

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

10:30 AM

Work Session

Agricultural Services Building Conference Room

County Commission

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

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 10:30 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Agricultural Services Building Conference Room**

Chairman McNeill called the Work Session to order at 10:32 a.m. at the Ashe County Agricultural Services Building Conference Room with Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Olive, and Commissioner Powers also present. Commissioner Jordan arrived at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Powers left the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Present: 4 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands and Commissioner Jerry D. Powers

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

II. Discussion

County Manager Adam Stumb began by sharing a list of questions the County has regarding making changes to the solid waste fee and implementing a sticker system for use of the convenience sites. He explained that sticker distribution could be coordinated with tax bills, and both Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley and Tax Administrator Chris Lambert were also present for the discussion. County Manager Stumb asked the Board to share any concerns they have regarding a sticker system, as well as any additional questions they have for other counties already utilizing a sticker system.

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert shared that although the county has 39,846 parcels, it only collects about 16,000 solid waste fees, and that the county's 1,450 commercial businesses do not currently pay a solid waste fee. Mr. Lambert suggested that if the solid waste fee was changed to an ad valorem rate, it would be equitably billed to each parcel so that all parcels would contribute for the use of these services. He also noted that the solid waste rate for taxpayers enrolled in the PUV program would be similarly adjusted.

Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley stated that if the County transitioned to a more equitable rate versus fee system, it might allow for the landfill scale rate to be reduced from the current commercial rates of \$62 per ton and \$42 per ton for industrial waste.

Commissioner Olive asked about the tentative timeline for implementation of the stickers. County Manager Stumb shared that one option discussed would be to send the stickers with the 2022 tax bills on July 1, 2022, with informational materials explaining the change. A six-month grace period would give users time to begin using their stickers before enforcement would begin on January 1, 2023. The Board discussed amending the solid waste ordinance to address these changes once enacted and to specify the procedure for any violations.

Commissioner Powers asked whether 20% of the landfill's annual garbage came from households outside Ashe County, and Mr. Hurley agreed with this estimate. Mr. Hurley also stated that if a sticker system was implemented, the County would see a drastic difference in tonnage at the convenience sites and in the landfill. Chairman McNeill added that this would also result in savings in fuel, truck and equipment repairs, and other operational costs. Mr. Hurley told the Board that the remaining lifespan of the landfill's current cell is estimated to be eight years without any increase in tonnage.

County Manager Stumb suggested that Mr. Lambert could provide the Board with more data regarding the impact of changing the solid waste fee to a rate and that this could be discussed at an upcoming Board meeting. He also added that a sticker system could be implemented regardless.

III. Executive Session

[ES 21-4](#)

G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property & G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues

Commissioner Olive made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss the acquisition of property and G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 12:27 p.m. and out of Executive Session at 2:08 p.m. with no action taken.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands and Commissioner Powers

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Jordan

IV. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Powers

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