

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, September 20, 2021

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

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

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

Chairman McNeill called the Regular Session of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Olive led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**[MIN 21-33](#) August 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [9-20-21 August 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the August 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes as written. 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

[MIN 21-34](#) September 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [9-20-21 September 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the September 7, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written. 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

[MIN 21-35](#) September 7, 2021 Executive Session Minutes

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the September 7, 2021 Executive Session Minutes as written. 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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the agenda with the following additions: 1) an additional Department of Social Services budget amendment; 2) a resolution regarding

funds for the Ashe County Industrial Park; 3) an Emergency Preparedness Resolution; 4) a personnel discussion; and 5) a discussion regarding televising meetings held outside the Board's usual meeting space. 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

V. Public Comment

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

VI. Presentations

[PRES
21-127](#)

9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - VAYA Grant & Budget Amendment

Attachments: [9-20-21 VAYA Grant Budget Amendment.pdf](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented for the Board's approval the following budget amendment. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the amendment as requested. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
September 20, 2021

To increase the department of Social Services from \$9,232,417 to \$9,257,416; this increased appropriation of \$25,000 to be made with additional unbudgeted VAYA Health – Mental Health Block Grant revenues which have been formally awarded to Ashe County DSS.

Approved

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

[PRES
21-137](#)

9:05 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendment

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented for the Board's approval the following budget amendment. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the amendment as requested. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
September 20, 2021

General Fund:

To increase the appropriation for the department of Social Services from \$9,257,416 to \$9,298,896; this increased appropriation to be made with \$41,480 in additional unappropriated LINKs revenues.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[21-128](#)

9:10 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Monthly Departmental Updates

Attachments: [9-20-21 DSS Monthly Stats Reports.pdf](#)

Department of Social Services Director Tracie Downer presented to the Board the DSS statistics for June and July 2021, noting that foster care numbers had remained steady at 73 and that the number of adult wards had increased by one. She also shared that the Child Welfare portion of the department had been reviewed four times recently and had passed all of the reviews. Ms. Downer also discussed collaborative efforts by DSS, including regular meetings with VAYA regarding community mental health needs and partnerships with the Ashe County school system, among other cooperative efforts.

[PRES](#)
[21-129](#)

9:20 AM - Generations Ashe Executive Director Patricia Calloway and Finance Director Mary Owen - Home and Community Care Block Grant 20-21 Revision and 21-22 Budget Approval & Generations Ashe Update

Attachments: [9-20-21 HCCBG Revision & Budget.pdf](#)

Generations Ashe Executive Director Patricia Calloway shared with the Board an update on Generations Ashe operations. She said that the adult daycare reopened in June 2021 and noted that although quarantines and additional COVID-related precautions have changed their operations, all programs have continued in some fashion throughout the pandemic. Ms. Calloway also said that Generations Ashe is facing a staffing crisis with numerous positions available, and she expressed gratitude for the volunteers that assist their operations. She detailed two upcoming fundraisers: the Fuel Assistance Program roadside fund drive on October 8, 2021, and the 13th annual Taste of the Mountains fundraiser on October 14, 2021.

Finance Director Mary Owen presented for the Board's approval the final revision for the 2020-2021 Home and Community Care Block Grant. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the revision as presented. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Ms. Owen also presented for the Board's approval the projected 2021-2022 Home and Community Care Block Grant budget. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the revision as presented. 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](#)
[21-138](#)

9:30 AM - Economic Development Director Cathy Barr - Ashe Industrial Park Funds Resolution

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr recommended delaying approval of the resolution regarding funds for the Ashe County Industrial Park until after updated cost estimates are received for the Park's development. Ms. Barr also shared that the County will be hosting another job fair at Family Central on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

[PRES](#)
[21-130](#)

9:35 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Tax Collector FY20/21 Settlement

Attachments: [9-20-21 Tax FY20-21 Settlement.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented for the Board's approval a settlement report for 2020-2021, as required by statute. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the settlement as presented. Commissioner Jordan 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](#)
[21-131](#)

9:45 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Tax Collector FY21/22 Charge

Attachments: [9-20-21 Tax FY21-22 Charge.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented for the Board's approval the projected amount planned to be collected in 2021-2022, as required by statute. Mr. Lambert also noted that more than 68% of the projected levy has already been collected since July 1, 2021. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the charge as presented. Commissioner Jordan 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](#)
[21-132](#)

9:50 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Monthly Tax Report

Attachments: [9-20-21 Monthly Tax Report.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the monthly tax report for August 2021. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Jordan 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](#)
[21-133](#)

9:50 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Request to Authorize Write-Off of 2011 Delinquent Tax Bills

Attachments: [9-20-21 2011 Delinquent Tax Bills.pdf](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert requested the Board's approval to write off the 2011 delinquent taxes, as allowed by statute. Mr. Lambert stated that 99.4% of the total levy for 2011 has been collected. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the settlement as presented. Commissioner Jordan 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](#)
[21-136](#)

9:55 AM - Ashe County Transportation Authority Executive Director
Amanda Roten - Rural Operating Assistance Program Application

Attachments: [9-20-21 ROAP Application.pdf](#)

Ashe County Transportation Authority Executive Director Amanda Roten presented for the Board's approval a Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application. She explained that the ROAP is a state-funded program administered by DOT for public transportation, particularly to support the elderly and disabled, those seeking employment, and the rural general public. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the ROAP application as presented. 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](#)
[21-134](#)

10:10 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb and Planning Director Wesley
Barker - Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update

Attachments: [9-20-21 Transportation Plan Schedule.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb and Planning Director Wesley Barker shared with the Board an update regarding the county's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. County Manager Stumb noted that the county is due an updated plan, which will also require by statute a Land Use Plan updated within the last five years. Mr. Barker added that the last transportation plan was adopted in 1999, and he said that the Department of Commerce Rural Planning Division will help coordinate the project.

[PRES](#)
[21-135](#)

10:20 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Jail Camera System
Discussion

Attachments: [9-20-21 Jail Cameras.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb updated the Board on efforts to replace the camera system in the detention center. He noted that the project was included in the 2021-2022 budget with \$50,000 planned for five years. The current projected price of the project is \$256,896. County Manager Stumb also noted that he sent requests for financing proposals to three local banks and hopes to have proposals returned to present at the October 4 meeting. Detention Captain Linda Carrow added that she is happy with the project proposal and that it will include better coverage.

[PRES](#)
[21-139](#)

10:30 AM - Emergency Preparedness Resolution

Chairman McNeill shared with the Board an Emergency Preparedness Resolution provided by North Carolina Association of County Commissioners President Frank Williams, who recently announced the 100 Counties Prepared initiative to encourage emergency preparedness across the state. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. 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

[PRES](#)
[21-140](#)

10:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Register of Deeds Personnel Discussion

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board a request from Register of Deeds Deaett Roten regarding personnel. During FY21-22 budget discussions, the Board agreed to provide overlapping employment to allow for training if any additional Register of Deeds staff retired, and a staff member recently announced her pending retirement, scheduled for the end of the year. Commissioner Powers made a motion to hire an additional staff member to begin training as quickly as possible. 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

[PRES](#)
[21-141](#)

10:40 AM - Off-Site Meeting Streaming Discussion

Commissioner Powers shared with the Board that he had received complaints from members of the public who had gone online to watch the COVID-related special meeting video and were upset that it was not available. County Manager Adam Stumb shared that there is no standing procedure for the Board to video-record meetings held outside the Board's usual meeting space. County Manager Stumb added that meetings held in other locations can be livestreamed but may not be able to be archived in Granicus to be viewed later. Commissioner Powers made a motion for the Board to do the best they can to video, archive, or livestream any meetings not held in the Commissioner's usual meeting room. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

[MISC 21-10](#) Approval of 2022 County Holiday Schedule

Attachments: [9-20-21 2022 County Holiday Schedule.pdf](#)

Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule for County employees. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements**IX. Executive Session**[ES 21-6](#)**G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property**

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of property as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5). Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board in Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:08 a.m. with no action being taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. 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

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

Ashley G. Honeycutt
Clerk to the Board