

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 21, 2022**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on February 21, 2022 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, Joyce Buffaloe and Kelvin Edwards.

Others Present: Rhonda Taylor, Craig Ellison, Robert Murphy, Jaime Mason, Sheila Watford, Franklin Williams 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. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the agenda for February 21, 2022 with the following revisions:

- Adding the November 1, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes to the Consent Agenda under Tab 5;
- Deleting Tab 18 (Budget Amendments); and
- Adding a new item after the Consent Agenda, being three Proclamations for consideration.

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.

Consent Agenda (Tab 5):

A motion was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following meeting minutes of the Board of Commissioners:

- September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes;

- October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes;
- October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes;
- November 1, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes;
- November 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; and
- November 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.

Proclamations:

Ms. Faulkner presented the Board with three Proclamations honoring Jasper Washington Jones on his 100th birthday, in memory of Chester Johnell Deloatch, Sr., and in memory of Wardie P. Vincent, Sr. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Proclamations as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Cultural Arts Presentation (Tab 6):

Judy Collier, Executive Director of the Northampton County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board and presented the members present from the Northampton Cultural Arts Committee and the efforts of the Committee to expose local youth to the arts. Ms. Collier also informed the Board and members of the public of their efforts to establish a County “Barn Quilt Trail.” Finally, Ms. Collier presented and displayed a new quilt with squares painted by artist Mona Cunnikin and quilted by Janette Workman in honor of Black History Month. No Board action was taken.

Appointment of Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) Board Member (Tab 7):

A motion was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to appoint Dawn Daly-Mack to the CADA Board. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

AmeriHealth Caritas Home Health Agency Contract (Tab 8):

Megan Vick, Health Department, appeared and presented the Board with an AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc. Ancillary Services Agreement. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the Agreement as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Proposed Medical Insurance Rate Increase (Tab 9):

Sheila Watford, Interim Human Resources Director, appeared and presented Wes Grigston and Dave Costa with Gallagher Insurance who reviewed a proposed 4% increase for medical insurance coverage for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. No Board action was taken.

Resolution to Retain the Boundaries of the Turning Point Local Workforce Development Area (Tab 10):

Franklin Williams, Economic Development Director, appeared and presented the Board with a Resolution Requesting the North Carolina Department of Commerce & NC Works Commission to Retain the Boundaries of the Turning Point Local Workforce Development Area. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the Resolution as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Approval to Apply for Funds from the Roanoake-Chowan Vidant Health Foundation (Tab 11):

Craig Ellison, Cooperative Extension Director, appeared seeking approval of the Board to apply for funding for two grants (\$1,500 and \$2,000) from the Vidant Health Foundation. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the application request for the subject grants and to allow the Interim County Manager to execute all necessary applications regarding the same. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Needs Based Public School Fund Grants (Tab 12):

Dr. Del Burs, Interim Superintendent for Northampton County Schools, appeared seeking approval of the Board for the submission of Needs Based Public School Fund Grants to provide funding to construct a sixth through twelfth grade centrally located school. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the grant application submission as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Proposed Rate Increase for In-Home Aide Agency Provider (Tab 13):

Rhonda Taylor, Director of Social Services, appeared and presented the Board with a Contract Amendment with Northeastern Home Care, Inc. providing for a rate increase from \$13.50 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. A motion thereafter was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the Contract Amendment as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Tab 14):

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator, appeared and presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals in the total amount of \$912.91 on 4 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Motor Vehicles) (Tab 15):

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals on motor vehicles in the total amount of \$1,071.02 on 14 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Real Estate) (Tab 16):

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals on real estate in the total amount of \$10,368.60 on 6 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Delinquent Tax and Fee Report / Request to Advertise Tax Bills (Tab 17):

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with a report on the 2021 secured and unsecured tax bills that became delinquent on January 6, 2022 and sought an order of the Board directing that such delinquent tax liens be advertised as required by law. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to adopt the provided Order Directing Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Budget Amendments (Tab 18):

This Tab was deleted and no Board action was taken.

Citizen Comments (Tab 19):

Albert Vann inquired when the Tax Department was going to send out the tax listing forms.

Richie Harding spoke in favor of supporting the Needs Based Grant Funding to build a centrally located school.

Wanda Jenkins spoke in favor of a centrally located school and for pursuing the Needs Based Grant Funding.

Clinton Williams stated he was concerned about the Board's supporting a new courthouse and new jailhouse but not a new schoolhouse. He asked to the Board to get behind the new school project and reclaim the County's lost students.

Interim County Manager Comments (Tab 19):

None.

Board Comments (Tab 18):

Mr. Edwards stated that Trillium is doing great things for mental health in the County.

Ms. Buffaloe noted that drive through Covid testing sites are starting up in the County.

Ms. Boone remarked that she enjoyed the earlier cultural arts presentations and appreciated the proclamations passed by the Board and the impact those individuals had.

Ms. Faulkner apologized for some of the extended discussions during the meeting but she wants to make the most informed decisions possible. She also noted that it was Career Technical Education month.

Mr. Tyner remarked that the Board was fully in support of pursuing the Needs Based Grant Funding for a new school. He hopes to have a new County Manager hired in the next few weeks. He concluded by stating that we might not all agree, but we all desire to make things better in Northampton County.

Closed Session (Tab 20):

A motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Faulkner, 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 21):

Upon return from closed session, a motion was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to adjourn. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of February, 2022.

Scott McKellar
County Attorney / Acting Secretary