

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

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

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

Present: 4 - Vice Chairman Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry, Chairperson Todd McNeill and Commissioner William Sands

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Larry Dix

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 20-27](#) August 17, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-08-20 August 17, 2020 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to approve the August 17, 2020 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Sands, Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry and Chairperson McNeill

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

V. Public Comment

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for public comment. No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES 20-134](#) 9:05 AM - Chief Deputy Danny Houck - Request for Approval of Whistleblower Policy

Attachments: [09-08-20 Whistleblower Policy](#)

Chief Deputy Danny Houck told the Board that the Personnel Policy Committee met to discuss making changes to the Whistleblower Policy as requested by the commissioners. Commissioner Sands stated concern for the person that would be notified if there is a complaint against an elected official. County Manager Adam Stumb stated that it was decided in the Personnel Policy Committee meeting that the county attorney should be notified. Vice Chairman Rhodes stated that the commissioners do not have authority over elected officials. Commissioner Sands asked why a complaint

against the county manager would be reported to the sheriff since the county manager is hired and fired by the commissioners. Vice Chairman Rhodes suggested that the policy read that the chairman of the county commissioners and the county attorney should be notified if there is a complaint against the county manager. Sheriff Howell stated that if there is criminal activity by the county manager, the complaint should be heard by the county attorney. The requested amendments will go back to the Personnel Policy Committee to be incorporated into the Whistleblower Policy before being brought to the commissioners for approval.

[PRES](#)
[20-135](#)

9:15 AM - Kelsey Wagoner, Tax Exemption/Exclusion Specialist - Request for Approval of Untimely Present-Use Value Application

Attachments: [09-08-20 Untimely Present-Use Value Application](#)

Kelsey Wagoner, tax exemption and exclusion specialist, presented a request for approval of an untimely Present-Use Value application from Kelly London and Brandon Miller. She explained that North Carolina General Statutes mandate that an untimely application must be brought before the Board. Two notification letters from the Tax Office were mailed prior to expiration of time for an application to be submitted but no response was received. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion based on the information presented and past action taken by the Board, to deny the request for approval of the untimely Present-Use Value application. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

[PRES](#)
[20-136](#)

9:25 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell - Budget Amendment - Sheriff's Office Body Camera Program Grant

Attachments: [09-08-20 Budget Amendment for Sheriff's Office Body Camera Program Grant](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a request for approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$24,035 for a grant to purchase 23 body cameras for use by Sheriff's Office deputies. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the budget amendment request. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

To increase the appropriation for the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,878,798 to \$2,902,833; this increased appropriation of \$24,035 to be made with an appropriation of \$24,035 in NC Department of Public Safety grant revenues.

Approved

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

[PRES](#)
[20-137](#)

9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process

Attachments: [09-08-20 Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented a resolution authorizing an upset bid process for 1/3 acre of land adjacent to the landfill. The purchase of this property will allow the person that placed a bid on the property to be able to install a well and septic tank for their current property. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

[PRES](#)
[20-138](#)

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Sheriff's Office Viper Radio Financing Proposals

Attachments: [09-08-20 Viper Radio Financing Proposals](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that two financing proposals were received to purchase 35 viper radios for the Sheriff's Office. The following bids were received: LifeStore Bank - Option 1: 3-year term with an interest rate of 1.98%, and Option 2: 5-year term with an interest rate of 2.10%; First National Bank - Option 1: 3-year term with an interest rate of 1.89%, and Option 2: 5-year term with an interest rate of 2.01%. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to accept the financing proposal from First National Bank for a 5-year term at an interest rate of 2.01%. Commissioner Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Vice Chairman Rhodes, Commissioner Perry, Chairperson McNeill and Commissioner Sands

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