

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on October 4, 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, Joyce Buffalo and Kelvin Edwards.

Nicole Boone was absent.

Others Present: Donise Harris, Jaime Mason, 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 Dr. Edwards, to approve the agenda for October 4, 2021 as amended to delete the Consent Agenda. **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.

Resolutions Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Refunding Bonds (Tabs 5 and 6):

Ted Cole, Senior Vice President of Davenport & Company, LLC, appeared and presented the Board with a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, Pursuant to the Bond Order Heretofore Approved and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment Thereof. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Dr. Edwards, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Mr. Tyner recessed the Northampton County Board of Commissioners and convened the Northampton-Garysburg Sewer District.

Mr. Cole presented the Northampton-Garysburg Sewer District with a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, Pursuant to the Bond Order Heretofore Approved and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment Thereof. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Dr. Edwards, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Mr. Tyner adjourned the Northampton-Garysburg Sewer District and reconvened the Northampton County Board of Commissioners.

Discussion of Internet Expansion – Roanoke Connect (Tab 7):

Curtis Wynn, President and CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, appeared and presented the Board with the Roanoke Connect efforts to partner with the County to provide wi-fi internet service to the Town of Lasker with the use of the County's water tank located in the Town. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to accept the Certificate of Insurance as presented naming the County as an additional insured for the water tank and to allow for the installation of the equipment to proceed at no cost to the County. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Committees, Boards, Commissions and Authorities (Tab 8):

Northampton County Animal Control Advisory Committee

Dr. Edwards updated the Board on initial efforts to form the Committee with a future initial meeting to come. At this stage the Committee with consent of him, Andy Smith with the Health Department, a representative of PETA and citizen representatives to be appointed. No Board action was taken.

Tax Matters (Tab 9):

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator, presented Ad Valorem tax appeals for motor vehicles in the total amount of \$1,081.73 on 13 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Dr. Edwards, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with an unaudited settlement report of the 2020 tax collections. A motion thereafter was made by Dr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to accept and approve the settlement report as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Human Resources Update (Tab 10):

Donise Harris, Human Resources Director, presented the Board with a current summary of open job postings and fulfillments. In August through September, 2021 there were 27 vacant County positions, seven of which had been filled with new employees. No Board action was taken.

Citizen Comments (Tab 11):

None.

Interim County Manager Comments (Tab 11):

Mr. Tyner stated that the Human Resources Department is always recruiting talented candidates for open positions to make the County better.

Board Comments (Tab 11):

Ms. Buffaloe remarked that the Commodity Supplemental Food Program is always accepting applications for eligibility and encouraged citizens to apply. She also recommended visiting the Museum of the Albemarle located in Elizabeth City. Ms. Buffaloe concluded by notifying citizens that CDL training classes are now being offered at Halifax Community College.

Dr. Edwards reminded citizens that October is adopt a shelter dog, bullying preventing and breast cancer awareness month. He asked everyone to wear masks and to stay safe during the pandemic.

Ms. Faulkner noted a downward trend in the current COVID-19 infection rate but to not let your guard down. For citizens having doubts about the COVID-19 vaccine, she requested that they consult with their medical provider.

Mr. Tyner stated that there will likely be a future water rate increase in the County, which would come before the Board soon. In November, the Board will present citizens with a "State of Northampton County" to provide a comprehensive update on many of the Board's ongoing projects. He remarked that Barbara Williams is doing an excellent job thus far as Interim Clerk to the Board. The DSS building clean up has gone well and Anthony Wheeler is working very hard as the new Buildings & Grounds Director. Mr. Tyner concluded by stating that he hoped to have the latest audit report soon.

Closed Session (Tab 12):

A motion was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Dr. 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 13):

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

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of October, 2021.

Scott McKellar
County Attorney / Acting Secretary