

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on November 15, 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, Geneva Faulkner, Nicole Boone and Joyce Buffaloe.

Kelvin Edwards was absent.

Others Present: Jaime Mason, Theresa Scott, Lakeshia Ransom, Itia Robertson, Robert Murphy and Scott McKellar.

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. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the agenda for November 15, 2021 as amended to delete the Consent Agenda (Tab 5) and to add a NCCAR Resolution as a new Tab 5. **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.

NCCAR Resolution (Tab 5):

Scott McKellar, County Attorney, appeared and presented the Board with a Resolution Approving Conveyance of Real Property to Nonprofit Corporation between the County and North Carolina Center for Automotive Research, Inc. (NCCAR), wherein the Board authorizes the conveyance of certain described real property to NCCAR pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§153A-176 and 160A-279. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Faulkner, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Halifax Community College Strategic Plan (Tab 6):

Dr. Michael Elam, President of Halifax Community College, appeared and presented the Board with the 2021 President's Listening Tour in the Community for the 2022-2027 Halifax Community College Strategic Plan. No Board action was taken.

Replacement of Microwave Tower Equipment (Tab 7):

Lakeshia Ransom, E911 Communications Director, appeared and presented the Board with a proposal to replace obsolete microwave tower equipment located at the Jackson, Rich Square and Bradley tower sites. The lowest bid received for the replacement equipment was from Radio Communication Company in the amount of \$133,775, which is the company that currently maintains the County's radio communications system. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the proposal from Radio Communication Company in the amount of \$133,775 as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Memorandum of Agreement with UCPCOG (Tab 8):

Theresa Scott, Aging Director, appeared and presented the Board with a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments (UCPCOG) detailing the County's participation in the Community Supported Agriculture Boxes food program with UCPCOG. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Memorandum of Agreement with State of North Carolina (Tab 9):

Franklin Williams, Economic Development Director, appeared and presented the Board with a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the State of North Carolina detailing the County's agreement to and participation in the settlement of pending opioid litigation. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Faulkner, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Solar Farm Moratorium Request (Tab 10):

Ajulo Othow, attorney and developer for proposed solar farm sites to be located in the County, appeared and requested that the Board amend its current solar farm moratorium to allow for smaller solar projects such as the ones she is developing. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to table the Board's consideration of this matter until after it receives the Planning Board's recommendations on future solar farm developments, which is anticipated to be at the Board's meeting on December 6, 2021. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Motor Vehicles) (Tab 11):

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator, presented Ad Valorem tax appeals for motor vehicles in the total amount of \$2,325.05 on 24 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Real Property) (Tab 12):

Ms. Mason next presented Ad Valorem tax appeals for real property in the total amount of \$37,991.93 on 17 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Faulkner, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Approval of 2021 Tax Scroll (Tab 13):

Ms. Mason next presented the 2021 Tax Scroll the Board showing a total assessed value for 2021 in the amount of \$2,077,131,695 and the corresponding levy, penalties and fees to be collected in the total amount of \$22,572,673.73. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the 2021 Tax Scroll as presented and to adopt the presented Order directing the Tax Collector to collect the taxes charged in the tax records and receipts. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Citizen Comments (Tab 14):

None.

Interim County Manager Comments (Tab 14):

Mr. Tyner stated that the County is doing its best to hire outstanding people for its open positions. The recent bond refundings have been approved and closed, which will save the County many thousands of dollars. There will be an anticipated groundbreaking for the new Courthouse in December.

Board Comments (Tab 9):

Ms. Buffaloe thanked citizens who participated in the Veteran's Day events.

Ms. Boone thanked the County staff for their hard work and also thanked the Northampton High JROTC program.

Ms. Faulkner thanked those citizens in attendance and reminded everyone to stay safe during the pandemic.

Mr. Tyner remarked on all of the good things going on in the County and the upcoming receipt of State funding for the new courthouse.

Closed Session (Tab 15):

A motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, 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 13):

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

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of November, 2021.

Scott McKellar
County Attorney / Acting Secretary