

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, July 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 July 16, 2018 meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes**[MIN 18-80](#) June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes**

Attachments: [07-16-18 June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to table approval of the June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 18-81](#) June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [07-16-18 June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to table approval of the June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 18-82](#) June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [07-16-18 June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to table approval of the June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 18-83](#) June 12, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [07-16-18 June 12, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to table approval of the June 12, 2018 Budget

Work Session minutes. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Tabled

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

[MIN 18-84](#) July 2, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [07-16-18 July 2, 2018 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the July 2, 2018 Regular Session minutes as written. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the following changes: to table approval of all budget work session minutes and to add DSS Director Tracie Downer to make a request to hire a program manager at the longevity level equal to their experience. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[18-265](#) 9:05 AM - Economic Development Director Cathy Barr - Information Regarding a New Loan Program for Small Businesses - Thread Capital

Attachments: [07-16-18 Thread Capital](#)

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr told the Board that the Rural Center launched Thread Capital, a new non-profit created that will assist small business owners and entrepreneurs gain access to capital and resources to start or expand their business. Thread Capital also provides coaching and tools that entrepreneurs need to create jobs. Thread Capital works one-on-one with small business owners to identify and provide connections to the optimal financing, networking, and coaching resources for their business. They work with individuals that may have difficulty obtaining financing through traditional loan programs. Details of the loan program include the following:

- Loan amounts range from \$500 to \$50,000*
- Interest rates begin at 12.99%*
- Loan payment terms are up to 72 months*
- The target baseline credit score is 575, but scores below this will also be considered*
- Any individual with greater than 20% ownership in the business must cosign*
- Decisions are typically made within 15 days and loans funded within 30 days*

- *Business planning and technical assistance provided*
- *Business plans are required for start-up businesses*
- *Special emphasis is given to rural, low-income, female and minority borrowers*
- *Loans require collateral*
- *Lines of credit are not offered*

[PRES](#)
[18-266](#)

9:15 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Information Regarding DSS Adoption Incentive Funds

Attachments: [07-16-18 DSS Budget Modification - Adoption Incentive Funds](#)

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Tracie Downer told the Board that Ashe DSS received \$36,000 funding from the State for adoption promotion. There were no monies budgeted for this item due to the uncertainty of funding. A request is being made for the commissioners to add to revenues and to expenses an amount of \$36,000. The funds are used to recruit, train, and support foster and adoptive parents in Ashe County. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the addition of \$36,000 in funding from the State of North Carolina to the DSS budget for Adoption Program Funds. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
July 16, 2018

The following budget amendment was approved upon motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Rose, as provided for by GS 153-127; vote carried unanimously.

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Social Services from \$7,789,989 to \$7,825,989; this increased appropriation of \$36,000 to be made with an appropriation of \$36,000 from Adoption Program Funds received from the State of North Carolina on 6-27-18.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[18-272](#)

9:20 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Request to Hire a Program Manager for DSS at the Longevity Level Equal to Experience

Attachments: [07-16-18 DSS Program Manager Position Salary Change Request](#)

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Tracie Downer made a request to hire a new program manager for Ashe DSS at a longevity level equal to the prospective employee's nine years of supervisory experience. The request is for the employee to be hired at Grade 76/Step 4 instead of Grade 76/Step 1 resulting in a difference of \$4689. Ms. Downer explained that there would not be an increase in the budget because DSS has three work against employees providing a savings to the County of \$20,550 which more than covers the request. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to hire a program manager for Ashe DSS at Grade 76/Step 4 which is equivalent to an employee with nine years of supervisory experience. 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](#)
[18-267](#)

9:25 AM - Animal Control Director Joe Testerman - Continued Discussion of Animal Control Firearms

Attachments: [07-16-18 Animal Control Firearm Usage Form](#)
[07-16-18 Animal Control Firearms Policy](#)

Animal Control Director Joe Testerman presented the Board with a copy of the firearms policy used by animal control officers. The policy was written in 2016 and approved by the county attorney. A request is being made to allow animal control officers to carry rifles. The County's insurance carrier provides insurance coverage for animal control officers as unsworn animal control officers without governmental immunity. Chairman Sands questioned regulations regarding firearms qualifying for animal control officers. Mr. Testerman agreed that there needs to be better clarification on qualifying requirements in the policy including a requirement for annual training for animal control officers. Chairman Sands stated that the request was not included in this year's budget and asked if it could hold and be placed in next year's budget. Mr. Testerman spoke to the increase in rabid animals and wild animals that they deal with on a daily basis. He believes rifles would be a tool that would be safer for employees and more humane for animals. Vice Chairman Rhodes asked how officers in other counties qualify with firearms. Mr. Testerman answered that each county has different requirements. Chairman Sands requested that research regarding training requirements be made with counties similar to Ashe County and for Mr. Testerman to meet with the county attorney about necessary wording changes to the policy. Vice Chairman Rhodes also requested clarity on qualifying for use of firearms. Commissioner Perry asked that Mr. Testerman work with the county attorney suggesting using the words "annual training" in the policy instead of the word "qualified". Commissioner McNeill believes that the County needs a document stating concrete guidelines and requirements. With no further discussion, the Board agreed to continue discussion regarding the request for animal control officers to be allowed to carry rifles.

Continued

[PRES](#)
[18-268](#)

9:35 AM - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen with Ashe Services for Aging - FY2017/18 HCCBG Budget Revision Approval

Attachments: [07-16-18 FY2017-18 H&CCBG Budget Revision](#)

Ashe Services for Aging Director Patricia Calloway and Mary Owen, finance officer with Ashe Services for Aging, were present requesting the commissioners' approval of a revision to the Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) for Older Adults. Ms. Owen explained the revision to the Home & Community Care Block Grant budget for FY2017/18 which included a \$1621 shift in funds between line items to balance the budget. Vice Chairman 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 Perry and Commissioner McNeill

[PRES](#)
[18-269](#)

9:40 AM - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen with Ashe Services for Aging - FY2018/19 H&CCBG Budget Approval

Attachments: [07-16-18 FY2018-19 H&CCBG Budget](#)

Ashe Services for Aging Finance Officer Mary Owen also presented the FY2018/19 Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) Budget for Older Adults for approval by the Board. Services provided for older adults through the funds include transportation, congregate meals, home delivered meals, adult day care, and in-home aide services. Ms. Owen told the Board that they received \$6301 in additional funding from the State this year and those funds have been distributed between in-home aide services and adult day health services. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the FY2018/19 H&CCBG Budget for Older Adults 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
18-270

9:45 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [07-16-18 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the Monthly Tax Report for June 2018. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the June 2018 Tax Report 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
18-271

9:50 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Motor Vehicle Gap Billing Update

Attachments: [07-16-18 Tax Administration Motor Vehicle Gap Billing](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining gap billing. Gap billing of property taxes occurs when there are one or more months in billed property taxes between the expiration of a vehicle registration and renewal of the registration. The vehicle is unregistered during this time. New legislation, G.S. 105-330.3, provides for the procedure to conduct gap billing. The first notice for gap billing will be mailed in early August.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 18-27

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

Commissioner Rose made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman

Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:56 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:24 a.m. with no action taken.

No Action Taken

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

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. Commissioner McNeill 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