

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, December 6, 2021

9:00 AM

The Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce

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 Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce**

County Manager Adam Stumb called the Organizational Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in The Venue at the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce.

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

II. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

County Manager Adam Stumb opened the floor for nominations for chairman. Commissioner Sands nominated Todd McNeill for the position of chairman. Commissioner Olive seconded the nomination. With no further nominations being made, County Manager Stumb called for a vote on the nomination on the floor. The vote passed with unanimous approval.

Chairman McNeill then opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Commissioner Olive nominated William Sands for the position of vice chairman. Commissioner Powers seconded the nomination. With no further nominations being made, Chairman McNeill called for a vote on the nomination on the floor. The vote passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

[MIN 21-46](#) November 15, 2021 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [12-6-21 November 15, 2021 Regular Session Minutes.pdf](#)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the November 15, 2021 Regular Session Minutes 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

V. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Sands requested an update on the new middle school project, and County Manager Stumb offered to set up a future joint meeting with the Board of Education. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

VI. Public Comment

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

VII. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[21-169](#)

9:05 AM - Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley - Landfill Equipment Request

Attachments: [12-6-21 Landfill Equipment.pdf](#)

Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley explained to the Board that the front engine on a 1994 pan scraper at the landfill has broken down. Mr. Hurley received a quote to repair the engine for approximately \$43,000, plus \$5,000-7,000 for a new radiator, but he also pointed out that the machine has two engines, both with more than 22,000 hours in use, so the repair of the front engine could not guarantee that the second engine would not have similar issues. Mr. Hurley added that the landfill has been using an articulated ejector truck as a demo while the pan has been down, and he noted that it is quicker and hauls more dirt, making it a more efficient alternative by at least 40%. A new truck is approximately \$572,000, but the demo truck can be purchased for approximately \$504,000 or can be rented to own for \$14,500 per month plus 6% interest. Commissioner Powers made a motion to rent the demo truck until the Board's regular session meeting on February 7, 2022 on a rent-to-own basis, during which time County Manager Adam Stumb and Finance Officer Sandra Long can look into other solutions and financing options. 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](#)
[21-170](#)

9:20 AM - Blue Ridge Conservancy Executive Director Charlie Brady - Round Up For Paddy Mountain Month Proclamation

Attachments: [12-6-21 Round Up For Paddy Mountain.pdf](#)

Blue Ridge Conservancy Executive Director Charlie Brady shared with the Board an update regarding the Conservancy's purchase of a tract of land on Paddy Mountain. He said that they are scheduled to close on the property on Friday, December 10, 2021. Mr. Brady also presented for the Board's approval a proclamation declaring December 2021 to be Round Up for Paddy Mountain Month, during which any business can voluntarily round up customer bills and/or accept donations to benefit the land purchase. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to approve the proclamation 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](#)
[21-171](#)

9:30 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Paddy Mountain Agreement

Attachments: [12-6-21 Paddy Mountain Agreement.pdf](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval an agreement regarding responsibilities for the Paddy Mountain property. He explained that the agreement had been drafted between the Blue Ridge Conservancy, Town of West Jefferson, and the County. He also added that the agreement specifies the contributions of each party to the purchase, and that a later agreement will detail responsibilities for maintenance and upkeep of the property. Commissioner Olive made a motion to approve the agreement with the correction of two minor typos. Vice Chairman Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved as Amended

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

[PRES](#)
[21-172](#)

9:40 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Budget Amendment

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Board's approval the following budget amendment to allocate funds for the purchase of Paddy Mountain. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the amendment with the specification that the funds be replaced with occupancy tax revenues. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

BUDGET AMENDMENT
December 6, 2021

To increase the appropriation for the department of Human Services from \$1,547,515 to \$1,647,515; this increased appropriation of \$100,000 to be made with an appropriation of unappropriated funds from the unencumbered General Fund – Fund Balance.

Approved

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

[PRES](#)
[21-173](#)

9:45 AM - Chad Elbert, Enterprise Fleet Management - Fleet Presentation

Attachments: [12-6-21 Enterprise.pdf](#)

Enterprise Fleet Management Senior Account Executive Chad Elbert presented to the Board an overview of the company's fleet management program, particularly in the context of the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Elbert said that the program was a way to reduce the age and expense of maintaining the Sheriff's Office fleet, while also providing a more sustainable budget. He added that the program is paired with a funding mechanism they call equity lease but which functions as a flexible finance option. Sheriff Phil Howell added that although he and his staff were initially skeptical of the program, they had been very satisfied with the answers to all of their questions and concerns, and that he felt good about this option. The Board shared much discussion, and County Manager Stumb offered to begin working with Mr. Elbert on a potential contract.

GENERAL SESSION

Appointments**[APP 21-11](#)** Vaya Health Regional Board Appointments

Attachments: [12-6-21 Vaya Regional Board Appointments.pdf](#)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to appoint Chairman Todd McNeill and County Manager Adam Stumb to the Vaya Health Regional Board. Commissioner Olive 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

[APP 21-12](#) Airport Advisory Board Reappointments

Attachments: [12-6-21 Airport Advisory Board Reappointments.pdf](#)

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to reappoint Jeff Badger, Thomas Bregger, and Joey Parsons to the Airport Advisory Board. Commissioner Powers 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

[APP 21-13](#) Regional Library Board Reappointment

Attachments: [12-6-21 Regional Library Board Reappointment.pdf](#)

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to reappoint Dr. Doug Butler to the Appalachian Regional Library Board. Commissioner Olive 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

[APP 21-14](#) Long Term Care Joint Community Advisory Committee Reappointment

Attachments: [12-6-21 Long Term Care Committee Reappointment.pdf](#)

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to reappoint Cheryl Lanning to the Long Term Care Joint Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Powers 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 21-14](#)** Employee Retirement Recognition

Chairman McNeill announced that Code Enforcement Officer/E911 Address Coordinator

Tim Winters is retiring at the end of December. The Board presented Mr. Winters with a plaque and expressed appreciation for his years of service.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

IX. Announcements

X. Executive Session

[ES 21-10](#)

G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) - Legal Issues (Opioid Litigation)

Commissioner Powers made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal issues regarding the national opioid litigation as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill declared the Board in Executive Session at 11:06 a.m. and out of Executive Session at 11:13 a.m. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation as presented and to approve the national settlement agreement 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

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 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