

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

*Chairman William Sands
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes
Commissioner Jeff Rose
Commissioner Paula Perry
Commissioner Todd McNeill*

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 Paula Perry and Commissioner Todd McNeill

II. Selection of Chairman & Vice Chairman

County Manager Sam Yearick took over the meeting and asked for nominations for chairman. He told the Board that a second is not required on nominations. Commissioner Rhodes nominated Commissioner Sands for the position of chairman. Commissioner Rose nominated Commissioner Perry. With no further nominations being made, Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. County Manager Yearick called for a vote on the nomination for Commissioner Sands to fill the position of chairman. Commissioners McNeill, Sands and Rhodes voted in favor. The county manager called for a vote on the nomination for Commissioner Perry to fill the position of chairman. Commissioners Rose and Perry voted in favor. County Manager Yearick then turned the meeting over to Chairman Sands. Chairman Sands opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice chairman. Chairman Sands nominated Commissioner Rhodes for the position of vice chairman. Commissioner Rose nominated Commissioner Perry for the position. With no further nominations being made, Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands then called for a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Rhodes for the position of vice chairman. Commissioners McNeill, Sands and Rhodes voted in favor. Chairman Sands called for a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Perry for the position of vice chairman. Commissioners Perry and Rose voted in favor.

III. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

IV. Approval of Minutes**V. Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Sands made the following amendments to the agenda: 1) Remove PRES 18-138, and 2) Add an item to the executive session to discuss legal issues. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

VI. Public Comment

Chairman Sands opened the floor for Public Comment.

Drew Wilkinson told the Board that familiarity breeds contempt. He has lived in Ashe County for 12 years and he has found that the laws protect criminals. Mr. Wilkinson told the Board what has been done to him while living here. He does not believe that he has had any assistance from the Sheriff's Office. He also talked with the county manager regarding issues he is having with his neighbors.

No further comment was offered.

VII. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[18-130](#)

9:10 AM - BROC Community Services Block Grant Program Director
Megan Wagoner - FY2018 Community Services Block Grant Approval

Attachments: [01-16-18 BROC FY2018 Community Service Block Grant Approval](#)

Megan Wagoner, who is Community Services Block Grant Program director with Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC), requested approval of the FY2018 Community Services Block Grant. She told the Board that BROC services help to eliminate poverty in the region. Ms. Wagoner explained that a community needs assessment was held in December to determine needs in the area. The assessment found the need for transportation and for crisis intervention. She reviewed areas of the program and told the Board that a total of \$194,031 has been allotted for this year which will be divided among the different programs. In 2017 there were 1380 people assisted with the funds provided. Ms. Wagoner discussed the budget cut and explained that the state uses statistical information which leaves out a lot of people. The BROC Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the application. With no further comment, Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2018 Community Services Block Grant for BROC. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[18-138](#)

9:20 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Presentation of Policy for
Sale of County-Owned Surplus Real Property Obtained through Tax
Foreclosure Sale or Voluntary Surrender

Attachments: [01-16-18 Surplus Real Property Sale Policy Approval](#)

This item was deleted from the agenda.

[PRES](#)
[18-131](#)

9:25 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Resolution to Authorize the
Use of Electronic Filing

Attachments: [01-16-18 Resolution to Authorize the Use of Electronic Tax Listing Program](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented a resolution that would authorize the use of electronic filing for business personal property. He explained that the General Assembly authorized counties to permit electronic listing of business personal property, to permit county commissioners to extend the deadline for filing, and to permit electronic signatures of business personal property listings. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[18-139](#)

9:30 AM - Upper Mountain Research Station Research Operations Manager Tracy Taylor - Request for Funding for Fraser Fir Project, \$12,000.00

Attachments: [01-16-18 Upper Mountain Research Station Request for Financial Assistance](#)

Upper Mountain Research Station Research Operations Manager Tracy Taylor provided a PowerPoint presentation with a request for funding of \$12,000 for a fraser fir project. He explained that there has been a shift for Christmas tree growers to purchase out-of-state transplants which has now increased to 80% of transplants used. In 2012, sales of Christmas trees in Ashe County were \$30.5 million making Ashe County the number one tree producer in the state. Mr. Taylor spoke of the increased problem of root rot in trees. He requested the Board to partner with funding of \$12,000 for a project to build an 1800 square foot greenhouse for fraser fir research. He explained that grant funding for infrastructure is mostly non-existent. The project will provide information for local tree producers. The growers can see what works. Hopefully this will start a move toward transplant production in our state and will keep Ashe County dollars in Ashe County. Vice Chairman Rhodes recommended that the funding be placed in the budget for Mr. Taylor to handle. County Manager Yearick answered that a line item can be set up in the Cooperative Extension budget for the funds. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to appropriate \$12,000 from the Economic Development budget, to set up a line item in the Cooperative Extension budget for the funds, and for staff to advertise for a public hearing to be held at the next meeting. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[18-133](#)

9:40 AM - Senior Center Director Glenda Luther - Update on Ashe County Senior Center's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

Attachments: [01-16-18 Senior Center Senior Health Insurance Information Program \(SHIIP\)](#)

Glenda Luther, who is director of the Senior Center, provided an update on Ashe County Senior Center's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). She provided an overview of the program which provides free information about the Medicare program. There are nine counselors that work in the SHIIP program. Charles and Louise Caudill, along with Joy McClure, who are all counselors spoke to the Board about the program.

[PRES](#)
[18-134](#)

9:50 AM - Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator Terri Hopkins - Volunteer Awards Ceremony Approval

Attachments: [01-16-18 2019 Volunteer Awards Ceremony Approval](#)

Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator Terri Hopkins made a request for approval of the 33rd Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony to be held on April 19, 2018 at the Ashe County High School Auditorium. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. and the ceremony will start at 7:00 p.m. A request was also made for approval of a new nomination form. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve holding the Volunteer Awards Ceremony and also to

approve the new nomination form. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES
18-136

10:00 AM - Veterans Service Officer Darryl Vaughn - Request to Purchase Software for Veterans Office

Attachments: [01-16-18 Veterans Service Software Proposal](#)

Veterans Service Officer Darryl Vaughn made a request for approval to purchase software for the Veterans Office. He reviewed features of the software, VectraSpec, which is a secure, online claims management software program designed for Veterans Service Officers. He highlighted first year costs for the program and the cost for each year afterwards. He explained that funding for the software will come through money that comes into the Veterans Office. Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve purchase of the VectraSpec software for the Veterans Office. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

January 16, 2018

General Fund:

To increase the department of Veterans Service budgeted expenditures from \$59,274 to \$61,404; this increase will be made with an appropriation of \$2,130 from unencumbered (fund balance) funds in the general fund.

Approved

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

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

APP 18-21

Appointment to Fulfill Gary Roark's Remaining Term on the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

Attachments: [01-16-18 Rural Transportation Advisory Committee \(RTAC\) Appointment](#)

Commissioner McNeill stated that he would serve the remainder of previous Commissioner Roark's term on the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to appoint Commissioner McNeill to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee to complete the term vacated by the resignation of Commissioner Roark. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

Resolutions**RES 18-8** Resolution in Support of NCDOT Project to Improve Intersection Sight Distance on NC 163 at SR 1201 (Severt Road)

Attachments: [01-16-18 Resolution-NCDOT Project Support-Intersection of NC163 & NC1201 Severt Rd](#)

Dean Ledbetter with NCDOT was present to answer questions from the Board regarding a resolution in support of the NCDOT project to improve the intersection sight distance on NC163 at SR1201 (Severt Road). He explained that the state has a new program called High Impact-Low Cost projects. The Ashe County NCDOT maintenance engineer submitted the project due to public input received. Vice Chairman Rhodes asked if other roads were considered for improvement. Mr. Ledbetter answered that this intersection was submitted due to public input. The Board of Transportation has approved this project. With no further comments, Commissioner Perry made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 - 1, with Vice Chairman Rhodes voting in opposition.

Adopted

For: 4 - Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Sands, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner McNeill

Against: 1 - Commissioner Rhodes

VIII. Commissioner Comments**IX. Announcements****X. Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) - Personnel Issues**

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues as provided for by G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) and Legal Issues regarding the WBTV lawsuit and the Appalachian Materials lawsuit as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. with no action taken.

Approved

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

XI. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion for the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

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