

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
April 4, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Work Session at 4:00 p.m. in the Carolyn Q. Coleman Conference Room located on the first floor of the Old County Courthouse, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC.

PRESENT: Vice Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster, presiding; Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston (in at 4:17 p.m.); Commissioners Kay Cashion, Carly Cooke, Brandon Gray-Hill, Frankie T. Jones, Jr., Mary Beth Murphy, and Alan Perdue (in at 4:20 p.m. via virtual communication).

ABSENT: Commissioner Pat Tillman.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; County Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Deputy Clerk to the Board Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to the Board T’ebony Rosa; Jason Jones, Assistant County Manager; Dr. Anthony Clarke, President Guilford Technical Community College; Jim Albright, Director Emergency Medical Services Department; Sharon Barlow, Director Social Services Department; members of staff, media, and the public. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media partners.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairwoman J. Carlvena Foster welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. NEW BUSINESS

**A. GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE (GTCC) FY 2024-25
BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Dr. Anthony Clarke, GTCC President, provided an update on the college. He noted that they are celebrating their 65th anniversary.

He noted celebrating a recent reunion representing thirty-seven (37) years of past presidents. He noted that GTCC is the 4th largest community college in the state serving over twenty-eight (28) thousand students.

Dr. Clarke reviewed university demographics. He noted that although he has not seen a full recovery of their White and African American populations, the Hispanic population is currently exceeding pre-COVID-19 numbers.

He reviewed the GTCC mission: People, Pathways, and Partnerships.

Dr. Clarke noted that enrollment has increased by 18% over the last year. He shared the Access Amazing Scholarship, which is a last-dollar scholarship program, for those graduates from a high school in Guilford County who graduated in the last five (5) years since the year 2019. He shared that students must complete the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be awarded federal, state and college grants prior to the last-dollar scholarship taking effect.

He highlighted the Titan Esports initiative and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCCAE) National Esports Champions, the Rainbow Six Siege team, that defeated one hundred seventy-eight (178) college teams.

Dr. Clarke reviewed the GTCC FY 2024-2025 annual budget request. He noted that 50% of their funding comes from the state with roughly 12% coming from the county.

He shared that they are seeking to sustain a 3% annual salary increase similar to state employees, as well as a medical insurance increase and pay increase for the President.

Dr. Clarke reviewed capital projects slated for the upcoming years totaling \$2,055,000.

Chair Alston entered the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

He shared their ongoing work with the County Manager and Budget teams. He reviewed that the Board approved their intent to fund the \$11 million Phase 1 for the Aviation Center. He shared that to begin construction phase in FY 2024-2025, the state construction office will require GTCC to show the county funds are available.

He shared that once they receive the Capital Project Ordinance, they can start the bid dates, and start the construction process. He noted that the State has set aside the first \$23 million and those funds would be used first.

Dr. Clarke provided an update on GTCC's ten (10) year capital investment plan. He reviewed the immediate needs of the \$11.1 million, he reviewed changes from last year to the estimates for the Skilled Trades Center in High Point. He stated that the estimated return of investment has not changed since last year at 29%.

Commissioner Perdue entered the meeting via virtual communication at 4:20 p.m.

Dr. Clarke reviewed building designs for expansion of the Cameron Campus to build the new Aviation center, which would include a new 100,000 square-foot training space for the program.

He noted that they are in initial discussions of an Early Aviation College for Guilford County School students.

He noted that the Greensboro Campus received \$2.2 million in state funding and \$1.7 million in federal funding to add the new driving training track.

He shared the new three (3) story building for the High Point Campus for Creative Arts and career training and reported that they have partnered with the Southwest Renewal Project for grant funding of green technology to include on the site.

Vice-Chairwoman Foster opened the floor for discussion.

Vice-Chairwoman Foster questioned the location of the High Point Campus in an opportunity zone, and whether they are receiving any support from the City of High Point.

Dr. Clarke shared that he has had some initial discussions with some of the council members but has not yet talked to the City Manager.

Vice-Chairwoman Foster questioned the community and non-profit organization accessibility to the facilities.

Dr. Clarke noted that with the proposed new building, it is designed with some available flex space. He noted that they are working to renew the vibrancy of the High Point campus.

Dr. Clarke noted that they do have a sliding scale for community usage depending on the entity.

Chair Alston questioned the total cost of the Aviation Phase 1 project.

Dr. Clarke shared the total cost for Phase 1 is \$34.6 million, noting they have \$23.5 million in state funding and need a \$11.1 million commitment from the County. Phase 2 would require \$21.2 million in County funding.

Dr. Clarke noted the timeline for completion of Phase 1 by 2026. He noted that ideally the design process for Phase 2 would be in 2026 with the build process in 2028.

Chair Alston questioned the diversity commitment regarding the construction contracts.

Dr. Clarke noted that we are using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) approach so that the CMAR can have more flexibility in Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) participation.

He shared that they recently met with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department to ensure that they share the bid with as many HUD vendors as possible. He shared that the key focus area is to secure local contractors to meet or exceed requirements.

Chair Alston questioned Board project oversight.

County Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite noted that Board oversight centers on the funding scheme and suggested sharing the County's MWBE Department toolkit with GTCC to ensure success metrics.

Chair Alston questioned if GTCC would commit to working with the County's MWBE Department in establishing a fair goal.

Dr. Clarke reiterated having a CMAR and will make sure that they have the highest participation possible.

Mitchell Johnson, GTCC Associate Vice President clarified they work with the state MWBE office as the project will fall under the state's control but will be happy to work with the local MWBE office.

County Manager Michael Halford noted that we intend to bring back the Capital Project Ordinance at the next Board meeting, and would consider future financing, which may not be a bond, but could be fund balance or other type of funding. He noted that funding would come later, but this project ordinance allows the project to start.

Chair Alston shared that we would like to say that, but we do not know where the funding will come from.

Halford noted that this process has been done before, an example is the Capital Project Ordinance we had opened for the Jail project. The commitment asked today is the project ordinance.

Chair Alston questioned when that commitment will need to be made.

Halford clarified that the project ordinance does not indicate that the cash is on hand, but that we commit to make the funds available when the money is needed.

Chair Alston questioned if we could use 2/3 bonds for those funds.

Halford stated that is one funding option depending on the bond rating at that time.

Commissioner Cooke shared that although we do not understand what the best funding mechanism would be in a couple of years, she would like to have a discussion on what those options would be so we have an idea of what those funds could come from.

Halford noted that we can have that discussion at the next Board meeting. This is a smaller amount and has more funding options than what we did with our school bonds.

Commissioner Cooke shared that additional information would be very helpful. She also noted she would like to have a discussion on how to fund the entire package down the road.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the increase for the capital funding this year to cover things like the roofs, chillers, and floor finishes and that this year's request is roughly \$500,000 over the \$1.5 million allocation last year.

Commissioner Murphy questioned how this request falls into the existing capital improvement plan over the next five (5) years.

Dr. Clarke noted that the \$2 million will be enough to maintain what we have, with a wild card on the replacement of the Phase 1 underground infrastructure replacement, as we will not know how much the total cost will be until they start digging for the Phase 1 construction.

Commissioner Cashion noted that the Capital Project Ordinance funding will be needed next fiscal year. She questioned if GTCC is comfortable with looking at our obligations this year, and if we are comfortable with that money being pulled own in 2026.

Halford noted that if we do the \$140 million that could be a General Obligation Bond (GOB) that goes to the voters, or it could be a 2/3 bond, or use the County's fund Balance or even GTCC's fund balance. The \$11 million is doable, and manageable. He noted that as we move to the \$130 million, we may need to look further into funding options.

The Board thanked Dr. Clarke for his presentation.

B. UPDATE ON GUILFORD COUNTY INTEGRATED SERVICES DELIVERY PROJECT

Assistant County Manager for Quality Government Jason Jones introduced the agenda item. He shared that he wanted to provide early awareness of a near-term opportunity to assess Enabling Technology for case management in Aging and Adult Services.

Jones reviewed a timeline of the project starting in 2022 regarding internal and community stakeholder assessment on ways to integrate data.

He reminded the Commissioners that the Board allocated \$10 million for Integrated Services Delivery Plan work.

He noted that two (2) of the temporary American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) positions were reallocated to full-time permanent positions for data integration coordinators.

He reviewed the engagement of a consultant in April of 2023 from the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP). He shared that with the adoption of the Board, two (2) additional ARPA positions were created with the addition of one (1) new position.

He shared that the three (3) new positions are close to filling, and with five (5) internal dashboards in production and seven (7) new ones in production.

Jones reviewed the Integrated Services definition to build out the necessary infrastructure technology. He noted we have an immediate need to replace end-of-life case management software for Social Services within the Aging and Adult Services division.

Jones reported that a request for proposal (RFP) was issued for long-term software needs, with three (3) responsive submissions submitted.

He noted that they are nearing completion of review and will be bringing a recommendation for an award in the near future.

Jones noted it is his goal that we want to explore technology without enforcing usage of our system, but rather one that would seamlessly integrate with systems that our partners are already using.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the program that is being proposed would work seamlessly with community stakeholders and providers.

Commissioner Cooke questioned for those providers who do not have a system would ours be accessible, affordable, and manageable.

Jones shared that is one of the consideration options. He shared what they have explored so far would not prevent a community partner from adopting a similar case management system that we are considering.

Jones noted that one of the considerations is something that is common and sustainable.

Commissioner Jones shared a personal account of going through these transitions in the private sector, and things to consider are to understand the frequency of updates because updates that are included are a more positive thing. He noted monitoring updates if there is significant funding of the county to maintain current systems. One of the other components is the process of granting access and how that is maintained. And lastly, as we are collecting data and how we can use this data, so customization and auxiliary automation for updates can create additional burdens.

The Board discussed limitations such as making their data a public record and ensuring security and data privacy.

Commissioner Jones questioned the establishment of priority populations. He spoke to the Interdepartmental Multidisciplinary Team (IMDT) Cohorts, such as persons who were formerly incarcerated, persons on parole or probation, and persons with disabilities.

Jones noted IMDT is not new to the County, as we do this work every day, such as the Family Justice Center (FJC) for example.

Jim Albright, EMS Director, shared that EMS serves as a safety net in the community and when people do not know where to call, they call 911. He shared that this creates high frequency users and deployment of emergency services resources. During the pandemic, we found we lacked the ability to respond to everyone with these needs. We had to figure out a way to decrease the demand versus our normal of just increasing supply. We looked for an opportunity to link care in the community and ultimately push down the needs in the community.

Sharon Barlow, DSS Director, shared we were able to create an Adult Care Team (ACT). In the time that the team has been running, the group that was identified made 344 non-emergency calls in thirty (30) days to 911. Since the ACT implementation, they have made four (4) calls, and have saved over \$375,000 dollars and reviewed staff utilization for these non-emergency calls by 170 public safety staff hours.

Barlow shared that the Aging and Adult Services unit has a very outdated disk-operated system (DOS), making them pretty much pen and paper. This system will allow us to connect with internal departments such as EMS and our FJC and better engage the community partners.

Jones shared the projected costs, estimating roughly \$6 million of the \$10 million allocation.

Commissioner Murphy thanked staff for sharing the update. She thanked the team for putting so much into this work as this could be a very transformational project.

Jones noted the next steps and presenting an agenda item for a case management platform for Aging and Adult services.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for this agenda.

IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Board consensus at 5:26 p.m.

Melvin “Skip” Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk