

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, December 17, 2018

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

Chairperson Todd McNeill

Vice Chair William Sands

Commissioner Larry Rhodes

Commissioner Paula Perry

Commissioner Larry Dix

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

Chairman McNeill 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 Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Paula Perry, Commissioner Todd McNeill and Commissioner Larry Dix

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Dix offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

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

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner McNeill and Commissioner Dix

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public. No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[18-341](#)

9:05 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [12-17-18 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Tax Report for November 2018. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner McNeill and Commissioner Dix

[PRES](#)
[18-342](#)

9:10 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert & Ivan Roten - Request for Consideration of Untimely Present Use Value Application

Attachments: [12-17-18 Present Use Value Late Application Consideration](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented a request from Ivan Roten for consideration to approve an untimely Present Use Value (PUV) application. General Statutes require that an application for continued use be submitted within 60 days of ownership changes. He explained that the property was transferred from Ivan Roten as the individual owner to

an LLC for the purpose of making things easier for his children when they inherit the property. General Statutes also mandate that the tax administrator cannot rule on the request and the property owner has to come before the Board of Commissioners with the request for a ruling. Mr. Roten asked the Board to consider his request to approve the late application for PUV. He explained that the property continues to be used for agricultural purposes. The floor was then opened for questions from the Board. Commissioner Rhodes stated that in the past the Board has always denied untimely applications and has to remain consistent in their decisions and therefore made a motion to deny the late PUV application for Ivan Roten. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Sands, Rhodes and McNeill voting in favor. Commissioners Dix and Perry voted in opposition.

Approved

For: 3 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Commissioner McNeill

Against: 2 - Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dix

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

MISC 18-61 Announcement of Meetings that Occur on a Holiday in 2019

Attachments: [12-17-18 Meetings that Occur on a Holiday in 2019](#)

Chairman McNeill stated that there are two Board meetings in 2019 that will occur on a holiday, both Martin Luther King Day and Labor Day. These meetings will be held on Tuesday, the next business day after the holiday as stated in the Board's Rules and Procedures.

Commissioner Dix spoke regarding changing the meeting times of the Board of Commissioners. Chairman McNeill suggested the Board hold a town meeting several times during the year. Commissioner Perry stated that some counties hold one morning meeting and one evening meeting each month. No action was taken.

MISC 18-62 Approval of County Cleaning Contract

Attachments: [12-17-18 Cleaning Contract](#)

Acting County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that the cleaning and mowing contracts are normally negotiated prior to the budget year and before the contracts expire. Since the contracts have both expired, they are currently being paid on a month-to-month basis and will be bid as one and one-half year contracts. During the 2018 budget work sessions, the Board asked that the cleaning and mowing contracts be placed out to bid.

Acting County Manager Adam Stumb stated that the two bids received for the one and one-half year cleaning contracts are: Tina Carson - \$117,000 and Clean Break Commercial Cleaning - \$104,400. The contract requirements include additional information that will make the scope of work more clear and will include what to expect when work is not done properly.

The floor was opened for questions from the Board. Commissioner Dix asked how the contracts are being evaluated and how feedback is given. Acting Manager Stumb

answered that in the past evaluation and feedback has been informal and there is currently no structured evaluation process. He will talk with department heads to make sure that evaluations from each department are provided. Commissioner Dix stated concern for the Request for Proposal (RFP) requirement that the the lowest responsible bidder be selected. He stated that in his past experience, the lowest bidder may not always be the best applicant. Manager Stumb answered that the mowing and cleaning bids are taken through an informal bidding process and it will be at the commissioners discretion to accept the lowest bid. Vice Chairman Sands asked about references for Clean Break Commercial Cleaning. Manager Stumb stated that he talked with the Health Department about their reference. Chairman McNeill noted that Mr. Carson is here to answer questions from the Board regarding his bid for the cleaning contract. Mr. Carson has had the current contract for the last four to five years. He told the Board that his employees must pass all background checks and that he has very little employee turnover. He pays well which helps to retain employees. Mr. Carson told the Board that he has hired a supervisor to oversee cleaning. Cleaning supervisor Barry Cox works for the State and is located on the third floor of the Courthouse during his day job. Mr. Cox explained that since he became supervisor he has been contacting department heads to see if they have any problems with the way their offices are being cleaned. Commissioner Dix stated concern about awarding a contract for one and one-half years and the fact that more information is needed from the other company that bid on the cleaning project.

MISC 18-63 Approval of County Mowing Contract

Attachments: [12-17-18 Mowing Contract](#)

Acting County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that the cleaning and mowing contracts are normally negotiated prior to the budget year and before the contracts expire. Since the contracts have both expired, they are currently being paid on a month-to-month basis and will be bid as one and one-half year contracts. During the 2018 budget work sessions, the Board asked that the cleaning and mowing contracts be placed out to bid.

Changes to the new mowing contract were listed by the acting county manager. The following companies submitted bids for the one and one-half year mowing contract: Coles - \$70,500, Ashe County Mowing - \$51,710, and High Country Landscaping and Mowing - \$121,340.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 18-35 G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) - Real Property

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss real property issues. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:53 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. with no action taken.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner McNeill and Commissioner Dix

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner McNeill and Commissioner Dix

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.