

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, April 19, 2021

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Chuck Olive
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

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 Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 21-13](#) March 31, 2021 Special Meeting Family Central Site Visit Minutes

Attachments: [4-19-21 March 31, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the March 31, 2021 Special Meeting Family Central Site Visit Minutes as written. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[MIN 21-14](#) April 5, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [4-19-21 April 5, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the April 5, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

IV. Adoption of Agenda

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

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

PRES 21-55 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendments**Attachments:** [4-19-21 DSS Budget Amendments.pdf](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer presented two requested budget amendments as detailed below. The first requested amendment was to transfer an additional allocation of \$5,000 from state Crisis Intervention Payment (CIP) funds into the departmental budget. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the budget amendment as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. The second amendment requested the transfer of \$11,136 in unappropriated insurance proceeds resulting from damage by a deer to a DSS vehicle. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the amendment as requested. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS
APRIL 19, 2021

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,686,571 to \$8,691,571; this increased appropriation of \$5,000 to be made with an additional allocation of \$5,000 from state Crisis Intervention Payment (CIP) funds.

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,691,571 to \$8,702,707; this increased appropriation of \$11,136 to be made with unappropriated Insurance Proceeds revenues receipted into the general fund March 2, 2021.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-56 9:10 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update**Attachments:** [4-19-21 DSS Monthly Report.pdf](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer provided a departmental update. She explained that Ashe County DSS utilizes the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of the Blue Ridge, operated by South Mountain and located in Watauga County, to support child victims of sexual or physical abuse and/or serious neglect. She shared that South Mountain is interested in opening a satellite office in the log cabin on the County-owned convenience site property on Highway 163 in order to meet the increased local need for CAC services. The Board expressed support for this plan, and County Manager Adam Stumb offered to work with South Mountain to prepare a lease to be presented to the Board for approval at a later meeting. Ms. Downer also discussed program integrity and different types of fraud, and she discussed how to report suspected fraud, errors, or abuse or neglect.

Due to court proceedings, the meeting was recessed at 9:40 a.m. The meeting reconvened in the second-floor conference room at 9:48 a.m.

PRES 21-57 9:20 AM - Todd Community Preservation Organization Treasurer Rick Weavil and Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development Council Executive Director Jonathan Hartsell - Todd Island Park Restoration Project

Attachments: [4-19-21 Todd Island Park.pdf](#)

Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development Council Executive Director Jonathan Hartsell and Todd Community Preservation Organization Treasurer Rick Weavil shared with the Board a presentation on the Todd Island Park Restoration Project. Mr. Hartsell explained that the first phase of the project was completed in 2019 and that in order to finish the stabilization and restoration of the island, the project has obtained a \$100,000 state grant and partners to provide 70% of the required matching funds. Mr. Hartsell and Mr. Weavil requested \$15,000 from the County, which would satisfy a contingency offer from Watauga County for the remaining \$15,000 required for the grant match. The Board suggested that this topic be added to the agenda for the upcoming budget meetings.

PRES 21-58 9:30 AM - Ashe Memorial Hospital Director of Medical Staff Services & Grant Administrator Melodie Richey Shepherd - Ashe County Community Paramedic Program Request

Attachments: [4-19-21 Community Paramedic Program.pdf](#)

Ashe Memorial Hospital Director of Medical Staff Services & Grant Administrator Melodie Richey Shepherd and Ashe County Community Paramedic Program Coordinator Cody Darnell shared with the Board an overview of the Community Paramedic Program, its impact, and its needs. Mr. Darnell shared that the program conducted 705 visits to assist 57 patients in 2020. During the same year, the Community Paramedic Program's patients averaged an 89% compliance rate, and 100% of the program's diabetic patients had improved A1C. Ms. Shepherd presented to the Board a request for \$64,852.53 for the 2021-2020 fiscal year, if the program is not awarded grants for which they have applied to cover program costs.

PRES 21-59 9:40 AM - Jefferson Police Chief David Witherspoon and Interim Town Manager Dan McMillan - Landfill Fees Waiver Request for Demolition of Former Police Department Building

Attachments: [4-19-21 JPD Fee Waiver Request.pdf](#)

Jefferson Police Chief David Witherspoon presented to the Board a request to waive the disposal fee for debris generated by the demolition of the former Jefferson police department building. Commissioner Powers made a motion to waive the disposal fee as requested. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

PRES 21-60 9:50 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [4-19-21 Monthly Tax Report.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for March 2021. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-61](#) 9:55 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Amended Family Central Frontier Gas Line Easement

Attachments: [4-19-21 Amended Frontier Gas Easement.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a Frontier Natural Gas line easement reflecting amended verbiage requested by the Board during the April 5, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the amended easement as written. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES 21-62](#) 10:00 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Family Central Lease Discussion

Attachments: [4-19-21 Family Central Leases.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb provided the Board with an update on current leases at Family Central. He shared that all Family Central space leases will remain on the fiscal year budget schedule and will soon be presented to the Board for renewal.

[PRES 21-63](#) 10:10 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Solid Waste Fee Discussion

County Manager Adam Stumb and Tax Administrator Chris Lambert continued discussion with the Board regarding making the County's solid waste fee more equitable to all users. County Manager Stumb and Mr. Lambert provided a different example of another North Carolina county's solid waste fee structure that is based on the type of property and its use. After discussion with the Board, County Manager Stumb offered to run preliminary numbers utilizing a similar structure to be shared at an upcoming meeting.

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

[APP 21-2](#) High Country Workforce Development Board Reappointment

Attachments: [4-19-21 WDB Neubauer Reappointment.pdf](#)

Commissioner Olive made a motion to reappoint Kristin Neubauer to the High Country Workforce Development Board. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session**X. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.
Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

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.