

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, November 1, 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

Vice Chairman Sands led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Powers offered the opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes**[MIN 21-41](#) October 4, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

Attachments: [11-1-21 October 4, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the October 4, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes 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

[MIN 21-42](#) October 18, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [11-1-21 October 18, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the October 18, 2021 Regular Session Minutes 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

[MIN 21-43](#) October 18, 2021 Executive Session Minutes

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the October 18, 2021 Executive Session Minutes 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

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. 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
21-155](#)**

9:05 AM - Ashe Memorial Hospital CEO Brian Yates - Ashe Memorial Hospital ARP Request

Attachments: [11-1-21 Ashe Memorial Hospital Request.pdf](#)

Ashe Memorial Hospital CEO Brian Yates presented to the Board a request for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for Ashe Memorial Hospital (AMH). Mr. Yates explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had taken a severe toll on personnel, causing many to exit employment and making efforts to retain and recruit employees difficult. He said that since March 11, 2020, AMH had 111 direct patient care staff members leave. He added that North Carolina ranks fourth highest in the nation for crisis nursing staff demand. Mr. Yates requested ARP funds to create recruitment and retention bonuses, allocated subject to a sub-recipient agreement with the County. The Board expressed agreement with the need to retain skilled local medical staff. County Manager Adam Stumb added that this ARP expenditure would be included in the amended budget presented later in the meeting (PRES 21-159).

**[PRES
21-156](#)**

9:20 AM - SkyLine Strategic Sales Supervisor Brent Keith - SkyLine ARP Request

Attachments: [11-1-21 SkyLine Request.pdf](#)

SkyLine Chief Marketing and Sales Officer Edward Hinson, Chief Technology Officer Robbie Farmer, Outside Plant Engineering Manager Brantley Davis, and Strategic Sales Supervisor Brent Keith presented to the Board a request for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. Mr. Hinson shared with the Board a presentation detailing SkyLine's project for which the ARP funds are requested and which would extend fiber coverage to unserved or underserved areas in Ashe County. He noted that the total project cost is \$1.085 million and that SkyLine has already provided approximately \$250,000, so the request is for the remaining cost. Mr. Hinson and Mr. Farmer both highlighted difficulties with supply chains, noting that any delays could result in higher costs and longer timelines. Commissioner Olive requested that SkyLine meet with the Jefferson and West Jefferson town managers and County Manager Stumb to discuss the towns contributing to the project, as the majority of the underserved areas are within those towns.

**[PRES
21-157](#)**

9:35 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Premium Pay Policy

Attachments: [11-1-21 Premium Pay Policy.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board a proposed premium pay policy, amended as requested by the Board at the regular session meeting on October 18, 2021. He added that \$1,740 gross would provide most full-time employees with approximately \$1,500 after taxes and benefits. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the

policy 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
21-159](#)

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Amended American Rescue Plan (ARP) Quarterly Budget

Attachments: [11-1-21 Amended ARP Quarterly Budget.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval an amended American Rescue Plan (ARP) quarterly budget, including funds benefiting Partnership of Ashe, the Ashe County Middle School, and the Ashe Food Pantry (as previously approved) and new allocations for Ashe Memorial Hospital and to fund premium pay bonuses for County employees. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the amended budget as presented. Commissioner Powers 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
21-158](#)

9:55 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Request to Purchase Dental Clinic Property

Attachments: [11-1-21 Dental Clinic Property.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb shared with the Board a request to purchase a portion of the County-owned dental clinic property. He added that the piece in question would need to be surveyed and advertised for sale. The Board expressed support for County Manager Stumb to run an ad for the property.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

[ES 21-9](#)

G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property

Commissioner Powers 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). Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board in Executive Session at 10:39 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:04 a.m. with no action being taken.

Approved

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

X. Adjournment

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.
Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

Approved

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

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Todd McNeill, Chairman

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