

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, September 21, 2020

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

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

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

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

Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to add an Executive Session for the Board in their capacity as the DSS Board to consult with a DSS attorney. Commissioner Sands 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](#)
[20-139](#)

9:00 AM - Public Hearing - Cory Osborne, Regional Planner with High Country Council of Governments - Application for 2020 Community Development Block Grant Funds to Assist Individuals with Utility Payments or Food Insecurity Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Attachments: [09-21-20 Public Hearing-Application for CDBG COVID-19 Funds](#)

Chairman McNeill opened the Public Hearing at 9:03 a.m. to obtain citizen comments regarding submission of an application for 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist low-income to moderate-income individuals with utility payments or food insecurity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cory Osborne, regional planner with High Country Council of Governments, provided information on the grant funds. Funds are provided from the NC Department of Commerce. Units of government can apply for up to \$900,000 through this program. Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The second public hearing required before applying for funds will be held on October 5, 2020. Requirements for use of the funds was listed, along with ineligible usage of funds. There are no matching funds required from the County. Funds must be expended within 30 months of receiving the grant. There was no public comment offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 9:12 a.m.

[PRES](#)
[20-140](#)

9:10 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Statistical Report for July 2020

Attachments: [09-21-20 DSS Statistics July 2020](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented the July 2020 Statistics Report for her department. She told the Board that they are in the implementation phase of the Traverse software recently purchased. She also provided a handout of a policy established for the Emergency Homeless Fund and a handout of the Ashe County Department of Social Services Internship Program Handbook. An update was provided on the upcoming Senior Christmas Program for needy seniors.

[PRES](#)
[20-141](#)

9:20 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report for August 2020

Attachments: [09-21-20 Monthly Tax Report](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the August 2020 Tax Report for approval by the Board. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the August 2020 Tax Report as presented. 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](#)
[20-142](#)

9:25 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Request to Authorize Tax Collector to Write Off 1993 - 2010 Delinquent Tax Bills

Attachments: [09-21-20 Tax Collector to Write Off 1993-2010 Delinquent Tax Bills](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented a request for the Board to approve authorization, as mandated by General Statutes 105-373 and 105-379, to write off delinquent tax bills from 1993 through 2010 that are no longer eligible for collection. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the request to write off 1993 through 2010 delinquent tax bills as required by General Statutes. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[20-143](#)

9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Lansing for Billing and Collection of Municipal Property Taxes Beginning July 2021

Attachments: [09-21-20 Interlocal Agreement-Collection of Lansing Municipal Taxes](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented an Interlocal Agreement between the County and the Town of Lansing allowing the County to bill and collect Lansing municipal property taxes beginning July 2021. This was discussed during a joint meeting held with the towns in Ashe County on February 3, 2020. The Lansing Board of Aldermen voted to approve the agreement. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the County of Ashe and Town of Lansing Interlocal Agreement to bill and collect taxes for the Town of Lansing beginning July 2021. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[20-144](#)

9:35 AM - Elections Director John Shepherd - Update on 2020 Elections

Elections Director John Shepherd provided an update on the upcoming 2020 election process. He highlighted changes that will take place this year. The location for one-stop voting will be held in the conference room of the Agricultural Services Building to allow for social distancing due to COVID-19 and there have also been changes made to precinct locations.

[PRES](#)
[20-145](#)

9:40 AM - Chief Deputy Danny Houck - Whistleblower Policy

Attachments: [09-21-20 Whistleblower Policy](#)

Personnel Policy Committee member Patty Gambill presented the updated Whistleblower Policy which includes changes that were requested to be made to the policy at the last meeting of the Board. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the Whistleblower Policy 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](#)
[20-146](#)

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Ashe County Schools Use of Family Central

County Manager Adam Stumb told the Board that Ashe County Schools would like to use space short term at Family Central to fill a gap in childcare due to the possible schedule change for elementary school children with the new COVID-19 requirements issued by Governor Cooper. The only space available is the cafeteria space at Family Central. The Board was in agreement to allow Ashe County Schools to use the available space at Family Central. County Manager Stumb told the Board that an Agreement of Understanding will be drawn up between the County and Ashe County Schools.

[PRES](#)
[20-147](#)

9:55 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Board Meeting Room Audio Visual Repairs & Upgrades

County Manager Adam Stumb presented quotes for visual repairs and upgrades for the Board's meeting room. The first quote from Diversified is for video add-on to outfit PC presentation capabilities that include local displays in the commissioner meeting room and PC-based content added to the existing streaming and recording systems at a cost of \$19,439.69. The second quote from Diversified is to remove and replace ceiling speakers, amplifiers, and audio signal processing equipment, and to repurpose gooseneck microphones at a cost of \$18,581.71. Vice Chairman Rhodes made a motion to approve the first quote at a cost of \$19,439.69. 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**Appointments****APP 20-12** Ashe County Joint Community Advisory Committee Reappointment

Attachments: [09-21-20 Joint Community Advisory Committee Reappointment](#)

Commissioner Sands made a motion to reappoint Mary Sexton to the Ashe County Joint Community Advisory Committee for a three-year term. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointment(s) Approved

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

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****ES 20-8** E.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) - Legal Issues

Commissioner Sands made a motion for the Board, in the capacity as the DSS Board, to enter into Executive Session under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with a DSS attorney. Vice Chairman Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board into Executive Session at 9:55 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 10:32 a.m., with no action being taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m. Vice Chairman Rhodes 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