

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 4, 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 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. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner McNeill offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**[MIN 18-92](#) June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes**

Attachments: [09-04-18 June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the June 4, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 18-93](#) June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-04-18 June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the June 5, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 18-94](#) June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-04-18 June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the June 6, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes as written. 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

[MIN 18-95](#) June 12, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-04-18 June 12, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the June 12, 2018 Budget Work Session minutes as written. 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

MIN 18-96 August 20, 2018 Regular Session Minutes**Attachments:** [09-04-18 August 20, 2018 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve the August 20, 2018 Regular Session minutes as written. 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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of "PRES 18-295 - James Hodge - Request for Board to Release Interest on Property Taxes". 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** 9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Update
18-294**Attachments:** [09-04-18 DSS Statistics for July 2018](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer reviewed July 2018 departmental statistics.

PRES 9:20 AM - James Hodge - Request for Board to Release Interest on
18-295 Property Taxes**Attachments:** [09-04-18 Property Tax Interest Release Request-James Hodge](#)

This item was deleted from the agenda.

PRES 9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert & Real Property Appraisal
18-296 Supervisor Mike Hobbs - 2019 Revaluation Update

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert and Real Property Appraisal Supervisor Mike Hobbs presented information regarding the 2019 property tax revaluation. Tax Administrator Lambert provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the revaluation process. Real Property Appraisal Supervisor Mike Hobbs explained information specific to Ashe County. There are 40,000 parcels divided into 430 unique neighborhoods and each appraiser for the county is assigned 13,300 parcels each. Due to installation of new software and the GIS mapping system, visits do not have to be made to each parcel individually. However, visits are made to all new and improved dwellings. A little over 28,000 tax notices are sent each year. The Tax Office is 90% complete with current property assessments and the goal is to finish field work by the first of November. The notice of new assessments will be sent in mid-January. Mr. Hobbs explained the process for making appeals to property valuations. The tax administrator, at the request of Vice Chairman Rhodes, explained why the revaluation is done every four years. Chairman Sands stated that he has been asked about the fee charged to use a credit card to pay tax bills. Mr. Lambert explained that the fee is a straight convenience fee that goes directly to the credit card company. All of the 30 counties in North Carolina that he has worked with utilize this fee.

[PRES](#)
[18-297](#)

9:40 AM - Sue Thompson, Director of Ashe County Transportation Authority - Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Application Approval

Attachments: [09-04-18 ROAP Application-2019](#)

Sue Thompson, director of Ashe County Transportation Authority, presented the annual Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application for approval by the Board. She outlined the three portions of State funding included in the program. The Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) allocation for 2019 is \$57,856, the Employment Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL) allocation is \$8,505, and the Rural General Public Program (RGP) allocation is \$61,662 for a total of \$128,023. Ms. Thompson explained the number of transports that were provided to the citizens in Ashe County through this funding last year. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the 2019 ROAP application 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](#)
[18-298](#)

9:50 AM - Animal Control Director Joe Testerman - Approval of Firearms Policy Form, Firearm Training Form & Remedial Training Form

Attachments: [09-04-18 Animal Control Firearm Training Form](#)

[09-04-18 Animal Control Firearms Policy](#)

[09-04-18 Animal Control Remedial Training Form](#)

Animal Control Director Joe Testerman presented the amended Animal Control Firearms Training Form, the Animal Control Firearms Policy, and the Animal Control Remedial Training Form for approval by the Board. Mr. Testerman explained the changes that were made to the forms. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the forms as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Animal Control Director Testerman told the Board that funds were not set aside in this

year's budget to purchase rifles for the officers and he asked the Board for direction on how he should proceed. The cost for three rifles and ammunition is projected to be \$3,000. Commissioner Rose recommended that the acting county manager review the request and add it to the next agenda for approval by the Board. In answer to a question from Vice Chairman Rhodes, Mr. Testerman thanked the Board for changing the shelter attendant from a part-time position to a full-time position which has helped to allow the Animal Shelter to be open longer hours during the week and by appointment on Saturdays. Mr. Testerman also updated the Board on increasing cases of rabies in the County.

Approved

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

PRES
18-299

10:00 AM - Acting County Manager Adam Stumb - Request to Move Parks & Recreation Funds

Attachments: [09-04-18 Parks & Recreation Transfer of Funds](#)

Acting County Manager Adam Stumb explained to the Board that the Parks and Recreation Department is making a request to transfer funds within the Parks and Recreation budget to Capital Outlay to use to refinish the gym floor. Parks and Recreation Director Scott Turnmyre told the Board that the gym floor and the basketball goals were replaced in 2013. Usage of the gym has increased dramatically and is being used for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. Due to increased usage, another court was added by taping the area off. Scott Turnmyre requested Parks and Recreation staff to review their budget for FY2018-19 for items that can be placed on hold so that the funds could be used for refinishing the gym floor at Family Central. The total project cost is \$17,393.75. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to transfer \$3000 from the Athletics line item, \$3000 from the Youth Sports line item, and \$4000 from the line item for Ballfields to Buildings and Grounds to be used to refinish the gym floor, including redrawing the lines on the floor to include an additional pickleball court and incorporating an extra volleyball system. 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

GENERAL SESSION

Resolutions

RES 18-17

Resolution Pledging Financial Support of the Ashe County Fire Training Facility

Attachments: [09-04-18 Fire Training Facility-Pledge of Support Resolution](#)

Acting County Manager Adam Stumb explained that bids submitted to construct the Fire Training Facility were more than the estimated cost of the project. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requested that the commissioners pledge support for the funding shortfall. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. 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

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session**[ES 18-29](#)

Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Legal Issues (DSS) and G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Economic Development

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to enter into Executive Session as provided for by G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to discuss legal issues regarding the Department of Social Services and provided for by G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss issues regarding economic development. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman Sands declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:18 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:03 a.m. The following action was taken. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion in the matter of DSS fraud cases #0000542857 and #0000542858, that the decision of the former DSS Board be dissolved and the Ashe County Department of Social Services be directed to pursue an Administrative Disqualification Hearing. With the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the County Department of Social Services will be able to establish a claim to recover all ineligible benefits received. 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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Rose made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m. 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

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