

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
October 5, 2017

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on October 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Phillips, Vice Chairman Alan Branson, Commissioners Katie "Kay" Cashion, Justin Conrad, J. Carlvena Foster, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Perdue, Hank Henning.

ABSENT: Carolyn Q. Coleman

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing, County Attorney Mark Payne, Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier, Clerk to the Board Robin Keller, Deputy Clerk to the Board Scott Baillargeon, and members from the media.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplin Ben Chavis offered invocation

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Phillips led those present in the Pledge.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Douglas Levine spoke to the animal shelter and the number of animals euthanized in Guilford County. He stated that intake rate in Guilford County. He noted that the animal ordinance adequacy addresses

Jen Grafton, Guilford County resident and founder of Juliet's House in Greensboro, spoke to their efforts to house animals from around the County.

Kim Sheets, veterinarian in Guilford County, stated that issue of pet overpopulation is not a government issue, but a community issue.

Beverly Levine spoke in favor of spay/neuter as a means to control overpopulation and reduce Animal Shelter intake. She noted the unpredictability in the world and stressed individual accountability to ensure that animals are provided care.

Ruby Westcoat, Greensboro resident, spoke to the efforts of the Board to alter the citation included in the language of the ordinance. She noted the burdens associated with unaltered pets.

Libby Scandale, Greensboro resident founder of Project BARK, spoke to the measures implemented by the Board to ensure that the animal population contained. She stressed the burdens related to overpopulation in the shelter. She noted that the problem is a human problem, rather than an animal problem. She expressed gratitude for the ordinance.

Erin Mann, Greensboro resident and former animal control officer, spoke to the issue of the ordinance as it applies to the Animal Control Officers. He stated that the ordinance does not claim to go door to door to enforce the ordinance.

Jack Red, High Point resident and volunteer of Project BARK, addressed the many impoverished residents who refuse to spay/neuter their pets. He noted that many of the pets are Pitbull breeds and emphasized that many owners refuse free spay/neuter programs. He stressed that unaltered animals should not be adopted out of the shelter.

Bob Sloan, Jamestown resident, spoke to BARK free dog houses and the project revealed several outstanding issues facing the animal issue. He noted former Animal Shelter Director, Scott Green, who provide assistance. He stated the number of spay/neutered animals since 2013. He emphasized the partnership with Guilford County to ensure that all animals are spay/neutered.

Ann Stringfield, Greensboro, spoke to the animal ordinance, and stated that all animals should be spay/neutered. She spoke to (FCAP) and the incentive to spay/neuter animals. she noted that more incentives need to be created to foster responsible spay/neuter practices.

Stan Booker, climax resident, asked the Board for additional speakers to present their side of the debate. He expressed concerns for the ordinance as it is written. He presented the Board with a handout from the ASPCA, which believes that the only humane method is a voluntary sterilization of homeless pets, however Booker stated that no method has shown to be effective.

Berni Hall, Pleasant Garden resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed quarry and discussed the bicycle routes that have been encouraged by Guilford County municipalities to ensure healthy living through exercise. She emphasized that the proposed quarry would be in conflict with that measure.

Chris Cassidy, Greensboro resident, spoke in favor of the spay/neuter ordinance. He emphasized the views of other speakers, and noted the numbers of volunteers that are consistently and progressively working with Guilford County to ensure that pet overpopulation is contained.

Joey Hackett, Pleasant Garden resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed quarry in Pleasant Garden. He noted a zoning HI that ensured communities would not be impacted by excessive

trucking. He stressed the impacts to minority communities due to the change in the zoning. He stated that he was a contractor in the community and believes his plans to develop the area are on hold due to the quarry. He stated that negative economic effects have already been noticed, and believes that the issues will only continue. He stressed the disharmony the quarry would produce throughout the community.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2017-304 PROCLAIM OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Legislation Text

Chairman Phillips introduced the item, and asked Commissioner Cashion to read the Proclamation.

Commissioner Cashion asked the staff of the Family Justice Center (FJC) and their partners to come forward to be recognized during the reading of the proclamation. Cashion read the proclamation to declare October as Domestic Violence Month. She thanked the staff of the FJC for their tireless efforts.

Chairman Phillips thanked the FJC staff and their partners for their work and efforts to ensure citizen safety.

Family Justice Center Director Catherine Johnson noted that the efforts and contributions of the FJC are tremendous and stated that it was an honor to work alongside them. She stressed the statistics and thanked the Board.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Phillips invited the board to review the consent agenda and to identify any items wishing to be pulled from consent for separate consideration.

Commissioner Cashion requested item C1 to be pulled for separate

Motion was made by Justin Conrad, and seconded by Hank Henning to adopt the Consent Agenda.

VOTE:	Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES:	Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion
NOES:	None

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2017-347 BUDGET AMENDMENT REPORT FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS PROCESSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE COUNTY MANAGER IN THE FY 2017-18 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Receive Budget Amendment report for budget amendments processed under the authority granted to the County Manager in the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinance.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Budget Amends Report - 2017-10-05.pdf](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2017-337 APPROVE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) MODULAR AMBULANCE BOXES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Approve the purchase of four (4) 157" modular ambulance boxes for use by Emergency Services from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles (located at 1056 NC-194, West Jefferson, NC 28694). The contract amount for the total award is \$585,900 (\$146,475 per unit).

[Legislation Text](#)

[Event #511 - LineResponseListing.pdf](#)

[Ambulance Specs.pdf](#)

2. 2017-355 LEASE OF SPACE AT 7315 HOWERTON ROAD, GIBSONVILLE TO BROTHERS EXCELLING WITH SELF-SUFFICIENCY TO THRIVE (BEST)

Approve, in substantial form, the lease agreement for the BEST to rent greenhouse space at 7315 Howerton Road, Gibsonville, NC (1,200.00 Annually) and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said lease.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Proposal for Gardening at the Prison Farm - 09192017](#)

[BEST Contract-09252017072018](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

1. 2017-350 DEVELOP RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TO OPIOID OVERDOSES IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Approve in substantial form, a contract between the State of North Carolina, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and Guilford County, in the amount of \$250,000 to address mortality related to opioid overdoses in Guilford County; and approve an increase of \$250,000 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2017-18 Emergency Services budget by the same amount to reflect a special appropriations from the NC General Assembly for this purpose.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Special Appropriation Agreement-GUILFORD COUNTY Public Template.doc](#)

2. 2017-307 SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR PIEDMONT TRIAD FILM COMMISSION

Set a public hearing for October 19, 2017 in accordance with N.C.G.S. 158-7.1 for allocation of economic incentive grant for the Piedmont Triad Film Commission.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Film Commission](#)

3. 2017-345 APPROVE VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (VAD) APPLICATION

Approve one (1) VAD application (#2017-04)

[Legislation Text](#)

[2017-04](#)

[Brochure](#)

4. 2017-338 CONSIDER PROPOSED 2018 PARKS FEE SCHEDULE

Approve Parks Fee Schedule for 2018 as proposed to be effective January 1, 2018.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Facilities Parks Fees for Update 8-14-17 v8](#)

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

IV. CONSENT

- C. 1. 2017-350 DEVELOP RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TO OPIOID OVERDOSES IN GUILFORD COUNTY

[Legislation Text](#)

[Special Appropriation Agreement-GUILFORD COUNTY Public Template.doc](#)

Motion was made by Kay Cashion, and seconded by Alan Perdue to approve in substantial form, a contract between the State of North Carolina, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and Guilford County, in the amount of \$250,000 to address mortality related to opioid overdoses in Guilford County; and approve an increase of \$250,000 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2017-18 Emergency Services budget by the same amount to reflect a special appropriations from the NC General Assembly for this purpose.

Commissioner Cashion inquired about the Navigator position and how it would be used.

Guilford County Emergency Services Director Jim Albright spoke at length regarding the opioid crisis and the community process to encourage citizens in to treatment. Albright shared that they are in the process of building a community collaborative to help guide those into harm reduction within 7 days of their encounter with public safety and eventually into rehabilitation services.

Commissioner Cashion emphasized the benefits of the procedure and wanted the public to know what is being to combat this issue.

Albright shared statistics about the crisis and the strides the County is making toward curtailing the crisis.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion
NOES: None

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2017-346 PUBLIC HEARING FOR REFUNDING BONDS

- 1) Hold public hearing for adoption of bond order authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$215,000,000 for the refunding of all or any portion of the 2005A, 2005B, and 2007B series Variable Rate Public Improvement General Obligation (GO) Bonds and the 2012A GO Public Improvement Bonds.
- 2) Adopt the bond order at the conclusion of the public hearing.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Public Hearing, Adoption of Bond Order 2017 Refunding 10-5-17](#)

The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners reported to the Board of Commissioners that the bond order entitled "BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$215,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF GUILFORD" which had been introduced on September 21, 2017, had been published in a qualified newspaper on or before September 29, 2017, with notice that the Board would hold a public hearing thereon on October 5, 2017. The Clerk also reported that the County's Director of Finance had filed in the Clerk's office a statement of debt complying with the provisions of The Local Government Bond Act and that such statement showed the net indebtedness of the County to be 1.67% of the assessed valuation of property in the County subject to taxation. Finally, the Clerk also reported that the County's Director of Finance had filed in the Clerk's office an estimate of the total amount of interest that will be paid on the proposed bonds over the expected term of the bonds, if issued.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BOND ORDER

Finance Director Reid Baker introduced the item to the Board. Chairman Phillips reviewed the public hearing rules of procedure with those in attendance and opened the floor for proponents. There being none, Chairman Phillips opened the floor for opponents. There being none, Chairman Phillips closed the public hearing.

ADOPTION OF BOND ORDER

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Alan Perdue to adopt 1) Hold public hearing for adoption of bond order authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$215,000,000 for the refunding of all or any portion of the 2005A, 2005B, and 2007B series Variable Rate Public Improvement General Obligation (GO) Bonds and the 2012A GO Public Improvement Bonds.

2) Adopt the bond order at the conclusion of the public hearing.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion

NOES: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017-251 PRICE ONLY CONTRACT WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE PIEDMONT, INC.

Authorize staff to enter into a price only contract with the Humane Society of the Piedmont, Inc., Greensboro, N.C. (Draft Attached), in an amount not expected to exceed \$38,400.00 for the initial term beginning on or about October 5, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, with four (4) potential one-year renewals; and authorize staff to take any and all measures necessary to finalize and execute the agreement.

[Legislation Text](#)

[SPOT SERVICE AGREEMENT.pdf](#)

Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier spoke to the item to request a price-only contract with the Humane Society of the Piedmont in order to operate the Mobile Spot Spay and Neuter Clinic. He noted the upcoming spay/neuter event and outlined affordable rates for spay/neuter. Grier recognized Purchasing Director Susan Crotts, and Humane Society of the Piedmont Executive Director Erin Stratford Owens for the contributed service.

Commissioner Conrad spoke to the item and thanked staff and Humane Society of the Piedmont for their collaborative efforts. He shared this is a positive step forward and is looking forward to the partnership.

Humane Society of the Piedmont Executive Director Erin Stratford Owens stated that she was looking forward to moving forward.

Purchasing Director Susan Crotts thanked the Board for the opportunity to implement the program.

Motion was made by Justin Conrad, and seconded by Melvin "Skip" Alston to authorize staff to enter into a price only contract with the Humane Society of the Piedmont, Inc., Greensboro, N.C. in an amount not expected to exceed \$38,400.00 for the initial term beginning on or about October 5, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, with four (4) potential one-year renewals; and authorize staff to take any and all measures necessary to finalize and execute the agreement.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0

AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion

NOES: None

B. 2017-319 SECOND READING FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO CHAPTER 5:
ANIMAL ORDINANCE REGARDING SPAY AND NEUTER REQUIREMENTS

Consider adoption of the proposed changes to Chapter 5: Animal Ordinance regarding spay and neuter requirements.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Draft Animal Ordinance Spay and Neuter 09.21.17 Second Reading.pdf](#)

Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier introduced the item and provided further background regarding the item. Grier reviewed the ordinance. He noted that if an animal comes into contact with animal control and is unaltered the owner would face a 200 fee. Grier noted that if the owner agreed to have the animal altered then the fee could be waived.

Grier noted the amendments made to the ordinance after the public hearing on September 21, 2017. Grier noted the modification made to the veterinarian certification exemption, allowing exceptions to the spay neuter ordinance if the pet owner's veterinarian certifies that to spay or neuter the animal would adversely impact the health of the animal. Grier noted the second amendment to the proposed ordinance to include exemptions for any cat or dog that is classified as purebred by: the International Cat Association, the Cat Fanciers Association of America, the American Kennel Club, or any other national, regional or local organization recognized by Guilford County Animal Services whose owner can provide that the animal has participated in events sanctioned by these organizations.

Commissioner Conrad asked the County Attorney to address and clarify the changes/

County Attorney Mark Payne spoke to the changes within the language, specifically the changes in relationship to hunting dogs. Payne noted for the record, that the Board's understanding of the amendments, to be interpreted and implemented in such a manner, to mean that any organization recognized by Guilford County Animal Services would meet these criteria under exemption number six, including North Carolina Wildlife Resources, specific to hunting licenses; with hunting being the event that is sponsored by that organization. Payne reiterated that if an owner has a valid hunting licenses by North Carolina Wildlife Resources and their hunting dog who has participated in hunting comes into contact with Animal Services it would qualify as an approved exemption under exemption six (6) in regards to the spay/neuter ordinance.

Commissioner Alston inquired about the second reading process regarding the amended language.

Payne clarified that the amendments approved at the September 21, 2017 meeting would not require an additional reading of the ordinance.

Vice Chairman Branson inquired about the six month to a year to spay/neuter requirement.

County Attorney Mark Payne spoke to the changes within the language, specifically the changes in relationship to hunting dogs. Payne clarified for the record, that the Board's understanding of the amendments, to be interpreted and implemented in such a manner, to mean that any organization recognized by Guilford County Animal Services would meet these criteria under exemption number six, including North Carolina Wildlife Resources, the entity that issues hunting licenses; further, the possession of a hunting license would constitute evidence of membership in said recognized organization, and hunting being the event that is sponsored by that organization. Payne reiterated that, under this interpretation, if an owner has a valid hunting licenses by North Carolina Wildlife Resources and their hunting dog comes into contact with Animal Services it would qualify as an approved exemption under exemption six (6) in regards to the spay/neuter ordinance.

Motion was made by Justin Conrad, and seconded by Melvin "Skip" Alston to adopt the proposed changes to Chapter 5: Animal Ordinance regarding spay and neuter requirements.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion
NOES: None

Commissioner Alston welcomed Reverend Jessie Jackson to the County's Board Meeting.

International Civil Rights Museum co-founder Earl Jones introduced Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson Sr. to speak before the Board. He shared his honor to present Rev. Jackson and his participation in the University of A&T Homecoming celebrations this weekend.

Rev. Jesse Jackson thanked the Board, and Commissioner Alston for inviting him to participate. He thanked the Board for their efforts and shared his pleasure watching the Board of County Commissioners deliberate. He spoke to his time participating in the Civil Rights Movement. He spoke at length concerning the affairs that continue to separate the nation. He stated that it was impossible to appreciate the America today without understanding American history. Rev. Jackson recognized the role of Greensboro in redefining America, and recognized that North Carolina is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, and urged those to appreciate in the progress that has been achieved in the South. He spoke to the racial disparities that had existed in America for so many years, and expressed pleasure in realizing the walls tumble where African-Americans can participate in national sports. Rev. Jackson remembered all of those who assisted in the creation of the International Civil Rights Museum. He referenced Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963, Washington Mall, "I have a Dream" Speech, and stated that the message had been missed, that during the time that speech was made, African-Americans were not permitted to use public restrooms, schools, and were counted second-class in the military. Rev. Jackson emphasized that those times have passed and progress in the South has been achieved. He spoke to the many great things that have come out of North Carolina. He thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

IX. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

A. 2017-348 DHHS - DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE ON AGING AND ADULT SERVICES DIVISION (AASD) - GUARDIANSHIP

Receive DHHS - Division of Social Services update on Aging and Adult Services - Guardianship

Legislation Text

102017 BOCC Guardianship

Social Services Director Heather Skenes introduced the item and the Power Point Presentation.

Program Manager in Adult Services Cheryl Millmore, provided the Board an update on Adult Guardianship. Millmore reviewed the role of case management for Adult Guardianship, and stated that they are currently serving 248 adult wards and the state recommendation of caseloads is 25 with Guilford County caseworkers carrying case loads of approximately 35. She spoke to funeral arrangements and guardian arrangements.

Social Services Director Heather Skenes spoke to the challenges that face the County, and reviewed the Power Point Presentation (PPP) regarding the economic impacts of Social Services on the County. She spoke at length regarding nutrition benefits from EBT cards, Medicaid, and the crisis programs that address myriad issues facing Guilford County residents.

B. 2017-349 DHHS- DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES - ECONOMIC SERVICES UPDATE

Receive DHHS - Social Services Division updates on Economic Services impact on local economy.

Legislation Text

Economic Services BOCC presentation 102017

X. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Marty Lawing Congratulated Merle Green for her recent awards.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Henning expressed concern for the events happening across the US. He invited all to join him this weekend about Emergency Response vehicles.

Commissioner Perdue echoed Henning's sentiments, and shared his experience at the emergency services graduation. He shared with the Board his experience while attending the NC Communications Conference, and recognized Guilford Metro-911 Director Melanie Neal for receiving a Director of the Year Award.

Vice Chairman Branson shared his recent experience while attending the Mack headquarters in Greensboro.

Commissioner Alston called for a moment of silent prayer for those deceased and wounded in the recent Las Vegas act of terrorism. He spoke to the upcoming NC A&T Homecoming weekend festivities. Alston spoke to the work that has gone into organizing the Democratic precincts and listed several dates for upcoming precinct meetings. He encouraged the community to participate.

Commissioner Conrad echoed similar sentiments, and spoke to the Human Society, Spot Mobile, and offered thanks for their continued assistance. He noted the challenges that folks have to keep their animals kenneled, and noted the efforts of a business to build kennels.

Commissioner Foster congratulated the City of High Point for their first annual festival, and congratulated the East Side Group for their efforts at the festival. She noted three teens who were killed in car accidents, and expressed concerns regarding teens to make good decisions. She welcomed thousands of people to Greensboro to celebrate the Aggie homecoming.

Commissioner Cashion commended Conrad for all the work he has done with Animal Services. She noted testimonies from victims of domestic abuse. Spoke to an event she attended where a women's group sang, and encouraged folks to go to Triad Stage to attend South Pacific.

Chairman Phillips echoed the sentiments of the Board, and expressed condolences to the victims of devastation and violence.

XII. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION/SALE AND CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Motion was made by Alan Perdue, and seconded by Hank Henning to hold a closed session pursuant to §143-318.11 for the purposes of considering real property acquisition/sale and consultation with the County Attorney.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, J. Carlvena Foster, Hank Henning, Justin Conrad, Jeff Phillips, Kay Cashion
NOES: None

The Board entered into closed session at 7:30 PM

The Board reconvened from closed session at 7:52PM

XIII. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Kay Cashion to adjourn.

Motion adjourn carried by unanimous consent at 7:53PM.

Jeffrey M. Phillips
Chairman

Scott Baillargeon
Deputy Clerk to Board