

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, June 3, 2019

9:00 AM

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner Paula Perry
Commissioner Larry Dix*

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Chairman McNeill 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 Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

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

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of Sheriff Howell presenting two resolutions for the disposal of surplus property. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public.

Pat Considine, facilitator of the Protect our Fresh Air and Clean Water organization, outlined the mission and goals of the group he is representing. He thanked the Board for their efforts to fight construction of an asphalt plant in Glendale Springs. He told the Board that they have raised \$2000 toward any legal expenses the County will incur going forward regarding the asphalt plant. A fundraising effort has begun in the communities to assist the County with continued legal expenses.

Sandra Ford stated that the commissioners need to be a shield for the community.

Lou Zeller, executive director of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, stated support for comments made by Pat Considine. He encouraged the Board of Commissioners to move forward with legal action regarding the asphalt plant. Mr. Zeller thanked the Board for their work and support regarding the asphalt plant. He presented a news story from the "Progressive Pulse" about the Glendale Springs Asphalt Plant case.

Ellen Pesco stated concern for the impact of pollution and heavy traffic from the proposed asphalt plant site in Glendale Springs.

Jerry Paul told the Board that they took an oath to uphold the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ashe County. This includes an asphalt plant in Glendale Springs. He appreciates the support the commissioners have shown.

Gurney Wike stated that his concerns are the same as the ones that have already been voiced. He is concerned with air pollution and widespread river pollution resulting from an

asphalt plant locating in Glendale Springs. Mr. Wike stated appreciation for the work the commissioners have done on this issue.

Michael Bell told the Board that he is against pollution that would result from an asphalt plant in Glendale Springs. He stated that there were effects on the Glendale Springs community from the recession and the community was hurt economically. The economy is now starting to rebound and he is concerned with how an asphalt plant would affect the community.

Dan Hammond stated support for comments made. He added that the company proposing to place an asphalt plant in Glendale Springs does not have a good compliance record with rules and regulations pertaining to their company.

Sandra Warren spoke to the Board regarding a situation she is dealing with concerning being placed in a dementia care unit by her daughter and a doctor in Ashe County.

No further comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 19-109](#)

9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Report

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the Energy Programs Outreach Plan which requires approval of the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the Plan as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Ms. Downer then passed out copies of the monthly statistical report for the commissioners and provided information regarding the report. Next, Medicaid Supervisor Saundra Day presented information to the Board on Long Term Care Medicaid.

Approved

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

[PRES 19-110](#)

9:15 AM - Finance Officer Sandra Long - Approval of Budget Amendments

Attachments: [06-03-19 Budget Amendments](#)

Finance Officer Sandra Long presented budget amendments for approval by the Board. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve budget amendments as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

June 3, 2019

General Fund:

To increase the department of Corrections budgeted expenditures from \$2,152,332 to \$2,172,332; this increased appropriation of \$20,000 for Food & Provisions for Inmates to be made by increasing revenues from Inmate Vending Machine revenues from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

To increase the department of Airport budgeted expenditures from \$315,812 to \$353,202; this increased appropriation of \$37,390 to be made with an appropriation from the Contingency Fund reducing that budgeted appropriation from \$264,037 to 226,647.

To increase the department of Social Services from \$7,825,989 to \$7,949,989 an increase of \$124,000; this increased appropriation to be made by increasing DSS LINKS Revenues from \$0 to \$22,000 and DSS Administrative Reimbursements from \$3,397,369 to \$3,499,369 with \$102,000 of additional CIP and LIEAP revenues.

To increase the department of Economic Development from \$526,265 to \$539,598 with an increase of \$13,333 in Occupancy Tax revenues from \$254,000 to \$267,333.

To increase the department of Cultural Arts from \$194,254 to \$220,921; this increased appropriation to be made with an increase of \$26,667 in Occupancy Tax revenues from \$267,333 to \$294,000.

To increase the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,637,276 to \$2,645,256; this increased appropriation to be made with a reimbursement of \$7,980 from the U S Marshals Service for assistance in a special operation.

To increase the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,645,256 to \$2,655,256; this increased appropriation of \$10,000 to be made with a Special Appropriation to Ashe County Sheriff's department to fight opioid abuse received June 3, 2019.

Approved

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

PRES
19-111

9:20 AM - Priscilla Norris, CPA - Approval of 2019 County Audit Contract

Attachments: [06-03-19 Audit Contract 2019](#)

Priscilla Norris, CPA, presented the 2019 Audit Contract for approval by the Board. Ms. Norris reviewed changes in this year's audit requirements resulting in an increase of \$1500 in the cost of preparing the audit, for a total cost of \$45,000. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the 2019 County Audit Contract as presented by Priscilla Norris. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES
19-112

9:30 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Approval of Ambulance Franchise Ordinance

Attachments: [06-03-19 Ambulance Franchise Ordinance](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance for approval by the Board. Ms. Gambill explained that the contract will be up for renewal in 2024. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The

motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES
19-113

9:35 AM - Interim County Manager Adam Stumb - Discussion Regarding
Salary for Parks & Recreation Position

Attachments: [06-03-19 Parks & Rec Director Salary Discussion](#)

Interim County Manager Adam Stumb spoke to the Board regarding the starting salary for the Parks and Recreation Director position. He told the Board that the County is ready to post the position. He stated that it is imperative to find a good candidate with grant writing experience. Consideration needs to also be given to the fact that Parks and Recreation may take over responsibility of the pool and ballfields at the old Middle School in the future. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is asking for the commissioners to consider an increase in the salary. The current starting salary is \$45,705. Discussion regarding increasing the starting salary for this position can be considered during the budget work sessions.

PRES
19-122

9:40 AM - Sheriff Howell - Request to Purchase Equipment

Sheriff Phil Howell made a request to purchase thermal imaging equipment to be used in the sex offender's program at the Sheriff's Office. He explained that the U.S. Marshals Service will pay the County back within 30 days for the equipment, but the County will need to make an initial expenditure of \$7979.87 to purchase the equipment. Commissioner Dix made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$7979.87 to purchase a thermal imaging unit for the Sheriff's Office with the understanding that the expense will be reimbursed by the U.S. Marshals Service in 30 days. Commissioner Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

June 3, 2019

General Fund:

To increase the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,637,276 to \$2,645,256; this increased appropriation to be made with a reimbursement of \$7,980 from the U S Marshals Service for assistance in a special operation.

Approved

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

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments

APP 19-16

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Board Member
Reappointments

Attachments: [06-03-19 JCPC Reappointments](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to reappoint Scott Perry, Zachary Shepherd, Paige Stephens, Pam Barlow, and Doug Goss to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for two-year terms. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

APP 19-17 Library Board Reappointments

Attachments: [06-03-19 Library Board Reappointments](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to reappoint Steve Katz and JoAnn Crawley to the Ashe County Library Board, and to reappoint Kyle Hall to the Regional Library Board. Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

Resolutions

RES 19-5 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Allocation Expansion Resolution

Attachments: [06-03-19 JCPC Resolution for Allocation Expansion](#)

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Resolution for Allocation Expansion. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

ES 19-11 Executive Session - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Legal Issues (Appalachian Materials) & G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues regarding Appalachian Materials as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) and to discuss the acquisition of property as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5). Commissioner Dix seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:53 a.m., with no action taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Dix 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, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board