

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

Greensboro, North Carolina  
June 16, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Work Session at 9:30AM in the Blue Room located on the first floor of the Old County Courthouse, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Phillips, presiding; Vice Chairman Alan Perdue; Commissioners Carolyn Q. Coleman (via simultaneous communication), Melvin “Skip” Alston, Alan Branson, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad. J. Carlvena Foster (in at 9:45AM) and Hank Henning (in at 9:45AM).

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Marty Lawing; County Attorney Mark Payne; Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Worley Smith, Communications Manager; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director; Alex Smith, Interim Budget Director; Harley Will, Finance Director; J. Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; various county staff and members of the media. Virtual participation was made available to the general public.

**I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Phillips welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 9:40AM.

County Manager Marty Lawing introduced the topics for discussion during the work session.

**II. GENERAL FUND REVENUES**

**A. Sales Tax Collection Rate**

Alex Smith, Interim Budget Director, provided an overview of sales tax revenues for March, and spoke to the delayed distribution schedule that resulted in March sales tax information reported to the state in April, with distributions to local governments occurring in June.

Commissioners J. Carlvena Foster and Hank Henning arrived to the meeting at 9:45AM.

Smith discussed the significant decrease in taxable sales for March, and stated total net sales tax collections are down from the prior year. He anticipated an \$800,000 decrease in actual county sales tax revenues and noted that, year-to-date, the actual revenue amounts only exceed budgeted amounts by approximately 3.8%.

Smith spoke to the potential impact of COVID-19 upon the remaining three (3) months of sales tax revenue collections and shared staff are not recommending any changes to the proposed FY 2020-21 budget.

Chairman Phillips noted the July report on April taxable sales will provide additional information on the impact of COVID-19 upon sales tax revenues.

### **III. GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Smith provided an overview of the schools operating and capital maintenance requests. He discussed the mandated requirements impacting the increased funding needs, including salary increases and growth in charter school enrollment, as Guilford County Schools (GCS) distributes per pupil funding allocations to charter schools, resulting in a loss of revenue.

Smith reviewed the details associated with the increased operating and capital maintenance requests.

Commissioner Henning questioned the schools' revenues and expenditures during the months impacted by COVID-19.

Lawing shared that school staff confirmed savings were recognized as a result of closures, but they were unsure of exact amounts, as there were increased personnel costs associated with bus drivers and cafeteria staff who worked during this time.

Commissioner Henning requested information on the impact of COVID-19 upon GCS revenues and expenditures.

Commissioner Conrad questioned the approximately \$500,000 in school safety and security needs identified as deferred maintenance, in light of bond funding previously designated to cover these expenses.

Lawing noted the remaining proceeds from 2008 bond issuance has been used to fund certain security projects instead of the \$10 million previously allocated for these needs. He shared county staff are working with the school system on a plan to identify additional security needs.

Chairman Phillips questioned if this funding will be used to address security needs prior to school reopening.

Commissioner Conrad spoke to the GCS superintendent's request for two (2) virtual schools for school (SY) 2020-21, and questioned the potential savings associated with these programs.

Commissioner Henning questioned the need to develop a timeframe placed on the \$10 million designated towards school safety and security to ensure effective use of funding.

Chairman Phillips noted a prior generalized request from GCS to appropriate \$600,000 towards communications assessment and design.

Vice Chairman Perdue shared a study has been completed which highlights significant communications issues in many schools that impacts public safety officials' ability to address incidents. He opined on the need to utilize designated funds to address these issues first.

Commissioner Alston referenced a recent meeting with GCS staff where approximately \$5 million was requested to address the issues identified during the study. He noted an additional request of \$98 million to manage re-entry needs, and recommended allocating \$5 million in remaining 2/3rds bond funding, in addition to the \$5 million in earmarked Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding, towards \$10 million in total assistance.

Chairman Phillips clarified Commissioner Alston's recommendation and noted the schools request included priority technology needs, which cannot be funded with 2/3rds bond proceeds as they were targeted to address facility needs. He confirmed \$5 million of this funding could be used to address facility issues associated with reopening schools.

Commissioner Foster expressed her concern that the FY 2020-21 recommended budget included no net increase in funding for GCS and spoke to the social and emotional challenges faced by students during the pandemic. She discussed the importance of addressing the school system's technology needs and requested the Board increase the capital allocation by \$3 million towards ongoing maintenance and repair.

Chairman Phillips questioned if the Board could designate \$5 million from the 2/3rds bond proceeds designated towards school safety and security separate from adoption of the FY 2020-21 budget.

Lawing stated the \$5 million could be adopted in the FY 2020-21 budget as part of the capital maintenance appropriation to GCS, or it could be included separately as a capital project ordinance for other school facility projects, such as system-wide replacement of HVAC or roofing.

Chairman Phillips opined on the benefits of including the \$5 million allocation in a capital project ordinance, separate from budget adoption, for re-entry purposes.

Commissioner Conrad clarified the recommendation and shared that, while this did not align with the original intent of the school security and safety funding, managing capital needs is important, as long as communication issues are addressed.

Commissioner Alston questioned the status of the GCS list of needs that would meet the requirements of the 2/3rds bonds.

Lawing presented the GCS anticipated funding needs list totaling approximately \$62 million, and noted 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the list addresses replacement of restroom plumbing fixtures. He shared the list has been organized by projects appropriate for bond funding versus those that are a best fit under CARES funding. Lawing confirmed CARES dollars can be used towards technology needs prioritized by GCS.

Commissioner Alston questioned if the County could allocate bond proceeds towards a portion of the requests included on the GCS reopening plan.

Chairman Phillips reviewed the items eligible for funding via bond proceeds.

Harley Will, Finance Director, explained the reopening plan list and noted only three (3) items met the statutory and historical precedence of bond proceed use.

Commissioner Alston recommended dividing the allocation between communication study and reopening plan needs.

Vice Chairman Perdue questioned the HEPA filter request, based upon the reported state of GCS facility HVAC units during a recent meeting with the school system.

Will noted these filters may be included as an ongoing maintenance need.

Chairman Phillips requested additional information from GCS regarding how they will spend allocated funds to reopen schools.

Commissioner Alston recommended requesting an itemized list for Board approval as contingency to receive funding.

Commissioner Henning cautioned the Board to remain flexible when allocating funding for roofing and HVAC projects included on the reopening list.

**Motion made by Commissioner Melvin “Skip” Alston, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to allocate \$10 million from CARES funding and \$5 million in 2/3rds bond proceeds previously designated for school safety and security, for a total of \$15 million, towards the Guilford County Schools (GCS) 2020-2021 Reopening Plan, contingent upon receipt of an itemized list detailing the use of these funds that is subject to Board approval.**

The Board discussed the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Cashion expressed her concerns with the list and questioned the types of technology GCS students used during the spring semester.

Lawing shared not all students utilized school-issued devices.

Commissioner Alston clarified the motion on the floor and noted GCS will have to identify additional funding to meet all the needs listed on their reopening plan.

Commissioner Alston reiterated her concerns with the technology and capital requests included on the plan.

Commissioner Conrad questioned if HVAC and roofing needs could be covered under CARES funding.

Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director, stated CARES guidance is not specific on urgency or how funding can be used, but noted projects covered with this funding

must be completed by December 30, 2020. He spoke to the difficulty of completing large-scale projects, such as HVAC and roofing, within this limited timeframe.

County Attorney Mark Payne offered deadlines placed on internal county projects as a guideline to the limited timeframes placed upon larger expenses eligible for CARES funding.

Vice Chairman Perdue requested follow-up on thermal temperature screening tools and masks included on the reopening plan, as these items may be covered by state funding.

**Vice Chairman Perdue offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor and clarified the motion should state “an additional \$5 million in CARES funding, for a total of \$10 million,” as the Board had previously earmarked \$5 million in CARES dollars to the school system.**

**Commissioner Alston accepted the friendly amendment to the motion on the floor.**

Commissioner Cashion spoke to the potential COVID-19 related reopening projects that could qualify for CARES funding.

Commissioner Branson discussed the school system’s potential to conduct certain repairs while schools were closed during the pandemic and expressed concern that custodial and facilities staff were unable to conduct maintenance during this time.

Commissioner Alston clarified the motion on the floor and reiterated that the motion includes language requesting receipt of an itemized budget from GCS that is subject to Board consideration, prior to allocation of funds.

Commissioner Coleman questioned when the Board would require GCS to provide this information and spoke to the upcoming vote on the FY 2020-21 budget.

Commissioner Alston clarified that this item is separate from the adopted budget and noted GCS can present this information directly to the Board when ready.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if the Board could meet with GCS to gain additional information regarding their request.

Lawing shared the state has offered three (3) options to reopen schools, with a potential public announcement as early as July 1. He shared GCS prioritization of certain projects may become a little clearer after this guidance has been provided.

Chairman Phillips confirmed the school system may not be prepared with details at this time, and expressed his hope the motion on the floor will lead to additional clarification regarding reopening requests and funding sources at the local, state and federal levels.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the Board should consider an additional budget allocation to the school system, separate from the motion on the floor, to address needs that may arise later in the reopening process.

Chairman Phillips re-stated the motion on the floor.

**Commissioner Conrad offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor: Ensure the remaining \$4.4 million of 2/3rds bonds designated for school security and safety funding is set aside to address any communication assessment study needs and design work.**

**Commissioner Alston accepted the friendly amendment to the motion on the floor.**

Commissioner Branson requested the status of school facility CAD design drawings.

Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director, confirmed drawings for 118 out of 125 school facilities have been loaded into the CAD system. He shared they are working on transmission of the drawings to mobile devices, but layouts by floor and classroom are available.

Commissioner Branson questioned the status of schools damaged by hurricanes that impacted eastern Greensboro in April 2018. He expressed his reluctant support of the motion and spoke to the lack of facility planning and development for students in this portion of the county.

Commissioner Coleman echoed these concerns and requested these issues discussed when the Board meets with GCS staff.

Commissioner Henning requested GCS provide a current, itemized list of its remote learning devices.

**Motion made by Commissioner Melvin “Skip” Alston, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to allocate an additional \$5 million in CARES funding, for a total of \$10 million, and \$5 million in 2/3rds bond proceeds previously designated for school safety and security, for a total of \$15 million towards the Guilford County Schools (GCS) 2020-2021 Reopening Plan. This allocation is contingent upon receipt of an itemized list and budget detailing the use of these funds, subject to Board consideration and approval. The remaining \$4.4 million of 2/3rds bonds designated for school security and safety is set aside to address any needs and design work related to communication assessment study.**

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

#### **IV. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGETS**

Smith introduced the tax rate increase requests and current salary schedules for firefighters and other positions.

Chad Garrett, Pleasant Garden District Fire Chief, noted their starting salary for firefighters is \$30,728 and an increase is recommended to maintain longevity.

Vice Chairman Perdue requested Albright provide additional information regarding market pay issues that arise each year.

Albright spoke to decreasing rates of volunteerism and paid career staff resulting in increased pressure to recruit candidates and struggles to attain market value salaries. He noted tax increases do not only address salary adjustments, but also assist with capital and technology needs.

Vice Chairman Perdue discussed the shortage of firefighters and competition with larger cities to when recruiting viable candidates. He spoke to the decreasing number of active, certified volunteer firefighters and concerns with those available to assist paid personnel.

Commissioner Branson spoke to the importance of assessing the impact of economic growth upon fire district needs. He questioned the ability for county fire districts to contract with the City of Greensboro for increased funding to assist with response to new developments.

Albright discussed the challenges associated with urban sprawl, but noted it offers an opportunity for county fire districts to provide support to municipal departments contractually. He spoke to the evolving nature of fire protection and challenges associated with limited tax dollars supporting the needs of district fire departments that serve these suburban areas.

Commissioner Branson questioned the county’s ability to incorporate these contractual contingencies in economic incentive requests.

Payne discussed the county's ability to negotiate economic development incentives in annexed areas.

Commissioner Conrad spoke to the Board's history with incentives that include contractual agreements with fire districts.

Lawing confirmed that these types of contracts were prevalent until state laws limited annexation were introduced. He shared that the City of Greensboro is very proactive in introducing fire service into annexed areas.

Commissioner Conrad spoke to the level of service county fire districts provide to suburban areas.

Albright discussed the impact of voluntary and involuntary annexation upon county fire departments.

Steve Allred, Pinecroft-Sedgefield District Fire Chief, shared that their revenue contract with the City of Greensboro to provide responder services has decreased over the years, despite an increase in call volume.

Vice Chairman discussed the importance of ensuring sufficient staffing is available to provide guaranteed service when contracting with municipalities. He noted this requires a long-term solution, as county fire departments may close as a result urban sprawl. Perdue shared these requests to increase district tax rates is an opportunity to address staffing needs, stability and capacity.

Commissioner Cashion questioned the number of paid firefighters and if volunteers receive any compensation.

Chief Allred reviewed his staffing and noted that out of ten (10) total volunteers, five (5) are active and the remaining five (5) maintain minimum requirements, they do not participate on calls. He spoke to the additional costs associated with volunteers, such as training and workman's compensation expenses.

Roy Rimmer, Mcleansville District Fire Chief, discussed his department's staffing and volunteer levels.

Commissioner Henning reiterated the need to include these contracts in future incentive requests.

Chief Rimmer shared the impact of economic development upon his department.

Albright stated this is an opportunity for fire districts to collaborate with municipalities to provide adequate fire protection for unincorporated portions of the county.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the Pleasant Garden Fire Department for their efforts and expressed her support for their request.

Commissioner Alston echoed support for the fire districts' request and requested a report within the next ninety (90) days outlining the needs of county fire departments.



Vice Chairman Perdue confirmed a study is underway and information will be available soon.

Albright confirmed the consultant is prepared to provide updates regarding the study. He emphasized each county fire department is an independent entity and spoke to the broad, complex nature of their challenges.

Chairman Phillips recommended scheduling a work session in August to further discuss fire district needs.

Vice Chairman Perdue questioned the ability to utilize CARES funding to implement a consolidated records management system for county fire departments.

Albright confirmed centralized records management is a major issue and spoke to concerns related to the potential timeframe associated with implementation.

Commissioner Foster questioned CARES funding had been allocated to City of Greensboro and High Point fire departments.

Albright confirmed CARES funding has been allocated to both, based on contracted service to rural areas.

Commissioner Foster questioned the status of mutual aid between eastern Guilford County fire districts and the City of Burlington.

Albright shared they are working with the Burlington Fire Chief on different options.

Chairman Phillips thanked the fire chiefs for their service and efforts.

## **V. DISPARITY STUDY**

Cynthia Barnes-Phipps, MWBE Director, provided an overview of the disparity study concept and noted GCS is in the process of evaluating options for a new study. She referenced other entities and municipalities that have recently completed, or are in the process of completing, disparity studies and reviewed the five (5) areas that would be addressed through the analysis.

Barnes-Phipps shared the conclusions and recommendations generated by the study would be based upon its scope and discussed the factors that could affect the cost. She stated the potential cost for Guilford County would range between \$400,000-\$500,000 for a 16-18 month study, which would incorporate the time associated with analyzing a significant amount of “hard copy” data.

Barnes-Phipps spoke to potential cost-savings if the county collaborated with GCS on a disparity study, which would offer identical data collection and analyses. She confirmed the City of Winston-Salem is willing to share regional data, and spoke to the opportunity to share their analyses costs with Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if these studies result in increased participation by MWBE businesses.

Barnes-Phipps shared she did not have this information available, but noted other municipalities who conduct disparity studies typically implement study recommendations such as increased staffing, policy revisions and revisions to the procurement and bid processes.

Commissioner Cashion questioned the type of results identified through the study.

Barnes-Phipps discussed the study process, along with data collection and analyses. She stated the study identifies gaps in processes, certain disparities and solutions that address these issues.

Chairman Phillips questioned if the county participated in the prior GCS disparity study.

Barnes-Phipps noted the county did not participate, but she does have a copy of the study.

Chairman Phillips requested a copy of the prior GCS study and expressed his interest in partnering with them on a new study. He questioned the potential timeframes.

Barnes-Phipps stated the timeline is uncertain, but noted there is still interest in partnering with the county to implement a study. She discussed potential differences in how each entity might utilize the information from the study.

Chairman Phillips requested staff provide an example of the study outcome and recommendations, in addition to the status of GCS' intent to implement a study.

Commissioner Foster discussed disparities in educational achievement, economic opportunities and health outcomes. She recommended partnering with GCS and encouraged staff contact the City of High Point regarding their interest in collaborating in the study.

Clarence Grier, Deputy County Manager, stated High Point does not have adequate MWBE data, which could serve as a potential cost driver. He shared that partnering with GCS, High Point and Greensboro to obtain data and/or implement data could result in decreased costs.

Chairman Phillips requested staff have this information prepared and ready for presentation during an upcoming work session.

Commissioner Alston expressed concern that fewer questions have been asked related to the study and spoke to the need for Guilford County to implement a study and include an initial allocation in the FY 2020-21 budget. He discussed the importance of utilizing

Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston recommended allocating \$200,000 in the FY 2020-21 budget towards a MWBE disparity study, and direct staff to explore partnership options with Guilford County Schools (GCS), the City of High Point and the City of Greensboro.

Chairman Phillips expressed his interest in approaching GCS as a potential partner in the disparity study.

Commissioner Conrad expressed his support for funding and his interest in partnering with GCS on a disparity study.

Commissioner Branson echoed support for the recommendation.

Chairman Phillips questioned the potential use of capital dollars to fund study costs.

Lawing confirmed this option was possible, but recommended utilizing manager's contingency as a source of funding, due to the limited capital funds included in the budget.

**Motion made by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to allocate \$200,000 in the FY 2020-21 budget towards a MWBE disparity study, and direct staff to identify the funding source and explore partnership opportunities with Guilford County Schools (GCS), the City of High Point and the City of Greensboro.**

**VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0**

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

**NOES: None**

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:28PM.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 12:45PM.

## **VI. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

### **A. ABC Bottle Tax Revenue Allocation**

Lawing provided an update on the ABC Bottle Tax allocation and confirmed that while there is no change in the allocation to Alcohol & Drug Services, the remaining \$100,000 will be directed to the GC STOP program.

### **B. Child Support Enforcement Deputy Director/Performance Measures and Benchmarks**

Angela Liverman, Child Support Enforcement Director, provided a comparison of FY 2019 and 2020 performance measures and discussed the impact of COVID-19 upon this data and incentive funding. She shared the average caseload is 414 cases per caseworker, which is close to the state's recommendation of 325 cases per caseworker.

Vice Chairman Perdue expressed appreciation for the data and questioned if the challenges associated with processing Child Support cases in the NCFAST case management system are being discussed and addressed at the state level.

Liverman noted Child Support was not included in initial discussions related to the system. She confirmed the performance measure data is available on the county website for review.

Liverman reviewed the operating costs associated with the approved positions and noted costs included a consultant to study process flows. She stated this cost does not need to be included in

the budget for the position, and shared in lieu of the consultant, she would work with other department directors to identify process improvements.

Chairman Phillips reiterated the need for staff to provide the Board with a copy of the GCS study, determine their interest in partnering with the county on a new study and the potential timeline associated with a new study.

### **C. Infant Mortality Position and Program Structure**

Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director, introduced the topic and Jean Workman, Infant Mortality Coalition Coordinator, and discussed the positions dedicated to this initiative. She reviewed the role of the Community Health Educator II position and discussed the Adopt-A-Mom program and its goals in addressing infant mortality.

Dr. Vann discussed the requested position in greater detail and spoke to its ability to expand health education in high-risk zip codes within Greensboro and High Point, while serving on the Infant Mortality Taskforce to further prevention efforts.

### **D. Economic Development Agency Funding**

#### **i. Forward High Point Foundation**

J. Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director, reviewed the FY 2020-21 recommendations for Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding and noted this fiscal year includes a \$40,000 award to Forward High Point Foundation.

Commissioner Branson questioned the Forward High Point economic impact goal to develop residential units as a qualifier for EDA funding.

Bell noted the organization was previously named The City Project, and shared their goal is to utilize the new stadium as a catalyst to revitalize and develop downtown High Point. He shared the units will be categorized as mixed-use development.

Commissioner Foster questioned the operating budget for the group.

Bell shared their reported annual operating budget is \$400,000.

Chairman Phillips shared the concerns of the three Commissioners representing High Point, who had not been contacted directly by the organization regarding their funding request. He recommended pulling these funds from the FY 2020-21 EDA budget.

#### **ii. Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point**

Bell reviewed the organization's funding request and spoke to the long-term impact of their greenway project.

Commissioner Henning discussed the importance of maintaining EDA funding at prior year amounts, and noted the John Coltrane Festival has been postponed. He recommended removing their allocation temporarily for FY 2020-21 and returning this amount in FY 2021-22.

Commissioner Foster expressed her agreement with Commissioner Henning's recommendations, and shared her support for funding requests that directly impact families. She discussed a potential funding request for a remote learning center that would address the educational needs of students and their families.

Commissioner Conrad questioned the potential to include a provision for all ED agencies with event-based funding requests that would eliminate their FY 2020-21 allocation if the event is cancelled or postponed.

Commissioner Cashion expressed her support to fully fund the Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point's FY 2020-21 request and spoke to the potential economic impact of their greenway project. She discussed her attendance at a recent meeting between organization representatives and a federal legislator regarding a \$3.7 million grant opportunity to further greenway development.

Chairman Phillips spoke to the need to emphasize that this would be a one-time allocation.

**Motion made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, to increase the FY 2020-21 allocation of Economic Development Agency funding to Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point by \$25,000, for a total of \$50,000.**

The Board discussed the motion on the floor

Vice Chairman Perdue questioned the relationship between the grant opportunity and additional county EDA funding.

Commissioner Cashion discussed the group's need for additional funding.

Vice Chairman Perdue recommended allocating an additional \$25,000 to the Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point from manager's contingency funding for FY 2020-21, contingent upon receipt of grant funding.

The Board discussed additional funding sources for the organization.

Commissioner Branson spoke to the importance of parks, trails and greenways as tools for economic development, but expressed concern with funding ongoing maintenance.

Chairman Phillips clarified the proposed EDA funding recommendations.

Commissioner Foster expressed concerns with the overall lack of participation in the Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point's recent meetings regarding federal grant opportunities.

The Board discussed the funding request.

**Vice Chairman Perdue offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor: Allocate an additional \$25,000 to the Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point from manager's contingency funding for FY 2020-21 for a total allocation of \$50,000, contingent upon receipt of grant funding.**

**Commissioner Cashion accepted the friendly amendment to the motion on the floor.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, to allocate an additional \$25,000 to the Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point from manager's contingency funding for a total allocation of \$50,000 in FY 2020-21, contingent upon receipt of grant funding.**

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

Commissioner Henning expressed his appreciation for the level of communication from High Point Market Authority representatives, and shared his concern with the lack of communication from other High Point-based organizations.

Lawing requesting clarification regarding the source of funding for the additional allocation of \$25,000.

Chairman Phillips stated the \$25,000 allocation will be sourced from manager's contingency funding.

## **VII. GUILFORD CARES SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND NON-PROFIT GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Campbell provided an update and shared that, to date, approximately \$2.18 million in grant funding has been disbursed through the Small Business Assistance program. He reviewed the approval and denial rates for both versions of the small business grant application and spoke to the success of the changes made to the application.

Campbell reviewed application denials and shared that 37% of denials were related to receipt of more than \$10,000 in federal and/or state funding.

Commissioner Conrad requested staff provide a breakdown of completed and pending applications by city or municipality, based upon zip code information. He spoke to the importance of providing this data to show the county is providing assistance to citizens in cities.

Campbell confirmed he will provide this information.

Commissioner Coleman requested staff provide information on denied applications that included the reason for denial.

Campbell shared adjustments must be made to the application to include this data, and confirmed he will provide this information.

Lawing noted all denied applicants have been contacted with additional explanation regarding their denial and encouragement to reapply, with the exception of those denied for receipt of federal and/or state funding in excess of \$10,000.

Commissioner Conrad noted 75% of application approvals are for Greensboro businesses.

Vice Chairman Perdue shared Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) are not forgivable and noted this funding should be considered separately from grant funding reported by any small business program applicants.

Chairman Phillips expressed concerns with lack of community knowledge related to the program and spoke to the need to increase advertising and promoting eligibility for the funds. He discussed the working groups consideration of implementing Phase 2 of the program after July 1, to include small businesses with more employers and higher revenues, and fewer restrictions on eligibility requirements.

Commissioner Alston left the meeting at 2:00PM.

Commissioner Foster questioned the \$10,000 cap on grant awards.

Payne discussed concerns with the private versus public benefits associated with raising the grant cap amount.

Commissioner Cashion thanked the working group for expanding the scope of the program and discussed the impact of grant funding upon a local High Point business.

Lawing clarified the report and noted certain businesses requested amounts less than \$10,000, based upon federal assistance received.

Campbell discussed the changes to the application that expand funding eligibility in Phase 2 implementation.

Commissioner Foster expressed appreciation for the timely issuance of assistance checks to businesses.

Chairman Phillips thanked staff for their efforts.

Grier provided an update on the Non-Profit Grant Program and noted 39 total applications have been received between the United of Greater Greensboro and High Point, and reviewed the potential funding awards for each city.

Commissioner Foster requested the total funding requests submitted by High Point organizations and questioned denial reasons.

Grier provided the totals and noted there have been no denials, to date.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Conrad thanked the Board for its recent conversations and expressed concerns with the potential impact to school resource officer funding within City of Greensboro's recommended FY 2020-21 budget. He requested staff prepare recommendations on how to recoup funding in order to address any budget shortfalls, dependent upon final adoption of the City of Greensboro's budget.

Commissioner Branson requested an update regarding the potential to combine GCS facilities' department with Guilford County, and expressed his concerns with the recent joint facilities study and discussions related to school facility ongoing maintenance.

Lawing referenced professional correspondence related to this issue and spoke to the benefits of centralizing this function if both parties entered into an agreement with good faith. He discussed potential staffing challenges and the need to ensure buy-in between both entities.

Chairman Phillips spoke to the need for additional research.

Lawing confirmed and spoke to the potential to find additional examples of a centralized model in smaller counties.

Commissioner Coleman requested additional information regarding recent school staff layoffs and the role this could potentially play in facility issues.

Commissioner Branson reiterated his concerns with ongoing maintenance and the need for quality leadership.

Commissioner Foster left the meeting at 2:20PM.

Commissioner Coleman spoke to the need for further discussion with GCS.

Chairman Phillips expressed his interest in further vetting the centralized service opportunity.

Chairman Phillips discussed the request for additional funding towards ongoing maintenance of parks and open spaces presented during the Board retreat. He expressed his interest in considering an increased allocation towards ongoing maintenance, as a result of increased citizen use of trails during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lawing noted this request was not included in the recommended budget, but they would review the original presentation for details.

Commissioner Branson spoke to erosion and drainage issues present at parks and open spaces, in addition to the need for trail repairs. He reiterated the importance of trails as economic development drivers.



## **IX. ADJOURN**

**Motion made by Commissioner Justin Conrad, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Branson, to adjourn the meeting.**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 2:27PM.

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Jeffrey M. Phillips  
Chairman

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Ariane Webb  
Deputy Clerk to Board