

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, March 4, 2019

10:00 AM

Special Meeting - Work Session

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

Chairperson Todd McNeill

Vice Chair William Sands

Commissioner Larry Rhodes

Commissioner Paula Perry

Commissioner Larry Dix

WORK SESSION**I. 10:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Chairman McNeill called the Work Session to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

[PRES 19-42](#) Mid-Year Budget Review

Attachments: [03-04-19 Mid-Year Budget Review](#)

Finance Officer Sandra Long presented the Mid-Year Budget Review and Financial Report for July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.

[PRES 19-43](#) DSS/Health Department Buildings

Attachments: [03-04-19 DSS Cost of Space](#)
[03-04-19 Appalachian District Health Department](#)

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb spoke to the many needs of County departments that are providing services to our citizens. He explained that both the Department of Social Services and the Health Department have outgrown their buildings.

DSS Director Tracie Downer told the Board about efforts to house the entire department under one roof. She spoke of the high caseloads in each department within DSS and the need for more hard-walled offices due to confidentiality requirements. She passed out information to the Board regarding state and federal reimbursements to the County for building and parking space. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of combining the Health Department and the Department of Social Services into one building.

Appalachian District Health Director Jennifer Greene passed out information that included an overview of Health Department responsibilities. Jessica Muldowney and Maggie Birdsell with the Health Department were also present. Director Greene explained that there were 3200 clients served last year in clinical sites. She provided information on challenges that are faced with the condition of their current building and the need for more space.

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb addressed maintenance issues with the current building. He will put a committee together to work on the next steps that need to be taken to address the issues discussed. The next steps include: 1) create a committee made up of staff regarding the needs for a new building; 2) create a budget for preliminary planning work; and 3) appropriate funds in the budget for a professional to work on the project.

[PRES 19-44](#) Commercial Kitchen

Attachments: [03-04-19 Commercial Kitchen](#)
[03-04-19 Local Foods Coordinator](#)

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr listed reasons why the Commercial Kitchen failed in the past and why it is the right time to reopen the Commercial Kitchen.

Consultant Sherman Lyle explained the increased need for catered events. The equipment in the Kitchen is currently valued at approximately \$393,000. There are only minor repairs needed to bring the Kitchen up to Health Department standards. Cooperative Extension Director Travis Birdsell told the Board that the last time the Kitchen opened there was no marketing plan developed and the County was not at the place that it is now. Mr. Birdsell believes there has to be ongoing supervised management to make the Kitchen successful. Both Ashe and Alleghany counties are looking for a local foods coordinator, which if made into a full-time position, the salary could be paid 1/3 by the State, 1/3 by Ashe County, and 1/3 by Alleghany County. Ashe County responsibilities would include management of the Kitchen. This would allow availability of resources from NC State University including product development assistance. The local foods coordinator position would fall under Cooperative Extension and the position would be split between both counties.

PRES 19-45 Parks & Recreation

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Dusty Farmer was present to discuss issues and needs within the Parks and Recreation Department. Interim County Manager Adam Stumb opened discussion regarding an upcoming opportunity in the next few years with the school fields and gym at the current Ashe County Middle School. Interim Recreation Director Dusty Farmer spoke to the shortage of gym space and baseball field availability. He explained previous Parks and Recreation Director Scott Turnmyre's goal to have a place for recreation in that area of Ashe County. Commissioner Rhodes commented that the school still belongs to the Board of Education. Interim Manager Stumb will talk with the school superintendent to discuss this issue. Some of the empty classrooms could be used for classes such as taekwondo or yoga. There is a workout room, a walking track, and a pool at the school. Consideration needs to be given to added mowing costs and the cost for additional employees.

PRES 19-46 Airport

Airport Manager Eric Payne, Airport Advisory Board Chair George Morrison, and James Moose who is an engineering consultant with AVCON, were present to discuss needs and to provide an update on the Ashe County Airport. James Moose passed out handouts of the Airport Layout Plan along with project and grant information. The FAA requires an Airport Plan that includes 20 years of planned development. He explained the Project and Grant information for the past 3 - 5 years. Mr. Moose told the Board that the Stump property was recently purchased with no County funding match required. He explained that the fuel farm and terminal fencing projects were combined into one project. Bids were submitted in January and a bid award will be made soon. Airport Manager Eric Payne explained the fencing project and the fuel farm project. He told the Board that a match of County funds in the amount of \$62,500 will be needed for the fuel farm project. James Moose would like to move funds from the taxiway project budget and use for the fuel farm project. This will need to be voted on during a regular meeting. James Moose explained the brochure that was handed out to the Board showing the economic impact of airports on North Carolina. Airport Manager Payne outlined issues with the Stump property that need to be addressed before the hangars are rented. This will be placed into the upcoming budget request for the Airport. Eric Payne also told the Board that there is a 100% grant in place to bring water from Jefferson to the Airport.

PRES 19-47 Additional Items

Chairman McNeill told the Board that he talked with Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley regarding the Baldwin Convenience Center. Environmental Services trucks are making two trips per day to empty containers at the site. On Saturdays the Baldwin

Convenience Center is overcrowded due to the large number of vehicles coming into the convenience center. With the widening of Highway 221, this area of the County is becoming the fastest growing area in Ashe County. Consideration needs to be made for adding another convenience center in the Hwy 163 area. Commissioner Dix told the Board that he has had a discussion with a group of people that are concerned with this issue. Chairman McNeill would like to discuss this in the upcoming budget work sessions.

Commissioner Dix also spoke regarding needs at the Animal Control building and the Environmental Services garage in West Jefferson.

II. Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
Approved

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

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.

Todd McNeill, Chairman

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board