

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 6, 2015**

**Be It Remembered that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on April 6, 2015 with the following present: Robert Carter, Fannie Greene, Chester Deloatch, Virginia Spruill and Joseph Barrett**

**Others Present: Kimberly Turner, Scott McKellar, and Michelle Nelson**

**Agenda Work Session:**

A 10-minute work session was held to discuss today's agenda items. Chairwoman Greene called upon County Manager Kimberly Turner for input. Ms. Turner mentioned that item number 2 under Tab 6 should be removed. Also, under Tab 6, item number 7, add a Proclamation for Relay for Life, and a Resolution for Opposition of Sunday Hunting.

Commissioner Carter asked for the Board, along with the County Manager and County Attorney to develop "just cause" for the tax appeals that the Board will be faced with next month. He feels they need to be consistent in what they do towards the citizens as far as either delaying, dismissing, or adjusting taxes. He believes they need to develop a policy or procedure.

Chairwoman Greene mentioned that she and Vice-Chairman Barrett have talked to the County Attorney about setting up some type of policy. Chairwoman Greene also mentioned a conversation some time ago about procedures for the Board. County Manager Turner stated that her office is working on this, and will hopefully have it by the next meeting.

**Regular Session:**

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and announced when citizens could make comments.

Chairwoman Greene delivered the Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Regular Session Minutes for March 16, 2015:**

A motion was made by Chester Deloatch and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the Regular Session Minutes for March 16, 2015. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes for March 16, 2015:**

A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by Chester Deloatch to approve the Closed Session Minutes for March 16, 2015. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Work Session Minutes for March 31, 2015:**

A motion was made by Joseph Barrett and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the Work Session Minutes for March 31, 2015. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Agenda for April 6, 2015:**

A motion was made by Joseph Barrett and seconded by Robert Carter to approve the amended agenda for April 6, 2015. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

**Relay for Life Proclamation:**

Ms. Kimberly Turner, County Manager, appeared before the Board to present a proclamation for Relay for Life declaring to “Paint the County Purple” beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> to show an act of participation in the Relay for Life campaign. They are asking for residents to display a purple bow on their premises. The Relay for Life event will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Cultural and Wellness Center.

A motion was made by Robert Carter and seconded by Joseph Barrett to hereby proclaim April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> as “Paint the County Purple” in Northampton County urging all residents to recognize and participate in the Relay for Life events held in the community. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

**PLEASE SEE SCANNED DOCUMENT WHICH IS  
HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES:**

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, "The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service"; and

**WHEREAS**, "Relay for Life is a life-changing, nationwide, signature event of the American Cancer Society that gives **everyone** in the communities across the globe a chance to **celebrate** the lives of people who have battled cancer, **remember** loved ones lost, and **fight back** against the disease"; and

**WHEREAS**, in May, 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt started the first 24 hours movement around a track in Tacoma, Washington with a vision to raise money to fight the nation's biggest health concern, cancer, and planned the first team relay event known as the City of Destiny Classic 24-Hour Run Against Cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Relay for Life of Northampton County, NC recognizes that cancer never sleeps; cancer does not discriminate; and almost everyone has been touched by cancer, either through their own personal battle or through someone they love; and

**WHEREAS**, **RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, NC**, respects that everyone's reason to Relay is unique and joins in the efforts to **celebrate 30 years** of this vision **Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2015** at the **Northampton County Cultural and Wellness Center located on Hwy 305, Jackson, North Carolina** with an overnight relay-style event. Teams will camp out around the track and team members involve the entire community taking turns walking around the track for the duration of the event. Everyone is invited to partake in activities, ceremonies, entertainment, food, games and fundraising opportunities for American Cancer Society; and

**WHEREAS**, Relay for Life of Northampton County strives **to increase community awareness of cancer, stimulate a real sense of relationship, camaraderie and unity among everyone, and raise money to fight cancer**. In this effort, every township, resident, church and business in Northampton County is encouraged to support the 1<sup>st</sup> **"PAINT THE COUNTY PURPLE"** endeavor and **"PURPLE BOW CAMPAIGN"** beginning **Wednesday, April 1 to Sunday, May 31, 2015**. To show an active participation in this meaningful campaign, every resident is asked to display purple bows on their premises; and

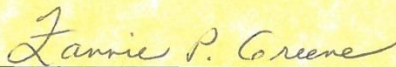
**WHEREAS**, Relay for Life of Northampton County declares **Wednesday before RELAY, May 13, 2015** as **"STRUT YOUR STUFF DAY"**. In support of this effort everyone is encouraged to wear **PURPLE** in honor of **ALL CANCER SURVIVORS**; and

**WHEREAS**, Relay for Life of Northampton County demonstrates and spreads **the message, "TOGETHER, we can SPREAD the HOPE, one step at a time and CELEBRATE LIFE - less cancer and more birthdays."**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that **There is something amazing happening in Northampton County called RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, NC**. It is a life changing experience and **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

do hereby proclaim April 1 to May 31 as **"PAINT THE COUNTY PURPLE"** throughout Northampton County, urging all residents to recognize and participate in the Relay for Life events held in our community.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.



Fannie P. Greene, Northampton County Board of Commissioners, Chairwoman



**Public Hearing- Revolving Loan Fund Application:**

*Chairwoman Greene recessed regular session to conduct a Public Hearing.*

Mr. Gary Brown, EDC Director, appeared before the Board for a Public Hearing related to participation in the Northampton County Revolving Loan Fund Program by Bellwether Ventures, LLC dba Bay Sire Bistro, Winery and Alehouse. However, documentation has not yet been finalized for presentation to the County Attorney, the County Manager, or to the Board.

Mr. Brown asked that the Board recess the Public Hearing to be reconvened until Monday, April 20, 2015.


A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by Joseph Barrett to recess the Public Hearing for April 20, 2015. **Question Called:** *All present voting yes.* **Motion carried.**

County Attorney McKellar noted that the Board needs to specify a time. Chairwoman Greene asked the Clerk for a time. Ms. Nelson gave a time of 1:05 pm.

**PLEASE SEE SCANNED DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE  
HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES:**

**Decision Paper**

To: Northampton County Board of Commissioners

From: Gary Brown, Northampton County Economic Development Commission 

Date: April 1, 2015

Subject: Public Hearing Related to Participation in the Northampton County Revolving Loan Fund Program by Bellwether Ventures, LLC dba Bay Sire Bistro, Winery and Alehouse.

**PURPOSE:**

The Northampton County Board of Commissioners has called a public hearing for the purpose of receiving and considering comments related to an application from Bellwether Ventures, LLC (hereinafter the Company) for participation in the Northampton County Revolving Loan Fund Program (hereinafter the Program). The Company is submitting an application for a Program loan in the amount of \$150,000 with a five (5) year term at a current prime rate of 3.75%.

Subsequent to the Public Hearing and review of materials included in the Program loan application to the satisfaction of staff and the Northampton County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the Board), the Board may act upon the application or may defer action to a future date.

**FACTS:**

1. Bellwether Ventures LLC is the holding company for the Bay Sire Bistro, Winery and Alehouse (hereinafter the Bay Sire), located at 128 West Jefferson Street, Jackson, NC. Bellwether Ventures LLC and the Bay Sire are wholly owned by Ms. Jemma Cox.
2. To date, owner equity has financed 100% of the Bay Sire development costs.
3. Bellwether Ventures LLC seeks participation in the Program to:
  - a) finance capital improvements and capital equipment for expansion of the Bay Sire winery operations;
  - b) assist in financing renovations to the former Corner Grill & Tavern property in the Town of Conway, recently acquired by Bellwether Ventures LLC; and,
  - c) recapitalize owner equity to allow owner financing of operating costs for both the Bay Sire winery and the establishment in Conway.

**Decision Paper**  
**Public Hearing Related to NCRLF Program Application by Bellwether Ventures, LLC**  
**April 1, 2015**  
**Page 2**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

NCEDC staff has reviewed preliminary materials submitted by Bellwether Ventures LLC in support of the application. However, that documentation has not as yet been finalized for presentation to the Board. Accordingly, the NCEDC staff in consultation with the County Manager, County Attorney and Finance Director, recommend the Board act to:

1. Recess the public hearing to be reconvened Monday, April 20, 2015 at a time established by the Board,

**ROUTED FOR CONCURRENCE/COMMENT TO:**

Ms. Kimberly Turner, Northampton County Manager

Concur: *Kimberly L. Turner* Non-Concur: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Dorothy Vick, Northampton County Finance Director

Concur: *Dorothy Vick* Non-Concur: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Education Requests, Lake Gaston Clean-Up Day Resolution, ECBH Board Appointments, Reappointment of Animal Cruelty Investigator, Lake Gaston Weed Control Council Appointment, and Management Matters:**

Ms. Kimberly Turner, County Manager, appeared before the Board with a request from the Board of Education to transfer funds. This was presented previously at the joint meeting between the Commissioners and the Board of Education. The School Board is asking for approval to transfer \$25,000 from the sale of Jackson Eastside into current expense.

A motion was made by Robert Carter and seconded by Joseph Barrett to approve the transfer of funds from the sale of the Jackson Eastside property to Northampton County Schools for the capital outlay project to be completed. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Ms. Turner also presented a resolution from the Board of Education concerning driver education funding.

A motion was made by Joseph Barrett and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the resolution. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Next, Ms. Turner presented a resolution in support of Lake Gaston Clean-Up Day which will be held on May 30, 2015.

A motion was made by Joseph Barrett and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the resolution that endorses and supports Take Pride in Lake Gaston Clean-Up Day 2015. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Ms. Turner also appeared before the Board concerning ECBH's presentation at a previous Commissioners' meeting in reference to forming a Regional Advisory Board. They are asking for some members to that Board—one would be a County Commissioner, and the other would be someone with expertise in Social Services, Finance, or Health Care. Ms. Turner asked which Commissioner would like to serve. She also asked Vice-Chairman Barrett and Commissioner Carter if they could think of someone for the Regional Advisory Board (since they serve on the Boards of Health and Social Services).

Chairwoman Greene asked if they could revisit this issue.

Ms. Turner also asked the Board to reappoint Ms. Karen Cole as the Northampton County Animal Cruelty Investigator. This is an annual reappointment.

A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by Chester Deloatch to reappoint Ms. Karen Cole as the Northampton County Animal Cruelty Investigator. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Ms. Turner also asked the Board about an appointment to the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council. There are two vacant spots, but Ms. Turner only has one individual who is willing to serve at this time. The applicant is Mr. Larry Liles from the Henrico area.

A motion was made by Robert Carter and seconded by Virginia Spruill that Mr. Larry Liles be appointed to the Weed Control Council for Lake Gaston. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Ms. Turner brought another resolution before the Board opposing Sunday hunting.

A motion was made by Joseph Barrett and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the resolution about the Senate Bill 658 which would oppose hunting on Sunday with firearms. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Finally, Ms. Turner gave an update to the Board. She has been speaking with Ms. Vaughn Upshaw with the School of Government concerning a Board Retreat. Ms. Upshaw is available late July and August. The cost of having a representative from the School of Government is \$1,200 a day.

Ms. Vaughn said she would look into some kind of scholarship or funding options that may help with the cost. Ms. Turner stated that she can continue to look around for other options.

Ms. Turner also noted that she is still looking into, and working on the redistricting issue. Mr. Richie Harding came before the Board concerning this issue previously. He was concerned about citizens not knowing where to vote, and the district lines being dis-proportional, etc. Ms. Turner also reminded the Board that she will be starting on Department budgets this week. She will be meeting with Department Heads and going over their budgets for the next two weeks. Ms. Turner is hoping to begin budget work sessions the first week in May.

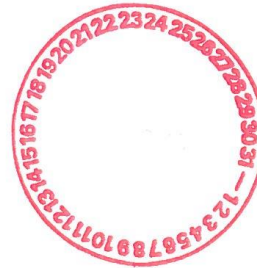
Ms. Turner informed the Board that she held a Department Head retreat on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She believes the Department Heads enjoyed themselves, and they got to learn about each other and their departments, managing stress, and succession planning. She will have something printed up for the Board so that they can see what they did at the retreat.

**PLEASE SEE SCANNED DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE  
HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES:**



March 23, 2015

Northampton County Board of Commissioners  
P. O. Box 808  
Jackson, NC 27845



Subject: Transfer of Funds

We were recently notified that all required actions have been completed for the sale of the Jackson Eastside property. The negotiated sale price which occurred approximately two years ago was \$48,000.00. In accordance with N. C. G. S. 115C-518, these funds will go to cover capital outlay projects. To date, we have amassed a significant amount of cost and would like to recover some of the expenses associated with this sale that were paid from our current expense budget. Therefore, we are requesting your approval to transfer \$25,000.00 from this sale into current expense. This will cover advertising, Attorney McKellar, Attorney Malone, general maintenance, and realtor fees. Additionally, by allowing us to transfer these funds into Current Expense we will have this year's local matching requirement for a grant we received. We have re-prioritized our current year budgets to include safety concerns. The most important of these is panic alarms and door lock systems at all schools. The remainder from the sale of the Eastside property will subsidize this project.

Sincerely yours,

Monica Smith-Woofter, EdD  
Superintendent

c: Northampton County Board of Education

701 N. Church Street, Jackson, NC 27845  
252-534-1371  
smith-woofterm@northampton.k12.nc.us  
www.northampton.k12.nc.us

### **Resolution Concerning Driver Education Funding**

WHEREAS, local school districts in North Carolina are legally required to provide and operate driver education courses; and

WHEREAS, costs for operating driver education courses have historically been covered by earmarked appropriations from the Highway Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, driver education is a key component of the graduated driver's license program, which has effectively helped reduce teen motor vehicle accidents and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 State budget moved all Highway Trust Fund appropriations for the driver education program to non-recurring for 2014-15 and stated it was the State's intent to eliminate the funding in its entirety beginning July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, school districts have the authority to charge fees to Driver Education participants, but that fee is capped at \$65 per student while the estimated operational cost per student is estimated to be between \$170 and \$350; and

WHEREAS, if the State follows through on the elimination of funding for the driver education program, it would impose yet another unfunded mandate on local school systems, who would have to find a way to cover the substantial gap between the allowable maximum fee that can be charged and the actual cost of operating this required program; and

WHEREAS, an unfunded driver education mandate would force school districts to either take drastic cuts to instructional services, which would harm students in the classroom, or cut back access to the driver education program through reduced services, which would cause some students to be denied the invaluable and successful training of the graduated licensing program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northampton County Board of Commissioners strongly objects to an unfunded driver education mandate.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northampton County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the General Assembly revisit its decision to sunset driver education program funding on July 1, 2015, and either restore the full Highway Trust Fund allocation or establish another funding source that does not cut into other education allotments.

**ADOPTED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

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Fannie P. Greene, Chair  
Northampton County  
Board of Commissioners

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Michelle Nelson  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

# Northampton County

"A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE FAMILIES, PROFITS AND EXPECTATIONS"

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P. O. BOX 808

JACKSON, N. C. 27845

PHONE (252) 534-2501 • FAX (252) 534-1166

## ***Resolution in Support of Take Pride in Lake Gaston Clean-Up Day 2015***

*WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the appearance of Lake Gaston by removing litter and debris that create eyesores and harm the environment; and*

*WHEREAS, a clean Lake Gaston environment positively impacts water safety, economic development, travel, tourism and quality of life; and*

*WHEREAS, the Lake Gaston Association is sponsoring Take Pride in Lake Gaston clean-up of the lake on May 30, 2015 in an effort to educate citizens on the harmful effects of litter; and*

*WHEREAS, there is a need for citizen participation in maintaining the beauty of our county, and*

*WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Northampton County to support our volunteers in efforts to improve the appearance of the county;*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County, NC that it endorses and supports the Take Pride in Lake Gaston Clean-Up Day 2015 initiative.*

*Adopted this the \_\_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.*

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*Fannie P. Greene, Chairwoman*

*Northampton County Board of Commissioners*

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*Michelle Nelson, Clerk*

*Northampton County Board of Commissioners*

**Kimberly Turner**

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**From:** Bland Baker <bbaker@ecbhlme.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 9:57 AM  
**To:** Kimberly.Turner@nhcnc.net  
**Subject:** agenda item

Good morning Ms. Turner,

It was good to talk to you this morning. This is a reminder that the first order of business for the Northern Region is to select two members from Northampton County to serve on the Regional Advisory Board. That would be one county commissioner and one designee with expertise in Social Services, Finance or Healthcare.

Thanks for your help with this. I look forward to working with you.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Thanks

Bland

Bland Baker, BA/QP  
*Regional Director for the North*  
East Carolina Behavioral Health  
1708 E. Arlington Blvd.  
Greenville, NC 27858-5872  
P 1-866-998-2597  
F 252-215-6881  
Visit our website: [www.ecbhlme.org](http://www.ecbhlme.org)

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**To: Mrs. Kimberly Goode/Northampton County County Manager  
Northampton County Board of Commissioners**

**I am requesting the appointment of recertification for Animal Cruelty Investigator for Northampton County , attached is my Certificate and my job description as Animal Cruelty Investigator , with no cost to the County.**

**Thank You,  
Karen Cole**

Article 4.

Animal Cruelty Investigators.

**§ 19A-45. Appointment of animal cruelty investigators; term of office; removal; badge; oath; bond.**

(a) The board of county commissioners is authorized to appoint one or more animal cruelty investigators to serve without any compensation or other employee benefits in his county. In making these appointments, the board may consider persons nominated by any society incorporated under North Carolina law for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Prior to making any such appointment, the board of county commissioners is authorized to enter into an agreement whereby any necessary expenses of caring for seized animals not collectable pursuant to G.S. 19A-47 may be paid by the animal cruelty investigator or by any society incorporated under North Carolina law for the prevention of cruelty to animals that is willing to bear such expense.

(b) Animal cruelty investigators shall serve a one-year term subject to removal for cause by the board of county commissioners. Animal cruelty investigators shall, while in the performance of their official duties, wear in plain view a badge of a design approved by the board identifying them as animal cruelty investigators, and provided at no cost to the county.

(c) Animal cruelty investigators shall take and subscribe the oath of office required of public officials. The oath shall be filed with the clerk of superior court. Animal cruelty investigators shall not be required to post any bond.

(d) Upon approval by the board of county commissioners, the animal cruelty investigator or investigators may be reimbursed for all necessary and actual expenses, to be paid by the county. (1979, c. 808, s. 1.)



# CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

The undersigned hereby acknowledge that

**Karen Cole**

Has attended and satisfactorily completed a six (6) hour training course titled

## ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATION

Satisfying the educational requirements for an Animal Cruelty Investigator set forth in

N.C.G.S. §19A-49

*William D. Sirginson*  
WILLIAM D. SIRGINSON, CERTIFIED HUMANE INVESTIGATOR, DATE 3/26/2015

**Citizens/Board Comments:**

***Chairwoman Greene called for Citizens Comments.***

School Counselors Margaret Putney and Kendra Floyd appeared before the Board on behalf of Northampton County High School to invite the Board to the Northampton County Mock Commissioners' Meeting on April 28, 2015, starting around 9:00 am. She is asking for the Commissioners to attend to support the students.

There was a discussion about inviting students from other schools for the Mock Commissioners' Meeting. They may need to move locations to accommodate additional students.

Ms. Marla Jerman, for Relay for Life appeared before the Board to speak about the "Paint the County Purple" proclamation. She also mentioned that their purple bows are for sale.

***Chairwoman Greene called for Board Comments.***

Commissioner Carter asked for support for our youth. He recalls a time where he initiated a program where a student from all of the high schools—Northeast Academy, KIPP Pride, Northampton East and West—was given an opportunity to come and sit in on the Commissioners' meeting twice during the month. Somehow the program stopped. He asked if the Board feels this is a good learning opportunity for students, he would like to see them reinstate the program whereby each school would be given a month. He feels it will involve the support of the Superintendent and the guidance counselors, because they will be the ones to select the students from the prospective school. The Board consensus is to continue with the program. Chairwoman Greene believes that the first of the school year would be an ideal time to start back up. County Manager Turner will get with the Superintendent on the logistics of the program.

Commissioner Spruill stated that she enjoyed the meeting with Senator Ingram and Representative Wray. She felt the meeting was very informative and felt the representatives heard the Board.

Chairwoman Greene agreed that the meeting was very productive. She told Senator Ingram that she felt it was good that she was already having Town Hall meetings trying to see what their concerns are. She is looking forward to the Board having a working relationship with the Senator.

A motion was made by Chester Deloatch and seconded by Virginia Spruill to adjourn. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**