

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Monday, December 7, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**NEW BUSINESS - Organizational Meeting**

**Commission Meeting Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair William Sands  
Commissioner Chuck Olive  
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers  
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

**NEW BUSINESS****I. Convene for Organizational Business**

*County Manager Adam Stumb called the meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:24 a.m.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

**MISC 20-7** Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

*County Manager Adam Stumb opened the floor for nominations for the position of chairman. Commissioner Sands made a motion to nominate Commissioner McNeill as chairman. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice chairman. Commissioner Olive made a motion to nominate Commissioner Sands as vice chairman. Chairman McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**MISC 20-8** Setting of Bonds for Sheriff, Register of Deeds, Tax Administrator & Finance Officer

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Fidelity Bonds](#)

*Commissioner Olive made a motion to set the bonds for Sheriff Phil Howell, Register of Deeds Deaett Roten, Tax Administrator Chris Lambert and Finance Officer Sandra Long at \$100,000 each. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**MISC 20-9** Appointment of County Attorney & County Clerk

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Appointment of County Attorney and Clerk](#)

*Commissioner Olive made a motion to appoint John Kilby as the county attorney. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to appoint Ashley Honeycutt as county clerk. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**MISC 20-10** Adoption of Rules of Procedure

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 BOC Rules of Procedure](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Ashe County Board of Commissioners without amendment. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Powers requested consideration for a future amendment removing the requirement of a second on any motion, to be discussed at a later meeting.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**MISC 20-11** Selection of Committee Appointments for Board of Commissioners**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Commissioner Boards and Committees](#)

*Commissioner Powers volunteered to join the Workforce Development Consortium (WDC). Chairman McNeill made a motion to appoint Commissioner Powers to the WDC, and Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Jordan offered to serve on the Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC). Commissioner Powers made a motion to appoint Commissioner Jordan to the BROC, and Chairman McNeill seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Powers made a motion that Chairman McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, and Commissioner Olive continue serving on their respective committees, as previously appointed. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*The Commissioners are serving on the following boards and committees for 2020:*

*Commissioner McNeill:*

AGRICULTURAL CENTER ADVISORY BOARD  
HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
HIGH COUNTRY RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORG  
VAYA HEALTH

*Commissioner Olive:*

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

*Commissioner Sands:*

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

*Commissioner Jordan:*

BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Powers:

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[MISC 20-12](#) Conclusion of Organizational Business

## II. Adoption of Agenda

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to add to the agenda a request from Sheriff Phil Howell to designate a check for the Christmas with Cops 2020 event. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

*Commissioner Olive made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

## III. Public Comment

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for comments from the public. Ashe County Schools Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox notified the Commissioners that the school system has completed its five-year facility needs survey, as mandated by the state. She invited the Board to attend a virtual Ashe County Board of Education meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. to view the presentation of the survey. Dr. Cox also reported that plans are in progress for a new middle school. No further comments were offered.*

## IV. Presentations

[PRES  
20-179](#)

9:15 AM - AppHealthCare Director Jennifer Greene - COVID-19 Update

*AppHealthCare Director Jennifer Greene provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Ashe County. She shared that to date Ashe County has had 1,052 cumulative cases, with 111 active cases, 117 additional individuals currently in quarantine, and 20 deaths. She said that AppHealthCare is continuing to see increasing hospitalizations across the region, and she emphasized the importance of preventative measures. She also shared that the CDC has announced changes in quarantine guidelines. She recommended getting the flu vaccine and said that AppHealthCare would continue to provide information regarding COVID-19 vaccines as it becomes available.*

[PRES  
20-180](#)

9:25 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendments

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 DSS Budget Amendments](#)

*DSS Director Tracie Downer presented the following budget amendments for the Board's approval. Commissioner Olive made a motion to appropriate the Pandemic LIEAP funds as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to appropriate the CPS APS*

COVID funds as requested. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. DSS Director Downer also recognized DSS Adult Services Supervisor Tommy McClure on his retirement.

#### BUDGET AMENDMENTS

December 7, 2020

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,468,945 to \$8,570,237; this increased appropriation of \$101,292 to be made with additional unbudgeted Pandemic LIEAP revenues received in November 2020.

To increase the department of Social Services from \$8,570,237 to \$8,600,804; this increased appropriation of \$30,567 to be made with additional unbudgeted CPS APS COVID revenues received in September 2020.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES  
20-181](#)

9:30 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Overpayment Procedure Resolution

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Tax Resolution](#)

Ashe County Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented a resolution requesting approval to apply small overpayments to the taxpayer's future taxes or current tax bills, as permitted by General Statutes 105-321 and 105-327 and NC General Assembly Session Law 2015-266. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES  
20-182](#)

9:35 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell - Transfer of Funds Between Budget Line Items

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Sheriff's Office Transfer of Funds](#)

Sheriff Phil Howell presented the following budget amendment for the Board's approval. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve \$4,600 be appropriated from the State Controlled Substance/Sheriff's Drug Fund and be added to the Law Enforcement budget expenditures to purchase a K9 cage as requested. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

#### BUDGET AMENDMENT

December 7, 2020

To increase the appropriation for the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,935,937 to \$2,940,537; this increased appropriation of \$4,600 to be made with an appropriation of unappropriated State Controlled Substance/Sheriff's Drug Fund revenues which are located in the unencumbered General Fund – Fund Balance.

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

[PRES  
20-183](#)

9:40 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell - Designation of Funds for Christmas with Cops

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Sheriff's Office Christmas with Cops](#)

*Sheriff Phil Howell presented the following budget amendment for the Board's approval. Commissioner Olive made a motion to appropriate a donation made to the Ashe County Sheriff's Office of \$1,500 to be used specifically for the Christmas with Cops event as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**  
December 7, 2020

*To increase the appropriation for the department of Law Enforcement from \$2,940,537 to \$2,942,037; this increased appropriation of \$1,500 to be made with an appropriation of unappropriated Donations & Contributions/Sheriff revenues which are located in the unencumbered General Fund – Fund Balance.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Appointments**

[APP 20-18](#)

Airport Advisory Board Appointment

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 Airport Board Appointment](#)

*Chairman McNeill made a motion to appoint Joey Parsons to the Airport Advisory Board to fulfill the term of Tom Cecchetti. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Appointment(s) Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**Other Items for Consideration**

[MISC 20-6](#)

Designation of Voting Delegate to NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

**Attachments:** [12-7-20 NCACC Voting Delegate](#)

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to appoint Chairman McNeill as Voting Delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

**V. Commissioner Comments**

**VI. Announcements**

**VII. Executive Session**

**VIII. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*  
**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

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.

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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**Ashley G. Honeycutt**  
**Clerk to the Board**