L. Harris** – Mrs. Harris congratulated the Town of Louisburg. It was recently awarded a \$2.4 million grant for its Industrial Park to be used for water and sewer and roadway improvements.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Speed. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting “AYE.”

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Sidney E. Dunston, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board

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