

July 6, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, 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, Cedric K. Jones, Sr., David Bunn, Harry L. Foy, Jr., Mark Speed and Michael Schriver.

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 consider approval of the consent agenda.

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

The items approved are as follows.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. March 12, 2020 Minutes
- B. June 1, 2020 Minutes
- C. June 4, 2020 Minutes
- D. June 15, 2020 Minutes
- E. Resolution Amending Tar River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- F. Annual Tax Settlement
- G. Releases, Adjustments, Refunds, and Tax Collection Report
- H. Home Care Community Block Grant Funding Plan



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**RESOLUTION TO AMEND FRANKLIN COUNTY ANNEX A TO
 THE TAR RIVER REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS: Franklin County is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and private property; and

WHEREAS: The County desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

WHEREAS: The County desires to participate in the Department of Homeland Security FY 2019 Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Program (HHPD); and

WHEREAS: North Carolina Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Section and The Region IV Office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the currently adopted Tar River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for compliance with HHPD program requirements and recommended amendments to the plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County hereby:

1. Adopts Amendment One to the Franklin County Annex A to the Tar River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably required to carry out the proposed dam risk analysis and identified program of repairs to the extent that such are eligible under the FY 2019 HHPD
3. Agrees to incorporate the salient points of this amendment into the next update of the Franklin County Annex A to the Tar River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2020

 Sidney E. Dunston
 Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

 Kristen G. King
 Clerk to the Board

ATTEST (Seal)

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 who wished to make public comments were required to register by emailing publiccomments@franklincountync.us before 12:00 pm (noon) on Monday, July 6, 2020 and include their name, address, comment topic, phone number they would call from and email address. Individuals were recognized (by video or phone call using the instructions listed at the beginning of this agenda) for comments in the order registered. The time limit for each speaker was five minutes with a total time limit set aside for informal public comments totaling 30 minutes.

Frank Winstead, 145 Victoria Court, Youngsville, NC

- Government science

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Board was asked to conduct a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Attorney-Client Privileged Communication.

Commissioner Speed made a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Schriver. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Foy voting in opposition.

Following closed session, Commissioner Bunn made a motion to enter back into open session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Speed and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to hear a report from Harris Corporation regarding the emergency radio system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Speed and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Mike Axford, Harris Corporation, commented on mitigation efforts relative to issues with the emergency radio system listed within a demand letter issued by the County in February 2020. He stated a majority of issues were related to configuration changes within the microwave backbone as part of the Phase 2 upgrade, all of which he says have now been addressed. Radio desense issue within close proximity has been addressed via hardware and software modifications. Mr. Axford stated all remedial work has now been completed and that the County's consultant Nick Tusa has confirmed identified issues have been mitigated. He said next steps are to take a look at maintenance items. A detailed report on items mitigated by Harris Corporation was provided to commissioners in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Schriver then made a motion to receive a report from Harris Corporation regarding the emergency radio system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Speed and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE." Further discussion on the topic is expected at the Board's August 3, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Speed then made a motion to allow representatives from all end users to participate in the board's next meeting on August 3, 2020 to provide input on the radio system and their experience with it since June 8, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foy and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

4. UPDATE: COVID-19

Health Director Scott LaVigne provided an update on the pandemic. He stated it was one of the worst days experienced since the pandemic began with 26 new cases reported. Since the last update he provided to the board, he said Franklin County had 184 new cases reported. Mr. LaVigne expects numbers will climb severely in the next two weeks due to a number of people not wearing face coverings and disregarding social distancing guidelines during Independence Day celebrations.

No action was requested or taken.

5. FLEMING FOREST ASSESSMENT ROLL

A public hearing was held June 15, 2020, to allow residents to voice any concerns regarding the preliminary assessment roll. No comments were received by the Board during the required 24-hour comment period. The Board previously consented to an assessment for roadway improvements within the Fleming Forest Subdivision on May 20, 2019 and awarded a paving contract for necessary work in accordance with NCDOT standards. The total cost for construction was \$229,215 to be assessed to the 81 homeowners within the development. All work has been completed and roadways within the development have formally been accepted by NCDOT for inclusion into the secondary road maintenance program. Approval of the final assessment roll will allow the Tax Administrator to begin collections. Homeowners have the opportunity to pay the assessment in full absent of finance charges if done so within sixty (60) days of approval or have the assessment financed over an eight (8) year period at three percent (3%) per annum.

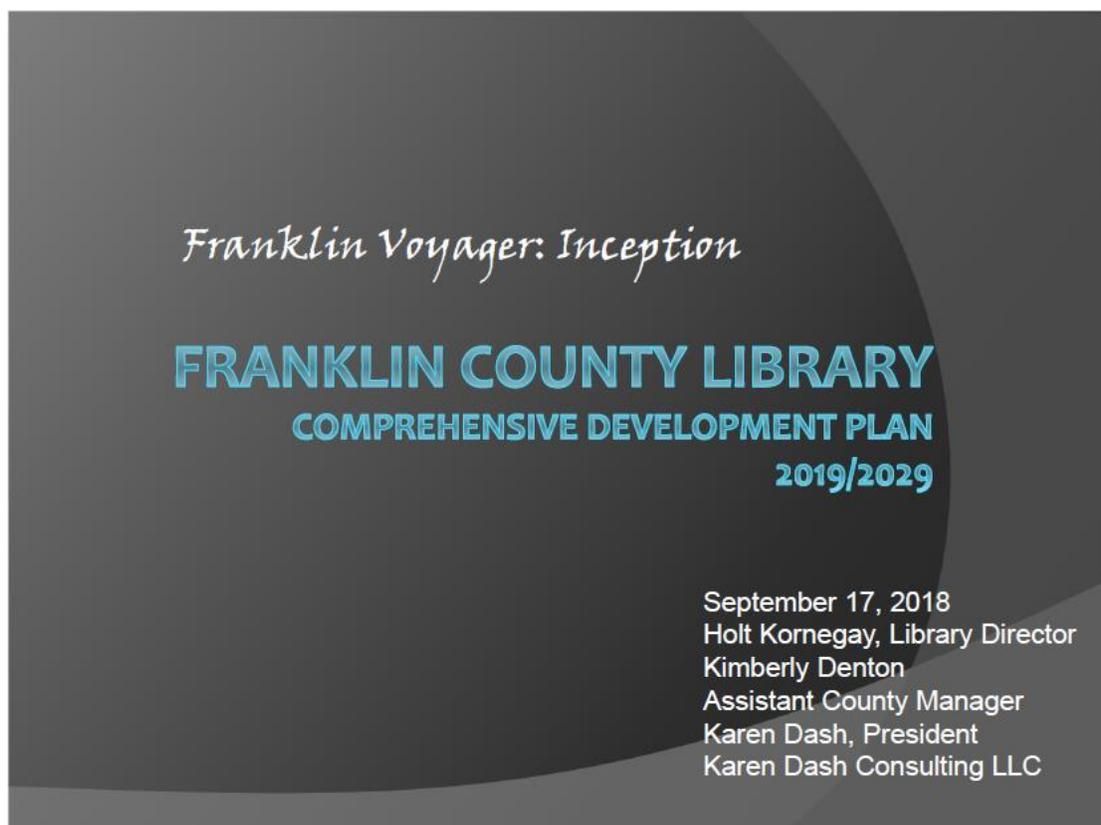
Commissioner Schriver made a motion to approve the final assessment roll. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

6. LIBRARY GRANT – FRANKLIN VOYAGER

Library Director Holt Kornegay provided details on the State Library of North Carolina Grant Award announced June 9 for Franklin County. In the category of Expanding Access, Franklin County received a \$100,000 Grant to fund the Franklin Voyager, an interactive bookmobile that provides bookmobile and information services/broadband access in a dynamic library platform. The Grant award requires a \$75,000 County match. Previous donations to the Library Department through estates and bequeaths total \$35,000 toward the required grant match.

The Library Department requested approval to move forward with the Grant Opportunity and for the Board of Commissioners to approve the remaining required matching funds of \$40,000. This Grant opportunity supports several goals of the Library Comprehensive Development Plan presented in March 2019 for the 2019-2029 time period.

Mr. Kornegay's presentation is below.



Franklin Voyager

Summary of Request:

Library Director Holt Kornegay will provide details on the State Library of North Carolina Grant Award announced on June 9 for Franklin County. In the category of Expanding Access, Franklin County received a \$100,000 grant to fund the Franklin Voyager, an interactive bookmobile that provides bookmobile and information services/broadband access in a dynamic library platform. The Grant award requires a \$75,000 County match. Previous donations to the Library Department through estates and bequeaths total \$35,000 toward the required grant match. The Library Department is requesting approval to move forward with this Grant Opportunity and for the Board of Commissioners to approve the remaining required matching funds of \$40,000. This Grant opportunity supports several goals of the Library Comprehensive Development Plan presented in March 2019 for the 2019-2029 time period.

Plan Identified Need

Library Outreach – Bookmobile Recommendations

- The bookmobile is an excellent way to extend the library's reach and services into communities.
- The library may consider investing in a larger bookmobile in order to increase service and offerings around the county.
- As a welcoming and friendly introduction to non-patrons, the bookmobile may encourage more people to visit the library for programming, services, and collections.
- Sites for bookmobile visits can include local businesses, youth sports events, doctors' offices, government agencies, or different parks.

Plan Identified Need

In addition to library books and items, the bookmobile might also offer:

Mobile hot spots for checkout, particularly in areas with no internet service.

Mobile programming, such as Children's Storytime's or Summer Reading events

Helpful information, brochures, or applications for county government services. For example, each month the bookmobile can include information about a particular county department.

Bookmobile patronage can help measure the specific level of need for library services in a particular area. If a community shows consistent interest in library services, the library might invest in a pop-up branch to further gauge community demand for services.

Franklin Voyager: Design, Finance and Build

Identify the best vehicular solution for current and future fiscal operations.

Tried and true fleet vehicles in service as Bookmobiles across the Country are good indices of great solutions.

Account for cost of ownership, accessibility, capacity and operator requirements.

Establish Implementation Timeline.

Franklin Voyager: Design, Finance and Build



Needed: A high load capacity vehicle configured to allow curbside accessibility, wheelchair accessibility and an excellent library experience that can be parked with ease.

Franklin Voyager: Design, Finance and Build



Operator considerations include easy load and lock solutions for library materials. Patron considerations include an ADA certified customer accessibility.

Franklin Voyager: Design, Finance and Build

Financing the fleet!

In response to need and economic hard times the library scaled down its bookmobile presence with the capable delivery package that still serves us; a 2010 Ford Transit Connect. We have just had it "refreshed," in order to introduce the Voyager theme and serve as the future ancillary service vehicle.

The estate of Mrs. Blair Tucker of Louisburg benefited the library specific to building capacity and that satisfies one of the three major LSTA goals that is a part of the State Library of North Carolina's five year plan of development. This project will meet that requirement. The estate of Ms. Brenda Stainback meant to benefit the library's outreach programs specifically as they were beloved and understood by her to have great reach and effect on the patrons that they served. These two funds provide \$35,000.00 of the needed match relative to LSTA funds.



Commissioner Bunn made a motion to approve the opportunity to participate and approve \$40,000 matching funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

7. PUBLIC UTILITIES COVID-19 PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT POLICY

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order 124 and 142 which prohibits utilities from disconnecting services for non-payment, charging late or delinquent fees, and offering a payment plan to pay off outstanding utility charges. The proposed policy outlines the Public Utilities process for advertising the payment plan, how to sign up for the payment plan, important dates, and what will happen if the payment plan is not met. Staff recommended the Board approve the policy effective July 6, 2020.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by Commissioner Dickerson. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

8. APPOINTMENTS

A. NCACC Voting Delegate

The Board was asked to designate a voting delegate to represent the County at the 113th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to be held by virtual platform in August 2020. The business session is scheduled for August 6, 2020. For more detail on the conference, visit <http://ncacc.org/809/2020-Annual-Conference>.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to appoint Commissioner Dunston, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

9. OTHER BUSINESS

As a result of the earlier closed session, Assistant County Manager Kim Denton presented two items for the Board to consider including an Emergency Water Purchase Agreement with the City of Raleigh and a Billing Services Agreement with City of Raleigh.

Emergency Water Purchase Agreement with the City of Raleigh

It became evident, during the water supply study, that the County would need an additional 200,000 gallons per day (GPD) in the event of simultaneous peak demand. The likelihood of that happening is slim, but the County still has to prepare for the possibility.

Staff, legal and consultants (the water team) recommend entry into an agreement with the City of Raleigh to construct a metered interconnection in order for the County to purchase on an emergency basis up to 200,000 GPD of water.

The highlights of this agreement are:

- Cannot purchase water for more than a total of 45 cumulative days
- Water will only flow through the meter when a peak demand situation occurs
- County is seeking a site to install water quality equipment, disinfection and pump
- County will continue to work on its master water supply study and look for short-term and long-term water sources to meet its present and future customer demand.

It is the water team's recommendation to approve this Emergency Water Purchase Agreement with the City of Raleigh and authorize the County Manager to finalize and sign the Agreement.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to approve this Emergency Water Purchase Agreement with the City of Raleigh and authorize the County Manager to finalize and sign the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bunn and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Billing Services Agreement with City of Raleigh

The Richland Hills subdivision is in the corporate limits of Wake Forest and lies on the county line. The subdivision consists of approximately 420 ± customer accounts. The Public Utilities provide water to the subdivision and the City of Raleigh provides sewer service. Currently the customers in Richland Hills receive two utility bills, one from Franklin County Public Utilities for their water use and another from the City of Raleigh for their sewer usage. The City of Raleigh has expressed interest in having the Franklin County Public Utilities Department bill for the sewer services. Currently, Franklin County Public Utilities reads all of the water meters every month and sends the readings to the City of Raleigh.

Staff, legal and consultants (the water team) discussed with the City of Raleigh and agreed to the attached Agreement where Franklin County Public Utilities will bill the Richland Hills customers for the City of Raleigh sewer charges. The proposed starting date of this Agreement will be September 1, 2020.

It is the water team's recommendation to approve this Billing Services Agreement with the City of Raleigh and authorize the County Manager to finalize and sign the Agreement.

Commissioner Schriver made a motion to approve this Billing Services Agreement with the City of Raleigh and authorize the County Manager to finalize and sign the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bunn and duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

10. BOARD, MANAGER AND CLERK'S COMMENTS

This was 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: Mrs. King reminded the Board to sign up for the annual NCACC Conference being offered virtually and free of charge.

Commissioner Sidney E. Dunston: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Shelley Dickerson: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Harry L. Foy, Jr.: No comments were offered.

Commissioner David Bunn: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Mark Speed: No comments were offered.

Commissioner Cedric K. Jones, Sr.: Commissioner Jones invited the board to attend an event July 22, 2020 at 9am at the Franklinton Town Hall. The Town of Franklinton and Franklinton Development will host a Downtown Private Open House showcasing new spaces and buildings available for new business, restaurants, coffee shops and apartments to lease or to sale.

Commissioner Michael Schriver: No comments were offered.

~~II. CLOSED SESSION~~

~~The Board was asked to conduct a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney-Client Privileged Communication.~~

At approximately 9:30pm, Commissioner Speed made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Schriver. The motion duly carried approval with all present voting "AYE."

Sidney E. Dunston, Chair

Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board