

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 15, 2017

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

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

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

Chairman Sands called the meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes**[MIN 17-18](#)** April 3, 2017 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [05-15-17 April 3, 2017 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the April 3, 2017 Regular Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 17-19](#) April 3, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rose made a motion to table approval of the April 3, 2017 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 17-20](#) April 5, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rose made a motion to table approval of the April 5, 2017 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 17-21](#) April 17 2017 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [05-15-17 April 17, 2017 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the April 17, 2017 Regular Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 17-22](#) May 1, 2017 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [05-15-17 May 1, 2017 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the May 1, 2017 Regular Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 17-23](#) May 1, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Rose made a motion to table approval of the May 1, 2017 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rose made a motion to remove the Executive Session scheduled to discuss personnel issues from the agenda. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

Jeff Poe from West Jefferson spoke to the Board regarding the historic home of Elisha and Effie Poe in West Jefferson. He explained their lifestyle which he believes demonstrates the mountain heritage of Ashe County. Mr. Poe spoke of the need to save the home as a historic landmark.

Lee McMillan of Crumpler spoke regarding the old Fleetwood School and plans to tear the school down. He believes there are other options available besides tearing the building down. If the school is saved, as a licensed auctioneer, Mr. McMillan guarantees the County will receive a minimum of \$50,000 for the property. He also stated that a better location for the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Department is where the fire department was originally planned to be located.

Tom Pope of Jefferson reminded the Board of Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day that are celebrated in May to honor veterans. He asked everyone to remember sacrifices made by our veterans for our freedoms. Mr. Pope believes it is the responsibility of every generation to defend what our forefathers sacrificed for us.

Bill Brown told the Board that he is speaking today to defend his daughter who lost her position with the Sheriff's Office.

Paul Potter stated that he is on the side of Jesus Christ. Tumors have been found on his brain and in his lungs and he stated his only hope is in Christ. He would like to see the name of Jesus used in prayers by the commissioners.

Sheriff Terry Buchanan stated that the most important thing is to have Jesus first in your life. Sheriff Buchanan updated the Board on new programs that have been implemented in the Sheriff's Office during his time in office. He thanked the Creston Volunteer Fire Department for providing a satellite location for the Sheriffs' Office.

No further comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 17-41](#) 9:05 AM - Doug Goss, JCPC Chair & Regina Arrowood, Area Consultant - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) 2017/2018 Budget Approval

Attachments: [05-15-17 JCPC 2017-2018 Budget Approval](#)

Doug Goss, chair of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), and Regina Arrowood, area consultant for JCPC, presented the JCPC FY2017/18 Budget for approval by the Board. Ms. Arrowood explained that the total funding for Ashe County juvenile court services is \$87,518. The County will need to provide matching funds in the amount of \$16,331. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2017/18 JCPC Budget as presented. 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 17-42](#) 9:15 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [05-15-17 Monthly Tax Report-February, March & April 2017](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert submitted the monthly tax releases and refunds for February 2017, March 2017, and April 2017. Also presented were the Regular Billing Collection Report and the Motor Vehicles Collection Report through April 2017. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the February 2017, March 2017, and April 2017 Release/Refund reports. 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 17-43](#) 9:25 AM - Kim Miller - Issues at Sheriff's Department and Jail

Kim Miller, a former employee at the Sheriff's Office, spoke to the Board about concerns regarding her termination and issues at the Law Enforcement Center.

[PRES 17-44](#) 9:45 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Approval

of Lease Agreement for Wireless Communications Site

Attachments: [05-15-17 Lease Agreement for Wireless Communications Site](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill requested approval of a lease agreement for a wireless communications site in the Creston area of Ashe County. The commissioners voted on April 3, 2017 for Ms. Gambill to negotiate with a potential landowner for a site. The lease agreement is being presented today for approval by the Board for the amount of \$4800 per year. The communications site will then be subleased to the Highway Patrol Department. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the wireless communications lease agreement as presented. Vice Chairman Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 17-45 9:55 AM - Carolyn Shepherd - Final Approval of Family & Consumer Services Endowment

Attachments: [05-15-17 Family & Consumer Sciences Endowment Resolution to Convey Funds](#)
[05-15-17 Family & Consumer Services Endowment Agreement](#)

Carolyn Shepherd made a request for the commissioners to approve the Family & Consumer Services Endowment Resolution and the Family & Consumer Services Endowment Agreement. The request is resulting from a presentation made by Ms. Shepherd at the meeting held by the commissioners on May 1, 2017. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the documents as presented. 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 17-46 10:05 AM - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen - Older Americans Month Proclamation & Home & Community Care Block Grant Budget Revision

Attachments: [05-15-17 Older Americans Month 2017 Proclamation](#)
[05-15-17 H&CCBG County Funding Plan Budget Revision](#)

Patricia Calloway, director of Ashe Services for Aging, presented the 2017 Older Americans Month Proclamation for approval by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Mary Owen, finance officer for Ashe Services for Aging, provided an explanation of the Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) budget revision presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the H&CCBG budget revision as presented. 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 17-47](#) 10:15 AM - Planning Director Adam Stumb - Abandoned Manufactured Home Grant

Attachments: [05-15-17 Abandoned Manufactured Home Grant](#)

Planning Director Adam Stumb presented an Abandoned Manufactured Home Grant that will provide approximately \$9000 to abolish six mobile homes in the County. The grant will pay \$1500 per mobile home and the homeowner is also responsible for additional costs. If the grant is approved, the County will be responsible to fund \$250 per mobile home abolished. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the Abandoned Manufactured Home Grant. 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 17-52](#) 10:25 AM - Priscilla Norris, CPA - Request for Approval of Audit Contract FY2017/2018

Attachments: [05-15-17 Request for Approval of Audit Contract](#)

Priscilla Norris, CPA, made a request for the Board to approve the FY2017/2018 Audit Contract. Ms. Norris explained the addition of a new requirement in the audit regarding GASB73. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the Audit Contract as presented. 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 17-53](#) 10:35 AM - County Manager Sam Yearick - Fleetwood Fire Department Discussion

Attachments: [05-15-17 Fleetwood Fire Department Discussion](#)

County Manager Sam Yearick explained that he and Commissioner Roark met with representatives from the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Department regarding the Fleetwood School property. County Manager Yearick referred to photos of the school that were included in the commissioners' meeting agenda packet. Fleetwood Fire Department owns the school and intends to tear the school down. The first property that the fire department considered as a location for their building would cost \$550,000. The entire Fleetwood School property cost \$180,000. The contractor for the road widening project has agreed to tear the building down and bring the property up to road level at no cost to the fire department.

Lee McMillan stated that his concern with tearing the school down is the fact that the school was paid for with tax dollars. However, it is the decision of the fire department to place their building at the best location for them.

Commissioner Roark stated that the school is full of asbestos and there is water in the building. In addition, there is no plumbing or wiring in the school. Commissioner Roark stated concern for the cost to restore the building. He then made a motion that the commissioners refrain from interfering with the fire department regarding their decision on what to do with the school.

Lee McMillan believes it is a mistake to place the fire department where it is planned to go. A better location would be to place the fire department on the ballfields.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Rose seconded the motion on the floor. Commissioner Rhodes stated that he does not see a need for a motion regarding the school property because the county attorney has already told the commissioners that they have no authority over the fire department's decision regarding the school property. Commissioner Roark agreed and withdrew his motion on the floor.

[PRES 17-50](#) 10:45 AM - County Manager Sam Yearick - Budget Presentation
FY2017-2018

County Manager Sam Yearick read the Budget Message for FY2017/2018.

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

[APP 17-6](#) Appointments to the Ashe County Library Board - Karen Moll & Doug Butler

Attachments: [05-15-17 Library Board Appointments](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to appoint Karen Moll and Dr. Doug Butler to the Ashe County Library Board. Commissioner Roark 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

[APP 17-7](#) Appointment to New River Service Authority Board

Attachments: [05-15-17 New River Service Authority Board Appointment](#)

County Manager Sam Yearick told the Board that a commissioner needs to serve as the Ashe County representative on the New River Service Authority Board during process of closeout of New River Mental Health records. Vice Chairman Perry agreed to serve as the Ashe County representative on the New River Service Authority Board.

Other Items for Consideration

[MISC 17-19](#) North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Video Update

[MISC 17-20](#) Scheduling of Budget Work Sessions

Budget Work Sessions will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. on June 5, 2017 and then at 9:00 a.m. June 6, 2017 - June 9, 2017. A Public Hearing and adoption of the budget will be held on June 19, 2017 for the County Budget and the Economic Development Budget.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

[ES 17-9](#)

Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues

The Executive Session has been removed from the agenda.

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The 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