

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, August 17, 2020

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes
Commissioner William Sands
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 Regular Session of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.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 Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Sands offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-26](#) August 3, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [08-17-20 August 3, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the August 3, 2020 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Perry made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. 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

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[20-128](#)

9:05 AM - The Community Paramedic Committee - Ashe Community Paramedic Program

Attachments: [08-17-20 Ashe Community Paramedic Program](#)

Brian Yates, CEO of Ashe Memorial Hospital, introduced Cody Darnell to provide information on the Ashe Community Paramedic Program. The program is paid for through a Duke Endowment Grant in the amount of \$375,000 awarded on January 1, 2018 for three and one-half years to Ashe Memorial Hospital. The mission of the Community Paramedic Program is to improve the quality of life for patients by bridging gaps to health care by paramedics in an outpatient setting. Paramedics are able to help people with

management of chronic disease and reduce the number of visits to the emergency department, readmissions to the hospital, and EMS calls. Patients are put first and their specific needs are focused on. The presentation focused on goals that have been met, the number of patients that have been assisted through the program, savings realized due to decreased hospitalizations and emergency visits, and management of chronic diseases. Also presented was information on grant funding for the program and on an anticipated budget deficit that will occur by July 1, 2021. Plans are to explore additional funding opportunities and to request that the commissioners appropriate funds in the County budget to cover the funding shortfall. A funding request will be made to the commissioners January 2021.

PRES
20-129

9:20 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update

Attachments: [08-17-20 DSS Statistics for June 2020](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer reviewed departmental statistics for June 2020. The year ending numbers show increases in services provided this past year. There has been a reduction in the number of cases in Child Protective Services which will likely increase when school starts. The number of children in foster care remains stable and there are now 24 licensed foster homes in the County. Family Support Services cases have all been processed in a timely manner. There are currently 29 children on a waiting list for childcare subsidy. The Department of Social Services is under budget by 12% this year, which is equivalent to \$1,048,263. DSS Director Tracie Downer updated the Board on Personal Protective Equipment available for providing services due to COVID-19. Also presented was an organizational staff chart and a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding additional benefits available for Food and Nutrition Services recipients.

PRES
20-130

9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [08-17-20 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly Tax Report for July 2020. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES
20-131

9:35 AM - Airport Advisory Board Chair Tom Breggar - Airport Hangar Lease Extension Request for Bob Clifton

Attachments: [08-17-20 Airport Hangar Lease-Bob Clifton](#)

Airport Advisory Board Chair Tom Breggar spoke to the Board regarding a request for an extension to the hangar lease for Bob Clifton. He told the Board that the Airport Advisory Board met and made a recommendation for the commissioners to extend the lease as requested by Mr. Clifton with new recommendations. He explained that a lease extension is advantageous to the County and lease extensions have been granted in the past. Commissioner Dix recommends that the commissioners allow the advisory board to work with the county manager to formulate a policy addressing hangar lease extensions. Recommendations for additions to the policy include a ten-year extension of the lease

term, the current square footage rate will apply at the time the lease is extended, the current tax rate will apply at the time the lease is extended, and there would not need to be commissioner approval for an amendment to a hangar lease, only approval by the Airport Advisory Board and the county manager. The request for Bob Clifton's lease extension will be presented to the Board at the next meeting after approval of the policy. Mr. Breggar also presented an income and budget summary to the Board. The budget summary shows that the airport is not an expense to the County.

PRES
20-132

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Amendment to Coronavirus Relief Fund Plan and County Project Budget

Attachments: [08-17-20 Coronavirus Relief Fund County Plan](#)
[08-17-20 Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant Project Ordinance](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented an amendment to the Coronavirus Relief Fund Plan and County Project Budget. He told the Board that including the most recent allocation, Ashe County has received a total of \$1.2 million from the Relief Fund. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the Coronavirus Relief Fund Plan amendment and Grant Project Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

PRES
20-133

9:50 AM - Administrative Coordinator Brian Blanco - Adoption of Whistleblower Policy

Attachments: [08-17-20 Whistleblower Policy](#)

Chief Deputy Danny Houck requested the Board adopt a Whistleblower Policy which is necessary for the County to have in place when applying for grants and funding opportunities. Commissioner Sands would like for the policy to include that the county manager inform the commissioners when a complaint is received; that department heads are notified if one of their employees has a complaint issued against them; and a complaint against the county manager should be brought to the commissioners. County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that the Whistleblower Policy was considered by the Policy Committee several years ago but action was not taken on it. The commissioners were in agreement for the Policy Committee to review the policy prior to approval by the Board.

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

APP 20-11

West Jefferson Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) Planning Board Appointments

Attachments: [08-17-20 West Jefferson ETJ Planning Board Appointments](#)

Commissioner Dix made a motion to appoint Phyllis Hartzog to fill Jack Hardin's vacated seat on the West Jefferson ETJ Planning Board and to appoint Vic Gammons to serve as an alternate for the ETJ Planning Board. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

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

*Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Commissioner Perry 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.