

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

6:00 PM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner Paula Perry
Commissioner Larry Dix*

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 6:00 PM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Chairman McNeill called the Regular Session of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes**MIN 19-45** August 19, 2019 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-03-19 August 19, 2019 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the August 19, 2019 Regular Session Minutes and the August 19, 2019 Executive Session Minutes with an amendment to PRES 19:51 and PRES 19:52 of the Regular Session Minutes from stating "Tabled" to stating "No Action Taken". Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners McNeill, Rhodes, Sands, and Perry voting in favor; Commissioner Dix was excused from the meeting.

In reference to the above motion, Commissioner Rhodes stated that any changes made to the agenda after the agenda has been approved should be done by a motion approved by the Board. A vote was not made by the Board to remove these items and in the future the Board needs to follow the proper procedure.

Approved as Amended

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Dix

MIN 19-46 August 19, 2019 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the August 19, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Dix

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Health & Human

Services and the County of Ashe, 2) Resolution to Sell K9 Raven to Watauga County, and 3) Monthly Tax Report for September 2019. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Rhodes, McNeill, Sands, and Perry voting in favor; Commissioner Dix was excused.

Commissioner Dix arrived at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Chairman McNeill stated that items for the agenda need to be submitted to the clerk to the board no later than 8:00 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. He explained the reasoning behind that deadline. Commissioner Rhodes stated that when items are added after the commissioners' packets have been finalized and sent, the commissioners are not able to research the item prior to the meeting and others on the Sunshine List are not aware that the item will be considered.

Adopted

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Dix

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[19-154](#)

6:05 PM - County Librarian Suzanne Moore - Annual Library Report

Attachments: [09-03-19 Library Annual Report FY2018-19](#)

County Librarian Suzanne Moore provided a PowerPoint presentation of the FY2018-19 Annual Report for the Ashe County Library. Highlights of the presentation included information on a 35% increase in visits to the library during FY2018-19; revenues and expenditures for FY2018-19; usage statistics; events held at the library for children, teens, and adults; services offered; and volunteers and community partners.

[PRES](#)
[19-155](#)

6:15 PM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [09-03-19 Monthly Tax Report-September 2019](#)
[09-03-19 Monthly Tax Report-August 2019](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the August 2019 Tax Report and the September 2019 Tax Report as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[19-156](#)

6:20 PM - Interim County Manager Adam Stumb - Approval of NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant & Appropriation of Matching Funds

Attachments: [09-03-19 Regional Livestock Facility Feasibility Study Grant](#)

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that the County was awarded the Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant that will be used toward the Regional Livestock Facility Feasibility Study for a regional agricultural center and cattle scales. The grant the County was awarded is for \$27,500 with required matching funds of \$4,125. There was confusion regarding the requirement of matching funds because when the County applied for the grant, Ashe County was a Tier 1 county and no matching funds were required. Since that time, Ashe County has changed to a Tier 2 county which results in the matching funds requirement. The matching funds can be used toward the expense of staff and volunteers. Judy Bare spoke to the Board stating that she has been working with Kelly Coffey at the High Country Council of Governments on the grant and with finding a company to do the feasibility study. Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve acceptance of the Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Next, Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve the budget amendment for \$27,500 for the grant. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

September 3, 2019

General Fund:

To increase the department of Planning from \$218,384 to \$245,884; this increased appropriation of \$27,500 to be made from additional unbudgeted State Planning Grant revenues.

Approved

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

**PRES
19-158****6:30 PM - DSS Director Traci Downer - Memorandum of Understanding - Department of Health & Human Services & Ashe County****Attachments:** 09-03-19 MOU-DHHS & Ashe County

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Traci Downer updated the Board on recent changes regarding the Managed Medicare Program which has been postponed until February 2020 for Ashe County.

Next, Director Downer provided information to the Board about the FY2019-20 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NC Department of Health and Human Services and Ashe County. She explained that Ashe County DSS requested two provisions to the MOU. The first pertains to children being discharged to permanency versus choosing a permanent plan. The second involves moving children into different places. The State will not allow amendments to the MOU as they have before, so in lieu of that, there is a two-page comment section that will be included in the MOU as a public statement. Ms. Downer explained performance requirements in the MOU and asked the Board to make a motion to approve the document. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2019-20 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NC Department of Health and Human Services and Ashe County. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 6:40 PM - Chief Deputy Danny Houck - Request to Sell County Property to
19-159 Watauga County

Attachments: 09-03-19 Resolution to Sell Property to Watauga County-K9 Raven

Ashe County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Danny Houck told the Board that K9 Raven was donated to the County in 2017. She is a single-purpose K9 certified in narcotics detection. Her handler is now employed in Watauga County and they have offered to buy Raven so that she can remain with her handler. The request being made is to sell K9 Raven to Watauga County for \$1.00. Plans are to purchase two multi-purpose K9s certified in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension. The funds to purchase the two K9s would come from a donor, drug seizure funds, and asset forfeiture funds. The dogs are currently in training and will be working in Ashe County by mid-October. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution to sell K9 Raven to Watauga County. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 19-18 G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues for the Baker lawsuit, Appalachian Materials lawsuit, Combs lawsuit, Sheriff's Office vs. Sanchez-Richards-Caudill & Smith, Hefley lawsuit, Williams lawsuit, opioid litigation, WBTV lawsuit, and Hendrix vs. Rose as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) and to discuss the acquisition of property as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5). Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. and out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. with no action taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner McNeill, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Rhodes,
Commissioner Perry 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.

Todd McNeill, Chairman

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