

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
April 16, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on April 16, 2020 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Phillips, presiding; Vice Chairman Alan Perdue; Commissioners Alan Branson, Justin Conrad, Melvin "Skip" Alston and Hank Henning.
Participating via simultaneous communication – Commissioners Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster and Kay Cashion.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing; County Attorney Mark Payne; Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Worley Smith, Communications Manager; Harley Will, Finance Director; Michael Halford; Budget Director; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Interim Director; Heather Skeens, DHHS-DSS Division Director; Dan Durham, Facilities/Property Management/Parks Director; Don Campbell, Emergency Management Director; and Frank Giubileo, Interim Security Director; Virtual participation made available to the general public and media.

I. INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Alan Perdue lead those present in the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Jeff Phillips led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phillips called the meeting order at 5:40PM and welcomed those present.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Chairman Phillips welcomed those speakers participating via simultaneous communication.

Ross Neugeboren, President of the Guilford County Firefighters and Paramedics Local 5056 of the International Association of Firefighters, urged the Board to support any initiatives to provide benefits to firefighters and first responders to aid them in service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Susan Tysinger, Greensboro resident, spoke to the school bond referendum and the need to bring schools up to standards. She spoke to the importance of a good school system and urged the Board to consider and research funding options for these improvements.

Lee Haywood, Summerfield resident, thanked the Board for their service to County residents and shared that, overall, they have done a great job, given our public health restrictions. He spoke in support of loosening restrictions on small businesses and reiterated his support for the Board.

Fred Gregory expressed his opposition to the \$1.6 billion school bond and recommended a pay-as-we-go model. He spoke in support of charter schools and their funding models, and thanked the Board for its efforts. Mr. Gregory offered additional encouragement during these difficult times.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2020-190 RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION OF SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Approve a resolution declaring support for protection of second amendment rights.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Alan Branson read the resolution into the minutes.

Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman questioned the necessity for the resolution and asked if these rights were not afforded in the state and federal constitution.

Commissioner Branson confirmed these rights are afforded in our constitutions, but noted these rights have been challenged in neighboring states and spoke to the need to reaffirm these rights.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad, to approve a resolution declaring support for protection of second amendment rights.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 3
AYES: Alan Branson, Alan Perdue, Hank Henning, Jeff Phillips, Justin Conrad, Kay Cashion
NOES: Carolyn Q. Coleman, J. Carlvena Foster, Melvin "Skip" Alston

Chairman Phillips referenced the addendum to the agenda and the items included. **By general consensus, the Board adopted the addendum agenda.**

Commissioner Coleman noted she had not received the appointment information included in the addendum and requested those names read into the minutes.

Chairman Phillips shared when they reached the appointment portion of the meeting, those names would be read into the minutes.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2020-207 AMEND TAX FORECLOSURE ATTORNEY AGREEMENT AND APPROVE ASSOCIATED BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Approve attached contract amendment in substantial form to Contract No: 588 Mark D. Bardill, P.C. d/b/a Zacchaeus Legal Services to provide sufficient budget authority for projected expenses through the end of FY 2019-20; and approve budget amendment increasing Property Tax Revenue by \$75,000 and increase Tax Department FY2019-20 budget by \$75,000.

[Legislation Text](#)

[ZLS Addendum 4-6-20 \(1\)](#)

2. 2020-209 2019 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) BUDGET AMENDMENT

Approve an increase in Federal/State Revenue of \$5,780 and increase the FY 2019-20 Emergency Services budget by the same amount to reflect additional revenue awarded to the County by the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management to assist in the cost of developing and maintaining a comprehensive Emergency Management program.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Guilford DocuSign FY2019 EMPG CR2 MOA signed.pdf](#)

3. 2020-214 DHHS - PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION: COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE - \$300,641

Approve an increase of \$300,641 in State/Federal revenues and increase the DHHS-Public Health Division FY 2019-20 budget by the same amount to reflect funding received from NCDPH-Epidemiology/Preparedness and Response Branch for emergency response to COVID-19, in accordance with the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

B. CONTRACTS

2. 2020-198 LEASE EXTENSION OF OFFICE SPACE AT 3309 BURLINGTON RD, GREENSBORO, NC TO THE USDA

Approve, in substantial form, a three (3) year lease agreement for rental of 2,322 square feet of at a rate of \$23,220 annually office space at 3309 Burlington Rd, Greensboro, NC with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said lease.

[Legislation Text](#)

[USDA Lease 20-23 Guilford County \(Greensboro\) NC LA# 4](#)

[Ag Center GIS 3-20-03262020173613](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2020-184 GRANT SOLE OWNERSHIP TO THE CITY OF GREENSBORO FOR 4482 NEAR OLD BATTLEGROUND RD., PARCEL # 80272

Approve a Quitclaim Deed, in substantial form, to transfer ownership to the City of Greensboro, and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said Deed.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Greensboro QC Deed Palmetto 2-19-20](#)

[Old Battleground GB-03042020185337](#)

[Palmetto Trailhead Parking TRC2_site 10-7-19](#)

2. 2020-204 APPROVE APPLICATION FOR SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM GRANT

Approve and sign the grant application for funding through the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Guilford Section 5310 Application Form](#)

3. 2020-201 PROPERTY TAX REBATES AND RELEASES FOR MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

Accept and approve property tax rebates and releases for the month ending March 31, 2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

[March 2020 NCVTS Pending Refund Report](#)

[March 2020 Rebate and Releases](#)

4. 2020-200 TAX COLLECTION AND BEVERAGE LICENSE REPORTS FOR MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

Accept and approve the tax collection report and beverage licenses issued for month ending March 31, 2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

[401C All Guilford 3-31-2020](#)

[Bev 3-31-2020 Detail](#)

5. 2020-192 BUDGET AMENDMENT REPORT FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS PROCESSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE COUNTY MANAGER IN THE FY 2019-20 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Receive Budget Amendment report for budget amendments processed under the authority granted to the County Manager in the FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Budget Amends Report 2020-04-16 Updated.docx](#)

6. 2020-210 APPROVE THE GUILFORD COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Approve the Guilford County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) officers and membership roster for the calendar year 2020 per LEPC bylaws.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2020 LEPC Membership List.pdf](#)

7. 2020-195 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the following sets of minutes:
02/24/20 - 02/25/20 Annual Retreat
03/19/20 Audit Committee
03/19/20 Regular Meeting
04/08/20 Emergency Meeting

[Legislation Text](#)

[dmretreat_02.24.20.pdf](#)

[dmretreat_02.25.20.pdf](#)

[dmcomAudit03.19.20.pdf](#)

[dm03.19.20.pdf](#)

[dmEmergencyMeeting_04.08.20.pdf](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Branson to adopt the consent agenda.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020-202 DHHS-PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION: DUKE ENDOWMENT GRANT - \$700,560 AND APPROVAL OF FOUR (4) NURSE SPECIALIST I POSITIONS

Approve an increase of \$108,330 in Other Revenues (the remaining award amount of \$592,230 will be included in the FY2020-21 requested budget) and increase the DHHS-Public Health Division FY2019-20 budget by the same amount to reflect grant funds awarded from Duke Endowment for the period 4/01/2019 - 6/30/2020 and approve four (4) new Nurse Specialist I positions to be contingent upon grant funding.

Legislation Text

Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Interim Director, introduced the item and noted funding from Duke Endowment will be used to supplement additional funding for the Family Connects program. She shared this last portion of the funding in the amount of approximately \$1.4 million will go towards salaries and operation expenses in the family services clinics to support case management for pregnant mothers in Guilford County.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if County funding would be required at the end of year one.

Dr. Vann expressed her hope for continued partnership with Duke Endowment to continue the work of the Ready Ready initiative.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hank Henning, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston to approve an increase of \$108,330 in Other Revenues (the remaining award amount of \$592,230 will be included in the FY2020-21 requested budget) and increase the DHHS-Public Health Division FY2019-20 budget by the same amount to reflect grant funds awarded from Duke Endowment for the period 4/01/2019 - 6/30/2020 and approve four (4) new Nurse Specialist I positions to be contingent upon grant funding.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

B. 2020-197 DHHS - DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR 23 ADDITIONAL MEDICAID POSITIONS

Approve and hire 23 additional Human Services (Social Services) positions effective immediately to handle the increase in Medicaid clients and recertifications in Guilford County -- 20 Eligibility Caseworkers (salary and benefits reimbursed at 75%) to

process Medicaid cases, one Lead Eligibility Caseworker (salary and benefits reimbursed at 60%) to assist with training, mentorship and provide ongoing support in the program for the newly hired caseworkers, and two Eligibility Supervisors (salary and benefits reimbursed at 60%) to meet staffing standards and supervise the employees, manage the work, mentor, and guide them to become efficient. Related equipment for each position is approximately \$1,500.

Increase the Health & Human Services' (Social Services) budget by \$348,000, increase Federal and State funds by \$228,100, and increase Fund Balance Appropriated by \$119,900 to provide funding for the rest of fiscal year 2019-2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Guilford Co Medicaid Data Work update 2.pdf](#)

[Guilford County Overdue Medicaid.pdf](#)

[Apr 2020 Med CHIP Enrollee Info.pdf](#)

[DSS - 23 Positions 4-2-20](#)

Heather Skeens, DHHS-DSS Division Director reviewed their past presentations on the Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid backlog. She introduced the current presentation and confirmed it would share the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon these programs.

Skeens shared that, since April, they have received over 2,000 additional Food & Nutrition Services applications, and an additional 1,351 applications for Medicaid. She noted staff have received an additional 21,000 phone calls regarding service needs and questions since February.

Skeens discussed the Medicaid recertification processing waivers currently in effect that are due to expire, and spoke to the request for new positions, and noted they currently have eight (8) overhire positions that are already trained, working and eligible to transition into permanent positions, if the item is approved.

Commissioner Branson questioned the reason for the significant rise in applications prior to COVID-19 pandemic.

Skeens stated Guilford County's application rate is generally higher when compared to other larger counties. She spoke to concerns related to underemployment of applicants that would result in them applying for supplemental benefits to meet their basic needs.

Chairman Phillips questioned the percentage of federal reimbursement for these positions.

Skeens confirmed they receive 75% federal reimbursement for eligibility caseworker positions and 60% reimbursement for lead caseworker and supervisory positions. She noted the county funds included in this request will be used to cover all positions, including the eight (8) overhire positions for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Cashion questioned the amount of time required to train these new staff. Skeens expressed their hope that the supervisory and lead caseworker positions would be internal candidates that would require minimal training beyond the introduction into leadership roles. She noted the remaining twelve (12) caseworker positions not filled by trained overhires, would have to undergo ten (10) weeks of training upon hire.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the internal positions that were vacated by promotions would be filled with existing employees or new staff.

Skeens reviewed their plans to potentially fill the vacancies with internal eligibility caseworker assistants and new hires.

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Justin Conrad to adopt Approve and hire 23 additional Human Services (Social Services) positions effective immediately to handle the increase in Medicaid clients and recertifications in Guilford County -- 20 Eligibility Caseworkers (salary and benefits reimbursed at 75%) to process Medicaid cases, one Lead Eligibility Caseworker (salary and benefits reimbursed at 60%) to assist with training, mentorship and provide ongoing support in the program for the newly hired caseworkers, and two Eligibility Supervisors (salary and benefits reimbursed at 60%) to meet staffing standards and supervise the employees, manage the work, mentor, and guide them to become efficient. Related equipment for each position is approximately \$1,500.

Increase the Health & Human Services' (Social Services) budget by \$348,000, increase Federal and State funds by \$228,100, and increase Fund Balance Appropriated by \$119,900 to provide funding for the rest of fiscal year 2019-2020.

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

C. 2020-208 CONTRACT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY: THE CITY OF GREENSBORO'S PARKS AND RECREATION BUILDING, 1001 FOURTH STREET, GREENSBORO, NC

Authorize, in substantial form, the contracting to purchase of the property located at 1001 Fourth Street, Greensboro, NC for the amount of \$1,750,000.00, authorize staff to take all reasonable and necessary steps to execute the contracting of the property, and approve a capital project ordinance for a Juvenile Justice Facility in the amount of \$1,800,000 to be funded with \$1,800,000 of proceeds from the sale of the Edgeworth Building for the purchase of the property to house Juvenile Justice offices.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Purchase Agreement 1001 Fourth St 4-6-20](#)

[Juv Justice Facility - 2020-04-16 DRAFT.pdf](#)

[1001 Fourth St GIS-04032020153759](#)

Dan Durham, Facilities/Property Management/Parks Director, reviewed the agenda item and property to be purchased, and noted the building would house the Juvenile Justice program.

Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston questioned when the County would take possession of the property.

Durham stated the County would take possession approximately seven (7) months from the date we enter into contract with the City of Greensboro.

Chairman Phillips questioned if possession would be subject to the county expediting the process if we are confident with the due-diligence, and questioned if we would wait until August to enter into contract, to allow the City time to relocate staff who currently work in this building.

County Manager Marty Lawing confirmed that, per his conversations with city staff, they are willing to work with the County.

Commissioner Alston questioned the scheduling of the move.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Branson, to authorize, in substantial form, the contracting to purchase of the property located at 1001 Fourth Street, Greensboro, NC for the amount of \$1,750,000.00, authorize staff to take all reasonable and necessary steps to execute the contracting of the property, and approve a capital project ordinance for a Juvenile Justice Facility in the amount of \$1,800,000 to be funded with \$1,800,000 of proceeds from the sale of the Edgeworth Building for the purchase of the property to house Juvenile Justice offices.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

F. 2020-165 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE HIGH POINT PRESERVATION SOCIETY TO MAINTAIN THE HEDGECOCK FARM AT RICH FORK PRESERVE

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding, in substantial form, with the High Point Preservation Society for five years beginning March 1, 2020, to maintain the Hedgecock Farm at Rich Fork Preserve.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Hedgecock Farm MOU 3-2-20.pdf](#)

[Hedgecock Farm Preservation Plan 2017](#)

[Pics Hedgecock Farms.pdf](#)

Durham introduced the agenda item and noted the agreement would aid in the preservation of the uniquely unaltered 100 year-old farmstead. He confirmed the MOU allows the non-profit to preserve the farm and provide liability insurance for the site, and shared the contract term is five (5) years, with an option to renew for an additional five (5) years.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, in substantial form, with the High Point Preservation Society for five years beginning March 1, 2020, to maintain the Hedgecock Farm at Rich Fork Preserve.

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

D. 2020-188 DIRECT COUNTY STAFF TO PREPARE APPLICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND PUBLICATIONS TO SET A VOTER REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 FOR PHASE I OF SCHOOL BONDS

Authorize county staff to prepare applications, resolutions, orders, and publications to set a Voter Referendum on November 3, 2020 for school bonds in the maximum amount to be determined by the Commissioners.

[Legislation Text](#)

[BOE Bond Referendum Request](#)

[County Analysis of Projects in BOE Referendum Resolution](#)

[County Attorney - Bond Referendum Process Memo](#)

[Financial Advisor Model Summary of Results](#)

[Bond Funding - Revenue Neutral - Rate Neutral Calcs](#)

[Sample Docs - Required Findings-Introduce Bond Order-Authorize Public Hearing](#)

E. 2020-196 ARTICLE 46 1/4 CENT SALES TAX PROCESS

Adopt resolution supporting a 1/4 Cent County Sales and Use Tax proposal placed on the November 3, 2020 voter referendum.

[Legislation Text](#)

[quarter cent sales tax resolution.doc](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, to table New Business agenda items D. DIRECT COUNTY STAFF TO PREPARE APPLICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND PUBLICATIONS TO SET A VOTER REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 FOR PHASE I OF SCHOOL BONDS and E. ARTICLE 46 1/4 CENT SALES TAX PROCESS to the May 21, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Alan Perdue to approve seven (7) days of Special leave for all county employees that are deemed to be emergency responders and healthcare providers by their department director and the county manager, based on the definition included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, that will be excluded from the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act for qualified reasons 4 and 5, and the Emergency FMLA provisions of the Act. The Special Leave will not have sunset or expiration date and may be used by the employee for any reason following supervisor approval. The leave shall not be paid out upon the employee's separation from Guilford County.

Commissioner Alston spoke to his initial interest in securing a 5% pay increase for these staff, but noted that, after discussions with the County Manager and department directors, extended vacation leave would actually prove to be more beneficial. He shared this leave was designed to express appreciation for all of the work our first responders are doing during the COVID-19

pandemic, and in recognition of the danger they continue to place upon themselves and their families, through their service.

Vice Chairman Perdue spoke to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and its impact upon approximately 1,800 County's staff. He stated when the Board approved the exemptions to this Act, it was not done lightly, and confirmed that those employees who need to act as caretakers for sick family members or those who have special exceptions can work with their director and the County Manager. Perdue spoke to the truly essential services these employees provide to the community, and spoke to the importance of allowing them time with their families.

Commissioner Alston thanked Commissioner Perdue for his support and guidance during this process.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the status of employees not covered under the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Alston stated this Special Leave is only extended to those employees exempted from the Emergency FMLA provisions of the Act.

Commissioner Cashion requested the motion repeated and expressed her support for its intent. She commended Commissioner Alston for efforts to support these employees.

Commissioner Alston shared his original interest in considering the schools request for up to \$1 million towards new laptops or tablets, but noted after conversations with the Chairman and County Manager regarding available funding for COVID-19, determined that these funds could be used towards this leave. He expressed his interest in adding the schools request to the May 7, 2020 regular meeting agenda.

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Alan Perdue to approve seven (7) days of Special leave for all county employees that are deemed to be emergency responders and healthcare providers by their department director and the county manager, based on the definition included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, that will be excluded from the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act for qualified reasons 4 and 5, and the Emergency FMLA provisions of the Act. The Special Leave will not have sunset or expiration date and may be used by the employee for any reason following supervisor approval. The leave shall not be paid out upon the employee's separation from Guilford County.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

VIII. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2020-193 APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Approve the following appointments and reappointments to various Boards and Commissions:

Fire District Commission - Colfax

Appoint Kelly Robinson to 1st term (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Guilford County Animal Services Board

Appoint Gail Williams to 1st term as Public/At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Appoint Janet Donahue to 1st term as Public/At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Guilford County Health & Human Services Advisory Board

Appoint Maseta Dorley to 1st term as BOCC Designee At-Large (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Appoint Tiffany Turner to 1st term as BOCC Designee for District 5 (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Reappoint Keith Pemberton to 2nd term as BOCC Designee for District 1 (February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2022)

Guilford County Planning Board

Reappoint Cyndy Hayworth to 2nd term as BOCC At-Large Designee (March 17, 2020 - March 16, 2023)

High Point Convention & Visitors Board

Appoint Weldon Morris to 1st term as At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Oak Ridge Board of Adjustment

Appoint Larry Stafford to 1st term as BOCC ETJ Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Piedmont Triad Airport Authority

Appoint Dr. Barney R. Jackson to 1st term as BOCC Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2023)

Appoint Dr. Harold L. Martin to 1st term as BOCC Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2023)

[GWilliams_App.pdf](#)

[KRobinson_App.pdf](#)

[GWilliams_Resume.pdf](#)

[JDonahue_App.pdf](#)

[JDonahue_Resume.pdf](#)

[MDorsey_App.pdf](#)

[MDorsey_Bio_CV.pdf](#)

[TTurner_App.pdf](#)

[TTurner_Resume.pdf](#)

[WMorris_App.pdf](#)

[WMorris_Resume.pdf](#)

[LStafford_Oak Ridge Recommend_010220.pdf](#)

Chairman Phillips read the two (2) appointments to the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority into the minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hank Henning, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston to approve the following appointments and reappointments to various Boards and Commissions:

Fire District Commission - Colfax

Appoint Kelly Robinson to 1st term (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Guilford County Animal Services Board

Appoint Gail Williams to 1st term as Public/At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Appoint Janet Donahue to 1st term as Public/At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Guilford County Health & Human Services Advisory Board

Appoint Maseta Dorley to 1st term as BOCC Designee At-Large (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Appoint Tiffany Turner to 1st term as BOCC Designee for District 5 (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Reappoint Keith Pemberton to 2nd term as BOCC Designee for District 1 (February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2022)

Guilford County Planning Board

Reappoint Cyndy Hayworth to 2nd term as BOCC At-Large Designee (March 17, 2020 - March 16, 2023)

High Point Convention & Visitors Board

Appoint Weldon Morris to 1st term as At-Large Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Oak Ridge Board of Adjustment

Appoint Larry Stafford to 1st term as BOCC ETJ Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2022)

Piedmont Triad Airport Authority

Appoint Dr. Barney R. Jackson to 1st term as BOCC Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2023)

Appoint Dr. Harold L. Martin to 1st term as BOCC Designee (April 16, 2020 - April 15, 2023)

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

B. 2020-194 EXCEPTION REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Approve the following exception reappointments to various boards and commissions:

Guilford County Animal Services Board

Reappoint Beverly J. Levine to 3rd term as Animal Shelter Volunteer designee (April 3, 2020 - April 2, 2022)

Reappoint Carl C. Ashby to 3rd term as Public/At-Large designee (April 23, 2020 - April 22, 2022)

Reappoint Linda Stanton to 3rd term as Public/At-Large designee (April 3, 2020 - April 2, 2022)

[Legislation Text](#)

[BLevine_Reapp_030820.pdf](#)

[BLevine_CV_030820.pdf](#)

[CAshby_Reapp_030620.pdf](#)

[CAshby_Resume_030620.pdf](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue to approve the following exception reappointments to various boards and commissions:

Guilford County Animal Services Board

Reappoint Beverly J. Levine to 3rd term as Animal Shelter Volunteer designee (April 3, 2020 - April 2, 2022)

Reappoint Carl C. Ashby to 3rd term as Public/At-Large designee (April 23, 2020 - April 22, 2022)

Reappoint Linda Stanton to 3rd term as Public/At-Large designee (April 3, 2020 - April 2, 2022)

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

IX. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

Lawing provided an update on the 2020 Census and reminded the Board that April 1 was the first day of the census. He encouraged residents to complete the census and discussed the impact an accurate count has on our future resources.

Lawing shared Guilford County's eligibility for \$93 Million in COVID-19 relief funds. He confirmed they are awaiting guidance from the state regarding allowable expenses.

Lawing requested a budget work session scheduled during the last week in April or first week of May, prior to his presentation of the FY 2020-21 budget.

By general consensus, the Board scheduled a budget work session for April 28, 2020 at 11:00AM.

Dr. Vann provided an updated regarding the number of COVID-19 cases in Guilford County, and shared there are currently 160 confirmed cases, with eleven (11) deaths, to date. She confirmed Guilford County continues to experience an increase in cases, but while the rate of increase is not comparable to other counties, this is primarily attributed to less testing within the county. Dr. Vann noted they are working with health care partners to ensure collaboration and additional resources towards greater testing here.

Dr. Vann reported on the processes currently in place to address the needs of our homeless population and housing of individuals in isolation or quarantine, as a result of COVID-19.

Chairman Phillips shared his pride in her work and the efforts of her team during this public health crisis.

Commissioner Alston questioned statistics regarding the racial breakdown of COVID-19 cases. He noted there were 64 reports of missing racial data.

Dr. Vann stated they are working with the Information Services department to build an in-house data repository that will improve tracking of data collected, and confirmed they are evaluating case testing provided by the state to collect any missing data. She shared that based upon current, Guilford County is not experiencing the same levels of racial disparity seen at the national level. Dr. Vann discussed the county's recent Community Assessment, which includes social determinants broken down by race and highlights disparities in African-American communities.

Vice Chairman Perdue questioned if testing data is being reported as a daily number or in a batch report format.

Dr. Vann confirmed they receive this data as a batch report, which could include several days worth of tests completed by a particular lab.

Vice Chairman Perdue shared that this information is important when analyzing the data.

Commissioner Conrad expressed concerns raised by a citizen regarding testing parameters set by Cone Health and noted the Public Health departments supply of 150 COVID-19 tests available for use. He questioned the difference between health care provider testing parameters here versus those in Wake and Mecklenburg counties.

Dr. Vann confirmed all health care providers are using CDC criteria for testing guidance, which only allows testing of patients who are critically ill. She shared Cone Health is following this testing requirement, and noted first responders and those residing in congregate living are also being tested. Dr. Vann noted those who are asymptomatic or in reasonably good health are not being tested, but required to self-isolate, unless their illness progresses.

Commissioner Conrad questioned potential procedural issues if tests are available, but testing is not being administered. He questioned if there is an issue with the labs conducting tests and if local labs, such as Labcorp, are being used to conduct testing.

Dr. Vann noted that Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill hospitals are able to conduct testing at their own labs and therefore do not have to rely on commercial labs, resulting in quicker testing and results. She noted that while the department does have additional testing kits, they are now facing a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), which is needed to administer the test to sick patients.

Commissioner Foster requested testing data broken down by county zip code to assist in identifying hot spots. She questioned if rapid testing had been approved and if it's being utilized.

Dr. Vann confirmed rapid testing has been approved by the FDA and they are working towards purchasing the devices; however, the current production rate of testing cartridges is slow.

Commissioner Foster questioned the status of home testing kits.

Dr. Vann stated home testing kits are currently not an available option for the Public Health department.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the potential to reduce social distancing restrictions and the ability to access PPE to increase testing. She questioned mass testing opportunities.

Commissioner Cashion expressed her appreciation for Dr. Vann and her team's work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked them for their role in managing the needs of our homeless population.

Chairman Phillips provided an update on the county's COVID-19 response in support of the homeless population.

Don Campbell, Emergency Management Director, summarized the county's COVID-19 emergency operations response, and noted they have delivered over 11,000 messages to health care providers and 190,000 messages to residents, to date.

Campbell shared that their requests for resources have resulted in shipments from NC EOC of PPE and other supplies. He confirmed the supply chain for PPE is inconsistent, with some deliveries of a single box, versus others comprised of an entire truckload, but noted items are still being shipped into the community. Campbell stated the majority of this PPE is being distributed to medical providers and nursing homes, with the largest outstanding request being PPE for hospitals, as they are receiving few supplies from the state. He spoke to the shortage of N95 masks available for emergency responders and hospital staff, which are required for testing and respiratory care. Campbell shared Guilford County currently has 800 masks, and noted these are used by staff on a daily basis.

Vice Chairman Perdue thanked Mr. Campbell and his team for their hard work and spoke to the tremendous effort involved in keeping an EOC open for an extended period of time.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the potential vendors available to assist with supply of PPE and asked if staff have followed up with recommendations for vendors who provided these items.

Campbell discussed some of the cost and quantity issues they have encountered when ordering PPE.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Phillips offered the following statement regarding the County's decision not to extend the local stay-at-home order:

As most are aware, the County's Stay at Home Order that was first put into place on March 27th is scheduled to expire tonight at midnight. On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, we recognize that these past several weeks have been very difficult and challenging for our residents, to say the least. I believe, however, that our early and aggressive efforts, prior to a Statewide order has made a difference in flattening our curve and protecting our community and medical infrastructure.

As our local order comes to an end, Guilford County will come into alignment under the State's Stay at Home Order restrictions. As we and the State have both made additional modifications to our respective orders over the past few weeks the State's Executive Order and Guilford County's version have become more similar which, in large part, has led us to our decision.

I have consulted with the local Mayors, public health officials and community leaders on the decision not to extend our local order. While the decision to allow our local order to expire is not necessarily agreed upon by everyone involved, I believe that the Statewide restrictions along with the guidance provided by State Health Officials, maintains the existing social distancing and essential travel guidance, and offers reasonable parameters to help further mitigate the spread of the virus in our community.

Many critically important factors have been considered as we came to this very difficult decision – as to extend or allow our local order to expire. We certainly considered the available COVID-19 data provided by our Public Health Department, Cone Health, and Wake Forest Baptist Medical in High Point.

For example, we considered the number of coronavirus tests that have been reported, the number of positive and negative test results (primarily within the Cone Health system), the availability or accessibility of needed supplies (including Personal Protective Equipment and masks) necessary for healthcare workers to care for COVID-19 patients.

In addition, we considered the number of COVID-19 positive patients as it relates to the available hospital bed capacity as compared to the increased demands related to the coronavirus outbreak.

Consideration was also given to the continued economic impact of maintaining a somewhat more restrictive order for an extended period than that of most Counties in North Carolina. We could not ignore the many phone calls, emails, text messages, and sometimes face-to-face encounters with so many of our citizens who have been, and are continuing to endure, the hardships of lost jobs and lost wages as their hours have been cut back.

So many people within our communities are suffering severe financial hardship and are deeply concerned about how to pay for basic necessities such as rent, mortgage, car payment, utilities, and food for their families.

Not everyone has the benefit of extra savings in the bank (or a relative who can provide financial support) to take care of their basic needs for an extended period of time.

The mental and emotional strain that comes with the constant fears of our business owners who are deeply concerned about how to retain and pay their employees, or how to pay the bills so their businesses have a chance of surviving this health crisis cannot be undervalued.

The GC Family Justice Center, for example, is seeing a significant increase in service requests since the crisis began. Just this past Monday, 27 individuals walked through those doors needing help. The heightened risks related to domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, substance abuse, and suicide are very real byproducts of this public health crisis and cannot be overlooked as real and significant threats to the long-term health and wellbeing of our communities.

As you can see, making this type of decision on behalf of our citizens cannot be considered in silo – to the exclusion of all contributing factors.

For me personally, I have prayed more than I can remember for God's wisdom and guidance with each passing hour of each passing day as we approach these very important decisions that affect hundreds of thousands of lives. It's a humbling place to be at. It's a position where one must call on all available resources at any given time. It's a position where one can never please everyone all the time. That said, I am honored to be your public servant and take my role and responsibilities very seriously during a time such as this.

The transfer to the Statewide restrictions at midnight tonight, will help us to unify our efforts with those of the majority of North Carolina's Counties. It is important to remember that the expiration of the County Order is not a "return to normal".

The County and our Municipal partners are still required to enforce the statewide restrictions. Our public health department and emergency management team will still be coordinating the county's response to combating the virus locally.

We are obviously still experiencing infection in our community. While our positive tests remain comparatively low, we are still not out of the woods. And for this reason, the State's Stay at Home Order is still in place.

We still face and will continue to face, until a vaccine can be developed, a virus that spreads through physical contact. It continues to be important that you do everything that you can to minimize the amount of physical contact that you have with other people. We encourage our citizens to continue to follow the measures outlined in the State's order. To only go out for

*essential purposes such as food, medical care or to work (**and to work from home** if at all possible).*

If you must go out, you should stay at least 6 feet apart from other people at all times, wear masks in public, and wash your hands frequently.

*Let me remind everyone that this is still **NOT the time** to meet and visit with others, including friends and extended family members. We must remember that you can continue to spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms. When we reduce the day-to-day contact with others, we reduce the spread of the infection.*

For those that have questions regarding the transition to the State's Order information can be found at www.nc.gov/covid19 or by calling 211. The county will maintain information and resources on our website for questions and compliance concerns.

I want to thank my fellow Commissions, municipal partners and staff for all of their hard work and for their ongoing dedication and commitment to combating the coronavirus. I also want to thank the vast majority of our citizens who have been following our stay at home measures and we are grateful for your sacrifices. We hope that you will continue to be diligent and safe under the State's Stay-at Home restrictions as well.

Commissioner Branson thanked all staff working on the front lines, including teachers, principals and school staff preparing meals to distribute to students. He thanked Chairman Phillips and staff for their efforts, and noted that while this is new for everyone, we will prevail as a community.

Commissioner Conrad thanked Chairman Phillips, Commissioner Alston and Vice Chairman Perdue for their efforts and leadership in making very challenging decisions during this outbreak. He shared that these events are very personal to him, and have devastated his business, employees, and the food service and hospitality industries, in general.

Vice Chairman Perdue thanked outgoing Budget Director Michael Halford as he leaves Guilford County to take a promotional opportunity as Assistant County Manager in Gaston County. He spoke to the value of County employees during difficult times like these.

Commissioner Henning thanked Halford and recognized those who have recently lost family members during this challenging time. He expressed his concerns for those who have lost their livelihoods and those suffering during this ordeal, and noted the importance of taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously and taking personal responsibility to reduce the spread of the virus. Henning recognized those businesses who called to ask questions to ensure they remained compliant with local and state restrictions.

Commissioner Alston echoed the sentiments shared thus far and thanked Halford for his honesty and transparency during budget discussions, even when the information was difficult to deliver. He thanked Campbell and Dr. Vann for their efforts, as well as the County's leadership team and

their management during this difficult time. Alston reiterated the County remains under a stay-at-home order issued by the state, and spoke to the importance of adhering to these guidelines.

Commissioner Cashion provided an update on the Sandhills Center board meeting and discussed their decision to move forward with purchase of property to relocate their administrative staff. She confirmed their annual budget request will not change from the prior year's adopted amount. Cashion thanked JCPC Chairman Marcus Jackson for his leadership this year, and JJ Greeson for providing staff support. She announced April is Child Abuse Prevention month, and while there is no formal resolution included on the agenda, she noted that during the current stay-at-home order, domestic violence and child abuse victims are especially vulnerable.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Chairman Phillips for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked Halford for his service to Guilford County. She shared citizens may not understand all that is occurring within the government during this crisis, and expressed her appreciation for fellow Commissioners who stand up for county residents and work towards the best interests of our community. Coleman urged the Commissioners and staff to continue investigating disparities within the African-American community and expressed her hope that we continue to provide support for those who do not have equal access to healthcare and other resources.

Commissioner Foster congratulated Halford on his recent promotion, and thanked county staff and first responders for all of their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared resources available through United Way of High Point and emergency childcare funding for emergency employees and childcare centers serving essential staff. Foster shared childcare centers currently offering care for children of essential staff and spoke to applications for resources. She urged everyone to continue to take precautions for the benefit of themselves and their families, and expressed her appreciation for her fellow Board members and their efforts.

XI. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Per County Attorney Mark Payne, a closed session was not required during tonight's meeting.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 8:22PM.

Jeffrey M. Phillips, Chairman

Robin B. Keller, Clerk to Board