

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY**

Greensboro, North Carolina
December 2, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on December 2, 2024 at 10:00AM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston, presiding; Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster; Commissioners Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Brandon Gray-Hill and Pat Tillman (via virtual communication).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; County Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Jeff Thigpen, Register of Deeds; Victor Isler, Assistant County Manager; Erris Dunston, Assistant County Manager; Jason Jones, Assistant County Manager; members of staff, citizens and media.

I. INVOCATION

Commissioner Alan Perdue offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER / REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and introduced the 2024 organizational meeting.

IV. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED AND REELECTED OFFICIALS

A. 2024-500 ADMINISTER OATHS OF OFFICE

Administer Oaths of Office to the following:

A. REELECTED COMMISSIONER MELVIN "SKIP" ALSTON WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE
(The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Superior Court Judge)

B. REELECTED COMMISSIONER CARLY COOKE WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE
(The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Superior Court Judge)

C. REELECTED COMMISSIONER MARY BETH MURPHY WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE
(The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Superior Court Judge)

D. NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONER BRANDON GRAY-HILL WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE
(The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Superior Court Judge)

E. REELECTED REGISTER OF DEEDS JEFF L. THIGPEN WILL BE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE
(The Honorable Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge)

[Legislation Text](#)

The Honorable Lora C. Cabbage, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Melvin "Skip" Alston, who was reelected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Carly Cooke, who was reelected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Mary Beth Murphy, who was reelected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

The Honorable Stephanie L. Reese, Guilford County Superior Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Brandon Gray-Hill, who was elected to serve a four-year term, and subscribed the oath.

The Honorable Teresa H. Vincent, Guilford County Chief District Court Judge, administered the oath office to Register of Deeds Jeff Thigpen, who was elected to serve a four-term, and subscribed the oath.

V. REGISTER OF DEEDS JEFF THIGPEN WILL ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO ALL DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT REGISTERS OF DEEDS

Mr. Thigpen thanked the Board for allowing the department to administer oaths during the organizational meeting and thanked Judge Vincent for her profound leadership over her years of service. He noted that she was the first African American woman to serve as Chief District Court Judge in Guilford County. Thigpen thanked his family for their support and expressed his appreciation for his staff.

Thigpen administered the oath of office to his staff.

VI. CLERK TO BOARD, ROBIN KELLER, WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Clerk to Board Robin Keller opened the floor for nominations for Chairman for the upcoming calendar year.

Motion was made by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to nominate Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston as Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Carly Cooke, Pat Tillman, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

Keller returned the remainder of the meeting back to newly re-elected Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston.

VI. NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN WILL CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Chairman Alston opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair for the upcoming calendar year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke, to nominate Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster as Vice Chair of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Carly Cooke, Pat Tillman, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Brandon Gray-Hill

NOES: None

VII. REMARKS FROM NEWLY ELECTED AND REELECTED COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gray-Hill thanked the citizens of District 6 who elected him to continue serving and shared it was his honor to represent this community. He expressed appreciation for his family and supporters.

Commissioner Murphy thanked her family for their support and sacrifice which allows her to serve as County Commissioner. She thanked her parents and campaign team for their time and efforts. Murphy thanked GCAE and NCAE for their constant support during her prior term and during the re-election campaign and thanked the Board for their support. She thanked the District 4 voters who trust her to continue doing this work.

Commissioner Cooke thanked the voters of District 5 and shared her honor to represent this community. She thanked her team for all of their support, time and resources and thanked her family for their ongoing support and sacrifice. Cooke congratulated her colleagues who were elected and reelected to serve, shared she is grateful to continue this great work and thanked County staff for their efforts.

Chairman Alston thanked the citizens of District 8 for allowing him to serve another four (4) years.

VIII. REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Vice Chair Foster expressed her honor to continue serving on the Board and spoke to the dynamic of cooperation and collaboration amongst the members that allows them to do this great work as one Board and one Guilford County. She thanked her colleagues for their vote of confidence and for their support.

Chairman Alston expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to lead the Board once again. He spoke to the potential challenges the Board may face in 2025 and the upcoming work necessary to balance between maintaining mandated services, meeting critical needs in the community and addressing operational funding changes faced by our schools. He noted the many projects and opportunities that will keep the community thriving and make a difference in the lives of Guilford County citizens. Alston spoke to the commitment of the Board and staff to ensuring Guilford County remains successful. Alston thanked his elected colleagues for their ongoing partnership and dedication to the future successes of the County.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024-501 RECEIVE AND APPROVE ANNUAL BOND REPORT AS REQUIRED BY N.C.G.S 162-9 AND N.C.G.S 159-29

In accordance with North Carolina Statutes, APPROVE and FIX bond rates as follows:

For County Sheriff, fix amount of bond at \$25,000 and accept bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount with the original bond to be deposited with the Clerk of Superior Court;

For Register of Deeds, fix amount of bond at \$50,000 and accept bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount;

For Tax Collector, receive and approve annual bond report reflecting the \$100,000 bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount; and

For Finance Director, receive and approve annual bond report reflecting the \$1,000,000 bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Bond Report](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Carly Cooke, and seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy to adopt, in accordance with North Carolina Statutes, APPROVE and FIX bond rates as follows:

For County Sheriff, fix amount of bond at \$25,000 and accept bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount with the original bond to be deposited with the Clerk of Superior Court;

For Register of Deeds, fix amount of bond at \$50,000 and accept bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount;

For Tax Collector, receive and approve annual bond report reflecting the \$100,000 bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount; and

For Finance Director, receive and approve annual bond report reflecting the \$1,000,000 bond issued by Travelers Insurance in that amount.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Carly Cooke, Pat Tillman, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Brandon Gray-Hill

NOES: None

B. 2024-502 REVIEW AND APPROVE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Adopt the calendar year 2025 Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2025 Regular Meeting Calendar DRAFT v2](#)

Motion was made by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke, to adopt the calendar year 2025 Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule.

Commissioner Cooke noted she has a scheduling conflict with one of the proposed meeting dates and has notified the Clerk.

Chairman Alston confirmed the potential conflict with the August 2025 meeting date and noted it could be addressed closer to that time.

Motion was made by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Carly Cooke, to adopt the calendar year 2025 Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Carly Cooke, Pat Tillman, Kay Cashion, Alan Perdue, Brandon Gray-Hill
NOES: None

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:48AM.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board