

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 5, 2022**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on January 5, 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 (via Zoom), Nicole Boone (via Zoom), Joyce Buffaloe and Kelvin Edwards (via Zoom).

Others Present: Jaime Mason, Becky Turner, Lakeshia Ransom, Itia Robertson (via Zoom), Robert Murphy and Scott McKellar.

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**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. Buffaloe, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the agenda for January 5, 2022 as amended to remove the Consent Agenda (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.

**Public Hearing on Proposed Water Rate Increase (Tab 5):**

Mr. Tyner opened the public hearing and recognized Becky Turner, Interim Public Works Director, who made a presentation on projected water and wastewater revenues and the need to increase current rates due to rising costs. The following citizens were then recognized:

Donna Jenkins inquired on the number of County public works services that are now contracted out that used to be handled internally. She also asked what chemical prices were increasing.

Wayne Jenkins appeared and asked the following questions:

- Have there been any loans or transfers made from the Water Enterprise Fund balance to any other funds of the County?
- Why can't the Fund balance sustain the cost in increase for the next 12 months rather than raising the water rate?
- What is the cost per gallon of production to include kilowatt hours, debt-service costs, chemical costs and employee salary costs?
- What conservation incentives is the County offering customers to conserve water rather than raise the rate?
- What is the ratio of the amount of purchased water versus pumping water sold to customers? Is there an opportunity to put more of purchase water customers on the pumping water system?
- Is the water rate increase required to qualify Northampton County for grant funds in the upcoming planned water expansion?
- Are there any segments in Phase VI that are not self-sustaining or cost effective?

Mr. Tyner then closed the public hearing. No Board action was taken.

**Contract with MAPS Group (Tab 7):**

Robert Murphy, Consultant, appeared and presented the Board with a proposed Memorandum of Agreement for Personnel Services with the MAPS Group to assist with a Classification and Pay Study Update. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Mr. Faulkner, to approve the contract as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**CADA Grant Approval (Tab 8):**

Mr. Tyner presented the Board with the proposed Community Services Block Grant Program Anti-Poverty Work Plan for 2022-23 and grant application received from Choanoke Area Development Association of North Carolina, Inc. (CADA). A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the Work Plan and grant application as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**CADA Board of Directors (Tab 9):**

Mr. Tyner presented the Board with a request to make appointments to the CADA Board of Directors for 2022-23. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to reappoint Ms. Buffaloe to the CADA Board with no further appointment being made at this time. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**Replacement of CAD Software and Servers (Tab 10):**

Lakeshia Ransom, Communications Director, appeared and presented the Board with a proposal for the purchase of new CAD software from Southern Software, Inc. in the amount of \$147,753.00 (of which \$145,079.80 is eligible for funding from the County 911 fund) and supporting servers from The Soundside Group, Inc. in the amount of \$53,433.71 (all of which is eligible for funding from the County 911 fund). Ms. Ransom 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. Buffaloe, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the purchases of the CAD software and servers as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Tab 11):**

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator, appeared and presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals in the total amount of \$1,391.66 on 3 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Motor Vehicles) (Tab 12):**

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals on motor vehicles in the total amount of \$1,344.98 on 9 appeals. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the refunds and corresponding appeals as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

**Pearson's Appraisal Service Proposal (Tab 13):**

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with a proposal from Pearson's Appraisal Service, Inc. for tax appraisal services. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Edwards,

**Budget Amendments (Tab 14):**

None.

**Citizen Comments (Tab 15):**

Clinton Williams inquired as to the status of finding a new County Manager and questioned why changes were being considered to the County's personnel policy. Mr. Williams concluded by asking about County redistricting efforts following the 2020 Census.

**Interim County Manager Comments (Tab 15):**

Mr. Tyner reported that a number of employees were currently out with Covid-19 and for citizens to please be patient during this time and to wear your masks when in County buildings. He stated that efforts are underway for preparing a new budget.

**Board Comments (Tab 15):**

Ms. Boone noted that Covid-19 numbers are rising and to please be safe. Get vaccinated and boosted. For those citizens with concerns, she requested that they contact the Commissioners and have a dialogue.

Mr. Edwards wished everyone a happy new year and to stay safe.

Ms. Buffaloe hoped that everyone will do all they can to stay safe with the spiking Covid-19 cases.

Ms. Faulkner reminded Woodland citizens to contact Roanoke Electric to sign up for internet services through the Roanoke Connect program.

Mr. Tyner requested that citizens come see the Commissioners in person if they have questions and not to resort to bad behavior and untruths on social media. He noted that great things are coming to Northampton County.

**Adjourn (Tab 18):**

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

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of January, 2022.

Scott McKellar  
County Attorney / Acting Secretary