

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, September 19, 2016

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Jeff Rose
Vice Chairman Gary Roark
Commissioner Brien Richardson
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner William Sands*

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Chairman Rose called the meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Chairperson Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Vice Chairman Gary Roark and Commissioner Brien Richardson

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Sands offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 16-024](#) September 6, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-19-16 September 6, 2016 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to approve the September 6, 2016 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

V. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[16-083](#)

Michelle Ball, Community Development Planner with High Country Council of Governments - Public Hearing for Closeout of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commerce Fellows Grant

Attachments: [09-19-16 Public Hearing-Closeout of CDBG Commerce Fellows Grant](#)

Michelle Ball, Community Development Planner with High Country Council of Governments, provided information regarding closeout of the Commerce Fellows Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Grant funds in the amount of \$27,476.04 were awarded for local government staff to take training at UNC School of Government. She provided a breakdown of how the funding was allocated. Chairman Rose opened the Public Hearing at 9:08 a.m. No comment was offered. The hearing was closed at 9:09 a.m. Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to approve closeout of the Commerce Fellows Community Development Block Grant. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-082

Jane Blackburn, Library Regional Director - Annual Report

Jane Blackburn, regional director for the Ashe County Public Library, and Suzanne Moore, county librarian, presented the Annual Report for the Library. A PowerPoint presentation was provided which highlighted service priorities, statistics regarding users and programs, grants applied for, the budget, and the Library's 5-year Work Plan.

PRES
16-084

Phil Howell, Director of Communications - Ashe Communications Primary Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Backup Plan & Lease Agreement Approval

Attachments: [09-19-16 Communications PSAP Backup Plan](#)

[09-19-16 Communications PSAP Lease with Partnership for Children](#)

Phil Howell, director of Ashe County Communications, provided information regarding the Primary Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Backup Plan for the 911 Communications Center, which is mandated by the state. He explained that Family Central is the best location for placement of the 911 backup equipment because County infrastructure is already in place there. Expenses will include leasing the radio equipment and costs for the generator and wiring. Mr. Howell explained the recurring cost for the lease at Family Central, and the cost savings realized by placing the center at Family Central. The equipment must be in place by July 1, 2017. Chairman Rose made a motion to approve both the PSAP Backup Plan and the PSAP Lease Agreement with Ashe County Partnership for Children. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

September 19, 2016

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,482,398 to \$2,488,898; this increased appropriation to be made with an appropriation of \$5,116 from the donations received from the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and \$1,384 (Unencumbered Cash (Fund Balance)) in the General Fund.

To increase the appropriation for the department of Communications from \$500,313 to \$513,268; this increased appropriation to be made with an appropriation of \$12,955 which was set aside in the Contingency Fund during budget deliberations for when the PSAP Backup Plan was finished and approved by the Commissioners.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-085

Sheriff Williams - Budget Amendments for K-9 Unit

Attachments: [09-19-16 K-9 Unit Budget Amendments](#)

Sheriff Williams introduced the new drug dog at the Sheriff's Office, Nyla Jean. He explained that donations have paid for the dog. Donations were received from citizens attending the recent Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and from Uplands Reach in Wilkes County. Sheriff Williams presented the following budget amendments for approval by the Board. The first request was for the commissioners to approve an appropriation of \$5000 to pay for the K-9 from \$5,116 received in donations. The second request was for the commissioners to approve \$1384 (\$1500 minus \$116) to be placed in the K-9 line item of the Sheriff's Office budget to pay for food and veterinarian expenses for the new K-9. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Vice Chairman Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

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Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-086**Barbara McCoy, Doug Helms & Nancy Kautz - Safe Kids Program Update**

Barbara McCoy provided an update on the Safe Kids Program in Ashe County. The program began in 1994 by providing car seats in the county. Safe Kids came into effect in 2008 when multiple programs were added. There are now 7 car seat technicians working through the Safe Kids Program in Ashe County, from Ashe Medics, the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, and Ashe Memorial Hospital. Ms. McCoy listed the many programs that Safe Kids now includes, some of which are: safety helmets for children, bike rodeos, Safety Field Day, drug safety, medicine drop, playground safety, fire safety, furniture tip over prevention, poison control, and teen driving safety.

PRES
16-087**Tax Administrator Keith Little - Monthly Tax Report & Property Tax Exemption Requests**

Attachments: [09-19-16 Monthly Tax Report - August 2016](#)
[09-19-16 Property Tax Exemption Applications](#)

Tax Administrator Keith Little submitted the monthly tax releases and refunds for August 2016 at \$11413.01. Also presented were the Regular Billing Collection Report and the Motor Vehicles Collection Report through August 2016. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the August 2016 Release/Refund reports. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

The next item for consideration included two applications for property tax exemption submitted by Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Two parcels were acquired by the church in 2015

and property tax exemption applications were not submitted to the Tax Office by the January 2016 deadline. According to N.C.G.S. 105-282.1 (a1), an application for exemption filed after the closing date for the listing period must be approved by the board of county commissioners. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the property tax exemption applications for Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

PRES
16-088

Planning Director Adam Stumb - High Impact Land Use Ordinance Update

Attachments: [09-19-16 High Impact Land Use Ordinance Update](#)

Planning Director Adam Stumb reviewed changes made to the proposed High Impact Land Use Ordinance. Two of the changes involve distance requirements and include a requirement setback of 2000 feet between the high impact use and the protected site, and a setback of 1000 feet between the high impact use and the property line. Another change was made to remove two classes of high impact uses and move everything under one class. Also, discretion was given to the administrator to consult with other state and local agencies as needed. The other agencies will have the option to make recommendations, but final approval remains with the administrator. Regarding the variance procedure in the ordinance, adjoining property owners will be notified if an application is made for a high impact industry. Mr. Stumb told the Board that a public hearing will be held at the commissioners' meeting on October 3rd, and a draft of the ordinance will be circulated to interested parties and the media.

PRES
16-089

Eric Woolridge, Destination by Design - Northern Peaks Trail Update

Attachments: [09-19-16 Northern Peaks Trail Update](#)

Eric Woolridge with Destination by Design, a regional design firm based in Boone, updated the Board on the Northern Peaks Trail project. The 35-mile trail will connect the Town of Boone to the Town of West Jefferson and to Mount Jefferson over the Northern Peaks Range and is a year-long endeavor. Funding partners include the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority, the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, Ashe County, the West Jefferson Tourism Development Authority, Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, and in the near future, the Town of Boone. Destination by Design has a contract with High Country Pathways, a local regional trail planning group. The project will promote local tourism and economic development opportunities. Forty percent of the land on which the trail will be built is public land which brings the challenge of how to provide public access without undermining the natural resources on the land. The first phase of work will be to lay out the trail and identify trail easements. Also a branding package will be developed. Their goal is to have the trail achieve state trail status which will open up the possibility of many grant opportunities. Two public meetings will be held to gain citizen input on the trail.

VI. Public Comment

No comment was offered.

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

MISC 16-020 Road Petition for the Addition of Chestnut Ridge Drive to the State-maintained Road System

Attachments: [09-19-16 Road Petition - Chestnut Ridge Drive](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve a road petition for the addition of Chestnut Ridge Drive to the state-maintained road system. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

MISC 16-021 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Report Video

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****X. Adjournment**

Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Roark and Commissioner Richardson

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.

Jeff Rose, Chairman

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board