

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
WORK SESSION**

Greensboro, North Carolina
June 10, 2025

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston, presiding; Commissioners Kay Cashion, Brandon Gray-Hill, Mary Beth Murphy, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Pat Tillman (via online communication), and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster and Commissioner Carly Cooke.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; County Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite; Clerk to the Board Robin Keller; Deputy Clerk to the Board Ariane Webb; Deputy Clerk to the Board T’ebony Rosa; Assistant County Manager Victor Isler; Assistant County Manager Jason Jones; Assistant County Manager Erris Dunston; Budget Director Toy Beeninga; Guilford County Schools (GCS) Chief Financial Officer Tyler Beck; GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Julius Monk; Tax Director Ben Chavis; Family Justice Center Executive Director Catherine Johnson; Sheriff’s Office Captain Wes Mecham; Planning and Development Director J. Leslie Bell; members of staff, media, and the public. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media partners.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. STAFF UPDATES TO REVENUES AND EXPENSES

County Manager Michael Halford introduced the agenda item and provided an overview of current revenue estimates.

Manager Halford reviewed the FY25-26 Recommended Budget’s strategic initiatives and investments for Successful People, Strong Community, and Quality Government. He recognized Budget Director Toy Beeninga.

Director Beeninga provided an update on revenue estimates. He noted that when we reviewed these in January, there has been movement in projections. He noted that property tax revenue estimates have found some additional revenue that can be budgeted in a positive direction. He shared that we could increase our property tax budget to \$1-\$1.5M based on the revised

estimates. He explained that on the sales tax side, we continued to trend in lower growth and are not anticipating to exceed in sales tax this year. He noted that as we reviewed the budget process, we estimated a 0% growth over the prior year, and anticipate that we will fall below our sales tax estimates. He noted for user charges, there is no overall changes in estimates. He noted that one of the fees we left off was the \$10.00 event fee for parks. He explained that the final schedule will include the fee that was approved last year. He noted that in the long term, he would like the Board to consider a long-term fee schedule. He noted that we currently do not have a county-wide adopted fee philosophy.

Director Beeninga reviewed where our fund balance is in comparison to 2010. He noted that we are continuing to grow. He noted that the unassigned fund balance is beginning to trend downward, which staff is monitoring. He noted that for the current fiscal year, we intend to utilize roughly \$20M of unassigned fund balance. He noted regarding Federal and State adjustments, Public Health will receive notifications of additional addendum agreements. He explained that we currently know of two (2) - one that will increase funding by \$93K and one that will decrease revenues by \$172K. He noted that the Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) program discussed at the March Board retreat will have additional discussions forthcoming.

Manager Halford requested for the Board to focus on page 11 of the packet.

Chairman Alston emphasized that the Board had the same information regarding the budget shortfall of approximately \$8M. He stated that the Board is already providing \$272M for operating funds. He recognized GCS Finance Officer Tyler Beck and GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Julius Monk.

GCS Finance Officer Beck noted the March 11th budget recommendation along with an April presentation. He spoke to compensation and to utility increases. He highlighted the NC General Assembly's biennial budget and state mandates regarding personnel. He explained there is anticipation for a June 18th approval. He shared that even with the \$272M, GCS remains obligated to cover the additional \$8M mandates. He discussed a recent \$10M grant and contract cancellations from the US Department of Education.

GCS Finance Officer Beck noted that part of the \$8M additional funding request for operation would go to items that are mandated for personnel. He noted that in his role of Chief Finance Officer, the memo being referenced is his due diligence to be sent to the Board of Education as to where the school would have impacts on items related to their funding planning.

Chairman Alston opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Murphy shared that there was a breakdown in the costs associated with legislative mandates provided in their budget documents. She questioned what portion of the \$10.5M are state positions in which they are not funding, and what portion are costs associated with locally funded positions. She further questioned why it would be necessary to perhaps fund those positions with additional local dollars. She shared that it is concerning for the rationale to have local dollars fund state-funded positions.

Vice Chairwoman Foster joined the meeting via virtual communication at 4:46 p.m.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed that GCS efficiencies regarding declining enrollment and reassessing class sizes and population decreases. He noted that full-time employee (FTE) positions are state-funded and the federal side will carry its weight. He stated that these funds would only support locally funded positions. He noted that the school system is in a declining enrollment environment, and that is driving how the states are funding positions. He explained that we have a standard template on staffing to align with population decreases.

Commissioner Murphy questioned if this accounts for the full amount. She opined if there was anything else that comprises this amount outside of position funding. She noted that as an example, utilities were mentioned. She further questioned how GCS makes those calculations.

GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Monk confirmed that our projections are normally over five (5) years, however, those projections are slightly skewed due to COVID-19 when the buildings were empty. He shared that these projections reflect a three (3) year look back.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed taking Duke Energy rate increases into consideration as well.

Chairman Alston questioned if these funds include insurance increases.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed.

Chairman Alston questioned if there was a breakdown of the GCS request.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed that those figures were in the original package of the \$10.3M but can provide them.

GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Monk confirmed that the line items were presented during a previous work session. He noted that we have increases in employee retirement and hospitalizations, along with growth in charter schools and utilities.

Commissioner Tillman shared that in our last meeting, individuals expressed concerns regarding safety and security, and that funding was not going to be there for scanners and safety. He noted that in 2018, there was a 2/3rds bond to fund these, and another \$6.8M in 2022 additional funds were awarded for safety. He noted in the budget there is another ask for \$1.8-\$1.9 for safety needs. He questioned what those prior funds were used for - cameras, communications, EMS coverage, scanners – and whether the money was already spent.

GCS Finance Officer Beck explained that the 2018-2019 items have expanded and that only \$600K was provided in an ordinance, but not fully funded. He noted that some capacity remains. He confirmed that \$4M of the projected \$10M was used for video installation, and \$1M remains. He shared that for the FY25-26 Mandatory Expenses, we have no discretion over these items.

Commissioner Tillman spoke to the need for a Joint Finance Committee that is similar to the Joint Facilities Committee because the work is important. He expressed disappointment that we

did not create that committee. He emphasized that we need to be serious about this work and there was interest on both sides. He recommended the creation of such a committee.

Commissioner Jones spoke to slide 44 (Mandatory Expense Increases) that helps the public understand state legally-mandated categories outlining the legislated salary increases for local teachers, retirement rates, and employer health insurance.

GCS Finance Officer Beck explained that when the state moves teacher pay to \$48K that is a \$7K hit to the GCS local budget. He noted that we must flex embedded allotments as this is a 3-5% raise.

Commissioner Jones spoke to retirement and health insurance tied to local teachers, assistant principals, and central office/non-certified.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed.

Commissioner Perdue questioned the growth in charter school enrollment.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed charter-school allotments based on state categories of direct payments. He noted that all the funding is local dollars. He noted that for every dollar paid in this category, we pay 0.14 cents on the dollar for growth in charter schools. He shared that for this category, it is about \$2.4M. He explained that GCS is a pass-through agent for charter school local funding.

Commissioner Perdue noted the \$11.5M for school safety, referencing slide 46 (FY25-26 Expense Increases) and questioned the remaining funds amount. He noted that the memo lists roughly \$3M in scanners and radio equipment. He questioned whether the remaining \$1.5M could address these needs.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed that the \$1M is partially encumbered but not yet spent as the 2/3rd bond criteria must be met. He noted that subscription fees are not eligible expenses.

Commissioner Cashion noted hearing from a lot of citizens with various feedback. She questioned whether there were schools without scanners or inoperative scanners. She voiced concern regarding protection.

GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Monk confirmed that forty-one (41) schools have scanners, and there is a layered camera approach in lieu of scanners. He noted that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has expired. He shared that scanners are part of our safety plan.

Commissioner Cashion questioned how GCS determines priority over which schools receive scanners and cameras.

GCS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Monk confirmed that GCS assesses historical trends at the middle and high school levels.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the \$8M deficit and the cost associated with continuing safety features. She recalled public feedback that one job was enough, but many work multiple jobs. She explained that GCS staff have trusted relationships with students and are on the front line of

school safety. She urged prioritizing investment in classified and certified staff, but the Manager's Recommended Budget lacks this focus. She reiterated that we must stabilize our community by prioritizing compensation in this wage crisis.

Commissioner Jones noted there are points of contention regarding Guilford County's exclusion from low-wealth teacher supplements. He shared that there may be efforts to address this in the current budget. He questioned that if passed, how the supplements and mandatory expenses would impact the GCS budget.

GCS Finance Officer Beck noted that the NC General Assembly budget was \$50B in property tax and both the House and Senate have expanded it to more districts. He shared that the Senate's budget continues to keep Guilford County out of the eligibility range. He shared that we would hope that our advocates in Raleigh would encourage that across the entire state, or at a minimum, include Guilford County. He shared that if approved they would offset costs and GCS would include all employees. He explained peer jurisdictions like Forsyth County receive a supplement of approximately \$11K. He expressed hope that our legislative advocates will assist with the certified population, which would assist with local teacher salaries.

Chairman Alston sought clarification regarding whether the slide indicates increases. He shared that the recommended GCS requests include increases over the funding amount from last year. He questioned whether these amounts are a forecast.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed historical data since there were no decisions from the NC General Assembly. He shared that we are forecasting until we receive feedback in October.

Chairman Alston questioned charter schools.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed that approximately 500-600 students are leaving public schools and going to charter schools. He noted that we are mandated to provide charter allotments. He reiterated that 0.14 cents of every \$1 per pupil goes to charter schools throughout the state of North Carolina.

Commissioner Perdue opined whether it was legally possible to apply additional funds in the Guilford County budget and not the GCS budget until we confirm state allocations. He questioned if the Board could wait until after the state sets its budget.

Manager Halford explained that once the Board makes an appropriation to education, the Board cannot unilaterally decrease it unless mutually agreed upon or some major economic incident. He shared a need to confer with the Legal Team regarding restricted funds.

Commissioner Perdue clarified placing the funds in a county-restricted budget.

Manager Halford confirmed placement in the fund balance.

Chairman Alston questioned actual and not projected funds.

County Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite advised that the allocation must be specific per purpose and function and nothing further. She expressed a need to research further regarding the mechanics of restricted funds.

Chairman Alston sought clarification regarding actual instead of projected allocations. He opined whether purpose and function can be set at any time. He questioned the timing of placing purpose and function restrictions - only at the budget process or conducted later in the fiscal year.

Commissioner Tillman noted that during the public hearing we heard a lot of GCS support. He noted that just two (2) years ago the Board gave \$15M for classified workers. He explained that there is no doubt there is a commitment to help where we can. He voiced support for lifting all staff positions. He further opined funding distribution of the low-wealth supplement for teacher pay, high-dose tutoring, and other items.

GCS Finance Officer Beck clarified the difference between the statewide teachers supplement versus the low-wealth teacher supplement as these are different allotments.

Commissioner Murphy explained that the state leaves Guilford County out of the teacher's supplement, and there is a difference from the low-wealth supplement, as this goes toward compensation and signing bonuses. She shared that she would offer this data to the Clerk to share with the Board for context. She reviewed the monthly raise amounts from peer jurisdictions.

Commissioner Tillman appreciated the terminology clarification and hopes the state can assist in offsetting these costs.

Commissioner Murphy highlighted the Action Greensboro report indicating per-pupil spending by source. She shared that Guilford County funding may be larger than our peers. She opined that we have higher expenses with identical spending and higher teacher supplements with a higher tax base. She questioned a breakdown of local dollars.

GCS Finance Officer Beck confirmed providing follow-up allocation data.

Vice Chairwoman Foster left the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

B. DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS BUDGET EXPANSION REQUEST REVIEW

Chairman Alston introduced this portion of the agenda, noting that historically, we allow Directors to present items. He identified slides 6-10 (Department Enhancement Request) in the Board packet to discuss what was left out.

Commissioner Jones noted that some line items are not positions but software.

Chairman Alston introduced the four (4) departments presenting requests: 1. Tax Department, 2. Family Justice Center, 3. Sheriff's Office, and 4. Planning & Development Department.

TAX DEPARTMENT

Tax Department Director Ben Chavis requested the Board to consider three (3) positions, in particular two (2) Commercial Appraisers. He noted that in 2026 we have our annual revaluation.

He noted that Guilford is lagging on the commercial appraisal front. He noted that Guilford County only has four (4), while Forsyth and Durham have lower per-parcel counts compared to Guilford County. He noted that in order to build integrity into the process we need to staff the positions since many of our appeals come from these commercial properties. He explained that these are high-dollar properties with high appeal rates to advocate for decreased fees. He explained the reasons why the positions are needed. He shared analyst staffing within the state. He noted that the last position is the Business Personal Property Analyst to review all the listings before billing. He shared that the total cost of the Business Analyst is \$95,760 and the total cost for the two (2) commercial appraisals is \$229K.

Commissioner Murphy noted expenses and savings from not hiring outside contractors. She questioned the net cost to be added to the budget if we no longer carry a reappraiser's contract.

Director Chavis confirmed \$29K as the \$200K leads up to the reappraisal.

Commissioner Perdue noted \$229K for the two (2) Commercial Analysts. He questioned the start dates.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the current contract expiration.

Director Chavis confirmed that the contract expires this year. He explained that with this allotment, we will not need to re-engage contractors.

Commissioner Perdue sought clarification regarding a July 1st start date.

Director Chavis noted that we typically push to September, but for these positions, I need them immediately with no delayed hire.

Commissioner Cashion shared that we are looking for new revenues and questioned how much money is being left on the table by not having enough staff to review and check on these properties.

Director Chavis confirmed that he does not have exact numbers, but the Randolph County example provided over \$83K per year that would have been missed. He shared that these are high-dollar commercial properties, and we need to ensure that we are being equitable and fair with all the other property owners.

Commissioner Cashion noted that the county is growing and supported this recommendation as it was a conservative investment.

The Board discussed the \$124K net recurring annual expenses.

Commissioner Murphy noted that the cost would be \$229,096 for the Commercial Appraisers and \$95,760 for the Tax Analyst.

Manager Halford noted that this is a low risk of offsetting them with revenues at \$325K roughly.

Commissioner Tillman questioned the net cost to the budget.

Staff shared the full \$325K amount.

Director Chavis shared that we can track revenue based on the addition of the three (3) positions. He noted that \$85M was discovered in the 2024 business accounts.

Manager Halford recommended funding positions by offsetting expenses with property tax revenue. He noted there is flexibility in one (1) position but the two (2) positions are an August start.

Director Chavis confirmed there are internal prospects for a promotion which requires hiring replacements.

Commissioner Tillman questioned net costs to add to the budget and whether there is any opportunity for hybrid or cross-training.

Commissioner Murphy confirmed \$324K.

Director Chavis confirmed Levels I, II, and III appraisers and their qualifications. He explained the process of backfilling residential positions if they are promoted to commercial analysts. He described their typical duties and responsibilities. He noted that these would be specific to commercial training.

Commissioner Tillman questioned what technology is being used.

Director Chavis noted that the current employees are splitting days; spending half the day in the office reviewing software, using websites to canvass properties to locate businesses, and conducting property site checks.

Halford noted that the commercial appraisals with a competitive process for hiring start dates.

County Attorney Leslie-Fite confirmed there will be a competitive hiring protocol.

There was Board consensus to direct staff to add to the FY25-26 Recommended Budget motion.

Moved by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., to direct staff to add to the FY25-26 Recommended Budget motion for the June 18th Board Meeting the three (3) positions to the Tax Department – One (1) Business Analyst and two (2) Commercial Property Appraisers for an estimated cost of \$325K.

The motion carried unanimously.

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Chairman Alston recognized FJC Director Catherine Johnson.

Director Johnson noted a need for an additional Navigator Position for Elder Justice and Camp HOPE at \$97,440, which includes benefits and technology. She shared that there is no turnover,

but there is a capacity limit. She shared that the FJC is leading the charge for elder abuse and partners are adding to elder case management.

Commissioner Perdue spoke to attending the 10th anniversary celebration. He noted that this is a top impactful department and noted its growth and positive interactions. He expressed support for this position.

Chairman Alston echoed the FJC work in the community.

Commissioner Murphy shared that Commissioner Cooke and she had an opportunity to discuss this today as Commissioner Cooke could not be here as she is leading an Education Steering Committee at the North Carolina County Commissioners State Association, leading up to Legislative Advocacy Day tomorrow. She shared that both she and Commissioner Cooke recognize that this is essential work and in alignment with our core values, and expressed support for this position.

Commissioner Cashion shared that the FJC serves over 100,000 citizens of all ages and demographics and is nationally known. She highlighted key takeaways from the FJC anniversary breakfast.

Moved by Commissioner Kay Cashion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, to add to the FY25-26 Recommended Budget motion for the June 18th Board Meeting, the one (1) Navigator Position Elder Justice and Camp HOPE in the amount of \$97,440.

Chairman Alston shared that we do not contribute County funding to Camp HOPE.

Director Johnson confirmed that Camp HOPE expenditures of \$100K are raised through grants and donations to ensure the camp is free to participants.

The Board discussed an additional allotment to Camp HOPE.

Commissioner Cashion accepted a friendly amendment to the main motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, to include an additional \$100,000 funding to Camp HOPE.

The motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Captain Wes Mecham shared that on behalf of Sheriff Danny Rogers they are very appreciative of the County Manager Team and the County for their support and all that has come forward on their behalf. He noted that there are a few items that need to be discussed. He spoke to the WellPath Contract Aggregate Cap. He noted that the listed \$425K is not enough. He noted that we have \$575K now, and to make this work annually, it is \$1.5M. He noted that the Aggregate Cap covers the services rendered to the inmates outside of the facility – hospital care or medical care. He explained the hospital billing cycles.

Commissioner Murphy questioned when the hospital care was placed out to bid.

Captain Mecham confirmed a full request for proposals (RFP) was issued last year and renewed. He noted that the existing contract will need to be amended to address the rising costs of medications.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the rising health care costs, or whether there was a census increase for jail residents.

Captain Mecham explained that this is not a per-person calculation but an overall amount. He noted that the Sheriff's Office could be invoiced by WellPath several months later for services incurred.

Commissioner Murphy questioned if this is just the cost of healthcare and whether we have a choice.

Captain Mecham confirmed that we do not have a choice on whether we pay for inmate healthcare. He shared that certain drivers are creating a combination of factors for the jail population. He noted that there is a need for a physician diagnosis and treatment as healthcare needs have changed over the years.

Commissioner Perdue questioned whether expenses are subject to internal audit since there are issues with billing in healthcare for services rendered.

Captain Mecham confirmed an internal audit began in April. He thanked the county's Internal Audit team and highlighted there were no disparities identified. He shared that there are no discrepancies with WellPath thus far.

Commissioner Perdue questioned if there was any legislation for an inmate losing their Medicaid while incarcerated.

Captain Mecham confirmed looking for options to offset those costs.

Manager Halford noted that there are some counties that are essentially buying insurance, as those who enter the jail do lose Medicaid eligibility. He noted that one of the unknowns that we need to answer is if there is something else we can do. He noted that this is a number that we chase every year, as funding continues to be squeezed, there is less and less ability to address this.

Commissioner Tillman questioned the ask for the Board and the billing cycles.

Captain Mecham confirmed state mandates regarding billing protocols. He noted that since the initial spreadsheet came out with a \$1M ask, we are now thinking that \$1.5M will make us whole on this line item.

Chairman Alston questioned the overage amount for this fiscal year's budget.

Captain Mecham confirmed working on an actual total of approximately \$500K.

Director Beeninga confirmed nine (9) months of invoices arrived last week and a need to close out this fiscal year as the county's maximum exposure is \$575K. He noted that this year we will

be at \$1.5M and are working on a budget adjustment to clean up this year. He noted that we are working to get a final number. He noted that historically, the contract is \$1.2M - \$1.5M per year.

Manager Halford recommended no Board action at this time, but to allow staff to continue to work on this issue as they are trying to get a handle on the prior WellPath billing. He noted that at the end of each year, there are normal cost savings that can cover costs, so with this billing process, the Fund Balance appropriation at the end of each year typically adjusts.

Chairman Alston confirmed that additional work needs to be done, and shared that he would not like to see a band-aid approach but would like to see a more permanent solution. He shared that at this point he would like to keep the \$575K in the budget, and work on contract negotiations to get a more realistic funding plan as to not be surprised at the end of the fiscal year. He emphasized that we must discover methods to not come up short fiscally. **He suggested keeping the \$575K and take \$900K from the fund balance and come back after renegotiating the contract.**

There was Board consensus.

Manager Halford clarified that the negotiations would be to negotiate adding funding to the contract.

Captain Mecham continued his presentation and shared the Real Time Crime Center of \$32K. He noted that these software subscriptions will help to collect data to help support intelligence work and improve criminal investigations.

Captain Mecham spoke to the Motorola Solutions Smart Programming, noting that these devices were purchased by the Emergency Management team. He shared that these programming fees must be paid annually with the first year free, which allows for smart mapping, smart connecting, and so forth, and allows each officer to be a GPS as one of the functions. He noted that another function called Smart Connect, where when you enter a building and lose connection, the radio will act as a cell phone. He clarified that these would just be for field Deputies. He shared that these features are vital for a cost of \$123,750.

Captain Mecham explained that the re-entry program lost a grant for \$75,000 for those individuals coming out of prison who require diversion programming to allow them to be successful. He shared that this funding covers food vouchers, housing vouchers, and transportation vouchers.

Captain Mecham spoke to a dedicated Sheriff's Office and Command Staff Budget. He noted that the entire training budget for the entire department is only \$300,000. He shared that the Sheriff had requested \$45K for the Sheriff and any command staff that he took to training.

Captain Mecham explained there was no room to house evidence, and spoke to an Expansion of Evidence Storage Racks of \$77K for Phase 1.

Chairman Alston reviewed the requests minus WellPath.

Commissioner Jones questioned the \$150K training budget.

Captain Mecham confirmed the Sheriff's Office spends the entire \$150K.

Commissioner Perdue shared that a lack of radio frequency in certain structures and how to mitigate those issues with fire and building codes with signal capacity. He spoke to the Motorola Radio Smart Programming is a safety issue. He noted the service impacts as a critical feature for officer safety. He expressed support for these line items.

Commissioner Murphy noted that the Board was provided a list of vacant positions and a cost savings of \$6.3M for law enforcement vacancies. She questioned the flexibility in the Sheriff's Budget to help cover some of these costs.

Captain Mecham confirmed that we used overtime and part-time to compensate for vacancies. He noted that we also use those funds to cover the Healthcare Aggregate Cap bills. He shared that we use lapse salaries to meet our department functions because staff have to work on their days off just to meet demand.

Manager Halford noted that we do not normally budget positions at 100%.

Director Beeninga confirmed that \$3.8M was moved to compensation maintenance for lapse salaries, pay adjustments, and overtime expenses.

Chairman Alston sought clarification regarding time-and-a-half for overtime pay rate, and opined on the total request.

Commissioner Murphy urged additional time to review the Sheriff's Office requests.

Moved by Commissioner Alan Perdue, seconded by Commissioner Brandon Gray-Hill, for staff to add to the FY25-26 Recommended Budget motion for the June 18th Board Meeting, Motorola Solutions Smart Programming to support officer safety, in the amount of \$123,750.

Manager Halford spoke to his current recommended budget, and noted that the total amount requested was \$6.7M and the Manager allocated \$5M.

The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Chairman Alston recognized Planning & Development Department Director Leslie Bell.

Director Bell expressed appreciation for the Board's continuous support. He highlighted its watershed/stormwater program and the need to hire one (1) Water Quality Specialist position. He spoke to the County's growth, to current activity, and to staff capacity. He noted non-compliance protocols and timeline.

Director Bell explained that the NC General Statute §143-214.5 (b-d) (Mandatory Water Supply Watershed Protection Program) requires maintenance, inspection and enforcement of stormwater control measures and any deficiencies in the local program could lead to audit findings including

probation of the program if not addressed timely, and the state could step in to conduct local development reviews and other activities.

Director Bell noted that 2/3rds of our stormwater unit systems are not compliant. He requested the Board consider \$130,306 for a Water Quality Specialist.

Director Bell explained that the goal is to reduce the number of inspections over time while keeping pace with growth over time. He spoke to the value added for having the position. He reviewed the county's core value alignment.

Director Bell introduced the next request for adding another Zoning Compliance Officer position to Planning & Zoning.

Manager Halford spoke to this position being a reclassified position.

Commissioner Jones questioned the interlocal agreements (ILAs) affecting the Planning & Development position.

Director Bell confirmed unpacking the ILA Evergreen agreements as the current structure is not sustainable long term.

Commissioner Murphy shared additional challenges regarding Evergreen contracts and requested legal review across the county departments.

Moved by Commissioner Frankie T. Jones, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, for staff to add to the FY25-26 Recommended Budget motion for the June 18th Board Meeting, a Water Quality Specialist at \$130,306 for the Planning & Development Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Leslie-Fite confirmed updating and reviewing the current Evergreen contract terms.

C. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEEDBACK / QUESTIONS ON FY25-26 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Manager Halford encouraged the Board to review the remaining packets of budget information to include (1) a list of vacant positions, (2) a list of enhancement requests, and (3) a budget by mandate quadrant.

D. CONSIDER DATE FOR NEXT BUDGET WORK SESSION

Chairman Alston sought clarification for another budget work session.

By unanimous consensus, the Board agreed to the next budget work session to be held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Carolyn Q. Coleman Conference Room.

Clerk to the Board Robin Keller reminded the Board of the 10:00 a.m. Economic Development Public Hearing on Thursday, June 12th followed by a special presentation and subsequent event.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for this agenda.

IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:46 p.m.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk