

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, December 5, 2016

9:00 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairman William Sands
Vice Chair Paula Perry
Commissioner Jeff Rose
Commissioner Gary Roark
Commissioner Larry Rhodes*

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

Commissioner Rose called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and turned the meeting over to County Manager Sam Yearick.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Gary Roark and Commissioner Paula Perry

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman****MISC 16-041 Election of Chairman**

County Manager Yearick opened the floor for nominations for the position of chairman.

Commissioner Roark made a motion to nominate Commissioner Rose as chairman. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 3, with Commissioners Roark and Rose voting in favor.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to nominate Commissioner Sands as chairman. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 - 2, with Commissioners Perry, Rhodes and Sands voting in favor.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to close nominations for chairman. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 3 - Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands and Commissioner Perry

Against: 2 - Commissioner Rose and Commissioner Roark

MISC 16-040 Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Sands then called for nominations for the position of vice chairman.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to nominate Commissioner Perry as vice chairman. Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Setting of Bonds for Sheriff, Register of Deeds, Tax Administrator & Finance Officer

MISC 16-031 Bonds for Public Officials

Attachments: [12-05-16 Setting of Bonds for Sheriff, Register of Deeds, Tax Administrator & Finance Officer](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to set the bonds for sheriff, register of deeds, tax administrator, and for finance officer at \$100,000. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Appointment of County Attorney & County Clerk**MISC 16-032** Appointment of County Attorney & County Clerk

Attachments: [12-05-16 Appointment of County Attorney and County Clerk](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to appoint John Kilby as county attorney and Ann Clark as county clerk. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Adoption of Rules of Procedure**MISC 16-033** Rules of Procedure

Attachments: [12-05-16 Rules of Procedure for Adoption](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the Board of Commissioners' Rules of Procedure with a change as noted: IV. Regular and Special Meetings, Rule 6 (a) - meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Selection of Committee Appointments for Board of Commissioners**MISC 16-034** Commissioner Committee Appointments 2015-16

Attachments: [12-05-16 Boards & Committees for Commissioners](#)

Commissioner Roark made a motion to table the selection of committee appointments for the commissioners. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

Conclude Organizational Business**BUSINESS SESSION****II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 16-033](#) November 21, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [12-05-16 November 21, 2016 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the November 21, 2016 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of an appropriation request for the County to reimburse Ashe County Schools for fuel used by volunteer fire departments during the Two Mile Fire. Commissioner Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

V. Presentations

[PRES 16-113](#) County Manager Sam Yearick - Determination of Fleetwood School Property

Attachments: [12-05-16 Fleetwood School Property](#)

County Manager Sam Yearick told the Board that the Board of Education is offering the County the opportunity to purchase the former Fleetwood Elementary School property. The County has first right-of-refusal on the former school property. The Greater Fleetwood Preservation Organization currently leases the property from the Board of Education and has agreed to immediately terminate the lease. The Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Department would like to purchase the property for use as a location to place their fire station. The current fire station has to be relocated due to the widening of Highway 221. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion for the County to relinquish the right to purchase the former Fleetwood Elementary School and allow the Board of Education to do with the property as they please. Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

PRES
16-115

Glenda Luther, Senior Center Director - Introduction of Terri Hopkins, Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator

Ashe Services for Aging Senior Center Director Glenda Luther introduced Terri Hopkins, the new volunteer coordinator for Ashe County.

PRES
16-116

Ned Fowler, President/CEO Northwestern Housing Enterprises Inc. - Request for Transfer of Property Housing Mount Jefferson Child Development Center

Attachments: [12-05-16 Request for Transfer of Property Housing MJCDC](#)
[12-05-16 MJCDC Property Transfer Documents for Approval](#)

Ned Fowler, president and CEO of Northwestern Housing Enterprises Inc., made a request for the transfer of County property that is housing the Mount Jefferson Child Development Center. He explained that Northwestern Housing Enterprises is developing a \$7 million project for the Old Hospital property which will create 46 senior apartments and memory spaces. The second segment of the project, which brings the total cost to \$8.5 million, includes construction of the new Mount Jefferson Child Development Center (MJCDC) and will create 35 new jobs. A request is being made for the County to reunite the Old Hospital property and the old nurses quarters property. In answer to a question from Commissioner Rhodes, Mr. Fowler answered that there will be no expense to the County including costs associated with demolition. County Attorney John Kilby told the Board that the County will need to receive a release from the current lease with MJCDC. He further explained that the County is in the bounds to comply with this request and will be relieved of any responsibility regarding MJCDC. Mr. Fowler added that MJCDC will need to stay in their current facility until the new facility is completed, but MJCDC will lease directly from Northwestern Housing Enterprises. Commissioner Rhodes would like to hear from MJCDC representatives and made a motion to table a decision on this issue until the next meeting when representatives from MJCDC could be present. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

[PRES](#)
[16-117](#)

Planning Director Adam Stumb - Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant

Attachments: [12-05-16 Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant](#)

Planning Director Adam Stumb told the Board that the NC Department of Agriculture has requested proposals be submitted for the Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant. Grant funding would be used to preserve and protect farmland in the county. If Ashe County is approved for a grant, the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board would like to develop a farmland protection plan. The maximum amount of the grant is \$15,000 and 30% matching funds are required. The intent is for the funding match to be covered with in-kind donations. In the event that funding would need to be allocated, the monies would be considered in next year's budget. Planning Director Stumb then introduced Trathan Cheek, chairman of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board who spoke of the economic impact of agriculture in Ashe County. Agriculture brought in \$400 million to Ashe County last year. There are 1,140 farms in the county on 112,462 acres. Mr. Cheek also provided an explanation of the Farmland Protection Plan. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the proposal and to look at the \$4500 required funding match if needed in next year's budget. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

[PRES](#)
[16-119](#)

Ashe County Ranger Tim Lewis - Update on Fires and Burning Ban

County Ranger Tim Lewis provided information regarding the recent wildfire off Paul Goodman Road. He told the Board that the fire was contained to 440 acres. Costs associated with the fire were kept low, there were no injuries, and no homes were lost. He was amazed at the great support received from the community.

[PRES](#)
[16-120](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Request for Appropriation for Volunteer Fire Departments Fuel Costs from the Two Mile Fire

Attachments: [12-05-16 Appropriation Request for Two Mile Fire Fuel used by Volunteer Fire Departments](#)

Chairman Sands explained a request that was made for the County to reimburse Ashe County Schools for fuel used by the volunteer fire departments during the Two Mile Fire in November. Commissioner Roark made a motion to appropriate \$1,096 for the fuel used by volunteer fire departments during the recent fire in Ashe County. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
December 5, 2016

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Fire from \$205,272 to \$206,368; this increased appropriation to be made with an appropriation of \$1,096 from the Contingency Fund.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

VI. Public Comment

Chairman Sands opened the floor for public comment.

Sophia Lopez told the Board that she attended the Planning Board meeting this past Thursday night and asked if there are plans to appoint new members to the Planning Board. She does not believe that the interests of the community are being addressed. She believes Planning Board members are more interested in setbacks. Ms. Lopez told the Board that Representative Jordan is trying to introduce a bill regarding setbacks from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

No further comment was offered.

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

[APP 16-024](#) Airport Advisory Board Reappointment - Bob Marsh

Attachments: [12-05-16 Airport Advisory Board Reappt - Bob Marsh](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to reappoint Bob Marsh to the Airport Advisory Board. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****[ES 16-007](#)** Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) - Legal Issues

Commissioner Roark made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion and the motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:23 a.m., with no action taken.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Rhodes, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Roark and Commissioner Perry

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.

William Sands, Chairman

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