

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 19, 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. in the commissioners' meeting room 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**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

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

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

Chairman Sands opened the floor for Public Comment.

Bob Egan, who lives off Silas Creek Road and moved to Ashe County from Dare County six years ago, spoke to the Board regarding a mobile home that burned two years ago. The mobile home is located close to where he lives. He contacted County staff requesting to have the mobile home removed. The owner of the mobile home does not have the money to move it. Mr. Egan also spoke regarding a house in Piney Creek that burned over a year ago. He asked why the County doesn't do something about these properties. In addition, Mr. Egan spoke to the Board about Old Field Creek Road which is what he considers the worst road in the County containing potholes and ruts. He asked why the County does not repair the road.

Judy Bare of West Jefferson spoke to the Board regarding the open position for a Family Consumer Sciences Agent. She explained that the people interviewed for the position had no experience in the responsibilities required of this position. Ms. Bare spoke of the importance of this position to the citizens of Ashe County. The County is responsible for a portion of the salary for the position and she expressed the need for this position to be approved in the budget.

Rose Price of Creston read a letter from Sheriff Buchanan to the Board of Commissioners when he was appointed sheriff. She addressed several statements made in the letter.

No further comments were made.

VI. Presentations

PRES 17-64 9:05 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed FY2017/18 County Budget

Attachments: [06-19-17 Proposed County Budget FY2017-18](#)

A public hearing was held regarding adoption of the County's FY2017/18 Budget. Chairman Sands opened the public hearing for the FY2017/18 County of Ashe Budget at 9:13 a.m. No comment was offered and the public hearing was closed at 9:14 a.m. Commissioner Rose made a motion to appropriate \$17,500 to Cooperative Extension to fund 1/3 of the Family Consumer Sciences position with the salary and benefits to be shared equally between Ashe County and N.C. State University. This will increase the Cooperative Extension budget from \$354,478 to \$371,978. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Rhodes then made a motion to adopt the FY2017/18 County Budget at \$43,307,970 and to:

Set the ad valorem tax rate at - 44.3 cents (per \$100 of assessed value) increasing the ad valorem tax rate 1 cent to be designated for Ashe Memorial Hospital, and to set fire tax rates (per \$100 of assessed value) as follows:

Creston - \$.060

Fleetwood - \$.040

Glendale Springs - \$.070

Lansing - \$.040

Warrensville - \$.068

Jefferson - \$.029

New River - \$.040

West Jefferson - \$.017

Laurel Springs - \$.040

Pond Mountain - \$.080

Todd - \$.080

Deep Gap - \$.040

SWDF (Solid Waste Disposal Fees)

Household - \$130.00 (Remaining the same)

Commercial - \$ 62.00

Industrial - \$ 52.00

LCID - \$ 42.00

Vice Chairman Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
Adopted

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

PRES 17-65 9:10 AM - Public Hearing - Adoption of Proposed FY2017/18 Economic Development Budget

Attachments: [06-19-17 Proposed Economic Development Budget FY2017-18](#)

Chairman Sands opened the public hearing for the FY2017/18 Economic Development budget at 9:17 a.m. No comment was offered and the public hearing was closed at 9:18 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the FY2017/18 Economic Development Budget as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

PRES 17-66 9:15 AM - Public Hearing - Building Reuse Program Grant Appropriation for Northwestern Emergency Vehicles to Renovate the Vacant Tigra Facility

Attachments: [06-19-17 Northwestern Emergency Vehicle Building Reuse Program](#)
[06-19-17 Building Reuse Grant-NWWesternEmerVeh](#)

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr told the Board that Northwestern Emergency Vehicles will be creating 30 new jobs over the next four years due to expanded production resulting from the purchase of the old Tigra facility. Northwestern Emergency Vehicles received a Building Reuse Grant in the amount of \$187,500 that will be used for renovation of the building. A 5% funding match (\$9357) from the County is required in the grant. Chairman Sands opened the Public Hearing at 9:20 a.m. No comment was offered. Chairman Sands closed the Public Hearing at 9:21 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve \$9357 in matching funds required by the Building Reuse Grant for Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

PRES 17-67 9:20 AM - Lou Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League Director - Resolution Supporting Action Regarding the Air Permit Issued by the Division of Air Quality for the Glendale Springs Asphalt Plant

Lou Zeller, director of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, presented a resolution supporting action regarding the air quality permit issued by the Division of Air Quality for the Glendale Springs Asphalt Plant. Mr. Zeller reviewed his prior presentation and the letter requesting reopening of the air quality permit for the proposed asphalt plant in Glendale Springs which was presented at the June 5, 2017 meeting of the commissioners. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. Commissioner Rhodes requested

that the resolution be forwarded to local legislators, state representatives, and the governor. The Board agreed and the motion passed with unanimous approval.

At the close of the Commissioner Comments portion of the meeting, County Attorney John Kilby requested to update the Board on the issue. He explained that the resolution just presented by Mr. Zeller was revised this morning by the attorney representing Ashe County in the lawsuit brought by the asphalt plant. The county attorney requested the commissioners adopt the revised resolution which includes five specific resolves addressing issues with the asphalt plant including not only air quality but water quality. He will also obtain advice from counsel on who to direct the resolution to. Commissioner Rose then made a motion to rescind the previous motion made by Commissioner Rhodes and to now approve the amended resolution presented by County Attorney Kilby. 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 17-68 9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [06-19-17 Tax Report-May 2017](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the May 2017 Monthly Tax Report in the amount of \$15474.44. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Next, the tax administrator presented seven late Present Use applications. General Statute requires that these applications be approved by the Board. Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the Present Use applications 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

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

APP 17-10 Department of Social Services Board Appointment

Attachments: [06-19-17 DSS Board Appointment](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to appoint Margie Roten to the Department of Social Services Board. Commissioner Rhodes 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 17-21 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Monthly Video Update

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 17-11 Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues as provided for under General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6). Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:30 a.m., with no action taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 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.

William Sands, Chairman

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