

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, October 4, 2021

10:30 AM

Special Meeting

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. Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse Immediately Following Regular Session Meeting**

Chairman McNeill called the Special Meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 12:35 p.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential changes to the Environmental Services department fees and operations.

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

II. Discussion

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board that he and other County staff had recently had a Zoom meeting to talk with other counties that already have solid waste sticker systems. He noted that the most pressing question is whether to continue the use of a solid waste fee or shift to a tax levy system, adding that the user fee structure at present is unclear and only 37% of all tax bills are currently charged a solid waste fee.

County Manager Stumb also shared with the Board an overview of how each system would work as well as benefits and challenges of each. Tax Administrator Chris Lambert added that either system could work, but that the levy system would be more straightforward and equitable with everyone paying their fair share. Mr. Lambert also said that charges on the levy system would be subject to the same exclusions which apply to some tax payers, such as the present-use value program. Vice Chairman Sands asked whether the levy system would give all users a bill, including seasonal or part-time camper residents. Mr. Lambert responded yes, anyone who owns any property in Ashe County with assessed value would receive a bill.

Commissioner Olive asked whether the implementation of a sticker system would have a significant impact on the landfill. Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley responded that he is confident that the impact of the sticker system will be significant, and perhaps more so for Ashe than for other counties based on its location. County Manager Stumb added that traffic counts had been discussed as another way to track yearly measurements and potentially see a decrease once the sticker system is implemented and enforced.

County Manager Stumb shared a proposed timeline for the implementation of the sticker system, with stickers being mailed out in January 2023, followed by a six-month grace period, with enforcement beginning July 1, 2023. The Board expressed a consensus in support of the levy system. County Manager Stumb said the staff would start working on corresponding amendments to the solid waste ordinance.

Chairman McNeill recommended running ads in neighboring counties' newspapers, and County Manager Stumb added that he planned to let neighboring boards and county managers know about the changes. Mr. Hurley also shared that he plans to print and pass out flyers at the convenience centers prior to enforcement of the sticker system so that convenience site users will be aware of the changes.

III. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.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