

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 20, 2017

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairman William Sands
Vice Chair Paula Perry
Commissioner Jeff Rose
Commissioner Gary Roark
Commissioner Larry Rhodes*

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

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

Present: 5 - Commissioner Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Gary Roark and Commissioner Paula Perry

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Chairman Perry offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**MIN 17-13** February 20, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to table approval of the February 20, 2017 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

MIN 17-11 March 6, 2017 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [03-20-17 March 6, 2017 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the March 6, 2017 Regular Session minutes as written. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

MIN 17-12 March 6, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the March 6, 2017 Executive Session minutes as written. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

MIN 17-14 March 9, 2017 Emergency Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [03-20-17 March 9, 2017 Emergency Meeting Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the March 9, 2017 Emergency Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with

unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an item to Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Legal Issues to update the Board on the existing Appalachian Materials lawsuit. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

V. Public Comment

No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

PRES 17-17 Appalachian District Health Department Director Beth Lovette - Annual Report

Attachments: [03-20-17 Appalachian District Health Department Annual Report](#)

Beth Lovette, director of the Appalachian District Health Department, presented the Health Department's annual report. The Appalachian District Health Department is one of only six district health departments in the state. Being a district department is driven by population which saves money and resources. The counties included in the district are Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties. The Health Department encompasses three main areas that serve the citizens in our three-county region. Those include clinical services such as immunizations, pre-natal care, lab services, and dental services. There are prevention services, such as septic and well permitting, food and lodging inspections, and tobacco control programs. The Health Department also works to track communicable diseases and other health data across our district.

PRES 17-18 Larry Nelson - Comments Regarding Ashe County Noise Ordinance & Animal Control Ordinance

Attachments: [03-20-17 Barking Dogs Ordinance Request](#)

Mr. Nelson was not able to attend the meeting. The Board opened discussion regarding a complaint received last fall about barking dogs. Chairman Sands read minutes from the October 24, 2016 Board meeting when a citizen asked the Board to consider adopting an ordinance to address barking dogs. Animal Control Director Joe Testerman told the Board that he talked with animal control officers in approximately 15 North Carolina counties similar in size to Ashe County or surrounding Ashe County. Those counties that have an ordinance to address barking dogs are enforced by the Sheriff's Office, but a lot of counties do not enforce regulations because they are not enforced in court. It was recommended for individuals that are having problems with neighbors that have barking dogs to remedy this issue through civil court. Commissioner Roark also mentioned that there is a lot of acreage in the Farmland Preservation Program in Ashe

County which has to be taken into consideration. Mr. Testerman added that the County does enforce issues with roaming dogs. The commissioners were in agreement to not take any action on creating an ordinance to address barking dogs.

PRES 17-19 Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Emergency Operations Plan Amendments

Attachments: [03-20-17 Emergency Operations Plan Amendments](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented amendments to the Emergency Operations Plan. Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the amendments as presented. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

PRES 17-20 A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE) Director Deanna Stoker - Annual Report

Attachments: [03-20-17 A.S.H.E. Annual Report](#)

Deanna Stoker, director of A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE), presented the annual report for ASHE to the commissioners. There was a 65% increase in domestic violence crimes and sexual assault in 2015. In 2014 there were 146 people directly impacted by domestic violence and that number increased to 207 in 2015. From July 2016 through the end of February 2017, ASHE has assisted 184 people proving that this year may top last year's totals. Not only does ASHE assist victims, they also provide community education and outreach. Rev. Michael Lea, senior pastor with West Jefferson First Baptist Church and highly involved with the Homeless Coalition in Ashe County, spoke to the assistance they receive from ASHE for people that come to them that are in need. Both organizations also receive assistance from ASHE in the form of training and resources. He told the Board that the majority of people that receive assistance from ASHE are children and women, largely due to domestic violence.

PRES 17-21 Ashe Services for Aging (ASA) Executive Director Patricia Calloway - Home & Community Care Block Grant Planning Committee Membership Approval

Attachments: [03-20-17 H&CCBG Committee Membership](#)

Patricia Calloway, executive director of Ashe Services for Aging, asked the Board to approve membership of the Home & Community Care Block Grant Planning Committee. The Block Grant monies are used to provide services such as home-delivered meals, congregate meals, adult day care, in-home aid services, and transportation services. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the 14-member Home & Community Care Block Grant Planning Committee. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

PRES 17-22 Sheriff Terry Buchanan - Request to Convert a Lieutenant Detective

Position in the Narcotics Division to a Lieutenant Deputy Sheriff's Position in the Patrol Division

Attachments: [03-20-17 Sheriff's Office Position Change](#)

Sheriff Terry Buchanan made a request to change a Lieutenant Detective Position in the Narcotics Division to a Lieutenant Deputy Sheriff's Position in the Patrol Division. Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

[PRES 17-23](#) Finance Officer Sandra Long - Approval of Fund Balance Appropriation to Partnership for Children for USDA Loan Payoff & Necessary Abatements

Attachments: [03-20-17 Partnership for Children Loan Payoff for Family Central Facility](#)

Finance Officer Sandra Long made a request for the Board to approve a fund balance appropriation to the Partnership for Children for the USDA loan payoff. At the February 20, 2017 Board meeting, the commissioners agreed to pay off the loan or to take over payments of the loan for the Family Central building. County Manager Sam Yearick believes the best way to proceed is to pay off the loan through a fund balance appropriation and not involve the Local Government Commission through borrowing money to pay off the loan. The County will take over the Family Central facility on April 1st. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to pay off the loan with USDA for the Family Central facility through an appropriation of \$223,025 from the County Fund Balance. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Roark made a request for the Board to appropriate \$60,000 to pay for an air study at Family Central due to asbestos being in the building. Chairman Sands would like the county manager and county maintenance director to talk with Kim Barnes, executive director of Partnership for Children, before an air study is done. Commissioner Roark referenced the need to tear down the Eller House. Commissioner Rhodes suggested looking at the possibility of giving the Eller House to Habitat for Humanity and would like more study done before an appropriation of funds is made. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to table the request for a \$60,000 appropriation to pay for an air study at Family Central. Vice Chair Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

March 20, 2017

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Human Services from \$1,348,999 to \$1,572,024; this increased appropriation of \$223,025 to be made with an appropriation of unencumbered cash (fund balance) from the general fund - fund balance.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

GENERAL SESSION**Appointments****APP 17-4** Voluntary Farmland Preservation Advisory Board Appointments - Keith Barlow & Todd Young

Attachments: [03-20-17 Farmland Preservation Advisory Board Appointments](#)

Commissioner Roark made a motion to appoint Keith Barlow and Todd Young to the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Other Items for Consideration**MISC 17-12** North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Monthly Video Update**VII. Commissioner Comments****VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****ES 17-4** GS 143-318.11(a) (6) - Personnel Issues

Commissioner Roark made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) and to discuss personnel issues as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6). Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:14 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:17 a.m.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to appoint Mike Hobbs, real property appraisal supervisor, to the position of interim tax administrator as provided for under G.S. 105-294. Vice Chairman Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Rose voting in opposition.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Against: 1 - Commissioner Rose

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

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.