

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
November 7, 2019

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on November 7, 2019 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

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

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; Dan Durham, Facilities/Property Management/Parks Director; Merle Green, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS Public Health Division Assistant Director; Harley Will, Finance Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; members of staff, community and media.

I. INVOCATION

Commissioner Conrad requested a moment of silence in remembrance of US Senator Kay Hagan and Piedmont Triad Airport Authority Chairman, Steve Showfety, in honor of their recent passing.

Ben Chavis, Tax Director, offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Branson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Branson welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Jan Grafton, Whitsett resident and local animal rescue director, thanked the Board for their support of the Guilford County Animal Shelter (GCAS). She shared her experience working with shelter staff and acknowledged the employees and leadership for GCAS a great shelter.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2019-396 PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 2019 PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Adopt proclamation declaring November 2019 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Guilford County.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Conrad spoke to the rising level of pancreatic cancer diagnoses and invited Zack Matheny, whose wife Lauran is battling the disease, to receive the proclamation. He read the proclamation into the minutes.

Commissioner Conrad shared the bracelets distributed this evening are from the Pancreatic Action Network and noted the proceeds go towards cancer research.

Mr. Matheny thanked the Board of County Commissioners and shared his family's personal experiences with pancreatic cancer. He thanked the Board for their help in bringing awareness to the disease.

B. 2019-401 PROCLAMATION IN OBSERVANCE AND REMEMBRANCE OF VETERANS' DAY

Adopt proclamation in observance and remembrance of Veterans Day.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Henning read the proclamation into the minutes. He spoke on behalf of Veterans Services Director, Robert Shelly, who was attending an American Heroes recognition dinner and shared an update regarding the non-profit and its work with veterans on employment and job-training skills.

Commissioner Henning requested citizens and the media share information about the Guilford County Veterans Services department and recognized veterans present in the audience.

C. 2019-399 2019 GUILFORD COUNTY CITIZENS' ACADEMY GRADUATION

Recognize the 2019 graduating class of the Guilford County Citizens' Academy.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Cashion presented the graduates of the ninth annual Citizens Academy. She noted this group was one of the largest classes in Academy history and spoke to the enthusiasm of the participants. Cashion reviewed the Academy coursework and shared each participant dedicated approximately 50-60 hours of time to complete the program. She invited graduates Lisa McMillan and Robert Black to provide brief remarks on their experience during the Academy.

Ms. McMillan expressed appreciation on behalf of the class for staff's dedication and creativity with regards to presentations and the level of community service. She discussed the relationships developed amongst Academy participants and spoke to their renewed commitment to assist Guilford County.

Mr. Black spoke to the level of dedication and commitment exhibited by Guilford County staff. He shared he was most impressed with the integrity and honesty of county employees and thanked his classmates for the opportunity to work with them during the Academy.

Commissioner Cashion thanked the County Manager and Deputy County Manager for their support. She noted special thanks to the employees in the Clerk to Board's Office: Robin Keller, Ariane Webb and Worley Smith, for their efforts in managing and coordinating this year's program. Cashion presented diplomas to the graduates.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Branson reviewed the addendum to appointments before the Board. By general consensus, the Board approved the addendum.

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

Commissioner Foster requested item B.2. removed from the consent agenda for further consideration.

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2019-389 APPROVE RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL 2018 HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) GRANT FUNDS

Approve the receipt of additional 2018 HIDTA grant funds in the amount of \$37,702; and approve an increase of \$37,702 in Federal/State Revenue and increase the FY 2019-20 Law Enforcement budget by the same amount to reflect receipt of these grant funds. These grant funds will be used for overtime, training, travel and technology/communications costs for the Task Force.

[Legislation Text](#)

[2019 2020 HIDTA Attachments](#)

B. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2019-392 RESOLUTION APPROVING MODIFICATION TO DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

Adopt resolution authorizing Guilford County to increase the daily deposit requirement to \$500 and establish administrative procedure for required deposits.

[Legislation Text](#)

[NCGS 159-32](#)

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners to give its approval as authorized by G.S.159-32 to change the daily deposit requirement for county funds to \$500; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Finance Officer, to adopt and maintain administrative procedures for depositing county funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the recommended administrative requirements for Daily, Weekly, and last day of the month deposits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Board of Commissioners approves increasing the daily deposit requirement to \$500,

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Board of Commissioner approves the administrative procedures for Daily, Weekly, and last day of the month deposits.

Adopted this the 7th day of November 2019.

Removed from the Consent Agenda

2. 2019-398 REALLOCATION OF JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) FUNDS

Approve the attached revision to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council total funding budget for FY 2019-20 reflecting a decrease of \$29,243 in funding for Operation Xcel Operation Homework and authorize staff to make any necessary budget and/or contract amendments.

[Legislation Text](#)

[JCPC Funding Update Operation Excel 110719](#)

[JCPC FY2019-20 Funding Plan](#)

[JCPC Operation Xcel Funding Update 102319](#)

3. 2019-400 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the following sets of minutes:
10/17/2019 Work Session
10/17/2019 Regular Meeting

[Legislation Text](#)

[dmws10.17.19.pdf](#)

[dm101719.pdf](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad, to adopt the consent agenda.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

B.2. 2019-398 REALLOCATION OF JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) FUNDS

Approve the attached revision to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council total funding budget for FY 2019-20 reflecting a decrease of \$29,243 in funding for Operation Xcel Operation Homework and authorize staff to make any necessary budget and/or contract amendments.

[Legislation Text](#)

[JCPC Funding Update Operation Excel 110719](#)

[JCPC FY2019-20 Funding Plan](#)

[JCPC Operation Xcel Funding Update 102319](#)

Commissioner Foster questioned the reduction of the NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) allocation.

Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier shared NCDPS the formula used to calculate the original allocation changed, resulting in a reduction. He noted the organization reported additional in-kind contributions were received to offset the reduction and clarified NCDPS revised the formula after the allocation process started.

Commissioner Foster questioned if the reduction resulted in the organization moving to a new location and if they did receive their funding allocation.

Grier confirmed the organization received funding and the change in funding resulted in a move to a new location.

Motion was made by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue, to approve the attached revision to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council total funding budget for FY 2019-20 reflecting a decrease of \$29,243 in funding for Operation Xcel Operation Homework and authorize staff to make any necessary budget and/or contract amendments.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

Commissioner Foster questioned if this was the only agency that lost JCPC funding.

Grier discussed potential funding changes for Transitioning Minds and shared the closing of People & Paws For Hope.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2019-402 RECONVEYANCE OF 50% UNDIVIDED OWNERSHIP IN THE BRYAN PARK NORTH PROPERTY TO CITY OF GREENSBORO

Approve, the Reconveyance of 50% Undivided Ownership in the Bryan Park North Property to the City of Greensboro by Special Warranty Deed and approve the Bryan Park North Agreement Between the City of Greensboro and Guilford County, in substantial form.

Legislation Text

Bryan Park North Agreement - clean

Special Warranty Deed - Bryan Park.Draft

County Manager Marty Lawing introduced the item and spoke to the need for reconveyance to justify City of Greensboro expenditures towards certain park improvements. He reviewed the history of the property as a donation that was initially deeded to the City and the County, with restrictions for park and open space use only. Lawing noted the City of Greensboro deeded their interest to the County in 2008, making the County the sole owner. He noted no significant development had been made on the property, but the new agreement would include provisions to manage the current state of the park, along with new development.

Lawing stated all revenues and expenses would be shared equally between the entities effective July 2020, and discussed the parameters for future development on the property. He confirmed that an advisory committee would be created to manage ongoing maintenance and new projects at the park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Melvin “Skip” Alston, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to approve the Reconveyance of 50% Undivided Ownership in the Bryan Park North Property to the City of Greensboro by Special Warranty Deed and approve the Bryan Park North Agreement Between the City of Greensboro and Guilford County, in substantial form.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the park would continue with its current roster of activities.

Lawing confirmed there would be no change to current activities, but noted the potential to relocate some programs if new development occurs.

Commissioner Coleman questioned why this item was returned to the Board for consideration and questioned if the last agreement expired.

Lawing noted the prior agreement was no longer effective when the City deeded its interest to the County. He confirmed the prior agreement was used as an outline when developing the new agreement.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if City was included in the development of the 2015 Master Plan.

Lawing shared the master plan was primarily developed by the County's Parks & Recreation department, with input from City staff and citizens. He noted the City now has bond funding that could be used towards development at Bryan Park, but requested 50% ownership of the property to justify expending City funds.

Commissioner Alston questioned the protocol for resolving potential disagreements between the City and County, with regards to development at the park.

County Attorney Mark Payne shared the agreement requires approval from both sides to move forward with projects

Commissioner Alston questioned the lack of any formal arrangement, such as arbitration or mediation, if there is no agreement.

Payne confirmed there was no formal arrangement in place, but noted projects must comply with the master plan and require agreement from both entities.

Commissioner Alston questioned the need for this type of language in the agreement.

Payne stated he would not recommend utilizing an arbitrator or mediator to override Board decisions regarding the property, but noted a mediation clause could be included in the agreement.

Commissioner Alston spoke to the difference between binding mediation and having a mediator provide their recommendations to both entities. He recommended including this clause for both entities.

Payne stated that, if approved, the agreement would include the addition of a non-binding mediation clause.

Chairman Branson expressed his support for the clause and shared there has been very little development of the property over the years, due to use restrictions. He discussed some of the park activities and the history of ownership.

Motion was made by Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by J. Carlvena Foster to approve, the Reconveyance of 50% Undivided Ownership in the Bryan Park North Property to the City of Greensboro by Special Warranty Deed and approve the Bryan Park North Agreement Between the City of Greensboro and Guilford County, in substantial form.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

B. 2019-395 AMENDMENTS TO THE GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS REGARDING TOBACCO AND TOBACCO-RELATED PRODUCTS ON GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTY

Review revised proposed amendments to the Guilford County Board of Health Regulations regarding tobacco and tobacco-related products in Governmental buildings and consider adoption of proposed amendments.

[Legislation Text](#)

[BOH Smoking Rules 10.14.19 Version.pdf](#)

Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Assistant Director, provided an update on the status of the Board of Health tobacco regulations. She noted that, under the advice from the Board, they have amended the rules to include non-combustible smoking products and non-smoking tobacco products in the proposed regulation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster to review revised proposed amendments to the Guilford County Board of Health Regulations regarding tobacco and tobacco-related products in Governmental buildings and consider adoption of proposed amendments.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

C. 2019-404 GUILFORD COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE

Receive departmental update from Guilford County Animal Services.

[Legislation Text](#)

Dr. Carl Ashby, Chairman of the Guilford County Animal Services Advisory Board, introduced the update and shared it would speak to the progress made by the Animal Services department and their board.

Jorge Ortega, Animal Services Director, shared the success of the shelter has been as result of community and county partner support. He reviewed changes in operations and constant updates to policies and procedures to ensure the best outcomes for animals housed in the shelter. Ortega shared new approaches such as: low key uniforms to assist with citizen approachability, working in the field to return animals and participating in community events to raise visibility and build relationships.

Ortega discussed their work to identify community resources and reviewed the weekly animal welfare meetings held to identify potential foster and adoption candidates within the animal shelter population. He spoke to the success of the “Have a Heart Fund” to assist with placement of heartworm positive dogs in homes and noted they are constantly seeking grant-funding to assist in support of daily operations. Ortega shared the new positions created to benefit shelter operations, including the Animal Behavior and Enrichment Manager and Transfer Partner Coordinator. He discussed the Gate City Pet Project and its goal of working within the community to ensure positive outcomes for pets.

Ortega reported an 83% positive for dogs in 2017. He compared this figure to 2019 rates and noted we are currently at a 90% positive outcome rate, with a 10% euthanasia rate. He confirmed positive outcomes for cats are increasing steadily, and the current rate is 78%. Ortega spoke to the need to continue working with community partners to improve this rate.

Ortega confirmed stray numbers have decreased since 2016, in addition to owner surrenders. He spoke to continued improvements to veterinary care and the potential to continue expanding community outreach with construction of the new shelter. He presented the department’s most recent spay/neuter public services announcement to the Board.

Dr. Ashby compared positive outcome rates for Guilford County Animal Services to other agencies across the state. He spoke to the decreases in intake and euthanasia rates, and spoke to the practice of developing community partnerships within Animal Control, versus community “policing”. Dr. Ashby noted onerous regulations are not required to ensure success and thanked Ortega for his leadership.

Chairman Branson thanked staff and the volunteers for all they have accomplished.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the staff for a great presentation. She noted that this has been an ongoing process within our community and recognized former Commissioner and Chairwoman Linda Shaw for her work to ensure increased funding and volunteerism for the Animal Services program.

Commissioner Conrad thanked Ortega and Dr. Ashby for their leadership, and noted that Ortega's work has helped "calm the seas". He spoke to the importance of having the right people in place to realize the vision of improving the Guilford County Animal Shelter.

D. 2019-367 RECEIVE MWBE QUARTERLY UPDATE

Receive MWBE quarterly procurement data and program update.

[Legislation Text](#)

[MWBE Quarterly Update 110719](#)

Cynthia Barnes-Phipps, MWBE Program Director, provided an overview of the program goals and operations. She shared they have continued to enhance outreach and engagement through education and notification of opportunities. Barnes-Phipps noted she continues to offer training to provide businesses with tools that will promote economic development, including scaling of projects to encourage small business inclusion.

Barnes-Phipps discussed the recent launch of the MWBE Facebook page that will house events and notifications. She discussed the County's co-sponsorship of the 2019 Minority/Women's Enterprise Development (MED) Week with City of Greensboro, UNC-Greensboro, Guilford County Schools and NC A&T State University and spoke to the various events that occurred during the week.

Vice Chairman Phillips left the meeting at 7:40PM.

Barnes-Phipps confirmed staff have analyzed approximately 75% of procurement data and will be prepared with a comprehensive report for the Board in December 2019. She reviewed total procurement expenditures for FY 2018-19 by diversity code and shared the County's total MWBE participation for this period was 10.6%. Barnes-Phipps noted of this percentage, minority-owned business participation was 6.4% and women-owned business participation was 4.2%. She shared when payments to other governments were excluded, MWBE participation increased to approximately 11%, with minority-owned business participation at 6.6% and women-owned business participation at 4.4%.

Barnes-Phipps discussed total procurement expenditures for the first quarter of FY 2019-20 and noted they are still being refined. She reported MWBE participation increased, but the report only reflects what has been paid, but does not account for committed funds. Barnes-Phipps noted the new reporting structure will have the ability to show participation for committed and actual expenditures. She shared minority-owned business participation in the first quarter of FY 2019-20 was 4.6%, with women-owned business participation of 5.5% for a total MWBE

participation rate of 10.1%. Barnes-Phipps noted the MWBE participation rate increases to 10.4% when payments to other governments are excluded.

Barnes-Phipps spoke to the recent success of securing more minority prime contractors and provided updates on current projects. She noted 100% MBE participation on the BB&T 3rd Floor Upfit and shared outreach initiatives to recruit minority firm participation in the Guilford County Behavioral Health Center project. Barnes-Phipps shared the project has been broken down into 37 bid packages to encourage MWBE bid opportunities and confirmed approximately 1,000 notifications have been issued to date.

Commissioner Alston expressed his appreciation for Barnes-Phipps' efforts over the prior eleven months. He spoke to the need to allocate additional resources for the MWBE department and expressed his hope that the administrative assistant position would be filled soon. Alston noted that, while the numbers are improving, he would like to see increased participation from African-American contractors. He spoke to his interest in reviewing the numbers for committed expenditures to ensure contractors retain African-American participation on their projects.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the number of participants who attended the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) training in Raleigh, NC.

Barnes-Phipps confirmed approximately twenty (20) participants attended the Saturday event, and noted she would provide additional information regarding this training in the upcoming annual report.

Commissioner Coleman requested a comparison of current MWBE participation rates to those in FY 2018-19.

Barnes-Phipps shared she is analyzing the data now and noted that utilization of MWBE contractors has increased during this period. She noted that prior data has not captured full participation as it only reflects actual expenditures versus committed funds.

Commissioner Coleman requested a six-month comparison to determine if the MWBE participation is improving.

Barnes-Phipps shared that, since her arrival, they have added or updated diversity codes for 800 vendors in their reporting system, to ensure they receive proper notifications. She confirmed she would provide this comparison during her next presentation.

Commissioner Foster thanked Barnes-Phipps for her the in-depth update. She questioned the potential of working with a local economic development organization, Piedmont Business Capital.

Barnes-Phipps stated that she is partnering with Wilson Lester of Piedmont Business Capital to create a business academy and to develop an initiative that will provide entrepreneurs with start-up capital.

Commissioner Foster shared the City of High Point is developing an opportunity zone and has an existing small business manufacturing zone. She requested Barnes-Phipps partner with City of High Point, who does not have an MWBE department.

Barnes-Phipps expressed her interest in this partnership and noted business owners in High Point have requested assistance with advocacy in their community. She shared an upcoming meeting with the High Point Chamber of Commerce and shared next year's business expo would be held in High Point to take advantage of business opportunities surrounding the furniture market.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

A. 2019-397 APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Approve the following appointments to various Boards and Commissions:

Fire District Commission - Colfax

Appoint William Van Wert to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Fire District Commission - Gibsonville

Appoint David Prevatt to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Appoint Matthew Sowinski to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Sandhills Center Board

Appoint Dr. Alvin Keyes to 1st Term in Position 2 (November 2019 – November 2022)

[Legislation Text](#)

[W_VanWert_Colfax_FDC](#)

[D_Prevatt_Gibsonville_FDC](#)

[M_Sowinski_App_Gibsonville_FDC](#)

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

Fire District Commission - Colfax

Appoint William Van Wert to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Fire District Commission - Gibsonville

Appoint David Prevatt to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Appoint Matthew Sowinski to 1st Term (November 2019 - November 2021)

Sandhills Center Board

Appoint Dr. Alvin Keyes to 1st Term in Position 2 (November 2019 – November 2022)

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

B. 2019-376 EXCEPTION REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Approve the following exception reappointments to various boards and commissions:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee
Reappoint Denise Fulmore to 4th term (January 2020 - December 2022)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Reappoint Laurie Jones to 3rd Term as Social Services Director Designee (November 2019 - November 2021)

[Legislation Text](#)

[Term Exempt Letter D Fulmore ACHCAC](#)

[D Fulmore ACHCAC](#)

[D Fulmore Resume ACHCAC](#)

[Term Exempt Letter L Jones JCPC](#)

[L Jones JCPC](#)

[L Jones Resume JCPC](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hank Henning, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston, to approve the following exception reappointments to various boards and commissions:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

Reappoint Denise Fulmore to 4th term (January 2020 - December 2022)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Reappoint Laurie Jones to 3rd Term as Social Services Director Designee (November 2019 - November 2021)

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

IX. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Lawing shared that the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census has scheduled their first meeting and training on November 19, 2019 at 5:30PM in the DHHS-DSS Human Services building on Maple Street. He shared a Census 2020 Guilford Counts webpage has been created for the public to learn more information about the upcoming census and related events.

Lawing shared that the county Elections Director will present a recommendation for purchase of voting equipment during the Board's next regular meeting. He discussed the status of the hardship extension request submitted by the County and noted the General Assembly approved a six-month extension of the deadline to purchase voting equipment. Lawing shared county staff could see no benefit in extending the deadline and questioned if the Board would be interested in scheduling a work session or one-on-one meetings for demonstrations of the equipment selected by the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Conrad expressed his opposition to purchasing new machines.

Commissioner Henning echoed these opposing comments.

Commissioner Branson questioned the cost of the new machines.

Lawing outlined the new voting equipment, which includes a paper ballot generated by the voter. He noted once the voter has made their selections, they are scanned into the system. He confirmed equipment costs have decreased significantly; however, the cost of manpower will increase.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if the Board could reach out to members of the General Assembly regarding this policy.

Commissioner Conrad confirmed that members of the Board have personally spoken to members of the General Assembly and noted a letter was sent, on behalf of the Board, regarding this legislation.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Conrad thanked Commissioner Cashion for her work with the 2019 Guilford County Citizen's Academy.

Commissioner Foster shared her attendance at the High Point Economic Development Commission meeting, where it was announced that High Point was named an “American City of the Future” by The Financial Times. She shared High Point presented 36 retail and 19 services announcements within the last year. Foster invited the Board to attend the High Point Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 10 at 3:00pm.

Commissioner Cashion shared her attendance of the High Point Family Justice Center’s one-year anniversary and noted approximately 4,000 people have been served at the center since its opening. She shared her attendance at the recent Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on Human Trafficking held in the Commissioners’ Chambers on October 28 and noted its direct connection to domestic and family violence issues being addressed nationally and locally. She shared her attendance at the Piedmont Triad State of the Region on October 30 and the Southwest High Point Greenway project announcement. Cashion shared the Chandler Dental Clinic Grand Re-Opening, following renovations, and spoke to the level of service the clinic has provided to un-and underinsured adults and children over the years. She shared her attendance at the Family Service of Piedmont First Families Building where Governor Roy Cooper signed Senate Bill 199, which targets family violence and sexual abuse.

Commissioner Alston echoed his appreciation for Commissioner Cashion’s continued work with the Citizens’ Academy. He expressed ongoing concerns with employees who continue to make under \$15.00 per hour and shared his disappointment that this issue continues to remain a low priority for the Board and staff. Alston shared several positions where staff are earning less than a livable wage throughout multiple County departments, including: Eligibility Caseworkers, Emergency Medical Technicians and Animal Care Technicians. He spoke to recent salary increases for upper level management positions at the cost of over \$600,000, resulting from the recent class and compensation study. Alston noted it would only take \$306,499 to bring lower level employees to a livable wage.

Chairman Branson expressed concerns with recent announcements from the Sheriff’s department regarding performance evaluations and requested information regarding response times and the County’s current crime rate.

Commissioner Coleman spoke to the concept of compression and noted this concept is consistently offered as an excuse when discussing increases for lower level employees. She spoke to the need for equity and urged the Board to consider addressing the needs of employees who could be classified as “working poor”.

Chairman Branson expressed his interest in discussing this topic during the upcoming annual retreat and expressed his support for addressing salaries of employees not making a livable wage, based upon performance. He shared his attendance at the Interstate 73-840 ribbon-cutting between Battleground Road and Lawndale Drive. He shared this section of the interstate will be named after Doug Galyon and noted the loop has the potential to serve as an economic driver, upon its completion in 2021.

XI. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (1) (3) & (4) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES

Chairman Branson announced the Board would not hold a closed session as there was no business to discuss.

XII. ADJOURN

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

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

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:51PM.

J. Alan Branson, Chairman

Clerk