

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

Greensboro, North Carolina
September 16, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on September 16, 2021 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michael Halford; County Attorney Mark Payne; Assistant County Manager Jason Jones; Clerk to Board Robin Keller; Jessica Wolf, Deputy Clerk to Board; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Worley Smith, Communications Manager; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director; Dr. Iulia Vann, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Dwight Godwin, Interim Parks Director;

Chairman Alston welcomed those present and called for a moment of silent prayer in memory of Ms. Gladys F. Shipman, a longstanding community leader who passed away on Monday.

Chairman Alston introduced Mr. Brian Greene, a US Marine Corps Veteran, who would lead the Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplin Ben Chavis offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Greene led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alston called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no speakers during this portion of the meeting.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. 2021-369 PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS
"PREPAREDNESS MONTH" IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Proclaim September 2021 as "Emergency Preparedness Month" (Preparedness Month)
in Guilford County.

Legislation Text

Commissioner Kay Cashion invited Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director and Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director, to receive the proclamation as she read it into the minutes.

PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 2021 AS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN GUILFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month (NPM) is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Guilford County was impacted by three (3) presidentially declared disasters, including the East Greensboro Tornado, Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, which all resulted in significant damages to county residences and business; and

WHEREAS, counties throughout North Carolina have been affected by a variety of emergencies, including mudslides, wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the State of North Carolina experienced 48 tornado touchdowns, 247 flood incidents and 609 severe thunderstorms with damaging wind and hail, all of which resulted in more than \$27.5 million in damages statewide; and

WHEREAS, the peak period of hurricane season is historically mid-August through October, and September 10 marks the peak of hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, August 14, 2021, NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) President Frank Williams announced the "100 Counties Prepared" initiative; and

WHEREAS, the 100 Counties Prepared initiative will focus on training county commissioners on how to effectively lead during emergencies, compiling resources to assist during emergency situations and helping commissioners establish relationships with key emergency management partners; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 theme of National Preparedness Month is “Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.”; and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is aimed at encouraging citizens to develop an emergency plan, build an emergency kit and take other proactive steps to prepare for potential emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners wishes every household, property owner and business within the county be prepared for potential emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim September 2021 as “**GUILFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH**” and encourages all county residents to “Prepare to Protect” their loved ones for weather-related and man-made disasters by assembling their emergency supply kits; and developing, updating and/or communicating their emergency plans with their households and within their businesses.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue, to proclaim September 2021 as "Emergency Preparedness Month" (Preparedness Month) in Guilford County.

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

Commissioner Cashion expressed her appreciation for the leadership and guided offered by Albright and Campbell.

Campbell thanked the Board and noted the County is fortunate to receive support from over 120 agencies during emergencies and natural disasters.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Alston referenced the addendum to the agenda. By general consensus, the Board adopted the addendum to meeting agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Justin Conrad, and seconded by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster to adopt the consent agenda.

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

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. 2021-355 BUDGET AMENDMENT REPORT FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS PROCESSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE COUNTY MANAGER IN THE FY 2021-22 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Receive Budget Amendment report for budget amendments processed under the authority granted to the County Manager in the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Budget Amends Report 2021-09-16.pdf](#)

B. CONTRACTS

1. 2021-362 APPROVE CONTRACT WITH EVERBRIDGE FOR A SHARED COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Approve contract with EverBridge, in substantial form, for the provision of a community notification system, in the amount of \$123,553.90 for an initial term of one (1) year, with two (2) one-year renewal options; consistent with the inter-local agreements approved during the BOCC September 2, 2021 meeting. This project is shared countywide with Greensboro, High Point, Guilford County and available to the towns.

[Legislation Text](#)

[90003478 - Everbridge.docx](#)

[Guilford County NC - Quotation Move to GSA Contract.pdf](#)

2. 2021-371 APPROVE INSTALLMENT FINANCING RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT

Adopt attached resolution authorizing and approving an installment financing contract and authorizing the execution and delivery of documents, therewith. Approve installment financing contract, in substantial form, in the amount of \$3,386,000 towards the acquisition of 65 vehicles and related costs, to be effective upon execution of financing documents.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Approval Resolution- IFC \(vehicles\)](#)

[Installment Financing Contract-IFC \(vehicles\)](#)

[GC Vehicle Purchase - Exhibit A](#)

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. 2021-357 TAX COLLECTION AND BEVERAGE LICENSE REPORTS FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021

Accept and approve the tax collection report and beverage licenses issued for month ending August 31, 2021.

[Legislation Text](#)

[401C All Guilford 8-31-2021.pdf](#)

[Bev 8-31-2021 Detail.pdf](#)

2. 2021-358 PROPERTY TAX REBATES AND RELEASES FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021

Accept and approve property tax rebates and releases for the month ending August 31, 2021.

[Legislation Text](#)

[August 2021 NCVTS Pending Refund Report.pdf](#)

[August 2021 Rebate and Releases.pdf](#)

3. 2021-366 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the following set of meeting minutes:
08/26/2021 Board of Health Special Meeting

[Legislation Text](#)

[dmwsx_08.26.21.pdf](#)

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2021-327 HOLD PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISION OF EXISTING BOARD OF HEALTH RULES: REGULATIONS GOVERNING HEALTH HAZARDS, POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS, AND COUNTY WELLS IN GUILFORD COUNTY

Conduct a public hearing, pursuant to NC General Statute 153A-45 and 130A-39(d), and approve the revision of the regulations governing Health Hazards, Potential Health Hazards, and County Wells in Guilford County to be effective October 1, 2021.

[Legislation Text](#)

[09.16.21 Notice Public Hearing BOH Rule.pdf](#)

[REGULATIONS GOVERNING HEALTH HAZARDS AND POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS IN GUILFORD COUNTY _REV_ August 1 2021 _v2.pdf](#)

[Highlights of 2021 Rule Changes - 2021-07-08.pdf](#)

[2021-10-01 Rules - complete draft 2021-07-02 _v2.pdf](#)

Dr. Iulia Vann reviewed the proposed modifications to the Board of Health rules and noted these amendments will eliminate redundant portions of the rules that are now covered under the Solid Waste sections of the Unified Development Ordinance, but will maintain provisions for mosquito and rodent control.

Chairman Alston opened the floor for questions from the Commissioners.

Chairman Alston opened the public hearing and opened the floor for proponents. There being none, he opened the floor to any opponents. There being none, he closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman, and seconded by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, to conduct a public hearing, pursuant to NC General Statute 153A-45 and 130A-39(d), and approve the revision of the Regulations Governing Health Hazards, Potential Health Hazards, and County Wells in Guilford County to be effective October 1, 2021.

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

B. 2021-367 HOLD PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO GUILFORD COUNTY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 4 (AMBULANCE SERVICES)

Conduct a public hearing, pursuant to N.C.G.S 153A-250, and approve proposed revisions to Guilford County Code of Ordinances Chapter 4 (Ambulance Services) to be effective immediately.

[Legislation Text](#)

[EMS NOPH Ordinance Ch 4 Amendment 9-3-21 v2.pdf](#)

[Ambulance Franchise Ordinance 9-3-21.pdf](#)

Albright introduced the item and noted the proposed text amendments to Chapter 4 (Ambulance Services) of the Guilford County Ordinance are necessary to ensure the provision of adequate and continuing ambulance service, and to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of citizens.

Albright specified the proposed addition will allow the County to grant an emergency contract to a non-franchised provider of ambulance services on a time-limited basis during an emergency or major catastrophe within the County.

Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster questioned the County's relationship with Piedmont Triad Ambulance & Rescue (PTAR).

Albright confirmed PTAR is a franchise provider and longstanding community partner in ambulance services. He noted the increased need for emergency medical services created by the COVID-19 pandemic has exceeded the County's and PTAR's resources, resulting in the need for this ordinance amendment.

Chairman Alston opened the public hearing and opened the floor for any proponents of the item.

Gart Evans, Chair of the Board of Directors of PTAR, shared the organization is a non-profit franchise that provides emergency and non-emergency services 24/7 and noted they have recently celebrated fifty (50) years of services. He shared his endorsement of the request for the text amendment, and reminded the Board that PTAR is a valuable part of the Guilford County Emergency Services Plan.

Mr. Evans noted that, as partner, their goal is to provide reliable transportation primarily to the County's senior and indigent residents. He stated they provide a fee-based service and receive no funding, as they are charged a dispatch fee of \$20.00 per call which resulted in a total expense of \$110,000 last year.

Mr. Evans confirmed their resources have been stretched to the maximum limits during the pandemic, along with those of Guilford County EMS. He reminded the Board that they are partners and spoke to the high level of standards they must follow in order to achieve the level of service offered by Guilford County.

There being no other proponents, Chairman Alston opened the floor for opponents. There being none, he closed the public hearing.

Vice Chair Foster thanked PTAR for its years of partnership with Guilford County and questioned if they will be able to continue meeting the calls for service and number of ambulances they run.

Mr. Evans stated PTAR has between 15-18 units in service. He confirmed they would be able to meet the level of demand, but noted they also face staffing shortages and resource concerns.

Commissioner Alan Perdue echoed Vice Chair Foster's appreciation for their service and stated the Guilford County EMS team is strong due to its partnership with Metro 911, fire service and franchise providers.

Commissioner Cashion noted Mr. Evans serves on the PTAR Board of Directors and as a Guilford County representative on the Sandhills Center Board. She thanked him for his service.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Vice J. Carlvena Foster, to conduct a public hearing, pursuant to N.C.G.S 153A-250; find that the proposed amendments to the Guilford County Code Sections 4-2 and 4-23 are necessary to assure the provision of adequate and continuing ambulance services and to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare; and approve proposed revisions to Guilford County Code of Ordinances Chapter 4 (Ambulance Services) to be effective immediately.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021-360 DHHS-PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION BUDGET AMENDMENT: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY TESTING SCHOOL HEALTH STAFFING - \$7,941,292

Approve an increase of \$7,941,292 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH - Women's & Children's Health Branch in the amount of \$7,941,292 to be used for COVID-19 screening testing and related costs for Guilford County public schools' students and staff.

Legislation Text

ELC Testing SH Staffing Addendum

Dr. Vann introduced the agenda item and shared this is one of multiple revenue contracts with NCDHHS that is designed to assist our public-school system. She noted the funds cover a variety of areas, including: testing and support of the schools' response to COVID-19 protection and mitigation. Dr. Vann reviewed the approved uses of the funding.

Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman questioned the positions that would be filled with these funds.

Dr. Vann stated school nurses, contract nurses, medical personnel to assist with test administration, like CNA's, as well as clerical staff offering program support can be hired with these funds.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the department requested this grant funding.

Dr. Vann noted this funding was automatically granted by the state using federal dollars.

Motion was made by Vice J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion, to approve an increase of \$7,941,292 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH - Women's & Children's Health Branch in the amount of \$7,941,292 to be used for COVID-19 screening testing and related costs for Guilford County public schools' students and staff.

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

**B. 2021-359 DHHS-PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION BUDGET AMENDMENT:
ADVANCING EQUITY - \$39,900 AND ADDITION OF NEW FULL-TIME
GRANT-FUNDED POSITION (EQUITY COORDINATOR)**

Approve an increase of \$39,900 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH-Chronic Disease and Injury Section. Authorize the creation and approval of one (1) temporary full-time, grant-funded Community Health Educator II as Equity Coordinator. Previously awarded and adopted COVID-19 grant dollars will also be used to cover the cost of full-time position.

[Legislation Text](#)

[Advancing Equity Addendum](#)

Dr. Vann introduced the item and noted staff have been conducting a lot of health equity work since the beginning of the pandemic through testing, case investigation and vaccination efforts. She stated this funding will assist the department in consolidating these activities in a concise manner, and will also align them with the overall county goals related to health equity. Dr. Vann shared the grant funding will be supplemented with existing COVID-19 funding to cover the cost of a full-time position.

Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster requested additional clarification regarding the goal of advancing health equity.

Dr. Vann noted the expectation for the contract is fairly flexible, though the grant is focused on the COVID-19 response and historically marginalized populations most impacted by the pandemic. She discussed the training opportunities targeted towards improving disparities in medical care for our underserved populations and stated this position will specifically work with minority community members and immigrant populations.

Vice Chairman Foster questioned if the grant funding would cover salary and benefits for the position.

Dr. Vann reiterated this grant funding would be supplemented with previously adopted COVID-19 funds to cover salary, benefits and operational expenses for the full-time position.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the potential salary for the position.

Dr. Vann stated she does not have the exact amount of the salary grade, but noted the position would be comparable to a Health Educator II position.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman, and seconded by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, to approve an increase of \$39,900 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH-Chronic Disease and Injury Section. Authorize the creation and approval of one (1) temporary full-time, grant-funded Community Health Educator II as Equity Coordinator. Previously awarded and adopted COVID-19 grant dollars will also be used to cover the cost of full-time position.

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

C. 2021-361 DHHS-PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION BUDGET AMENDMENT: COVID SCHOOL HEALTH LIAISON - \$115,000 AND ADDITION OF ONE GRANT FUNDED POSITION (SCHOOL HEALTH LIAISON COORDINATOR)

Approve an increase of \$115,000 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH - Women's & Children's Health Branch and authorize the creation and approval of one (1) temporary, full-time grant-funded Nursing Services Supervisor as a School Health Liaison Coordinator.

[Legislation Text](#)

[ELC Reopening Schools - Liaison rev. 1 Addendum](#)

Dr. Vann introduced the final contract and shared this funding has been distributed across the state to support work conducted in local schools. She noted the position will serve as the liaison with public, charter and private schools to ensure COVID-19 guidance and information has been sufficiently distributed. Dr. Vann confirmed this work has been performed by other staff over the past ten (10) months, but the grant funds will allow a dedicated position to act in this role. reviewed the final contract for Public Health.

Commissioner Cooke expressed her support for the item and questioned if this is a temporary position.

Dr. Vann confirmed this position, as well as those approved in the previous items, are all one (1) year temporary positions.

Motion was made by Vice Chair J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman, to approve an increase of \$115,000 in Federal/State Revenues and increase the FY 2021-22 Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health) budget by the same amount to reflect funds awarded by DPH - Women's & Children's Health Branch and authorize the creation and approval of one (1) temporary, full-time grant-funded Nursing Services Supervisor as a School Health Liaison Coordinator.

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

E. 2021-287 2021 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Authorize staff to submit an application for the 2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant. If awarded, authorize staff to take all reasonable and necessary steps to allocate match funding, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, from the Open Space Acquisition Capital Project Ordinance and Manager's Contingency.

[Legislation Text](#)

[LWCF Grant Information.pdf](#)

[Guilford_Mackintosh_Trail_PropertyOwnership \(1\).pdf](#)

[1690 Wheeler Bridge Road.pdf](#)

[1736 Wheeler Bridge Road.pdf](#)

Interim Parks Director Dwight Godwin introduced the item and shared the grant will allow them to work with the City of Burlington to secure 158 acres for Guilford Mackintosh Park. He noted the total grant match amount is \$500,000, with the City of Burlington providing the remaining balance of \$250,000.

Commissioner Cashion thanked Godwin for bringing this item before the Board and questioned if the Parks & Recreation Commission had approved the request.

Godwin confirmed that each of the advisory board members was consulted, as well as volunteers that supported the Open Space

Mr. Godwin shared that each of the members of the advisory board, as well as those volunteers that supported the Open Space acquisition bond funding, were consulted and unanimously supported the item.

Commissioner Cashion thanked him and spoke to the importance of consulting those who serve on our advisory boards and commissions.

Commissioner Justin Conrad questioned if the County's participation in the grant application process is contingent upon the City of Burlington approving to participate in the grant application and allocation of match funding.

Godwin confirmed and shared the Burlington City Council is expected to approve the item during its next regular meeting.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Godwin for his efforts on this project.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and seconded by Commissioner Justin Conrad, to authorize staff to submit an application for the 2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant. If awarded, authorize staff to take all reasonable and necessary steps to allocate match funding, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, from the Open Space Acquisition Capital Project Ordinance and Manager's Contingency.

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

D. 2021-368 PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL (PTRC) REGIONAL FOOD ASSESSMENT REPORT

[Receive report from Piedmont Triad Regional Council \(PTRC\) on its Regional Food Assessment Report.](#)

[Legislation Text](#)

[PTRCGuilford County Profile.pdf](#)

[PTRFCRegionalFoodSystemAss.pdf](#)

Jennifer Bedrosian, Regional Food Systems Coordinator with Piedmont Triad Regional Council, introduced the assessment findings and noted that many key items from the report can be found online and are also available via video updates. She shared they were able to provide zip code specific data regarding areas of food insecurity and discussed the assessment highlight

categories: food security, community assets & network analysis, food & farm production, supply chains, and market analysis & economic assessment.

Ms. Bedrosian shared this was the first time the PTRC had provided a report of this type with such granular-level data and noted the assessment shows there are multiple opportunities for increase collaboration, grant programs and hunger alleviation programs within the region. She offered the example of a medical provider in Forsyth County who created a food prescription program for older adults. Ms. Bedrosian discussed data results for the remaining four (4) areas of research and emphasized the need for food cold storage across the region.

Commissioner Conrad thanked her for her report and spoke to the shipping challenges he personally experiences in the food industry. He discussed the significant trucking shortage and its impact upon shipping rates in North Carolina.

Commissioner Cashion spoke to the tremendous amount of work encompassed in the report and noted this is a public health, economic development and social justice issue. She expressed her hope that this work could be partnered with comparable assessments being conducted by the NCACC.

IX. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

Campbell introduced the updated and shared Guilford County is expected to reach over 60,000 COVID-19 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic. He noted that while a slight decrease has been observed during the week of Labor Day, numbers have now returned to 320-330 new cases per day. Campbell shared hospitalizations have declined from 170 to 141 as of today, which can be attributed to the mask mandate and increasing trends in vaccinations. He confirmed they have added testing sites with expanded hours and noted that certain members of his team are focusing on death rates in the County. Campbell shared an additional 63 verified deaths will be added to the numbers, with another 23 deaths pending verification.

Campbell stated the percentage of individuals age 18 and under have increased to 26%, and noted they are continuing to work with school partners to ensure students remain in schools. He reported at least 59.3% of the eligible population has received their first vaccine dose, while 58.2% are fully vaccinated.

Dr. Vann expressed her pride in community members age 65 and older who have a first-dose vaccination rate of 92%. She shared they anticipate emergency use authorization for a Pfizer booster vaccination within the next 48 hours and provided updates on community vaccination options. Dr. Vann shared the CDC recommends co-administration of the COVID booster dose with the flu vaccine or other immunizations. She discussed monoclonal antibody treatment that has been approved via emergency use authorization and discussed providers that are offering this option.

Dr. Vann provided an update on enforcement of the Board of Health mandatory mask rule and discussed the number of violations received and the County's response. She noted they currently

have five (5) full-time enforcement and two (2) part-time enforcement staff who are working to ensure public safety in this area.

Chairman Alston requested Campbell provide the number of vaccinations based on the total population.

Campbell stated 59.3% of those vaccinated out of the total population have received their first dose, with 49.9% fully vaccinated.

Chairman Alston noted that our vaccination goal remains 70%.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the County's efforts to call and contact those who have only received one (1) vaccination.

Campbell shared NCDHHS is conducting outreach to individuals who should have received a second dose via phone and email, and staff are also reaching out to Guilford County residents via email reminders.

Campbell noted the RFP for additional staffing has been posted to increase manpower to continue conducting this type of outreach.

Commissioner Coleman encouraged staff to continue working on this type of outreach.

Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy questioned if the booster dose would only be available to those who previously received the Pfizer vaccine.

Dr. Vann confirmed that there is no indication that mixing vaccine brands will be allowed, therefore only those who received the Pfizer vaccine would be eligible for the booster dose.

Commissioner Murphy noted Moderna does not currently have a booster dose on the market and questioned if this indicates a lack of effectiveness for the original vaccine.

Dr. Vann shared Moderna is engaged in the emergency use authorization process for its booster dose, but no specific dates are available.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the turnaround times for contact tracing once staff are notified of a positive case.

Dr. Vann shared they are working with their community contact-tracing collaborative that support Public Health in case investigations. She noted they are partnering with health care providers at nursing homes, universities, school health and day cares, and noted the numbers of positive COVID cases in the schools have drastically increased, emphasizing the need for these types of partnerships. Dr. Vann shared the goal is to conduct contact tracing within 24 hours of notification, and spoke to challenges in locating certain individuals. She recognized school health nurses are becoming overwhelmed, due to the volume of positive cases, and spoke to their

proactive efforts to limit the number of staff and children under quarantine to keep students in school.

Commissioner Murphy questioned the number of school nursing positions that have been filled. Dr. Vann noted that, in July 2021, they had 43 positions with 23 vacancies. She noted that with the addition of fifteen (15) new positions, they currently have 26 vacancies.

X. COMMISSIONER LIAISON UPDATES

Commissioner Perdue welcomed Debra Mack as the new director for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC). He shared that the BHCC Oversight Board is working to develop metrics that determine the center's success and its impact within the community.

Ms. Mack expressed her appreciation for the Board's recognition and spoke to the opportunity to connect these services with community members in need.

Commissioner Cashion echoed Commissioner Perdue's comments and shared they are very pleased to have Ms. Mack join the center. She provided an update on the Adolescent Behavioral Health Center's children's play area, and thanked the Board for making this possible.

Commissioner Cashion shared the Family Justice Center (FJC) recently sponsored its fifth annual Camp Hope which served 45 children, solely through donations. She noted the FJC recently hosted an Elder Abuse Summit that was widely attended and shared ArtsGreensboro's intent to work closely with underserved areas and expanding equity amongst minority groups. Cashion discussed a recent visit to Pleasant Garden where she met with their Parks & Recreation Director, David Robinette, who expressed his support for the One Guilford concept.

Vice Chair Foster shared she is the Board liaison to VisitHighPoint, formerly High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau, and noted they will co-sponsor a benefit concert with the High Point Market Authority and High Point University. She noted they are also working on a grant request, in collaboration with High Point Parks & Recreation, to enhance the Oak Hollow Festival Park to support more outdoor concerts and events. Foster shared their work to have High Point designated as an "Autism-certified" city, with hospitality leaders and staff undergoing training to accommodate guest with special needs.

Commissioner Carly Cooke thanked Ms. Bedrosian for tonight's presentation and spoke to the grant application submitted by PTRC on behalf of the region to support the Build Back Better initiative.

Commissioner Coleman shared Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) continues to operate efficiently, though they have had to make certain internal changes and innovations to continue operations. She invited Vice Chair Foster and VisitHP to view the adaptive recreational areas that have been constructed at Hagan-Stone Park.

Chairman Alston shared his work with the Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and noted local hotels are still suffering during the pandemic. He encouraged the Board and staff to invite groups, organizations and businesses to patronize these businesses. Alston expressed concern that certain local businesses are not abiding by the mask mandate, but shared the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and Greensboro Merchant's Association are in support of the mandate and will provide assistance with educational efforts. He noted the Communications department is advertised educational materials on the mask mandates.

Commissioner Cashion shared her State Board will meet in Greensboro at the Grandover Hotel this year, at her recommendation and in support of our hospitality industry.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER / COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Manager Michael Halford provided a quarterly update to the Board regarding certain fiscal priorities. He shared they are moving forward with issuing the first part of the school bonds that were approved and noted the school system has requested approximately \$1.2 million towards design and preliminary work. Halford stated that in October, the Board would discuss the bond calendar and debt service for a potential referendum in the spring.

Halford noted that another Board goal was to reduce community disparities and announced September is Infant Mortality Awareness month. He shared the Coalition on Infant Mortality has hired the two (2) Board-approved positions, and they will hold collective action team sessions to work through the continuum of care, system transformation, and advancing health equity. Halford stated these meetings will be held in October and encouraged the public to attend.

Halford reminded the Board of the approved position for an Equity and Inclusion Diversity Manager, which has been advertised, and noted they have also advertised for a Public Relations Director position.

Halford stated that under the goal of Intentional Collaboration, he and Assistant County Manager Jason Jones continue to build relationship with community partners. He shared they have worked hard to ensure the County's presence on many boards and collaborations, and announced the County was invited to participate on a health disparities panel sponsored by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce. Halford shared they are collaborating with the City of Greensboro and the court system on improved security efforts. He stated they are working on the County's certification within the Guilford Apprenticeship Program (GAP) as a cybersecurity apprenticeship site. Halford discussed their efforts to prioritize capital projects in order to secure and properly care for County properties, and noted they have launched an RFQ to conduct a space study.

Commissioner James Upchurch shared his participation in his first meeting on NACo's Community, Economic & Workforce Development Steering Committee, and confirmed he will have information ready to share soon.

XII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perdue extended preliminary congratulations to his daughter on her upcoming wedding. He shared recent phone calls received from parents regarding increasing incidents of violence in our schools and requested the County Manager receive a report from GCS regarding the status of the \$5 million allocated towards school security improvements. Perdue noted several schools still have surveillance cameras that are out of service and questioned the status of certain planned upgrades to these systems.

Commissioner Conrad extended congratulations to Commissioner Perdue and his family.

Commissioner Coleman thanked PTRC for its food system assessment and announced Guilford County will hold its last food distribution event on October 16. She thanked all who have participated in previous distribution events and encouraged fellow Commissioners to attend the upcoming event.

Vice Chair Foster extended congratulations to Commissioner Perdue and shared her attendance at a High Point University luncheon to establish a \$3 million endowment in honor of Dr. Bob Brown to benefit minority students. She shared her attendance at the High Point Housing Authority Pillars of Fame ceremony to honor those who have grown up in public housing and have become leaders in the High Point community. Foster congratulated 2021 recipients Sarah Graham, Founder & CEO Drawers of Hope - a non-profit organization that targets services for at-risk youth and their families, and Dr. Brett Carter, Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor at UNC-Greensboro. She reminded the Board that Fall Furniture Market will be held October 15-22.

Commissioner Cashion spoke to the history of the NC Folk Festival and its beginnings with ArtsGreensboro. She shared the group's hope that the city of Greensboro and Guilford County would support their reinvestment strategies. Cashion shared her recent visit with Caring Services in High Point that provides addiction services, and noted they discussed their strategic plan and other goals.

Commissioner Murphy expressed her appreciation to Sharon Barlow, DHHS-DSS Division Director, and the division staff in their quick response to assist a family at risk for eviction. She invited the Board and community to attend the "Big Pick" event at the Guilford County Prison Farm on September 25 and October 2, and the Bur-Mil Park Fall Fest event scheduled for October 9.

Chairman Alston extended condolences to the Shipman family in their time of bereavement and extended congratulations to new Greensboro City Councilmember Hugh Holston.

Halford responded to Commissioner Perdue's question regarding school system security improvements and noted their RFP to identify an emergency responder radio coverage system will close this month. He noted they have spent approximately \$900,000 towards access control and a remaining \$4.4 million that can be applied towards other costs.

Chairman Alston expressed his interest in receiving an accurate account of the funding allocated and expenditures related to school system security needs and improvements.

Commissioner Upchurch left the meeting at 7:46PM.

XIII. 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 Chair J. Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Mary Beth Murphy, 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 Board recessed the meeting and entered into closed session at 7:48PM.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:54PM.

XIV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 8:54PM.

Melvin "Skip" Alston
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board