

**RECORD OF A WORK SESSION HELD BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE ARMORY CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM ON WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 15, 2016 AT 6:00 PM.**

The February 15, 2017 Work Session was opened by Chairman Victor Hunt. Other Commissioners present: Bertadean Baker, Tare Davis, Jennifer Jordan Pierce and Walter Powell. Others in attendance: Interim County Manager Robert Murphy, Finance Officer Gloria Edmonds and County Attorney Jamie Wilkerson.

A moment of silence was followed by Department Head Report from Public Works (Solid Waste), Marshall Brothers, Department Director.

Citizen Comments:

**Dr. Cosmos George** – expressed his concern regarding the digital divide. NC School systems have until July 2017 as deadline to establish full internet based learning for High School students. Warren County’s internet availability is lacking, children will be at a great disadvantage.

Items of Discussion:

- **Discussion on Solar Farms – Ken Bowman, EDC Director, Gerry Dudzik, COO and Benny Finch, Site Acquisition Director for Carolina Solar:** building 65 megawatt solar farm south of Peete Farm Road, gave a brief overview and timeline.
- **Electric Car Charging Station – Robert Davie, Warrenton Town Manager,** requested Board of Commissioners consider allowing the Town to establish a charging station on the Memorial Library parking lot. Members of Town Administration will meet with members of County Administration to work out the details.
- **Parks & Recreation – Richard “Dickie” Williams, Director**
  - A. **All Star Team Travel Policy,** last year the County sponsored the team to national competition in the amount of \$10,000. Interim County Manager Murphy was tasked to bring options for Commissioners to consider.
  - B. **PARTF Grant;** funding for a three (3) year project to develop the Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park in Soul City with a 100% match at \$111,406 was referred to March 6, 2017 regular Board of Commissioners meeting.
- **Senior Center Boards Reorganization – Alicia Giddiens, Director** proposed combining advisory boards to make it easier to recruit membership and cut down on duplication of efforts. Item was referred to March 6, 2017 regular monthly meeting.
- **Update on Emergency Services / EMS Facility – Oakley Collier Architects, PA** gave a brief overview of proposed work ad schedules. Com Davis expressed concern regarding tax re-valuation totals, upcoming capital projects and school construction needs. Board will take time to review costs and needs.
- **Proposed Revisions to Agenda Process – Robert Murphy, Interim Co. Manager,** gave a review of proposed changes to agenda structure and process.
- **Employee of the Quarter Recognition – Lisa Alston, HR Director;** future discussion was referred to the April 19<sup>th</sup> work session. HR Manager was asked to consider involving public nominations and input from Supervisors & Department Heads.
- **Board/Committee/Commission Updates – Commissioner Jennifer Pierce:** Introduction of the idea that Commissioners give a brief overview (preferably in writing and presented as information) of the business of the various boards and committees that we serve on. Since we have so many vacancies, hopefully this will bring awareness to the importance of those boards/committees and spark interest for citizens to serve.

Work session was adjourned at 8:15 pm by motion of Pierce, seconded by Baker.



Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk