

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, August 1, 2022

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**9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Vice Chairman Sands called the August 1, 2022 Regular Session Meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to Order at 9:00 am at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Present: 4 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson Todd McNeill

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 22-22](#)** June 6, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [08-01-22 June 6, 2022 Budget Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the June 6, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[MIN 22-23](#) June 7, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [08-01-22 June 7, 2022 Budget Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the June 7, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[MIN 22-24](#) June 8, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes

Attachments: [08-01-22 June 8, 2022 Budget Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the June 8, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[MIN 22-25](#) June 20, 2022 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [08-01-22 June 20, 2022 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Regular Session Minutes as written. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Olive made the motion to adopt the agenda with County Manager Adam Stumb making two additions. One, the Airport Adjacent Property Owned by the County & Bobby Stanley, and the 2nd addition being Trash Stickers. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

V. Public Comment

Vice Chairman Sands opened the floor for public comment. No comment was offered.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#)
[22-113](#)

9:05 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Warrensville VFRD Request for Property at Middle School

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill asked to postpone the presentation on Warrensville VFRD Request for Property at Middle School due to survey items not being ready.

Continued

[PRES](#)
[22-122](#)

9:05 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Resolution Providing for the Limitations of Tax Rates in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District

Attachments: [08-01-22 Resolution for Limitation of Tax Rates](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill, via TV presented the Board with the Resolution of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners Providing For The Limitations of Tax Rates in the County EMS/Rescue Service District. It states that it is for the best

interest and necessary for the protection of the citizens in Ashe County to establish a EMS/Rescue service district and that it is impossible or impractical to provide those services on a county wide basis. The demand for the proposed service is great. The County does not want to levy a burdensome or unreasonable service district tax on property. The EMS/Rescue service district tax levied upon the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District will not exceed .05 cents on each \$100 of property valuation. Commissioner Olive wanted to clarify for the Ashe County citizens who may be watching or listening that the Board is NOT voting on the .05 cent tax today but that it is being considered in part due to the Rescue Squad does provide a unique skill set and that they have equipment no other entity can provide. In the future IF approved this would make them eligible for grants and would also make it easier for them to pursue capitol projects. The .05 cent tax will be voted on in 2023 during the next Budget Sessions and not take effect until the 2023-2024 FY. Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill also stated that the tax would be capped and could never be set above .05 cents. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[PRES](#)
[22-115](#)

9:15 AM - DSS Director Tracie Downer - Budget Amendments

Attachments: [08-01-22 DSS Budget Ammendments](#)

DSS Director Tracie Downer presented for the Boards approval the following budget amendments.

To increase the appropriation for the department of Social Services from \$9,628,637 to \$9,669,691; this increased appropriation of \$41,054 to be made with an appropriation from the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which was awarded in December 2021 but had not all been spent as of June 30th and will need to be re-appropriated in FY2022-2023.

To increase the department of Social Services from \$9,669,691 to \$9,676,936; this increased appropriation of \$7,245 to be made with an un-appropriated state allocation of APS Essential Services funding which was made available July 1, 2022. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[PRES](#)
[22-116](#)

9:20 AM - Dewey Covington, Commander VFW Post 7946 - Honor Flight to Washington, DC for Combat Veterans

Attachments: [08-01-22 Honor Flight to Washington](#)

Dewey Covington the Commander of the VFW Post 7946 came to today's meeting with the BOC to tell them about the Honor Flight to Washington, DC for Combat Veterans Program here in Ashe County. He stated that there are 128 Honor Flight Hubs in different states all across America. He said it was extremely well funded. He also

mentioned that each flight which can hold up to 280 veterans is always accompanied by two doctors and medical staff due the differing medical needs of aging veterans. Each Hub has access to their own airplane. Veterans are flown to Washington, DC to tour the WWII Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well anything else these veterans might wish to see. This is an all inclusive trip for these combat veterans and is at no cost to them. Applications are being accepted for upcoming flights and it has been advertised on the radio, posters have been hung around the county and they did set up a booth at Christmas in July in which they gave out fifteen applications. Mr. Covington shared information on a certain number of veterans in Ashe County that he had attained. He stated that there were 1619 veterans in Ashe County. He stated that 792 of these veterans receive VA benefits and that 518 of these veterans are Vietnam Veterans. And that this group was currently their main focus for an upcoming flight. He asked the Board if they could assist in any way in getting him information on these veterans so that he may contact them or send them information about the Honor Flight. Commissioner Powers suggested that he get with Ashe County Veterans Services and suggested that maybe a pamphlet or flyers could be mailed to these veterans informing them of this program. Vice Chairman Sands expressed the Boards appreciation for all of this information and expressed gratitude to all of our veterans. Mr. Covington thanked the Board for their time and ended his presentation.

No Action Taken

[PRES](#)
[22-117](#)

9:30 AM - Beth Sorrell, Vice President Board of Directors - Ashe County Habitat for Humanity

Beth Sorrell, Vice President Board of Directors - Ashe County Habitat for Humanity began the presentation to the Board stating that the Ashe County Habitat for Humanity was founded in 2008 and was all volunteer ran until 2021. She stated that they began with a program called "Brush With Kindness" which provided those in need that qualified with smaller loans for materials and labor for home repairs. She stated they had given 14 of these loans through that program in the last 15 years. Ms. Sorrell also stated that they completed their first house in Buffalo Meadows in 2015 and that a 2nd home had also been completed in that area. She stated that they had also been donated a home from Fletcher Baptist Church that had to be moved to another location but was finished and was now a family home. She talked about the efficiency that is built into all their homes. Ms. Sorrell also talked about their "Partner Family Selection" where families must show a need for housing, their ability to pay and willingness to partner. Adults in the family must contribute 200 hours of sweat equity and the home loans are 0% 30 year affordable mortgages. She talked about the financial counseling, budgeting, home maintenance courses these families receive from Habitat for Humanity. She stated that most of their funding comes from the Habitat for Humanity ReStore located here in the county which sells donated furniture, appliances, building materials and home decor. She suggested that maybe in the future the Commissioners could get involved by visiting or volunteering at job sites, attend Home Dedications, help with the infrastructure at Hickory Hill. She mentioned financial aid from the county & consideration for financial support. Kristine Franklin, President of the Ashe County Habitat for Humanity came and spoke about the current family they are working with to provide them with a home and how finally owning a home positively impacts these families. She stated what a blessing it was for her to work with these families. She also asked that if anyone with any talent, carpentry, electrical, painting, plumbing, etc wanted to volunteer their need for volunteers was great. She also stated that ALL help was appreciated. Vice Chairman Sands spoke highly of the work they do and he stated they were a tremendous asset to Ashe County and expressed the Boards appreciation.

No Action Taken

[PRES](#)
[22-118](#)

9:40 AM - Nancy Saltz - Need for Veterinarian in Ashe County

Rescheduled for 8/15/2022

Continued

[PRES](#)
[22-125](#)

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Dogget Lease Renewal

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board for approval the Dogget Road Convenience Center & Household Hazardous Collection Site Lease. It is a lease the county has had with them for a number of years and he stated that there were no changes in the lease that it was just time to renew. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the lease. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[PRES](#)
[22-120](#)

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Riverview Community Center Roof Repairs

Attachments: [08-01-22 Riverview Community Center Roof Repairs](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented for the Boards approval a proposal for the Riverview Community Center Roof Repairs. County Manager Stumb stated that the Board had set aside 1.2 million dollars for capitol projects out of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds for buildings in the county such as the Riverview Community Center. Riverview expressed the need for a new roof on the gym of the building. County Manager Adam Stumb stated that the Riverview Community Center is a very well utilized building and he would like to take care of the roofing issues. He said we want to take care of all our buildings but especially this one. Vice Chairman Sands spoke about the importance of that building to the community. Commissioner Powers stated that it was too good a facility to let go down. Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve \$185,000 from the ARP Fund for replacing the roof on the gym of the Riverview Community Center. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

[PRES](#)
[22-121](#)

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Revised American Recovery Plan (ARP) Grant Project Ordinance

Attachments: [08-01-22 ARP Grant Project Ordinance Revision](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board the Amended / Revised American Recovery Plan (ARP) Grant Project Ordinance. He stated that the first ordinance

reflected the first payment from the ARP Grant Project and that since then other payments have been received. The amended ordinance shows the full amount and is necessary for audit and budget purposes to show that the money is there. Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the ordinance as amended. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved as Amended

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

PRES
22-123

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Airport Adjacent Property Owned by the County & Bobby Stanley

County Manager Adam Stumb brought before the Board issues with Airport Adjacent Property Owned by the County & Bobby Stanley, explaining that the county had previously done some extensive grading to expand the run way. This grading unintentionally diverted a heavy amount of surface water onto the Stanley property which has had a deteriorating effect on his property. This was brought before previous commissioners but the issue was never resolved prior to them leaving office. County Manager Adam Stumb stated the county is prepared to do what is necessary to correct the issue. He and the Board discussed several options. It was decided that they would discuss these options with Mr. Stanley and a decision would be made as to their course of action at a later date.

No Action Taken

PRES
22-124

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Trash Stickers Three Main Concerns

County Manager Adam Stumb discussed the "Trash Stickers" and what is apparently the three main concerns of the citizens in Ashe County or that own homes/property in the county. He shared with the Board that his office had received well over a hundred emails & phone calls with the majority being the following three questions:

- 1. How many stickers are we permitted to have?*
- 2. What about "renters"?...as such for people who own apartments, condos or rental houses.*
- 3. What about guests in the county renting Air B&B properties, short-term rentals and such?*

Another concern came from citizens in bordering counties that are closer to an Ashe County Convenience Center and too far from one in their own county, the question was asked could they pay for the service and continue using it? County Manager Stumb stated he would check into the legal questions regarding this and that it would be discussed at a later date.

No Action Taken

GENERAL SESSION

APP 22-9

Appointment of Missy Seivers as Clerk to the Board

Attachments: [08-01-22 Appointment of Clerk to the Board](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Powers, seconded by Commissioner Olive, that the appointment of Missy Seivers as Clerk to the Board be Approved.

Appointment(s) Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

VII. Commissioner Comments**VIII. Announcements****IX. Executive Session****[ES 22-13](#)** G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) - Legal Issues

Commissioner Olive made the motion to enter into Executive Session as provided for under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to discuss legal issues. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Vice Chairman Sands declared the Board in Executive Session at 10:40 am. and out of Executive Session at 11:35 am. No action taken at this time.

No Action Taken

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Excused: 1 - Chairperson McNeill

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

Missy Seivers, Clerk to the Board