

MINUTES FROM A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZENS COMMENTS CONCERNING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) LOAN TO FUND PROPOSED EMERGENCY SERVICES HEADQUARTERS FACILITY CONSTRUCTION HELD BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE WARREN COUNTY ARMORY CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM ON MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016 AT 5:55 P.M.

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Barry Richardson. Other Commissioners present: Bertadean Baker, Tare Davis, Victor Hunt and Jennifer Jordan. Others in attendance: County Manager Linda T. Worth, Finance Director Gloria Edmonds and County Attorney Chuck Kitchen.

Clerk to the Board Angelena Kearney-Dunlap read the Notice of Public Hearing:

**Warren County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby served that the Warren County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing to hear citizen comments regarding proposed USDA Rural Development Loan to finance construction of Emergency Services Headquarters facility for Monday May 2, 2016 at 5:45 PM to be held in the Warren County Armory Civic Center–Meeting Room, 501 US Hwy 158 Business, East Warrenton, NC.

Written comments will be received at the following address until, Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 4:30 pm:

**Linda T. Worth, Warren County Manager
602 W. Ridgeway St, Post Office Box 619
Warrenton, North Carolina 27589
(252) 257-3115 phone (252) 257-5971 fax
lindaworth@warrencountync.gov**

All interested citizens are urged to attend this public hearing.

Barry Richardson, Chairman, Warren County Board of Commissioners

Warren County Manager Linda T. Worth gave an overview of the proposed Emergency Services Headquarters Facility project and estimated budget.

Commissioner Davis expressed concerns of the almost \$6.7 million cost.

Clerk to the Board read the Public Hearing Procedures.

Public Comments were as follows:

Ron Skow – agreed with County Manager in the need for the facility, does pricing include all the equipment? 21,000 sq ft sounds like more than needed as well as \$6.7 million. Former EMS director quoted 1.2 and 2 million. Questioned if this facility would replace the Enterprise Station?

Answer – Staff in current EMS base would be transferred to the new facility.

Lynn Henry, Chief – Macon VFD: appreciates County Manager's report. There are inadequacies in many agencies. The construction quote is high, can we get it down? Saw in the plans, where fire training grounds are proposed. Should have someone in fire service involved in the planning process, do not want to get in the building and outgrow it too early.

Bill Heflin – USDA loan would have an annual debt expense of \$280,000 and multiply it by years of the loan, it is \$11 + million for the project. Does not know if the county has that type money.

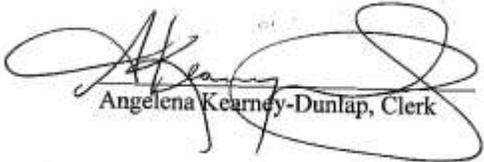
County Manager Worth stated that the project can be scaled back, need direction from the Board on what to reduce. E-911 Center needs their back-up system in place within 1 year to 18 months.

Dennis Paschall, Emergency Services Director stated, it can be done in stages. An EMS driver training space is a pressing need, fire grounds for training is a long term goal.

Chairman Richardson stated that proposed facility has been a long-time concern for him. Things are scattered about, there are health & safety issues where EMS is located now. Our duty is to protect employees & volunteers, make sure they have adequate resources, etc.

Commissioner Davis stated; we have several projects coming up that will obligate extensive funds. We want to give citizens the best, but we have a lot of projects going on that we have to pay for.

On motion of Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, the public hearing was adjourned.



Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk