

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
May 21, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on May 21, 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 Hank Henning, J. Carlvana Foster, Justin Conrad, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston and Alan Branson. Participating via simultaneous communication: Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman.

ABSENT: None.

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

I. INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Alan Perdue led those present in the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Phillips led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:45PM and welcomed those present. He referenced the addendum to the meeting agenda.

By general consensus, the Board adopted the addendum to the agenda.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Chairman Phillips welcomed those speakers participating via simultaneous communication.

Mary Beth Murphy, a teacher and parent of two children in Guilford County Schools, spoke in support of a \$1.6 billion school bond issuance. She spoke on school issues and maintenance, and called upon the Board to approve the billion-dollar request.

Nathan Duggins, Greensboro resident, thanked the County Commissioners and staff for guiding the public through this pandemic. He spoke to the need for a strong school system and urged the Board to adopt a bond figure of sufficient amount to help the schools.

Michelle Bardsley, Guilford County resident, spoke on behalf of school educators and parents. She announced her candidacy for Guilford County Schools' (GCS) Board District 5. Bardsley expressed her hope to join the school board and work with the Commissioners as a team. She spoke to the need for infrastructure changes, as well as changes in vocational programs and educator pay.

Reverend Frank Thomas spoke to the difficult decisions under consideration and stated, despite the uncertain future, there are still infrastructure needs that must be addressed. He requested the Board allow consideration of school bonds towards funding of the GCS Facilities Master Plan.

Sam "Chip" Cook, Greensboro resident, spoke to the quality teachers in our community and the need for facilities upgrades. He spoke in support of \$1.6 billion school bond.

Kirsten Cassell, Greensboro resident, spoke in support of the full \$1.6 billion school bond referendum. She asked the board for an additional \$31 million of the CARES Act funding in mortgage and rental support for tenants, homeowners, and landlords.

Casey Thomas, member of Guilford for All, spoke to the moratorium of evictions ending on June 1st and requested \$31 million towards housing assistance for community members. She spoke in support of the \$1.6 million school bond request from GCS.

Hugh Latham, Greensboro resident and member of Guilford for All, shared that his father is a landlord and he recognized that there is a need in our community for those who are not able to pay their rent. He requested the Board consider providing \$31 million in CARES Act funding to support residents.

Sarah Sills, Greensboro resident, spoke in support of the \$1.6 billion school bond and the use of one-third of CARES Act funding towards rental and mortgage relief.

Lizzie Biddle, Greensboro resident, commended the Commissioners on their efforts in navigating the current complex situation and spoke in support of the schools' construction plan. She shared that she is a part of a coalition that is collecting signatures for an online petition to support our schools, with 16,000 signatures collected thus far, and spoke in support of the full \$1.6 billion school bond.

Valarie Tutuh, Greensboro resident and PTA member, shared her gratefulness for the Board's support, but expressed disappointment in the current state of school facilities. She spoke in support of the \$1.6 billion school bond referendum.

Irianna "Davares" Burnett, an 8th grader at Kiser Middle School, spoke to the facility needs in the schools.

Melissa Hassard, Greensboro resident and Guilford for All volunteer, spoke against using a phased school bond approach and in support of the full \$1.6 billion bond. She encouraged the Board to use one-third of CARES Act funding towards housing support.

Richard Vanore, Koury Corporation president and TREBIC Vice Chairman, spoke to the need for reinvestment within our community and noted that the decision to raise taxes is not taken lightly. He spoke in support of a \$1.6 billion school bond and the ¼ cent sales tax increase.

Jacqueline Ruiz provided brief comments to the Board in Spanish, but did not have a translator available to provide translation in English.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2020-244 PROCLAMATION IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

Adopt Proclamation in Observance of Memorial Day.

[Legislation Text](#)

Commissioner Henning read the proclamation in observance of Memorial Day.

Veterans Services Director, Robert Shelly, thanked the Board for their support and recognition of those who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Shelly, all veterans, and their families, who have defended our freedoms.

B. 2020-252 PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 17-23 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WEEK IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Adopt proclamation declaring May 17-23 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in Guilford County.

[Legislation Text](#)

Vice Chairman Perdue read the proclamation into the record. He personally thanked the men and women of the Guilford County Emergency Services department, along with hospital and fire service staff.

Emergency Services Director, Jim Albright, recognized all staff in his agency and spoke to the effort required to ensure emergency systems run smoothly.

Chairman Phillips noted the exceptional work of the men and women on the front line and all they do for our citizens.

C. 2020-255 PRESENT CENTENARIAN CERTIFICATE TO MS. DAISY GREESON IN CELEBRATION OF HER 100th BIRTHDAY

Present Centenarian Certificate to Ms. Daisy Greeson.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Branson expressed his honor in presenting the centenarian certificate to Ms. Daisy Greeson and shared he has known her all his life.

JJ Greeson accepted the certificate on behalf of Ms. Greeson.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2020-233 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2019-20 COLLECTION FEE - VTS

Approve the increase of \$150,000 of Property Tax Revenue and increase FY 2019-20 Tax Department budget by the same amount.

Legislation Text

2. 2020-235 DHHS-PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION: CHANDLER DENTAL CLINIC COVID-19 FUNDS - \$8,000

Approve an increase of \$8,000 in Other Revenues and increase the DHHS-Public Health Division FY 2019-20 budget by the same amount to reflect funds received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC for Chandler Dental Clinic for COVID-19 operational support. Funds will be used for protective equipment and supplies.

Legislation Text

3. 2020-237 ADJUSTMENT OF FY 2019-20 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGETS TO REFLECT YEAR-TO-DATE TAX COLLECTION

Approve budget adjustments for the Alamance, Climax, Guilford College, Pinecroft-Sedgefield, Pleasant Garden, and Whitsett Fire Districts and Fire Protection Service District Overlays to align budgets with actual revenues and allow the districts to receive their total combined appropriations.

[Legislation Text](#)

4. 2020-250 DHHS-DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES ENERGY PROGRAM FUNDING AUTHORIZATION FOR FY 2019-20

Approve an increase in Federal/State funds by \$58,761 and increase the FY 2019-20 Health and Human Services (Social Services) budget by the same amount to reflect additional funding authorization for the DHHS-Division of Social Services FY 2019-20 energy program.

[Legislation Text](#)

[EFS-FNSEP-08-2020](#)

[Copy of LIHEAP-2019-20](#)

5. 2020-230 UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCE TAX PURCHASE (FARO SCANNER)

Approve an increase of \$45,806 in Appropriated Fund Balance (Unauthorized Substance Tax Funds) and increase the FY 2019-20 Law Enforcement budget by the same amount to reflect the use of Guilford County Unauthorized Substance Tax funds towards the purchase of a FARO Scanner.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Guilford County Sheriff's Office - 20343414 GSA - System S150 - 4302020](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2020-240 CONTRACT WITH CENTRAL CAROLINA HOLDINGS, L.L.C. D/B/A CENTRAL CAROLINA TIRE DISPOSAL FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SCRAP TIRES AND DISPOSAL FEE ADJUSTMENT

Approve contract, in substantial form, between Guilford County and Central Carolina Holdings LLC, D/B/A Central Carolina Tire Disposal, not anticipated to exceed \$1,070,000 to be effective July 1, 2020 for an initial term of one (1) year with an option for three (3) one-year renewal terms. Approve commensurate disposal fee

adjustment charged by Guilford County to reflect the rates charged by Central Carolina Tire for the term of the disposal agreement.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Central Carolina Holdings LLC 2020-2021 contract\(R\)](#)

[Central Carolina Holdings Secretary of State document_2020](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2020-217 TOWN OF SUMMERFIELD WELCOME SIGN EASEMENT

Approve, in substantial form, the requested granting of a Sign Easement of 5,475 square feet, to the Town of Summerfield for the construction of a Welcome Sign, and authorize staff to take all reasonable actions to finalize and execute said granting.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Town of Summerfield sign esmt. PB 203 - PG 3.pdf](#)

[SFWelcomeSignConcept-9-2019 \(002\)](#)

[cog & gc tosumm sign-04162020165820](#)

[TOS Welcome sign EASEMENT rev reh 4-22-2020 v.2](#)

2. 2020-231 TAX COLLECTION AND BEVERAGE LICENSE REPORTS FOR MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2020

Accept and approve the tax collection report and beverage licenses issued for month ending April 30, 2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

[401C All Guilford 4-30-2020](#)

[Bev 4-30-2020 Detail](#)

3. 2020-232 PROPERTY TAX REBATES AND RELEASES FOR MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2020

Accept and approve property tax rebates and releases for the month ending April 30, 2020.

[Legislation Text](#)

[April 2020 NCVTS Pending Refund Report 8x11.pdf](#)

[April 2020 Rebate and Releases](#)

4. 2020-234 DHHS-DSS MANDATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Receive monthly data regarding the thirteen mandated performance measures as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between Guilford DHHS-Social Services and NC DHHS.

[Legislation Text](#)

[MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS MOU March 2020 Results](#)

[MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS MOU April 2020 Results](#)

5. 2020-236 ALLOCATION OF JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC)
FY 2019-20 DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

Approve the attached revision to the Guilford County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) FY 2019-20 funding budget reflecting an increase of \$8,000 in discretionary award funding for Youth Focus - Psychological Testing program.

[Legislation Text](#)

[FP.2019-2020.Expansion.Guilford County.05.01.2020-Discretionary.pdf](#)

[Award Letter Youth Focus 04.30.20.pdf](#)

[FY20_Discretionary Fund Release_NCDPS_04.08.20.pdf](#)

[JCPC Discretionary Fund Request Guidelines.pdf](#)

[JCPC FY20 Discretionary Funding Timeline.pdf](#)

6. 2020-243 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](#)

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

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020-262 GUILFORD COUNTY CARES ACT: FUNDS RECOVERY PLAN - LIFE LINE ALLOCATIONS

Receive and consider approval of staff proposal for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds recovery plan - LIFE LINE ALLOCATIONS.

Legislation Text

County Manager Marty Lawing thanked the Board for its review of the CARES Act funding plan and allocations, and noted many of the items were resolved during the May 19, 2020 work session. He shared tonight's presentation would give additional recommendations regarding the Community Lifeline Support category.

Emergency Management Director Don Campbell confirmed the Board approved a Phase 1 allocation of \$5 million in CARES Act funding to the Community Lifeline Support category during the recent work session and now staff return to the Board with a division of funding within the category, as follows: \$2.5 million towards the non-profit grant program; \$2 million in support of county fire services; \$500,000 for homeless support services. He introduced the grant program guidance document outlining the purpose and eligibility requirements.

Campbell shared the recommendation that program applications be reviewed, screened and prioritized through the United Way entities in Guilford County, who in turn, would then make funding recommendations to Guilford County for approval and payment. He noted staff recommend a maximum grant award amount of \$50,000 per agency, with a per capita allocation of \$1.9 million in grant funding to be administered by United Way of Greensboro of \$600,000 to be administered by United Way of High Point.

Commissioner Alston questioned when the program would become effective.

Campbell stated they have not had opportunity to work out details with the United Way organizations, but expressed hope the program could begin as soon as possible.

Commissioner Alston encouraged staff to work with United Way to quickly develop a memorandum of understanding that would outline the grant program guidelines, and expressed his hope the program could be implemented within the next week.

Lawing stated that if the Board approves the proposed plan tonight, staff can move forward with implementation, but noted there are several details that must be addressed. He confirmed United Way had expressed preliminary interest in serving as the fiscal agent for these funds, but noted the bulk of the Board's discussion during the work session was to have United Way review and vet applications.

Commissioner Alston stated he was unaware of any other options under consideration with regards to the non-profit assistance program.

Lawing confirmed staff are amenable to any recommendations from the Board, but noted they are most comfortable with United Way recommending eligible non-profits and the county provides the funding directly to the organization.

Chairman Phillips requested the Board approve the proposed plan and utilize the recommended funding disbursement option that was discussed during the recent work session.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad, to approve the staff proposal for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds recovery plan in the Community Lifeline Allocation framework, in substantial form, and authorize staff to finalize the details of the arrangement with United Way to move forward as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Foster questioned if the funding arrangement would also include United Way of High Point.

Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier stated he had spoken with United Way of High Point and they expressed their interest in serving as a fiscal agent, as well.

Commissioner Foster expressed her concerns with the funding allocations to the two (2) agencies and opined on the potential disparities created when using a per capita distribution. She noted High Point has a higher prevalence of COVID-19 cases, based on population, and requested the Board consider increasing High Point's funding allocation to \$900,000 and decreasing the Greensboro's allocation to \$1.6 million.

Chairman Phillips requested the Board consider approving the plan framework in substantial form and allocations could be discussed at a later time. He recommended including Emergency Management staff when discussing the data and questioned if Mr. Campbell had any recommendations regarding the allocation.

Campbell spoke to the challenges associated with distributing funding to two (2) different agencies serving different geographical areas that overlap each other, depending upon the program allocation. He recommended including the “in substantial form” language in the motion to allow staff flexibility when negotiating terms and allocation methods with each United Way entity.

Chairman Phillips reiterated his request to approve the motion on the floor and allow staff time to identify funding disbursement options to present to the Board. He expressed his willingness to consider Commissioner Foster’s recommended changes to the allocation.

County Attorney Mark Payne stated increasing the High Point allocation from \$600,000 to \$900,000 would not be a substantial change.

Commissioner Conrad expressed his support for the motion on the floor and noted this funding also addresses economic recovery, which can include food insecurity and other economic needs. He shared his belief in utilizing a per capita formula to distribute funding.

Commissioner Foster spoke to the impact of COVID-19 cases upon economic recovery.

Commissioner Branson recommended a target date of June 1, 2020 to receive staff recommendations regarding the plan. He expressed his support for the proposed modifications to the High Point allocation.

Vice Chairman Perdue clarified that the per capita distribution for United Way of Greensboro also include unincorporated areas and small towns, while the High Point distribution only includes the population within the city of High Point.

Campbell confirmed this was the intent of the per capital distribution formula.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if the Board could review the plan again, and if additional funds are needed in High Point, an additional allocation could be made in Phase 2. She questioned the eligibility requirements for non-profit organizations.

Campbell discussed the eligible tax designations for non-profit organizations.

Grier provided additional details regarding the tax designations.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if all churches are grandfathered under the 501(c)(3) designation.

Payne confirmed this designation.

Vice Chairman Perdue clarified the motion on the floor to include the option for Guilford County to develop an internal review group that would vet these applications, if negotiations with United Way are not successful.

Payne confirmed this option could be included with the motion, but recommended further discussion between the Board and staff, as there is a benefit to having an experienced organization review these applications.

Chairman Phillips expressed the Board's willingness to work with United Way, but noted if details cannot be finalized, the option to review applications internally should be available.

Vice Chairman Perdue offered the following friendly amendment to the motion on the floor: Approve the staff proposal for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds recovery plan in the Community Lifeline Allocation framework, in substantial form, and authorize staff to finalize the details of the arrangement with United Way, or some other equivalent process either internally or externally, to move forward as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concern that the motion on the floor gives staff too much latitude with regards to the program and noted the Board should remain involved in administering funding.

Chairman Phillips spoke to his recent conversations with other organizations in Greensboro who are interested in partnering with the county to distribute funding.

Commissioner Alston spoke to the need to shore up agreements and solidify the amount of funding the United Way of Greensboro would have available to disburse. He recommended amending the motion on the floor with the modified allocations.

Vice Chairman Perdue stated his intent with regards to the friendly amendment was to ensure implementation of the recommended framework is not delayed if an agreement cannot be reached with United Way.

Commissioner Alston shared his recent conversations with United Way staff indicated their interest in assisting the county with this process.

Commissioner Cashion questioned the barrier with United Way and potential federal funding accountability if they acted as fiscal agent.

Payne confirmed the county would remain accountable for the funding, regardless of who distributes the monies. He noted the original conversation with United Way recommended they receive and vet applications, and then provide funding recommendations to the county, but recent discussions have included the United Way acting as a fiscal agent. Payne spoke to the need to remain flexible in case an agreement cannot be achieved.

Commissioner Cashion expressed her belief that the United Way is willing to work with the county, but reiterated the county's accountability for the funding and the need to remain flexible in this agreement.

Commissioner Foster referenced the recent work session and the discussion regarding United Way as a vehicle for funding distribution. She offered a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor to approve the recommendation, in substantial form, but increase the allocation to High Point to \$1 million and modify the allocation to Greensboro to \$1.5 million.

Vice Chairman Perdue accepted the friendly amendment to the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Coleman reminded the Board of the discussion during the recent work session where United Way would serve as the recommender and the county would disburse funding. She suggested staff return to the United Way with the original arrangement to ensure accountability.

Commissioner Branson expressed concerns regarding the debate surrounding the allocation amounts and spoke to the importance of distributing the funds within the community. He noted the Board represents all of Guilford County and disbursements should reflect this intent.

Payne stated the intent of the recommended framework is to return to the Board with requests for additional funding if the demand outweighs monies made available through the Phase 1 allocation.

Chairman Phillips clarified the motion on the floor.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad to approve the staff proposal for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds recovery plan in the Community Lifeline Allocation framework, in substantial form; authorize staff to finalize the details of the arrangement with United Way and increase the allocation to High Point to \$1 million and modify the allocation to Greensboro to \$1.5 million; or some other equivalent process either internally or externally, to move forward as quickly as possible.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0

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

NOES: None

E. 2020-188 DIRECT COUNTY STAFF TO PREPARE APPLICATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDERS AND PUBLICATIONS TO SET A VOTER REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 FOR 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](#)

[GCS_2019_Facilities_Master Plan.pdf](#)

[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](#)

Chairman Phillips noted New Business items B, C and D were addressed during the recent work session.

Harley Will, Finance Director, introduced the item and referenced previous presentations that offered insight on the Local Government Commission (LGC) application process, debt financing and property tax changes that could result from the bond. He requested the Board provide a bond amount that would be used to prepare the applications and required publications.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue to 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 of \$300 million.

Commissioner Branson confirmed that a lot of thought was placed into this amount and a lot of consideration was given regarding school capital needs. He spoke to the school facility study and feasibility plan to fund school improvements, and spoke to outstanding project ordinances that remain from the school bonds passed in 2008. Branson noted the need for a concise, phased approach when addressing school facilities, that will move projects forward in a timely manner but remain considerate of economic constraints resulting from the recent COVID-19 pandemic. He spoke to the need to utilize other revenue options besides property, such as a ¼ cent sales tax, to ensure the entire community is involved in the effort to improve school facilities.

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston to 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 \$1.6 billion.

Commissioner Alston expressed his displeasure with the motion made by Commissioner Branson and noted the agenda item requests a maximum amount for the LGC application. He shared his hope that the Board would not support the initial motion, but would approve the maximum amount included in the substitute motion and then finalize the amount after the public hearing.

Commissioner Conrad referenced budgetary actions taken by previous Boards and noted that while the school bond issue can evoke a range of emotions, the Board must consider the economic impact of COVID-19 upon the community, and respond accordingly. He expressed his support for the maximum amount included in the motion and noted another bond issuance can be placed on the ballot in two (2) years.

Commissioner Coleman expressed her frustration with the initial motion and voiced concerns that the Board action is not addressing the full needs of our schools.

Vice Chairman Perdue spoke to the multiple responsibilities that must be managed by the Board and spoke to the need for a balanced approach to address school facility issues, in addition to Public Health, Social Services and Public Safety needs. He reiterated another bond issuance could be considered by the public in two (2) years.

Commissioner Cashion spoke to the sensitive situation within the Guilford County community and noted that while she requested a higher bond amount, she understood the reason behind the request included in the initial motion. She expressed her desire to address school facility needs within the next two (2) years and shared her hope that the Board could make a greater impact and designate more funds to support the GCS request. Cashion reiterated her support for the schools, but recognized time constraints associated with addressing a large number of facility projects and utilizing funding in a timely manner.

Chairman Phillips spoke to the importance of addressing school facility needs with prudence and responsibility. He noted Guilford County citizens currently face an unprecedented health crisis and economic recession, and these conditions could rival the 2008 recession. Phillips stated we may not begin to fully realize the impact of this crisis until 2021, especially if there is an anticipated resurgence of the virus, and spoke to the many changes that could result, as a consequence. He referenced the tens of thousands that have lost jobs here in Guilford County, and reaffirmed the opportunity to return to the public with another school bond referendum in two (2) years. Phillips discussed the potential approval of the ¼ cent sales tax option that would provide additional revenue towards payment of future school bonds.

Commissioner Foster expressed her concerns that many families will not rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and noted schools serve as a safety net for many children.

Commissioner Alston expressed his frustration with the process and initial motion, and noted the role and purpose of tonight's motion is to set a maximum amount that will be finalized later in the year. He opined on his perception that the process was becoming personalized and emphasized that the school bond decision lies with the voters. Alston spoke to the financial

impact of the bond and the county's anticipated budget shortfall, and reiterated his displeasure with the bond amount included in the initial motion.

Commissioner Conrad discussed prior Board actions related to the education expenditures and the county budget.

Commissioner Branson emphasized his ties to GCS and expressed his concerns regarding the dire economic and public health situation impacting the county. He requested staff provide additional information regarding ongoing GCS facility maintenance and the opportunity to merge county and school facility departments for consistency.

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Melvin "Skip" Alston to 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 \$1.6 billion.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue to 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 of \$300 million.

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

F. 2020-196 ARTICLE 46 1/4 CENT SALES TAX PROCESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS

Adopt resolution supporting a 1/4 Cent County Sales and Use Tax proposal for the purposes of School Construction needs to be placed on the November 3, 2020 voter referendum.

[Legislation Text](#)

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

[Additional Sales Tax Fact Sheet - May 2020.doc](#)

[Quarter Cent Sales Tax Presentation.pptx](#)

Payne introduced the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent sales tax resolution and noted this resolution recognizes alternative options for the county, based upon General Assembly action. He spoke to recent legislation introduced in the assembly which could change the ballot language and require the revenue from the tax be used only towards the listed uses.

Chairman Phillips noted that, should the Board adopt the resolution, and the General Assembly adds language to target school facility needs, the Board would be able to update ballot language to reflect this change.

Payne confirmed and stated the language gives the county the option to combine the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent sales tax and school bond referendum, or allow citizens to vote on each item separately.

Commissioner Alston questioned the latest date the Board could make changes to the ballot language.

Payne noted this decision would primarily lie with the Elections Director as it relies upon mailing dates for ballots, but recommended changes could be made to the language at either of the June regular meetings.

Chairman Phillips referenced the ballot timeline included in the packet and noted it lists August 3, 2020 would be the latest date for changes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, to adopt resolution supporting a $\frac{1}{4}$ Cent County Sales and Use Tax proposal for the purposes of School Construction needs to be placed on the November 3, 2020 voter referendum.

Commissioner Branson requested additional information regarding a $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales and use tax option, and potential revenue generated from this tax. He questioned if the Board would be able to change the language from $\frac{1}{4}$ cent to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax request if this option is approved by the General Assembly.

Payne stated the current legislation under consideration by the General Assembly would not allow for these changes, as it only addresses a $\frac{1}{4}$ cent sales tax process. He noted if the General Assembly considers a $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax opportunity prior to the issuance of the ballots, the Board would be able to update the ballot language accordingly.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, to adopt resolution supporting a 1/4 Cent County Sales and Use Tax proposal for the purposes of School Construction needs to be placed on the November 3, 2020 voter referendum.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 1
AYES: Hank Henning, J. Carlvena Foster, Jeff Phillips, Justin Conrad, Kay Cashion, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Alan Branson, Alan Perdue
NOES: Carolyn Q. Coleman

VIII. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

Lawing noted the update would address current cases and testing options within the county.

Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director, provided an update regarding COVID-19 positive cases, those recovered and the number of those hospitalized in Guilford County. She noted the daily number of new cases has plateaued, but there has been a slight increase in hospitalizations, primarily resulting from long-term care residents being transported to the hospital for additional care.

Dr. Vann reviewed the current and upcoming testing centers, and noted the Guilford County Public Health department has conducted more community testing than any other health department in the state. She discussed testing conducted by community partners and confirmed they will continue with the aggressive schedule for testing throughout the county, in addition to identifying and working with new community partners.

Dr. Vann reviewed mortality data for Guilford County and noted the current rank of fourth highest amount of cases in North Carolina counties. She noted Guilford County ranks eighth in the number of cases per residents across NC counties, and ranks 4th amongst the largest twenty counties in COVID-related deaths. Dr. Vann emphasized approximately 85% of COVID-19 deaths occur in those age 65 and older, but noted the data breaks down this data into smaller age brackets to mirror state reporting.

Dr. Vann shared Guilford County had a larger percentage of older citizens diagnosed with COVID-19, in comparison to Forsyth and Wake counties. She compared Guilford County's COVID-related mortality rate to other counties with similar rates of mortality and spoke to the impact of congregate living settings on this data.

Dr. Vann discussed the relationship between race and COVID-related mortality rates. She noted Guilford County mirrors the state in incidents of COVID-positive cases amongst White and African-American populations, but has slightly higher rates for Asian and "Other" populations. Dr. Vann discussed the analysis of COVID-positive cases amongst census tracts and noted a higher number of cases amongst African-American communities in High Point and southeast Greensboro.

Commissioner Branson congratulated Dr. Vann on her appointment as DHHS-Public Health Division Director and thanked her for her continued efforts.

Commissioner Foster echoed congratulations and questioned if the COVID testing offered by Harris Teeter is free to the public.

Dr. Vann confirmed the testing is free, but citizens must visit the Harris Teeter website to complete a quick pre-screening and to schedule an appointment.

Commissioner Foster questioned the number of COVID tests completed by the Public Health department, to date.

Dr. Vann confirmed 1,745 tests had been conducted by the health department since May 12, 2020.

Commissioner Alston echoed congratulations and thanked her for implementing the testing site at Windsor Community Center. He confirmed there were no available appointments for May 22 testing date at the center and noted this spoke to the demand for testing in the African-American community. Alston referenced recent discussions with NC A&T State University administrators and their interest in assisting with testing, and questioned why their parking deck is not considered feasible for testing.

Campbell spoke to recent conversations with NC A&T administrators and the emergency manager, and noted they are considering other options. He shared there is no electricity in the parking deck and noted the narrow turn of the deck entrance and exit, combined with their widths, could impact the safety of staff and patients. Campbell spoke to the potential to utilize campus parking lots or other indoor venues as testing sites.

Campbell offered an update regarding potential partnerships with several local churches for community testing, and confirmed he has or will visit these sites with the intent of narrowing down a list of sites for immediate testing opportunities.

Commissioner Alston questioned the status of mobile unit testing.

Dr. Vann discussed the county's partnership with Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine (TAPM) and United Healthcare to implement mobile testing beginning next week. She confirmed a press release will be issued soon regarding this partnership, and noted they are also discussing mobile unit partnership opportunities with Cone Health.

Commissioner Foster questioned if a partnership would be pursued with High Point Health.

Campbell stated staff had reached out to High Point Health officials who indicated they have limited testing capability and therefore not immediately open to partnerships, but hoped this would change within the next week. He confirmed the mobile unit partnership with TAPM will serve Greensboro and High Point sites.

Commissioner Coleman echoed congratulations to Dr. Vann and questioned when the additional testing sites will be opened.

Dr. Vann stated one testing site will open tomorrow with additional sites opening in the next two (2) weeks.

Campbell confirmed he received potential site lists from Commissioner Coleman and City of Greensboro council member Sharon Hightower, and noted they are still visiting and assessing sites at this time.

Chairman Phillips thanked them for the work being conducted on the front lines.

IX. COUNTY MANAGER'S FY 2020-21 BUDGET PRESENTATION

A. 2020-249 COUNTY MANAGER'S FY 2020-21 BUDGET MESSAGE

Hear the County Manager's Budget Message, and set a Public Hearing on the County Manager's FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget and proposed economic development incentive grants for June 4, 2020.

Legislation Text

County Manager Lawing reviewed the budget summary and shared the challenges associated with projecting revenues, specifically sales tax revenue. He spoke to reductions in sales tax revenue as a result of COVID-19, but noted the county was on track to generate \$96 million in sales tax revenue prior to the pandemic. Lawing stated staff project a 12% reduction in revenue for FY 2020-21, and noted June sales tax data will provide additional information regarding COVID-19 impacts.

Lawing discussed new position recommendations and noted a 3% merit increase is proposed, as there is no funding to implement Phase 2 of the compensation and equity study adjustments. He discussed the county's health insurance claims and spoke to the lack of fund balance available to offset claims in FY 2020-21. Lawing confirmed he is not recommending any furloughs, as the county runs a lean operation and furloughs would have a significant impact upon county services, and there is no recommendation for a property tax increase

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad to set a Public Hearing on the County Manager's FY 2020-21 Recommended Budget and proposed economic development incentive grants for June 4, 2020.

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

X. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

Lawing requested the Board consider scheduling a work session prior to the public hearing on the FY 2020-21 recommended budget.

By general consensus, the Board scheduled a work session for June 1, 2020 at 3:00PM.

Chairman Phillips thanked Lawing, Alex Smith, Interim Budget Director, and Will for their efforts during the budget process. He spoke to the challenges the county will face during the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Alston questioned if the Board would schedule a public hearing related to the school bond.

Payne and Robin Keller, Clerk to Board, provided guidance on the process and noted the bond motion includes a scheduled date for the public hearing.

Will offered additional details on the bond order timeline and confirmed formal action will be taken during the June 18, 2020 regular meeting.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Conrad thanked the public for supporting restauranteurs and those in the hospitality industry.

Commissioner Branson extended congratulations to all college and high school graduates. He spoke to the challenges faced by this group.

Commissioner Cashion recognized staff and their efforts in managing the county's COVID-19 response.

Commissioner Coleman thanked the Board for its efforts during the meeting and questioned if restaurants will administer COVID tests to staff as they reopen to the public.

Commissioner Conrad confirmed guidelines were released by the state and noted there will be requirements for temperature testing, social distancing and increased sanitation efforts.

Commissioner Alston spoke to a request he received from a first responder questioning if they were covered under workman's compensation if they contracted the virus while on duty.

County Attorney Payne confirmed if an employee contracts coronavirus while on the job, they are covered under workman's compensation, but spoke to the challenges associated with proving the employee contracted the virus on duty. He discussed the emergency medical leave made available to first responders.

Commissioner Alston questioned the options available if they are out of work for an extended period due to the virus.

Payne clarified the claims process.

Commissioner Alston requested the Board consider scheduling a date to meet with the GCS Board of Education regarding their request for approximately \$36 million to reopen schools in August 2020.

Commissioner Henning wished everyone a safe weekend as restrictions are relaxed across the state.

Commissioner Foster extended congratulations to six (6) High Point students who were recognized in a virtual leadership awards ceremony sponsored by the High Point Schools Partnership. She commended the Black Pearls Society on its sponsorship of webinars that discuss how COVID-19 is impacting local communities. Foster wished all citizens a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Vice Chairman Perdue recognized all college graduates and wished all a safe Memorial Day. He encouraged reflection upon the meaning of the day and pay tribute to veterans and servicemembers.

Chairman Phillips thanked everyone with regards to preparation during the budget process and shared his honor in serving Guilford County citizens alongside the members of this Board. He spoke to the adverse times being faced by the county and thanked Lawing for his leadership during this time.

XII. ADJOURN

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

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

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 9:46PM.

Jeffrey M. Phillips, Chairman

Robin B. Keller, Clerk to Board