

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those Commissioners present were as follows: Chairman Archie B. Taylor, Jr., Commissioners Gordon Wilder, Deborah F. Brown, Dan Brummitt, Terry E. Garrison, and Thomas S. Hester, Jr.

Absent: Commissioner Eddie L. Wright.

Also present were Interim County Manager Robert M. Murphy, Finance Director David C. Beck, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

The purpose of the special meeting was to address the following:

1. Public Hearing - Extension of Bond Order
2. Farmers Market Heating System
3. Community Market Garden Project
4. Establishment of Board Goals
5. Other Items as Needed
6. Closed Session - Personnel Matter

As advertised, at 5:00 p.m., a public hearing was held for the proposed extension of the bond order entitled: "ORDER AUTHORIZING \$27,000,000 WATER BONDS" and the Board would immediately hear anyone who might wish to be heard on the question of whether the maximum time period for issuing bonds under such bond order should be extended from seven years to ten years.

Thereupon, Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. introduced the following order the title of which was read and copies of which had been distributed to each Commissioner.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF A BOND ORDER
AUTHORIZING \$27,000,000 WATER BONDS OF THE VANCE COUNTY
WATER DISTRICT**

BE IT ORDERED by for the Board of Commissioners for the County of Vance, North Carolina, in its capacity as the governing body of the Vance County Water District (the "District"):

1. That, after a public hearing and due consideration by the Board of Commissioners, the maximum time period for issuing bonds under the order entitled "Order Authorizing \$27,000,000 Water Bonds" of the District, adopted by the Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2008 and approved by the vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the District who voted thereon at a

referendum duly called and held on May 6, 2008, is hereby extended from seven years to ten years.

2. That this order shall take effect 30 days from the date of publication of said order.

As there was no one from the public who wished to speak on the matter of the validity of said order or the advisability of issuing said bonds, Chairman Archie B. Taylor, Jr. declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to adopt the Order Authorizing the Extension of a Bond Order Authorizing \$27,000,000 Water Bonds of the Vance County Water District. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

Farmers Market Heating System. Interim County Manager Robert M. Murphy reported that the Properties Committee met on March 10th and evaluated quotes received for the installation of a heating system at the Farmers Market. The Committee recommends awarding the project to Gupton Services at a price not to exceed \$20,000. Funds to pay for the project include a \$7,000 USDA grant, a \$5,000 Farm Bureau contribution, and the balance from remaining facility construction funds.

Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown to approve awarding the Farmers Market heating installation project to Gupton Services, Inc. at a price not to exceed \$20,000. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Gordon Wilder and unanimously approved.

Community Market Garden Market. Commissioner Deborah F. Brown reported that staff was approached by the City of Henderson and in turn spoke with the Properties Committee on March 10, 2015 regarding a proposal from Green Rural Development Organization to create a community market garden utilizing vacant REO property owned by the City and County. The City has gone on record supporting the concept and has asked the County to do likewise. The Board was provided with a Business Plan which outlines the proposal and requests participation by the City and County by donating up to 10 properties, which would serve as an in-kind donation used to leverage USDA Rural Development funds for the development of the community gardens. As proposed, the gardens would serve as a revitalization tool while providing fresh vegetables and entrepreneurship training targeted for those most in need. Green Rural Development intends to submit a grant application to the USDA by March 31st and has requested support allowing them to show in-kind donations from the City and County. No direct

financial contribution is requested. The Committee recommended that the Board authorize the chairman to execute a letter supporting the concept of the community market gardens while not financially obligating the County for any specific fund appropriations.

Commissioner Gordon Wilder asked who would administer this project. Mr. Henry Crews, Green Rural Development Organization Executive Director, stated that this project is a “market” garden. Citizens will become entrepreneurs by growing produce on site and selling the produce to the public. Vance Granville Community College will train these individuals on how to run their business. The Board suggested that our attorneys work to ensure that property title transfers are made in order that no legal action can be brought against the City or County as a result of this program. Commissioner Deborah F. Brown asked that the Business Plan be changed to indicate that the \$50,000 donation is an in-kind donation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, to authorize the chairman to execute a letter supporting the concept of the community market gardens while not financially obligating the County for any specific fund appropriations.

Establishment of Board Goals. During the Board of Commissioners’ goal setting session on February 11, 2015, several goals were established for FY 2015-16 as follows:

- Improve affordability of county water by increasing the number of customers by 5% and through other means by the end of FY 2016. (Commissioner Consensus)
- Dispose of vacant, county owned buildings by the end of FY2016. (Commissioner Consensus)
- Reactivate discussions with the City of Henderson on management of the recreation department. (Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee)
- Continue to plan for construction of a new animal shelter to replace the existing, inadequate facility within 2 years. (Commissioner Consensus)
- Implement re-organization of Fire and EMS by July 1, 2015. (Commissioner Consensus)
- Provide adequate funding to support Vance County Public Schools and Vance-Granville Community College to assist them with meeting or exceeding State standards in levels for student performance, program offerings, facilities, and maintenance to prepare students for 21st Century jobs or further training and education opportunities. (Commissioner Consensus)
- Develop a strategic plan for the county. (Planning and Environmental Committee)
- Establish and express desired economic development outcomes for EDC Board for next two years. (Planning and Environmental Committee)
- Support consolidation of common services with surrounding governments. (General Government Committee)

The Board discussed these goals and decided not to prioritize them in any particular order, but rather approve them as a whole as the Board’s goals for FY 2015-16.

Motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison to approve the nine goals as developed by the Board of Commissioners for FY 2015-16. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Gordon Wilder and unanimously approved.

Solar Farms. Commissioner Gordon Wilder stated that he learned today that Vance County has eight solar farms which have been approved through the County's zoning process, and at least 17 more applications are pending before the NC Utilities Commission. He suggested that the County closely review the current solar farm regulations to ensure that it includes insurance, bonding, clean-up, etc. The Board discussed this matter and referred it to the Planning/Environmental Committee to review and make a recommendation to the Vance County Planning Board. The Planning Board will, in turn, make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

At this time, motion was made by Commissioner Gordon Wilder, seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown, vote unanimous, to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Upon return to open session, and as there was no further business, at 7:10 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Gordon Wilder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed April 6, 2015.

Archie B. Taylor, Jr. (signed)
Archie B. Taylor, Jr., Chairman