

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
August 4, 2016

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on August 4, 2016 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Phillips, presiding; Vice Chairman Alan Branson; Commissioners Hank Henning, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue and Ray Trapp.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing; County Attorney Mark Payne; Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier; Robin Keller, Clerk to Board; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Michael Halford, Budget Director; J. Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Captain Ken Whitesell, Sheriff's Office; Robert McNiece, Property Management/Facilities/Parks Director; Doug Logan, Juvenile Detention Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; members of the community and media.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplin, Ben Chavis, provided the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Phillips led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phillips welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:58PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

1. David Craft, Greensboro resident, thanked the Board for their recent decision regarding the Rich Fork preserve, which will allow the community to move forward with a wonderful amenity for our citizens. He shared his participation on the original 2004 Parks & Recreation bond committee, Open Space committee and noted he currently serves on the Parks & Recreation commission. Craft spoke to the importance of creating a holistic master plan, and maintenance of the homestead located on the property.

He stated he is Chair of The Friends of Haw River State Park committee and announced the ribbon-cutting at the new trail head, located at the Church Street extension. Craft invited the media to cover the project which has been in development for ten (10) years, and noted they have created the nexus of over 600 acres of a state park within Guilford County. He urged the Board to consider the next bond issuance for parks development within the County.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Craft for coordinating a recent tour of the Rich Fork Preserve.

Commissioner Conrad echoed thanks to Mr. Craft for the tour of the facility, and thanked Mr. Vaughn and Ms. Hice for their service and work on the Parks and Recreation commission. He thanked the volunteers for the work they are doing for the citizens.

2. Sherman Moore, Greensboro resident, shared his involvement with the Stop the Violence Movement, and noted this group has worked in the Hampton Homes community and southern Greensboro for the past eighteen (18) years. He shared his collaboration with Commissioner Cashion on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), and his work with Commissioner Trapp on the Food Desert Storm initiative. Moore thanked Commissioner Coleman for her guidance and mentoring, and thanked the Board for their support of the community. He presented honorary Stop the Violence T-Shirts to Commissioners Cashion, Trapp and Coleman; and requested the Board's ongoing support for this movement.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Mr. Moore for his great work within the community and stated the Board is supportive of his efforts and guiding objectives.

Commissioner Trapp shared Mr. Moore has mentored many youth in underserved communities, but receives no funding from Guilford County. He encouraged the Board to support his work, specifically his efforts within the Hampton Homes community.

Commissioner Cashion thanked Mr. Moore for all of his work and stated she knows his efforts make a difference within the community.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Phillips asked if any Commissioners wished to pull an item from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Coleman requested item C.3 pulled from the consent agenda for further consideration.

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2016-304 FY 2016 - 2017 HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA GRANT - \$139,534

Approve receipt of 2016 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Grant funds in the amount of \$139,534 and increase the FY 2016 - 2017 Law Enforcement budget by \$139,534 to reflect the appropriation of the grant.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2016 HIDTA.pdf](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2016-281 PRICE ONLY CONTRACTS WITH ARAMARK CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, LLC FOR INMATE FOOD SERVICES IN GUILFORD COUNTY JAILS AND JUVENILE DETENTION

Approve price only contracts, in substantial form, with Aramark Correctional Services, LLC to provide food services to inmates housed in the Guilford County Jail Central (Greensboro) and High Point Detention Center in the amount of \$1,419,886.83, as well as, Guilford County Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$199,835.67, for an initial term of one (1) year, with four (4) one-year renewal options.

[Legislation Text](#)

[ARAMARK CORRECTIONAL SERVICES LLC - Law Enf Contract - 8-1-2016](#)

[ARAMARK CORRECTIONAL SERVICES LLC - Juvenile Detention Food Service Contract - 8-1-2016](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2016-301 APPROVE ONE (1) ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (EVAD) APPLICATION

Approve one (1) EVAD application #2019-06 being 29.4 acres and comprised of two (2) tax parcels (#0216539 @ 13.52 acres and #0224094 @ 15.88 acres), all owned by Terri Davenport Taffer of Summerfield, NC.

[Legislation Text](#)

[EVAD Application 2016-06](#)

[NC Dept. of Agriculture Brochure](#)

2. 2016-229 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR APPROVAL AND OPENING OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Approve resolution establishing policy for the approval and opening of Closed Session Minutes and General Accounts.

[Legislation Text](#)

Removed from the Consent Agenda

3. 2016-311 DR. GEORGE C. SIMKINS JR. MONUMENT DONATION

Accept donation of George C. Simkins Jr. monument and authorize placement in the Guilford County Bicentennial Garden, located at the corner of Market Street and Eugene Street.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Simkins Monument.pdf](#)

4. 2016-309 RECEIVE BUDGET AMENDMENT REPORT FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS PROCESSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE COUNTY MANAGER IN THE FY 2016-17 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Receive Budget Amendment report for budget amendments processed under the authority granted to the County Manager in the FY 2016-17 Budget Ordinance.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Budget Amends Report 2016-8-4.pdf](#)

5. 2016-300 MINUTES APPROVAL

Review and approve the following set of draft meeting minutes:

07/14/2016 Regular Meeting

07/15/2016 Tax Committee

[Legislation Text](#)

[dm071416](#)

[comTax071516](#)

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alan Branson, seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to adopt the consent agenda.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

AYES: Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue, Ray Trapp

NOES: None

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

3. 2016-311 DR. GEORGE C. SIMKINS JR. MONUMENT DONATION

Accept donation of George C. Simkins Jr. monument and authorize placement in the Guilford County Bicentennial Garden, located at the corner of Market Street and Eugene Street.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Simkins Monument.pdf](#)

Commissioner Coleman noted the statue for Dr. Simkins is long overdue, and discussed how he was responsible for most of the desegregation within the city of Greensboro during the 1960's. She discussed his former presidency of the NAACP, and noted his interest in improving the community. Coleman shared Dr. Simkins founded the Simkins PAC and noted their efforts to increase minority representation in elected positions. She noted the statue will be placed in a prominent position near the Old County Courthouse and urged citizens to remember his good works.

Commissioner Trapp echoed Commissioner Coleman's sentiments and noted Dr. Simkins efforts allow him to sit as an elected official today.

Chairman Phillips questioned the timeline to install the statue.

Lawing shared they are working on construction of a base for the statue, and County staff anticipate scheduling an unveiling ceremony within the next 7-8 weeks.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to accept donation of George C. Simkins Jr. monument and authorize placement in the Guilford County Bicentennial Garden, located at the corner of Market Street and Eugene Street.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue, Ray Trapp
NOES: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2015-222 UPDATE ON GUILFORD COUNTY 2017 REVALUATION

Receive and consider an update on the Guilford County 2017 revaluation process.

Legislation Text

2017 Reappraisal Update Commissioners Meeting 080416

Tax Director Ben Chavis provided an overview of the County's 2017 Revaluation process and noted the reappraisal process is required by statute. He shared the County moved to a five (5) year cycle in 2012, to reduce the impact that a lengthier cycle has on property owners. Chavis noted approximately 45% of all counties have moved to shorter cycles and noted the process assures uniformity regarding NC Utility company properties, which are revaluated annually, and ensures properties reflect accurate rates.

He stated that notices will be mailed out in February 2017 and reviewed the sales ratio data in Guilford County between 1996 and 2016. Chavis noted the goal is to achieve a ratio of 100%, where assessments are reflective of market value. He stated that, while there is an overall trend towards appreciation, County staff do not anticipate large percentage changes. Chavis confirmed there are 2600 different market areas, or neighborhoods, in the County, which are examined on an individual basis, and cautioned that tax areas will increase for some areas will go up, while other areas may decrease or remain the same. He anticipated reappraisal results similar to those experience in 2012.

Chavis reviewed the qualifications of the County's appraisal staff, as well as, the modern appraisal tools they would be use. He discussed the Pictometry tool, which allows staff to capture better images of properties, and gives them the ability to measure improvements made to properties. Chavis noted the tool allowed staff to identify approximately \$46.8 million in improvements.

Chavis confirmed staff have mailed inserts to all property owners to verify data using the Tax Department website, and reviewed the next steps. He discussed the Comparable Sales Search tool that will be available to property owners, and allow them to compare their property to adjoining neighbors. Chavis shared the automated, online appeal process that will be available to property owners and discussed the informal appeal period from February through June 2017. He shared out of approximately 6,800 informal appeals, only 1.3% reached the Board of Equalization & Review in a formal appeal process. Chavis confirmed the deadline for formal appeals to the Board of Equalization and Review is June 1, 2017, and reviewed the tax exemption and reduction opportunities available to seniors, disabled individuals and veterans, farmers and builders inventory.

Chavis reviewed the reappraisal cycle for neighboring North Carolina counties and reiterated the trend towards more frequent appraisal cycles.

Commissioner Trapp requested further explanation of the homestead exemption and how this discount is advertised.

Chavis stated there is a brochure available that provides information on the exemption and discussed the four (4) eligibility requirements: NC citizenship, property owner, age 65 years or older, or a disabled individual and household income less than \$29,000.

Commissioner Trapp expressed his interest in collaborating with the Tax Department to conduct community and senior outreach events to publicize the exemption.

Commissioner Coleman questioned how to access the exemption form.

Chavis confirmed the form is available online, and that staff can mail forms to individuals with no online access. He stated eligible individuals had until June 1, 2016 to apply for this year's exemption, however they could complete a form to appeal the exemption request with the Board of Equalization and Review. Chavis discussed legitimate reasons to grant appeals of the request.

Commissioner Coleman requested copies of the brochures and appeal forms.

Chairman Phillips questioned if there is an increase in expenditures during revaluation.

Chavis noted reappraisal was previously a major expenditure, but noted expenditures decreased this year resulting from the utilization of technology. He recommended moving to a four (4) year cycle following the 2017 revaluation.

Commissioner Henning questioned the difference between a four (4) year and five (5) year cycle.

Chavis stated that the four (4) year cycle has been a state-wide trend.

Chairman Phillips reiterated the benefits of a shorter cycle, such as reducing “sticker shock”.

Chavis confirmed best practice is a shorter revaluation cycle which would mirror market fluctuations.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Chavis for his presentation and for his service in the role Board Chaplin.

VII. REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2016-227 REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS GUILFORD COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Review and approve the recommended reappointments to the listed Guilford County Boards and Commissions.

[Legislation Text](#)

[GC Tourism Development Authority Roster](#)

[GC Tourism Authority Reappointment Recommend - JBelk](#)

[Sandhills Center Board Roster](#)

[Sandhills Reappointment Recommend - CDonnell](#)

[Sandhills Reappointment Recommend - WEvans](#)

Chairman Phillips read the list of reappointments to various advisory boards & commissions.

Guilford County Tourism Authority

Reappoint James Belk (term expiring September 30, 2019)

Sandhills Center Board

Reappoint Costella Donnell (term expiring September 01, 2019)

Reappoint Walter G. Evans (term expiring September 01, 2019)

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, seconded by Commissioner Hank Henning, to review and approve the recommended reappointments to the listed Guilford County Boards and Commissions.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue, Ray Trapp
NOES: None

Chairman Phillips requested County Manager Lawing make comments to the Board prior to Commissioner comments.

IX. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Marty Lawing announced a grant opportunity through the Golden Leaf Foundation. He noted the availability of \$20 million in community-based grant funding, with each county eligible for awards up to \$1.5 million.

Lawing discussed the recent interest meeting held in Greensboro, and discussed the two (2) prosperity zones identified by the foundation during this grant cycle. He confirmed these are competitive grants for non-profit organizations, and serious consideration will be given to projects that will be of greatest benefit to citizens, while promoting long-term economic growth and development.

Lawing stated counties can submit up to three (3) letters of inquiry, and there is a 20% cash match required from the applying agency. He noted target areas for the grant include: economic development, education, workforce development, infrastructure, healthcare infrastructure and agriculture. Lawing reviewed the grant application schedule and projects must be endorsed by the County Manager. He recommended creating a review committee consisting of Commissioners to approve projects prior to submission to the foundation.

Lawing requested the Board provide direction in developing a process to prioritize letters of inquiry. He stated the foundation has offered to assist in vetting proposals prior to receiving Manager approval. Lawing also requested the Board provide direction in establishing a deadline for acceptance of letters of inquiry.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Lawing for presenting this information to Board, and discussed her experience with the foundation. She noted the competitiveness of the process.

Chairman Phillips questioned the total grant award available for projects.

Lawing confirmed one (1) large project could receive the entire \$1.5 million grant or multiple projects could receive this funding cumulatively. He noted agencies offering match amounts greater than 20% would increase their chances of being awarded funding.

Vice Chairman Branson questioned if projects related to the Animal Shelter would qualify for the grant.

Lawing stated he would consult with the foundation regarding eligibility of projects related to the Animal Shelter.

Vice Chairman encouraged Lawing to include multiple County projects, and questioned the number of non-profits who attended the grant information session.

Lawing noted approximately seventy (70) people attended the session.

Chairman Phillips requested clarification of staff's requests from the Board.

Lawing requested Board direction regarding the composition of a review committee.

The Board discussed review options.

By unanimous consent, the Board elected to have a committee comprised of the full Board to review all Golden Leaf Foundation grant submissions.

Commissioner Trapp recommended submissions vetted by members of the Golden Leaf Foundation, as well.

Commissioner Perdue questioned if the review committee would utilize the foundation's criteria to vet submissions.

Lawing stated he would follow-up with the foundation to determine if there was a checklist of the criteria that could be shared with the Board and staff.

The Board discussed options where staff rank submissions based upon Golden Leaf criteria.

Lawing stated he would return to the Board during the August 18, 2016 with suggested timeframes for submission deadlines and committee review.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Phillips noted the requirement for the Board to unanimously adopt an amendment to the agenda format.

Robin Keller, Clerk to Board, stated the order of the agenda is established by the Board's Rules of Procedure, and an amendment would require unanimous consensus of the Board.

By unanimous consent, the Board elected to amend the rules of procedure and order of the agenda to place Comments from County Manager before Comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Perdue shared his attendance at a regional collaboration with the Greensboro Partnership. He extended sympathy to the family of Captain Stephen Briscoe who lost his life in a recent car accident. Perdue thanked the Board and staff for cards, thoughts and prayers in the recent losses of his sister and mother-in-law.

Commissioner Coleman shared her participation as a plaintiff in the voter suppression case, and noted the favorable ruling which overturned NC voter ID requirements. She encouraged all citizens to participate in the voting process.

Vice Chairman Branson shared his attendance at a recent SynShark meeting sponsored by Mr. Pat Short, who discussed the potential agricultural opportunity in utilizing specialty tobacco in cosmetics instead of squalene extracted from sharks and other aquatic animals.

Commissioner Trapp invited all Commissioners to attend the Stop the Violence Rally this Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 4:00PM at Sussman Street Park, which will feature a motorcycle and car show. He thanked the participants of the recent National Night Out events, and noted the large attendance to these events and the fellowship between law enforcement officers and citizens.

Commissioner Foster shared her attendance at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA, and stated she was elected to the Executive Board of the Women of NACo, and noted she is on the ballot to serve as secretary of National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO) during the upcoming NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference. She thanked Commissioner Cashion for her mentorship and assistance in representing Guilford County at a national level. Foster congratulated Commissioner Trapp on NACo's recognition of the Food Desert Storm initiative, and congratulated the Family Justice Center on its recognition.

Commissioner Cashion shared her attendance at the NACo Annual Conference and noted approximately 3,000 counties have joined the association within the past year. She noted the majority of her time with spent with the Justice and Public Safety committees where they discussed emergency management and mental health in the jail system. Cashion noted their resolutions become part of the NACo policies that are shared with Washington officials and implemented as changes in regulations. She shared her tour of off-shore drilling sites and learned about the environmental protection policies involved in the process. Cashion shared the new NACo President will attend the NCACC Annual Conference to meet with NC delegates, and noted her reappointment as Vice Chairman of the Justice & Public Safety Committee, membership on the Sustainability Committee and her appointment as Chair of the Arts & Culture Commission. She encouraged all Commissioners to attend the NCACC Annual Conference in Forsyth County next week.

Chairman Phillips thanked Commissioner Foster and Commissioner Cashion for representing Guilford County, and noted the receipt of a letter from Dr. Vance Arnold, Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club, which was distributed to all Commissioners. He stated the letter is from Sierra Club executive committee members and supports including mountain-biking on the Rich Fork Preserve as a mechanism to attract a younger demographic to outdoor activities.

Chairman Phillips shared his attendance at the Clear the Shelter event held on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the Guilford County Animal Shelter. He noted 142 shelter animals were adopted, and thanked Commissioner Conrad and staff for their efforts in making this a successful event.

Commissioner Conrad shared this is a national event, but is the first time Guilford County has participated. He thanked Guilford County Animal Services Board members Donna Smith-Lawrence, Brenda Frizzell and Tammy Graves for taking the lead in organizing the event.

X. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Commissioner Justin Conrad, seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE:	Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES:	Jeff Phillips, Alan Branson, Hank Henning, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue, Ray Trapp
NOES:	None

There being no further business, the Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:27PM.

Jeffrey M. Phillips
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board