

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 6, 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

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

I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order 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**III. Approval of Minutes****[MIN 22-30](#)** August 1, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the August 1st, 2022 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

[MIN 22-31](#) August 15, 2022 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [09-06-22 August 15, 2022 Regular Session Minutes](#)

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the August 15th, 2022 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 22-32](#) August 15, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the August 15th, 2022 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

Vice Chairman Sands made the motion to adopt the agenda with the change to PRES 22-136 PUBLIC HEARING - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill on the Findings Report on the proposal to create a county service district for EMS and Rescue Services in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue District to be combined with PRES 22-135 which was also a PUBLIC HEARING. It was unnecessary to have them separately. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion.

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 at 9:02 AM. No public comments were offered. Chairman McNeill then closed the floor for public comment.

VI. Presentations

[PRES](#) [22-143](#)

9:05 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Tax Collector FY 2021/2022 Settlement (PowerPoint) Action Required

Attachments: [09-06-22 Tax Collector Settlement FY 2021-2022](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented the FY 2021-2022 Tax Collector Settlement. Per North Carolina General Statute 105-373, the Tax Collector must make a report of settlement for the fiscal year. Collection tools used were Tax Bills that were mailed in July 2021, Delinquent Notices mailed in January 2022, Advertising that is required were done in April 2022, Wage Garnishments which is 10% of Gross Wages, Attachment that instructs bank to withdraw funds, Debt Setoff of debts over \$50 / NC Tax Refunds, Payment Arrangements for monthly payments, Foreclosure which is the sale of property. Commissioner Sands made the motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Tax Collector Settlement 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](#) [22-144](#)

9:05 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Tax Collector FY 2022/2023 Charge (PowerPoint) Action Required

Attachments: [09-06-22 FY 2022-2023 Tax Collector Charge](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented to the Board the FY 2022-23 Tax Collector Charge. North Carolina General Statute 105-321 requires that the Board of Commissioners charge the Tax Collector with the collection of 2022 real and personal property taxes. Vice Chairman Sands made a motion approving the FY 2022-23 Tax Collector Charge. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion was passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

[PRES](#) [22-145](#)

9:05 AM - Tax Administrator Chris Lambert - Request to authorize tax collector to write-off 2012 delinquent tax bills (insolvents) per NCGS 105-373(g) and NCGS 105-378(a) Action Required

Attachments: [09-06-22 2012 delinquent tax bills \(insolvents\)](#)

Tax Administrator Chris Lambert presented to the Board a request to authorize the tax collector to write-off 2012 delinquent tax bills (insolvents) per NCGS 105-373(g) and NCGS 105-378(a) which states that the governing body of any taxing unit may, in its

discretion, relieve the tax collector of the charge of taxes owed by persons on the insolvent list that are five or more years past due when it appears to the governing body that the taxes are uncollectible. Also, Use of Remedies Barred.--No county or municipality may maintain an action or procedure to enforce any remedy provided by law for the collection of taxes or the enforcement of any tax liens (whether the taxes or tax liens are evidenced by the original tax receipts, tax sales certificates, or otherwise) unless the action or procedure is instituted within 10 years from the date the taxes became due. Vice Chairman Sands made the motion to approve the 2012 write-off of delinquent tax bills. 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](#)
[22-135](#)

9:10 AM - PUBLIC HEARING - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Findings Report & Resolution Providing for the Establishment of the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District

Attachments: [09-06-22 RESOLUTION OF THE ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASHE COUNTY EMS-RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT](#)
[09-06-22 Findings Report on the Proposal to Create a County Service District for EMS & Rescue Services in the Ashe County EMS-Rescue District](#)

At 9:14 AM Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill, in a PUBLIC HEARING, presented to the Board the Resolution Providing for the Establishment of the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District. Stating that it is for the best interest and necessary for the protection of the citizens in Ashe County. This comes after the release of the findings report map made available for public inspection on August 1, 2022. There is a demonstrable need for providing EMS/Rescue service in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District. It is impossible or impracticable to provide those services on a county-wide basis since the County does not have the authority to establish a service district within the limits of the three municipalities inside Ashe County. Chairman McNeill opened the floor for public comment on this Resolution, no citizens came forward, no comment was made. Chairman McNeill closed the floor for public comment at 9:16 AM. Commissioner Powers made the motion to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Establishment the Ashe County EMS/Fire Service District as outlined in the findings report map. 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

[PRES](#)
[22-137](#)

9:20 AM - Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill - Approval of the NC Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Attachments: [09-06-22 NC Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement \(Revision-2022\)](#)

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill presented for the Boards approval of the NC Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement 2022 Revision. She stated that this is something that the county had been a part of since the early 2000's and that this is the latest revision. She stated also that what this does is it gives the authority for

jurisdictions to respond in other jurisdictions in emergency situations when called upon to do so. It also outlines the responsibilities expected from each party. She stated that the Agreement had been approved by the County Attorney Mr. Kilby and she was requesting the Boards approval also. Vice Chairman Sands made the motion to approve the NC Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement 2022 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
22-149

9:30 am - Sheriff Howell - SRO Grant Discussion

Dr. Cox presented to the Board information on the SRO (School Resource Officer) Grant. Sheriff Howell was unable to attend. Dr. Cox stated that the school system had recently applied for the SRO Grant and that there was a very small window of time for them to have done so. She stated that this grant will provide safety equipment for each of the schools as well as partially fund an additional SRO for the school system. Dr. Cox & Sheriff Howell had spoke on the issue of the total cost for a School Resource Officer and Sheriff Howell stated the estimated cost was around \$115,000 annually. But that this included equipment, vehicle, training & benefits which his department could cover. The grant could fund a portion of the SRO position, but would leave a gap of about \$27,000 to \$30,000 that they County would have to pick up in the event they qualify for the SRO Grant. Dr. Cox stated that they just wanted the Board to know ahead of time that they had applied for this grant and that they should be informed of the decision by the end of the month or the first of October. If awarded the grant Dr. Cox stated they would schedule a time to return before the Board seeking approval for funds to cover the gap in the SRO's annual salary.

No Action Taken

PRES
22-139

9:35 AM - Zack Shepherd, LCAS, LCMHC, Community Relations Regional Director Vaya Health - Vaya Update

Attachments: [09-06-22 VAYA Update Ashe BOC Presentation](#)

Zack Shepherd the Community Relations Regional Director with Vaya Health presented to the Board an update from Vaya Health including current challenges, the State-wide Child & Youth Improvement Initiative and County Data Highlights. He stated that since the end of the pandemic there has been a rising increase in the need for child and adult mental health and substance use services across North Carolina. The loss of mental health, substance use, and I/DD professionals that are leaving the profession.

Additionally, the expansion of new health plans in NC and the ability for staff to accept remote positions nationally has created significant competition on local limited NC staffing resources. These factors have created wait lists for services across the health care system. Vaya has been working with providers to meet these unique challenges while

trying to expand and develop new service opportunities across the Vaya region. He spoke on strategies to address workforce challenges. Vaya is working with all LME/MCO's to establish a standardized seamless

transition of care for children placed outside of the Vaya Health Plan region, also, they are implementing a standardized pass-through authorization process for children entering residential treatment services to eliminate any barriers for children needing to quickly enter residential treatment. Vaya also continues to expand a statewide open network to improve access to care for child services. He spoke on expanding access to therapeutic

foster care & professional parenting. He said that Vaya's goal is to create an extensive TFC (Therapeutic Foster Care) network that allows our children to remain in their home communities with TFC parents dedicated to children's success and transitioning home.

No Action Taken

[PRES](#)
[22-140](#)

9:40 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Cabling for Remote Proceedings

Attachments: [09-06-22 Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) Courtroom Cabling for Remote Proceedings](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for Courtroom Cabling for Remote Proceedings. He stated that the North Carolina Court System is moving towards allowing for more remote proceedings. The Administrative Office of the Court is seeking to install new hardware (cameras, computers, sound equipment) in both courtrooms to facilitate the change. The responsibility of the County is to provide for the infrastructure (wiring) of the new system. Total obligation for the County is \$17,226 which can be funded out of the current budget for court facilities. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for Courtroom Cabling for Remote Proceedings. 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](#)
[22-146](#)

9:45 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - Employee Recognition of Years of Service

Attachments: [09-06-22 Employees Names & Years of Service](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board the names of County Employees receiving recognition for their years of service to Ashe County. These certificates were awarded to county employees with 5 years, 10 years and 15 years of service. Most notably was Carlton Burchette for 40 years of service to Ashe County. Deaett, Roten for 30 years of service. Angela Allen for 25 years of service and Erwin Shinkle for 20 years of service. The Board along with County Manager Adam Stumb offered their appreciation to all the employees for their hard work and dedication.

No Action Taken

[PRES](#)
[22-147](#)

9:50 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - 163 Cabin Lease – South Mountain CAC

Attachments: [09-06-22 Southmountain Children & Family Services Lease](#)

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board the 2022 Lease renewal between Ashe County and Southmountain Children and Family Services for property located at 2276 N.C. Hwy. 163, West Jefferson, NC.

This lease is for one (1) year with the option of renewing this lease for an additional one (1) year term by mutual agreement. Tracy McMillan spoke on the importance of Southmountain Children and Family Services and the wonderful job they do and the services they provide. Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the lease. 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](#)
[22-148](#)

9:55 AM - Keith Honeycutt, PEAK Sanitation, LLC (Boone, NC) 1st meeting seeking Franchise Approval

Attachments: [09-06-22 PEAK Sanitation](#)

Keith Honeycutt with PEAK Sanitation, LLC out of Boone, NC came before the Board in this their 1st meeting seeking Franchise Approval. He stated that Peak Sanitation is a local, veteran owned company serving Boone NC and the surrounding area. He stated that they offer waste disposal solutions and Roll-Off services for industrial, residential & commercial use. He said it is their goal to provide their customers with the utmost service & care with competitive rates and premier customer assistance. His hope is to eventually provide this same service & care for Ashe County. He talked about their mission to help with efforts to keep the community clean. That they create scholarships & job opportunities in trades and that they support and promote their local business partners. The Board expressed their appreciation for the companies interest in Ashe County. Commissioner Powers made a motion approving this first meeting with the Board in seeking a franchise in Ashe County. 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](#)
[22-150](#)

10:00 AM - County Manager Adam Stumb - West Jefferson Middle School UPDATE.

County Manager Adam Stumb presented the Board with an update on the West Jefferson Middle School. He stated that he anticipated being able to close on the West Jefferson middle school property (which is located behind the high school) on a proposed date of September 26th. Today's meeting will be the last before the Board votes on the purchase, as well as the funding for the property. A public hearing will be scheduled for the September 19th meeting. If there are any last minute questions about the property selection, today would be the time to ask those so we can get answers prior to the 19th. Vice Chairman Sands asked if there was a time-line on the completion of the new middle school once construction began? Adam stated that nothing definite had been stated but that it had been discussed that it could be 2 years to possibly 3 years. Commissioner Olive asked if they had a visual or any idea what the look or layout for the new middle school would look like? County Manager Adam Stumb stated that a photo example of a similar design they were looking at had been presented in a prior meeting and that he would again get that for them. Commissioner Jordan asked if the building would be one story or two story? Adam stated that had not been decided. Commissioner Jordan also asked if the entire piece of the proposed property was suited for construction and not like the previous piece of property purchased for the school site which was UNSUITABLE due to water standing/settling on the property. Adam stated that many measures have been taken to assure the proposed property was suitable for construction. County Manager Adam Stumb ended his update and no action was necessary at this time.

No Action Taken

[PRES](#)
[22-151](#)

10:10 am - County Manager Adam Stumb - Park Expansion, Authorization to Purchase the Neal Property.

County Manager Adam Stumb presented to the Board the Park Expansion, Authorization

to Purchase the Neal Property. Adam stated that this property purchase was moving along much quicker than anticipated. He stated that lawyers for both the property owner & the county have been working together. He also stated that the County was awarded a PART F grant (Park and Recreation Trust Fund). This grant will go towards developing the new park property adjacent to Ashe Park. The money to purchase the property had already been previously appropriated. What is needed now is authorization to schedule the closing and purchase of the property. Commissioner Olive made the motion to authorize the scheduling of the closing and purchase of the property. 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

GENERAL SESSION

Other Items for Consideration

[APP 22-10](#) Appointment to The Ashe County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Attachments: [09-06-22 JCPC Board Member Appointment](#)

The Ashe County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council recommended Ashley Powers, Ashe County Juvenile Court Counselor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of "Latreka Dailey". The term will be for 2022 through 2024. Commissioner Olive attends JCPC meetings and spoke highly of Ms. Powers. Commissioner Olive made the motion approving the appointing of Ashley Powers. Vice Chairman Sands 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

[MISC 22-8](#) Approval of the 2023 Holiday Schedule

Attachments: [09-06-22 Holiday Schedule 2023](#)

Commissioner Olive made the motion to approve the 2023 County Holiday Schedule. 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

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 am.

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

Missy Seivers
Clerk to the Board