

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 20, 2022**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on June 20, 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 (via Zoom).

Others Present: Julian Phillips, Itia Robertson, Jaime Mason, Judith Modeste, William Flynn, Craig Ellison 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 June 20, 2022 as presented. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Conflict of Interest (Tab 4):

Ms. Faulkner 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 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget (Tab 5):

Mr. Tyner recessed the Board of Commissioners and convened a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 County Budget.

Julian Phillips, County Manager, appeared and presented the Board and public with the key highlights on the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 County Budget.

Public comments were made by Gary Elliott asked the Board to make sure County vehicles are treated as essential. He expressed concern about paramedic services being offered on the western end of the County and the need for a quick response vehicle there. Mr. Elliott concluded by inquiring about the Rich Square Fire District tax increase.

Mr. Tyner noted two areas of concern in the Budget. First, he would like an additional \$100,000 set aside for school system emergencies. Second, he would like to appropriate an additional \$200,000 for County emergencies.

Mr. Tyner closed the public hearing and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Budget Ordinance (Tab 6):

Mr. Phillips next presented the Board with the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Northampton County Budget Ordinance. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to approve the Budget Ordinance as presented with an adjustment to add a \$100,000 contingency for school emergencies and an additional \$200,000 restricted contingency for County emergencies. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Board of Equalization and Review (Tab 7):

Mr. Tyner recessed the Board of Commissioners and convened the Board of Equalization and Review.

A motion was made by Ms. Faulkner, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the Board of Equalization and Review Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2022. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Jaime Mason, Tax Administrator and Clerk to the Board of Equalization and Review, appeared and informed that there were no appeals to present to the Board of Equalization and Review.

Mr. Tyner then adjourned the Board of Equalization and Review and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

Ad Valorem Tax Appeals (Tab 8):

Ms. Mason next presented the Board with Ad Valorem tax appeals in the total amount of \$338.75 on 4 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.**

Special Use Request (Tab 9):

Mr. Tyner recessed the Board into a public hearing.

William Flynn, Code Enforcement Director, appeared and presented the Board with a decision paper regarding a special use request that, if granted, would allow the applicant Carroll Purnell to operate a convenience store and bait shop in an Agricultural Residential zoning district. The Planning Board gave the matter a favorable recommendation and Mr. Flynn recommends allowing the request.

There were no public comments. Mr. Tyner then closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular session of the Board.

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

Grant Funding Proposal (Tab 10):

Craig Ellison, Cooperative Extension Director, appeared and presented the Board with a decision paper seeking authority to receive two \$1,000 grants from the ECU Health Roanoke-Chowan Hospital Community Benefits and Health Initiatives Grant Program and to further allow Mr. Phillips to execute the grant agreements. A motion thereafter was made by Ms. Buffaloe, seconded by Ms. Boone, to approve the receipt of the two grants as presented and to allow Mr. Phillips to execute the grant agreements. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

NCDOT Annual Update (Tab 11):

Win Bridgers, Division Engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, appeared and presented the Board with an annual report on current road projects in the County. No Board action was taken.

Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization Appointment (Tab 12):

Upon presentation by Mr. Tyner, a motion was made by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Buffaloe, to appoint Julian Phillips, County Manager, to the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion Carried.**

Budget Amendments (Tab 13):

Judith Modeste, Finance Officer, appeared and presented the Board with the following Budget Amendments:

- Budget Amendment #39: Appropriation of \$3,000.00 from contingency to the EMS Department to repair a diesel pump;
- Budget Amendment #40: Appropriation of \$100,300.00 from contingency to the Finance Department to pay a contested IRS penalty dating back to December 2018; and
- Budget Amendment #41: Receipt of \$2,000.00 in grant funding for the Register of Deeds for an automation project.

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 14):

None.

County Manager Comments (Tab 14):

Mr. Phillips remarked that efforts are underway on the County to obtain the former Odom Prison property. In addition, the new County courthouse construction is to commence this week.

Board Comments (Tab 14):

Mr. Edwards commended the budget adoption and reminded citizens of the Juneteenth remembrance.

Ms. Buffaloe reminded everyone of the USDA Rural Development workshop meeting on June 28 concerning grants and loans for home repairs.

Ms. Boone stated she was happy for the new convenience store and bait shop that was approved.

Ms. Faulkner had no comments.

Mr. Tyner thanked the citizens in attendance. He is happy to have the new County Manager onboard. He thanked all County departments for their hard work. He concluded by stating that bigger and better things are coming for the County.

Closed Session (Tab 15):

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)(6) EDC Report. **Question Called: All present voting yes. Motion carried.**

Adjourn (Tab 16):

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

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of June, 2022.

Scott McKellar
County Attorney / Acting Secretary