

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 1, 2023

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

Chairperson Todd McNeill

Vice Chair Chuck Olive

Commissioner William Sands

Commissioner Jerry D. Powers

Commissioner Mike Eldreth

BUSINESS SESSION

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

Chairman McNeill called the May 1st, 2023 Regular Session Meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the 3rd floor small courtroom of the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Vice Chairman Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Mike Eldreth

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Due to Clerk's vacation no minutes were completed to be approved today.

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adopt the 5/1/2023 agenda. Vice Chairman Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

V. Public Comment

At 9:04 AM Chairman McNeill opened the floor for the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Ashe County resident Mr. Bob Phipps took the podium and spoke on his recent flight with other Combat Veterans to Washington, DC. (Honor Flight) He spoke on how wonderful the trip and the experience was. He talked of the War Memorials they visited and how good they were treated. He thanked the Board for their time and stepped away. Dolly Reeves a Down Home member from Watauga County, NC then took the podium requesting on behalf of Ashe County residents that the Board consider having one of their monthly meetings in the evening. She stated that working Ashe County residents cannot always attend the morning meetings. Beth Sorrell an Ashe County resident from the Fleetwood area and also a member of Down Home took the podium and expressed her opinion and requesting that the Board of Commissioners have an evening meeting once a month. She then took her seat. Chairman McNeill thanked everyone for their comments and seeing no other movement in the courtroom he then closed the floor for public comment at 9:08 am.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 23-74](#) 9:04 AM - Dr Eisa Cox, Ashe County Schools Superintendent - Middle School Roof

Attachments: [5-1-23 Middle School Roof Capital Outlay Requests](#)

Dr Eisa Cox, Ashe County Schools Superintendent along with Anthony Leek, Ashe County Schools Maintenance Department spoke to the Board about the numerous leaks & roofing issues at the current Middle School. They presented the board with possible options & estimates on roof repair such as patching existing holes/leaks with a High Solid silicone or possibly replacing the entire roof. Dr. Cox spoke on the timeline for

these options and how it is very unlikely to occur before children return to school for 2023/2024 school year due to supply chain issues and getting contractors to come out and evaluate the issues and to commit to a timeline. More discussion between the Board, Dr. Cox & Mr. Leek went back & forth. Board of Education member Diane Eldreth took the podium and spoke to the Board on spending the money to fix the roof of the existing middle school and what it would mean to their part of the community in hopes of using the building for daycare, recreation and many other possibilities. Chairman McNeill thanked everyone for their input & information. No action taken today.

[PRES 23-73](#) 9:10 AM - Chris Lambert Tax Administrator - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [5-1-23 Monthly Tax Report, March 2023](#)

Chris Lambert Tax Administrator presented to the Board the Monthly Tax Report for March 2023. Vice Chairman Olive made the motion to approve the March 2023 Tax Report. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-75](#) 9:12 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Appalachian Regional Library System

Attachments: [5-1-23 Regional Library Interlocal Agreement](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager along with Ashe County Librarian Laura McPherson presented to the Board the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Appalachian Regional Library System. This amendment allows for a substitute to be appointed to the Regional Library Board, from the local library board. And also allows for a quick substitution during a board member's absence. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Library. Vice Chairman Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-76](#) 9:15 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager -163 Canoe Access Bids and Project Update

Attachments: [5-1-23 163 Canoe Access Project Update](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager updated the Board on 163 Canoe Access Bids and Project. Adam presented the Board with a sketch of the final layout showing the parking, the entrance driveway from the highway, the picnic shelter and Porta-John placement. He stated that bids were received last Friday for the 163 Canoe Access. He presented a breakdown of each bid with the current low bidder being Anthony Brinegar at \$129,400.00. We had requested two options on Bids, one to pave the entire project and one to pave a portion of the driveway and gravel the parking. Because of the cost, we are only looking at the gravel options. Chairman McNeill asked if the felt that goes under the gravel had been included in the bids. Chairman McNeill stated that without the felt the gravel would sink into the ground and would have to continuously be replaced and he would like to have that included. Adam stated he would check into that. Commissioner Powers made the motion to accept the lowest bid from Anthony Brinegar for \$129,400.00.

Vice Chairman Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-77](#) 9:18 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Government Circle Pavement Fix

Attachments: [5-1-23 Government Circle Paving Estimate](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board paving issues & repair bids for Government Circle Pavement. Adam stated that there are two potholes coming up on Government Circle. The pavement is crumbling and if not addressed soon, will only get worse. Sammy Whicker, Maintenance Supervisor was able to get 3 informal bids to repair a section of pavement (10' x 300'). These bids were from Tri County Paving - \$15,337.16, Shatley Paving - \$15,664.00 and PADCO Paving - \$14,500.00. Vice Chairman Olive made the motion to accept the bid from PADCO Paving. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-78](#) 9:21 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Mowing and Cleaning Contracts

Attachments: [5-1-23 Mowing Contract](#)
[5-1-23 Cleaning Contract](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board the contracts for the Mowing and Cleaning of Ashe County Property. Adam stated that the mowing contractor has requested an additional \$3,000 in their current contract price increasing it to \$80,400. The cleaning contract will remain the same at \$70,000. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve the Mowing Contract. Vice Chairman Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. In a separate vote for the Cleaning Contract Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the Cleaning Contract. Vice Chairman Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES 23-79](#) 9:24 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - County Leases

Attachments: [5-1-23 County Leases](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board County Lease information & rates. Adam stated that they try and time the lease renewals with the change in budget year, starting July 1. He said they are recommending keeping the current lease rates shown in the agenda attachments. The only difference will be the Mt. Jefferson Child Development Center which he said they will reassess at the end of their 6 month probation. Adam stated that action was not necessary today. If the Board was in agreement with keeping the current rates then he would get with all leasees, get new leases signed and bring them back before the Board for approval. All were in agreement. No action taken today.

No Action Taken**GENERAL SESSION****[APP 23-2](#) Ashe Workforce Development Appointment****Attachments:** [5-1-23 Ashe Workforce Development Appointment Request](#)

Ashe Workforce Development have requested the appointment of Edward Hinson to their Board. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the appointment. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****[ES 23-8](#) G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) Legal Issues
G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) Personnel**

Commissioner Powers made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:35 AM. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board in Executive Session at 10:35 AM. At 11:32 AM Commissioner Powers made the motion to return from Executive Session. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Vice Chairman Olive made a motion resulting from Executive Session that County staff, as soon as possible, advertise and seek applications to fill the position of "Human Resource Coordinator" starting at salary grade-69. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

At 11:33 AM Commissioner Powers made the motion to adjourn the May 1st, 2023 Regular Session Meeting. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

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

Missy Seivers
Clerk to the Board