

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
January 7, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on January 7, 2021 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston, presiding; Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster; Commissioners James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad and Alan Perdue. Commissioners Carly Cooke and Carolyn Q. Coleman (in at 5:40PM) participated via virtual participation.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; County Attorney Mark Payne; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Jessica Wolf, Deputy Clerk to Board; Worley Smith, Communications Specialist; J. Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Alex Smith, Budget, Management & Evaluation Director; Derrick Bennett, Interim Finance Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Catherine Johnson, Family Justice Center Director; Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director; Heather Skeens, DHHS Director; members of staff and media. Virtual participation was made available to members of the public and media.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplain Ben Chavis offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Melvin "Skip" Alston invited Eagle Scouts Alexandra Santiago, Caroline Ruppel and Selby Chipman with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 219G to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Alston recognized the scouts as the first females in the BSA Old North State Council to attain Eagle rank and shared their service projects. He congratulated them on their accomplishments and presented them with certificates in honor of their achievements.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:35PM. He welcomed the new County Manager, Michael Halford, and District 4 Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy to their first meeting in their new roles.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no Speakers from the Floor.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Alston introduced the addendum to the agenda for Board consideration.

There being no objections, the Board approved the addendum to the agenda by general consensus.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue to adopt the consent agenda.

VOTE:	Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES:	Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Carolyn Q. Coleman

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2021-101 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER ENHANCED COORDINATION AND SUPPORT OF CHILD AND ELDER JUSTICE SERVICES - NC GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION GRANT AWARD

Approve receipt of the NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant Award, increase Federal/State Revenue by \$131,560 and increase the FY 2020-21 Family Justice Center budget by the same amount to reflect the grant funds received. Funds will be used for personnel and professional expenses for existing grant-funded Child Trauma Specialist Coordinator and Elder Justice Specialist Coordinator positions.

[Legislation Text](#)

[GCC FJC Child and Elder Services Grant Award 2020 PROJ014126](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2021-105 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GUILFORD AND FORSYTH COUNTY SOFTWARE AND PERMISSION FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORSYTH COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE

Approve Interlocal agreement with Forsyth County in substantial form

[Legislation Text](#)

[FJC ILA Forsyth Guilford 12-11-20](#)

[Forsyth Agenda Item 12.17.20](#)

2. 2021-111 CONTRACT WITH NORTH STATE SECURITY GROUP, LLC

Approve a contract, in substantial form, with North State Security Group, LLC (dba North State Company Police) in the amount of \$217,442.79 effective December 21, 2020 for a ninety (90) day temporary period for unarmed security services at various county locations.

[Legislation Text](#)

[ADD Security Innovations Termination.pdf](#)

[ADD North State Addendum 1-6-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2021-103 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2020 GUILFORD COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Approve the resolution to adopt the 2020 Guilford County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

[Legislation Text](#)

[1 Guilford County APA Letter 2020 1207.pdf](#)

[Guilford HMP Adoption Resolution.pdf](#)

[Guilford County HMP Draft 051920.pdf](#)

RESOLUTION
ADOPTING GUILFORD COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within Guilford County are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to hazards such as drought, extreme temperatures, hurricanes and tropical storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, wildfires, and numerous other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Part 6, Article 21 of Chapter 143; Parts 3, 5, and 8 of Article 19 of Chapter 160A; and Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted General Statute Section 166A-19.41 (*State emergency assistance funds*) which provides that for a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20(a) after the deadline established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2002, P.L. 106-390, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act; and.

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the County has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated this plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Guilford County to fulfill this obligation in order that the County will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Guilford County hereby:

1. Adopts the Guilford County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Vests Guilford County Emergency Management with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:

- (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
- (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts.

3. Appoints Guilford County Emergency Management to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

4. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2. 2021-100 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the following sets of minutes:

12/07/2020 Organizational Meeting

12/09/2020 Special Meeting

[Legislation Text](#)

[dm120720.pdf](#)

[dm120920f.pdf](#)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021-102 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER SPECIALIZED CRISIS ASSESSMENT, COORDINATION AND NAVIGATION SERVICES AND ADDITION OF TWO (2) NAVIGATOR POSITIONS - NC GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION GRANT AWARD

Approve receipt of the NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant Award, increase Federal/State Revenue by \$94,477 and increase the FY 2020-21 Family Justice Center budget by the same amount to reflect grant funds received, and approve the creation of two (2) FJC Navigator positions to be contingent upon continued grant funding.

[Legislation Text](#)

[GCC FJC Navigator Grant Award 2020 PROJ014233](#)

Catherine Johnson, Family Justice Center Director, introduced the item.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster to approve receipt of the NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant Award, increase Federal/State Revenue by \$94,477 and increase the FY 2020-21 Family Justice Center budget by the same amount to reflect grant funds received, and approve the creation of two (2) FJC Navigator positions, to be contingent upon continued grant funding.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue
NOES: None
ABSENT: Carolyn Q. Coleman

B. 2021-106 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF GREENSBORO FOR BOARD OF HEALTH RULE ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AIDE

Approve Interlocal Agreement, in substantial form, with City of Greensboro for mutual aid enforcement of County Board of Health COVID-19 Enforcement Rule.

[Legislation Text](#)

[G'boro BOH Rule MOU 12-15-20 final.docx](#)

County Attorney Mark Payne reviewed the passage of the County's Board of Health Rule which allows the County to utilize municipal resources, based on an agreement to aid in the enforcement of the rule.

Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman arrived to the meeting at 5:41 PM.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to approve an Interlocal Agreement, in substantial form, with City of Greensboro for mutual-aid enforcement of County Board of Health COVID-19 Enforcement Rule.

VOTE: Motion carried 7 - 2
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman
NOES: Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue

VII. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director, stated that as of today the County has had a total of 24,100 COVID-19 positive cases and are averaging 350-400 new cases daily. She noted that the County has yet to experience the full impact of a potential surge of cases resulting from the holiday season.

Dr. Vann confirmed they have observed a 15% positivity rate of community spread during the first week of January and there have been a total of 318 COVID-19 related deaths in Guilford. She provided an overview of related data.

Commissioner Justin Conrad referenced his previous request for a list of the individuals who underwent training to enforce the Board of Health COVID-19 civil penalty rule.

Dr. Vann confirmed she will provide this information tomorrow.

Commissioner James Upchurch referenced the community spread metrics provided on the Guilford County website and noted they show a significant decrease over the last 10-14 days. He requested additional clarification regarding this metric.

Dr. Vann stated the graphs only reflect the prior fourteen (14) day period and noted that her team is still actively adding data that was not included over the holiday break and will change as the data is being updated.

Vice Chairman Foster shared positive feedback received regarding the testing sites at the High Point Public Health department, and commended staff on the wonderful job with the sites, the speed of results and Dr. Vann's response to questions.

Dr. Vann stated also thanked the community and federal partners who assisted in the success of these sites.

Dr. Vann reviewed the County's vaccination plans and noted the approved vaccines are 95% effective there were no safety concerns that arose during the clinical trials. She shared Guilford County received its first allocation on December 23 and noted that while they will receive weekly allocations from NCDHHS, they not informed of the number of dosages until the Friday prior to the week of delivery.

Dr. Vann stated they have vaccinated approximately 550 individuals and have 600 scheduled appointment slots for Phase 1a implementation next week and noted the County will also begin vaccine distribution for residents age 75 and older next week. She shared Phase 1a of the vaccine plan has strictly limited distributions to long-term care, skilled nursing and group home facility residents and staff, along with healthcare staff. Dr. Vann stated they have been working with Cone Health and other community partners to distribute the vaccine quickly within the community.

Dr. Vann confirmed they have developed complex plans for vaccination plans offered at three (3) sites within Guilford offering clinics five (5) days a week to allow maximum capacity for vaccine distribution with the amount allocated to us by NCDHHS, and reiterated the County is strictly following the state distribution plan.

Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director, provided an overview of the logistical details of the vaccine distribution process and expressed appreciation for staff's flexibility in transitioning to this next phase of the vaccination plan. He shared the County has been working with employers to identify eligible employees under Phase 1a where they were directed to Bur-mil park for these distributions.

Campbell stated they are now moving to serve Phase 1b – Group 1 consists of residents age 75 and older, which encompasses an additional 40,000 citizens. He shared they are planning to coordinate with local partners to ensure a safe and efficient process for vaccine distribution, while entering required information into the state's vaccine centralized management system. Campbell shared a vaccine reservation line will open tomorrow morning at 8:00AM to schedule an appointment at a Greensboro or High Point vaccination site.

Campbell spoke to the challenges of administering initial vaccines while preparing to double the number of citizens served every 21 or 28 days to accommodate booster shots. He confirmed the County will maintain three (3) vaccination clinic sites. Campbell noted they may work within Phase 1b – Group 1 for several weeks, dependent upon the amount of vaccine allocated by the state weekly and indicated the logistics will change as we transition to serving Groups 2 and 3.

Vice Chairman Foster questioned if staff could provide a breakdown of those who have been vaccinated by zip code.

Campbell shared the state's reporting system is not ideal and does not offer this data, but staff are working to develop an internal reporting system to assist with data management. He noted Guilford has experienced similar issues with the state's community spread and infection database.

Commissioner Upchurch questioned the total number vaccinated, thus far.

Campbell reported close to 600 have been vaccinated by the Guilford County Public Health department but noted Cone Health and other providers are also vaccinating community members eligible under Phase 1a.

Commissioner Upchurch questioned the number of individuals per day that could be vaccinated beginning Monday morning.

Campbell stated the goal is vaccinate approximately 750 individuals daily; however, other providers will eventually begin offering vaccinations within the community, which will increase the capacity for vaccinations.

Commissioner Conrad questioned the original CDC guidelines related to providing care for homeless individuals during the pandemic.

Campbell shared the original guidance recommended homeless individuals shelter in place versus bringing them to a centralized space and noted Guilford County created the quarantine hotel for homeless individuals infected with COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms and awaiting results.

Commissioner Conrad expressed his concerns with a centralized approach to assist homeless individuals at the Greensboro Sportsplex.

Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy questioned the percentage of participation in vaccination clinics during Phase 1a.

Campbell stated participation was initially slow due to vaccine hesitancy that they are attempting to address through educational marketing materials, but they have observed a recent increase.

Commissioner Murphy questioned if staff planned on adding evening and weekend dates and times for the clinics.

Campbell confirmed they are planning to expand availability; however, they only have sufficient allocation for appointments through Friday afternoon. He noted as they continue to expand vaccinations to a growing number of citizens, they anticipate learning lessons that will be of benefit when expanding capacity.

Commissioner Murphy questioned if the County is sufficiently staffed to keep up with vaccine demand as we transition to serving additional groups.

Campbell stated that next week vaccination clinics will be staffed primarily by County employees, but they plan to collaborate with community partners and volunteers to assist in expanding the process. He shared certain sites were chosen because of their capacity to expand and noted they will continue to evaluate the potential over time, with assistance from local partners.

Commissioner Cooke thanked Dr. Vann and Mr. Campbell for their hard work and questioned when Cone Health and other community would begin serving groups in Phase 1b, requested staff share the communication efforts regarding the County's vaccination plan and questioned if educators were included in Phase 1b – Group 2.

Campbell stated Cone Health will announce their plans within the next day. He noted educators will fall into Phase 1b – Group 3 or 4, which will be reached when state guidance allows us to transition to these next groups and spoke to ongoing efforts to remain in communication with Guilford County Schools and private schools regarding the County's vaccination plan.

Dr. Vann discussed the press releases and website updates that have communicated the County's vaccination efforts and shared staff are manning our social media platforms to answer any

questions that may arise regarding vaccine hesitancy and myth disbursement, and confirmed information sessions have been planned, as well, to ensure complete transparency.

Commissioner Conrad questioned if there was any prioritization within the specific groups.

Dr. Vann stated there are specific requirements for each phase and the state establishes guidance and vaccination schedules for high risk groups. She noted that within Phase 1b – Group 1 there is no additional prioritization beyond age and shared they are awaiting additional clarification from NCDHHS regarding vaccinations for Groups 2 and 3.

Chairman Alston questioned who determines the amount of dosages the County receives.

Dr. Vann stated that the state receives an allocation from the federal government and NCDHHS determines the allocations disbursed to public health departments based upon an algorithm that accounts for county population and ICU capacity.

The Board further discussed the details of the vaccination plan.

Chairman Alston thanked staff for their fantastic work and making the changes necessary to support the community in this process.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Halford thanked the board for their kind remarks and expressed his appreciation to County staff for their hard work.

IX. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perdue welcomed back Mr. Halford and noted many citizens do recognize the extra hours staff work to maintain county functions in the midst of the pandemic.

Commissioner Conrad echoed welcome wishes to Mr. Halford.

Vice Chairman Foster welcomed Mr. Halford and shared her attendance at a virtual ribbon-cutting for the Piedmont Federal Aviation Credit Union in Greensboro, NC. She recognized Chairman Alston's recent appearance in a recently televised COVID-19 educational campaign and thanked our community partners for their hard work and support during these challenging times. She expressed condolences to the family of former Commissioner John Parks in his recent passing.

Commissioner Upchurch welcomed Mr. Halford and recognized the efforts of County employees for their assistance in getting the new Commissioners updated over the last few weeks.

Commissioner Murphy thanked the Board for their welcome and support and thanked her District 4 constituents for electing her to serve on their behalf. She welcomed Mr. Halford to the team.

Commissioner Cashion provided an update on upcoming 2021 NCACC Legislative Goals conference where the association's top 5 legislative goals will be finalized. She discussed a recent NACo meeting that focused upon Emergency Management and the potential to increase the federal government's funding responsibility for catastrophic events. She extended condolences to the family of former Commissioner John Parks and noted he was also a former Guilford County Schools Board of Education member. Cashion welcomed Mr. Halford back to Guilford County.

Chairman Alston led the Board in a moment of silent reflection in honor of former Commissioner John Parks.

Chairman Alston extended condolences to the Parks family and expressed his interest establishing a community task force to study the need for an additional school bond referendum. He also shared his intent to establish a school budget committee and requested re-establishment of the Joint School Capital and Facilities Planning Committee. Alston requested staff coordinate a meeting with the Guilford delegation to discuss the potential for a local bill that would allow us to include language on a ballot for a ¼ or ½ cent sales tax referendum that would designate any revenue generated towards school construction and also requested staff coordinate a meeting with local mayors to discuss budget needs.

Commissioner Cooke echoed welcoming remarks to Mr. Halford and welcomed Commissioner Murphy to the Board.

Commissioner Coleman thanked DSS staff for their work in coordinating feeding programs and thanked all staff for their work on the County's vaccination plan. She extended condolences to the Parks family and spoke to the impact of the pandemic. Coleman noted Cone Health has become so overwhelmed with the volume of COVID-19 related deaths that they have been forced to utilize a morgue trailer until local funeral homes can develop alternative plans to manage burial services.

Commissioner Cashion noted one of the top three (3) legislative goals brought forth by the NCACC Tax and Finance steering committee is to allow changes ¼ cent sales tax ballot language, as well.

Vice Chairman Foster thanked Clerk to Board Robin Keller for her professionalism and efforts she put forth as Interim County Manager.

X. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (3) and (6) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner James Upchurch, to hold closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (3) and (6) for the purpose of consulting with the County Attorney and to discuss a personnel matter.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Carly Cooke, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue
NOES: None

The meeting was recessed into closed session at 7:01PM.

By general consensus of the Board, the meeting was reconvened from closed session into open session at 7:35PM.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad, to adopt the annual salary of the Guilford County Elections Director, in accordance with N.C.G.S 163-3SC and upon the recommendations of the Guilford County Board of Elections, per the included attachment (incorporated herein).

VOTE: Motion carried 7 - 0
AYES: Melvin "Skip" Alston, J. Carlvena Foster, James Upchurch, Mary Beth Murphy, Kay Cashion, Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue
NOES: None
ABSENT: Carly Cooke and Carolyn Q. Coleman

December 14, 2020

Honorable Skip Alston, Chairman
Guilford County Board of Commissioners
301 West Market Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please accept this letter as an unanimous recommendation for a six and one-half percent (6.5%) merit increase for Mr. Charlie Collicutt, Director of the Guilford County Board of Elections. This is both due to merit and to ensure that his salary, in accordance with GS § 163-35(c), "shall be commensurate with the salary paid to directors in counties similarly situated and similar in population and number of registered voters."

This was an unprecedented election year. There was a record number of ballots cast, a huge increase in by mail voting, 25 Early Voting sites, extremely close county and statewide results which led to protest hearings, machine recounts, and hand-eye recounts. Mr. Collicutt recruited over two hundred *additional* poll workers for early voting and because of the pandemic, and had to train these workers virtually. I know that Mr. Collicutt worked in excess of twelve hour days, Monday through Sunday, for three weeks prior to and during election day, and many weeks without a day off prior to that.

He also successfully oversaw the deployment of a new paper ballot-based system in a very short time period before the March Primary. This system is labor intensive and required Mr. Collicutt to plan out a system, really a new logistical process, that kept his staff sharp and rested and able to do their jobs.

While solving the problems that occurred during the election process, Mr. Collicutt maintained a positive outlook and demeanor that was reflected by his staff as they dealt with non-stop questions from the public, press and both political parties.

Mr. Collicutt's outstanding ability to navigate through the court system and other agencies secured a large amount of space in the bottom floor of the courthouse and for the exclusive use of the Board of Elections (along with rental space for housing the new voting system and pallets of PPE). This new space allowed our entire tabulating process to move to that location with room for volunteers, staff, the Board, observers and the two new counting machines. Without that extra space we would still be counting votes.

All of the above took place amid the backdrop of Covid-19, the virus that was raging through Guilford County hospitalizing and killing our fellow citizens and completely complicating the election process.

Mr. Collicutt is one of, if not the best directors in the State. The State Board of Elections regards Guilford County as the gold standard for elections in North Carolina. This raise recommendation is based on his outstanding leadership during the past year and a requirement to maintain a salary commensurate with other similarity situated counties according to GS § 163-35(c).

Horace M. Kimel, Jr.
Chairman,
Guilford County Board of Elections

XI. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:37PM.

Melvin “Skip” Alston
Chairman

Robin B. Keller
Clerk to Board