

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located in the JW Faison Building, 9495 NC Highway 305, Jackson, North Carolina, with the following present: Charles Tyner, Nicole Boone, Joyce Buffaloe and Kelvin Edwards.

Geneva Faulkner was absent.

Others Present: Jaime Mason, James Roberts, Andy Smith, Doris Garner, Rhonda Taylor, Paul Nowell, Franklin Williams, Itia Robertson, Robert Murphy and Scott McKellar.

The Board first conducted its annual Organizational Meeting pursuant to its adopted Procedures Manual.

Call to Order:

Scott McKellar, County Attorney, Mr. Tyner called the Organizational Meeting to order.

Chair and Vice-Chair Appointment:

Upon request by Mr. McKellar, a motion was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to appoint Mr. Tyner as the Board Chair for the 2022 calendar year. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to appoint Ms. Faulkner as the Vice-Chair for the 2022 calendar year. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Mr. McKellar then handed the gavel to Mr. Tyner to preside over the remainder of the Organizational Meeting.

County Attorney Appointment:

Upon request by Mr. Tyner, a motion was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to reappoint Scott McKellar as County Attorney. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

2022 Meeting and Holiday Calendar:

Upon request by Mr. Tyner, a motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the 2022 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Schedule and the 2022 County Observed Holiday Schedule as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Adjourn:

Mr. Tyner adjourned the Organizational Meeting.

The Board next proceeded with its Regular Meeting for December 6, 2021.

Call to Order (Tab 1):

Mr. Tyner called the meeting to order.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance (Tab 2):

Mr. Tyner called for a moment of silence and followed with an invitation for all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda (Tab 3):

A motion was made by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the agenda for December 6, 2021 as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Conflict of Interest (Tab 4):

Mr. Tyner read the conflict of interest statement and asked if any Board member had a conflict with any matter on the approved agenda. No conflict was reported.

Funding Needs of Northampton County (Tab 5):

Representative Michael Wray appeared and presented the Board with State budget funding initiatives benefitting the County, which included new courthouse appropriations of \$14 million and multiple appropriations for the County's municipalities. Representative Wray additionally highlighted the State's Odom Prison donation to the County, his efforts to have the County added to the Roanoke River Blueway program and updated the Board on local road projects. No Board action was taken.

Exercise Option to Purchase Courthouse Property (Tab 6):

Mr. McKellar appeared and presented the Board with a Resolution Authorizing Exercise of Option to Purchase between the County and Lewis Bull Hill Properties, LLC, wherein the Board authorizes the exercise of the option to purchase 10.17 acres of real property more particularly

described in Plat Book 47, Page 12, Northampton County Registry, for the final purchase price of \$621,050.00. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Grant Summary Recommendations (Tab 7):

Franklin Williams, Economic Development Director, appeared and presented the Board with the following recommendations for nonprofit grant funding totaling \$20,000, which was budgeted for the current fiscal year:

- Garysburg Volunteer Fire Department -- \$3,500;
- Rich Square Creecy Community Help -- \$2,500;
- Lake Gaston Community Center -- \$3,500;
- Community Senior Enhancement Program -- \$3,500;
- Taking Time to Care -- \$3,500;
- Hannah's Place -- \$2,000; and
- Hertford-Northampton Smart Start -- \$1,500.

A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the grant recommendations as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

LifePak (Tab 8):

Paul Nowell, Emergency Medical Services Director, appeared and presented with a proposal to purchase a purchase agreement from Stryker Medical for eight (8) LifePak monitors and defibrillators and associated equipment for a total of \$186,944.32. Mr. Nowell and Mr. McKellar reported that this equipment was a sole source procurement item and therefore exempt from standard procurement requirements. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the purchase agreement as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Recreation Advisory Board Members (Tab 9):

James Roberts, Recreation Director, appeared and recommended to the Board the appointment of Jamie Kruger and the reappointments of Shirley Kwasikpui, Garfield Johnson, Gail Bennett and Eunice Peterson to the Northampton County Recreation Advisory Board. A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the recommended appointment and reappointments as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (Tab 10):

Rhonda Taylor, Director of Social Services, appeared and presented the Board with a summary of the Low Income Water Assistance Program by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. No Board action was taken.

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Real Property) (Tab 11):

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator, appeared and presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals for real property in the total amount of \$12,669.40 on 12 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

2022 Property Listing Period Extension (Tab 12):

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with a Resolution Adopting 2022 Listing Extension Dates, which extended the 2022 property listing period from January 1, 2022 through February 17, 2022. A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Larry Mercer Quote (Tab 13):

Franklin Williams appeared and presented an estimated quote from Larry Mercer for necessary demolition and repair work to the Rich Square Creecy building in the amount of \$9,500. A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the quote as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

WellCare Contract (Tab 14):

Andy Smith, Health Director, appeared and presented the Board with a Participating Provider Agreement between the County and WellCare Health Plans, Inc., a Managed Care Organization agreement for the County's Home Health services. A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the contract as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Budget Amendments (Tab 15):

Doris Garner, Interim Finance Director, appeared and presented the Board with the following Budget Amendments:

- BA #9 (\$133,775.00 allocated from Fund Balance for repairs on three County emergency communication towers);
- BA #10 (\$186,944.32 allocated from Fund Balance to purchase LifPak monitors and defibrillators);
- BA #11 (\$4,979.00 allocated from Contingency to replace a Canon printer in the land records office): and
- BA #12 (\$69,194 allocated to reflect grant funding received for the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program administered by the Department of Social Services).

A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Citizen Comments (Tab 16):

Del Burnes, Interim Superintendent of Northampton County Schools, introduced himself and stated that he looked forward to working with the Board.

Mac Sykes relayed reports of County employees engaging in political activity on Facebook while at work. He further reported receiving an anonymous letter complaining of improper hiring practices by the County and asked whether criminal background checks are performed. Mr. Sykes concluded by reporting that division within the County has not improved and asked Mr. Tyner to step down in Interim County Manager.

Interim County Manager Comments (Tab 16):

None.

Board Comments (Tab 16):

Ms. Buffaloe thanked citizens in attendance and highlighted ongoing County food distribution efforts for those in need.

Mr. Edwards reminded everyone to be safe and wished everyone a happy holidays.

Ms. Boone thanked Representative Wray for coming and for his efforts in assisting the County. She welcomed the new Interim Superintendent and the need for everyone to work together.

Mr. Tyner thanked the Commissioners for their service. The County continues to seek applications for County Manager. He also welcomed the new Interim Superintendent and thanked Mr. Murphy for his assistance. Mr. Tyner concluded by noting that when we all work together, good things can happen for the County.

Closed Session (Tab 17):

A motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, that the Board enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, (a)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (a)(4) EDC Report. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Adjourn (Tab 18):

There being no further business upon return from closed session, a motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to adjourn. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of December, 2021.

Scott McKellar
County Attorney / Acting Secretary