

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, November 20, 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 Regular Meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

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**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Sands stated that two items need to be added to the Executive Session for discussion scheduled on today's agenda: Appalachian Materials lawsuit and Tommy Combs lawsuit. Commissioner Roark requested that the Board discuss placing a county-wide referendum on the November ballot regarding the issue of adding the National Motto to all County-funded buildings, particularly Ashe County school buildings. Vice Chairman Perry asked for an update regarding changing the probationary period of County employees. County Manager Sam Yearick answered that this will be placed on a future agenda. Commissioner Rose made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding the Appalachian Materials lawsuit and the Tommy Combs lawsuit during Executive Session. 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

Chairman Sands opened the floor for comments from the public.

Joe Stanley stated that he would like to see everyone in the County on the same page in an effort to move the County forward. He quoted scripture from the Bible adding a comment that he belongs to God.

No further comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[17-110](#)

9:05 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Approval for Piggyback Exception to Purchase (1) VHF Public Safety Simulcast System; Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Finance Officer to Execute an Installment Purchase Contract; Approval of 2017 Installment Purchase Contract

Attachments: [11-20-17 VHF Public Safety System Piggyback Exception](#)
[11-20-17 Resolution to Execute Installment Purchase Contract](#)
[11-20-17 Proposal-Installment Purchase Contract](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented a request for approval of a piggyback exception to purchase a VHF Public Safety Simulcast system, a resolution to execute the installment purchase contract, and approval of a proposal for the installment purchase contract. She explained that the new communications system was approved in this year's budget. Approval is needed for the waiver of bidding for the previously bid contract for this purchase and approval is needed to award the contract to Wireless Communications in the amount of \$440,642.52. The second part of the request is for approval of the financing proposal. There were four proposals received with First Citizens Bank submitting the lowest bid. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the waiver of bidding for the previously bid contract and to approve the contract award to Wireless Communications for \$440,642.52. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Roark made a motion to approve the resolution to execute the installment purchase contract. 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

PRES
17-111

9:15 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Resolution to Amend the Pond Mountain Six-mile Insurance District

Attachments: [11-20-17 Resolution-Pond Mtn VFD 6-mile Fire Insurance District Amendment](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented a resolution to amend the Pond Mountain Volunteer Fire Department six-mile fire insurance district. A petition from citizens requesting to be added to the fire district was submitted and approved at the September 18, 2017 meeting of the Board. Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the Pond Mountain Volunteer Fire Department six-mile insurance district resolution as presented. 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

PRES
17-112

9:20 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report & Information Regarding Untimely Present-use Value Applications

Attachments: [11-20-17 Monthly Tax Report-October 2017](#)
[11-20-17 Present-use Value Untimely Application Information](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for October 2017. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert provided the Board with information regarding untimely present-use value applications. He told the Board that currently there are two applications that are untimely and the Board is required to either approve or deny the applications. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to deny the applications.

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

PRES
17-113

9:30 AM - Tommy McClure - Alzheimer's Awareness Month Proclamation

Attachments: [11-20-17 Alzheimer's Awareness Month Proclamation](#)

Pam Barlow and Tommy McClure with the Elder Abuse Prevention Team presented the Alzheimer's Awareness Month proclamation for approval by the Board. Commissioner Roark made a motion to approve the proclamation 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

GENERAL SESSION

Proclamations

PRO 17-5

Proclamation to "Give Thanks" to All Ashe County Law Enforcement Agencies

Attachments: [11-20-17 Law Enforcement Give Thanks Proclamation](#)

Gary Larman read a proclamation to "Give Thanks" to all Ashe County law enforcement agencies. Commissioner Roark made a motion to approve the proclamation as written. Vice Chairman Perry seconded the motion. Chairman Sands stated concern that there are other law enforcement agencies in the County that need to be included in the proclamation. After discussion by the Board, Commissioner Rhodes recommended that the proclamation be changed to take out "Ashe County" in the proclamation title, to add "SBI" to the third sentence, and to change the fourth paragraph to read "Therefore: The Ashe County Board of Commissioners wish to proclaim". Commissioner Roark agreed to amend the motion on the floor as recommended by Commissioner Rhodes. Vice Chairman Perry seconded the amended motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

Other Items for Consideration

MISC 17-29

Board of Elections Director John Shepherd's Response to the Request from Commissioner Roark to Add an Item to the November Ballot

Board of Elections Director John Shepherd responded to the request from Commissioner Roark to place an item on the November ballot regarding adding the national motto "In God We Trust" on school buildings. Mr. Shepherd explained that the state does not allow opinion polls to be placed on a ballot, only a referendum that falls under General

Statute guidelines. The local government body (the Board of Commissioners) would have to make the decision with consideration from the Board of Education.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 17-18

Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) - Legal Issues (WBTV Lawsuit)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to enter into Executive Session as allowed under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to discuss legal issues regarding the following lawsuits: WBTV lawsuit, Tommy Combs lawsuit, and Appalachian Materials lawsuit. Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:28 a.m., with no action taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. 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

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