MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
Greensboro, North Carolina
May 20, 2015

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on May 20, 2015 at 5:30PM, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Hank Henning, presiding; Vice-Chairman Jeff Phillips; Commissioners Alan Branson, Alan Perdue (arrived at 5:55PM), J. Carlvena Foster (arrived at 5:51PM), Carolyn Q. Coleman, Ray Trapp, and Justin Conrad.

ABSENT: Commissioner Kay Cashion

ALSO PRESENT: Marty Lawing, County Manager; Clarence Grier, Deputy County Manager; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Paul Lowe, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Donna Riner, Legal Services Administrator; Michael Halford, Budget Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; Reid Baker, Finance Director; Bonnie Stellfox, Purchasing Director; Leslie Bell, Director of Planning and Development; Thomas Marshburn, Parks Division Director; Jim Albright, EMS Director; various other staff; and members of the media and community.

I. INVOCATION

Board Chaplin Ben Chavis offered the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Henning led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henning welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:44PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Damon Williams, resident of 4209 Olympia Drive, Greensboro, NC and a military vet, raised concerns with sectarianism. He spoke to community, food deserts, and school funding.
McElroy Hughes, resident of 705 Park Avenue, Greensboro, N.C., shared his life experience growing up as an African-American male. He also expressed his concerns with world issues and food deserts within Guilford County.

Commissioner Foster joined the meeting at 5:51PM.

Casey Thomas, Board Member of the Renaissance Community Cooperative and resident of 1400 Oak Street, Greensboro, NC, asked the Board to address the issue of food insecurity.

Commissioner Perdue joined the meeting at 5:55PM.

Janet Wallace, of 4501 Foxcroft Road, Greensboro, N.C., encouraged the Board to help fund the Renaissance Community Cooperative to battle food deserts in the County.

Rebecca Mann, of 801 Ragsdale Road, Jamestown, NC and with the YWCA Greensboro, thanked Commissioners for supporting the organization's programming and asked for continued support from the Board.

Jackie Freeman, of 139 Greenbrier Road, Greensboro, N.C., requested the Board’s assistance with an outstanding child support issue.

Vice Chairman Phillips asked staff to research the issue and requested the County Attorney obtain Ms. Freeman’s contact information.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. RECOGNIZE AND PRESENT THE HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT (HHB) SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD TO MILLIE LANGLEY AS PRESENTED AT THE 2015 HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT CHAPTER OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Leslie Bell, Planning and Development Director, presented Millie Langley of the Guilford County Water and Soil Conservation, with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Superior Service Award, and commended her years of service to both the County and State.

Lavelle Donelle, of the City of Greensboro Water Resources Department, recognized the winners of the Water Quality and Water Conservation poster, essay, and speech contest. Elizabeth Williams, with Guilford County Soil and Water Conservation, then recognized district, area, and State contest winners.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. Approve an increase to the FY 2015 Health and Human Services (Public Health Division) budget by $29,114 as detailed below: Adult Services: $323.00 a.) Approve an increase in Federal funds (Chronic Disease & Injury, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch) to support the Regional Tobacco Control education program. Family/Children Services: $28,791 b.) Approve a $756 increase in Other Receipts (donations) to reflect funds received from Centenary United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women group, to support the Centering Pregnancy® Program. This program focuses on prenatal assessment, education and peer support in a group environment. These funds will be used to purchase baby supplies. c.) Approve a $28,035 increase in appropriated fund balance (Partnership for Community Care, Pregnancy Care Management Contract), to carry-over unspent, unobligated funds received in prior fiscal years. These revenues are based on monthly funding provided by Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) and enrollment data provided by DMA's fiscal agent. Public Health receives monthly payments from Partnership for Community Care, based on the count of individuals in the base population of the program. The rate for Pregnancy Care Management is $5.22 per member/per month and the base population are female Medicaid beneficiaries ages 14-44 inclusive. The funds will be used to purchase electronic tablets for Pregnancy Case Managers. Tablets will assist the case managers in documenting on-site services provided in the field. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUESTED.

2. Approve the following property tax revenue adjustments for Guilford College (hereinafter "GC") and PTIA based on actual FY15 property tax collections through April 30, 2015: a.) Increase GC Fire Protection District revenues by $51,683 to $430,222 total. b.) Increase PTIA Fire Protection Service District revenues by $12,669 to $83,619 total. c.) Reduce GC Fire Protection Service District revenues by $79,810 to $15,875 total. The net impact of these changes will be a reduction from $545,174 to $529,717 across the three districts. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS ARE REQUIRED.

3. Approve an increase to the Law Enforcement FY 2015 budget in the amount of $54,915 to reflect appropriation to purchase antennas for patrol vehicle routers. These funds will be from Department of Justice Federal Forfeiture Funds. Approve request to purchase antennas and associated supplies from ROK Brothers, Inc., PO Box 381 Millerville, MD 21108. The unaudited balance of the Department of Justice Federal Forfeiture Fund before this purchase is $481,426. The approval of this expenditure will result in a remaining unaudited balance of $426,511.00. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.
B. CONTRACTS

1. Approve Price Only Contract with lowest, responsive bidder Galls, Inc., 2680 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40509 for Law Enforcement Battle Dress, Class A Uniforms, and Uniform Jackets for the Guilford County Sheriff Department. Contract amount is $239,828.95. The contract period will begin on July 1, 2015 and end on June 30, 2017 with the option to renew for two (2) additional years at the same terms/conditions and price. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

2. Review and approve the purchase of seven (7) vehicles from approved North Carolina State Contracts 070A, 070B & 070G for total amount of $146,841.54. Emergency Services will pay for the two (2) 2016 Ford Utility Interceptor AWD SUV's from their budgeted funds 320410-55350. The funds necessary to pay for the remaining five (5) fleet vehicles will come from the Manager's Contingency Funds. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Accept and approve the Property Tax Rebate and Release Reports for the month ending April 30, 2015. Complete report maintained on file with the Clerk to the Board.

2. Accept and approve the Tax Department's Beverage License and Tax Collection reports for the month ending April 30, 2015. Complete reports are maintained on file with the Clerk to the Board.

3. Approve the following Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Applications: (a) Approve VAD Application #2015-02, being 38.41 acres and comprised of five Tax Parcels ( #0168470 @ 12.89 acres, #0168507 @ 3.98 acres, #0168455 @ 10.24 acres, #0168489 @ 9.30 acres, #0168469 @ 2.0 acres ), all owned by George W. Tucker and Deborah W. Tucker of Kernersville, NC. (b) Approve VAD Application #2015-03, being 79.36 acres and comprised of three Tax Parcels ( #0169955 @ 31.63 acres, #0169931 @ 24.06 acres, #0169927 @ 23.67 acres ), all owned by Edward Lee Williard of High Point, NC. (c) Approve EVAD Application #2015-04, being 15.52 acres, Tax Parcel #0168548, owned by James W. Morgan and Joanne T. Morgan of Colfax, NC, and Rebecca M. Chaney of Kernersville, NC. (d) Approve EVAD Application #2015-05, being 22.24 acres, Tax Parcel #0170230, owned by James W. Morgan and Joanne T. Morgan of Colfax, NC. (e) Approve EVAD Application #2015-06, being 30.00 acres, Tax Parcel #0170257, owned by E. Gray Morgan of Colfax, NC.

4. Approve the following sets of County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes: (a) 04/2/15 - Regular Meeting; (b) 03/24/15- Jail Population Committee; (c) 04/27/15 - Health and Human Services Committee; and (d) 04/29/15 Jail Population Committee.
Motion made by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips, and seconded by Commissioner Carlvena Foster to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE:  Motion carried 8 – 0
NOES:  None.
ABSENT:  Commissioner K. Cashion.

VII.  NEW BUSINESS

A.  Increase GTCC Transportation and Welding Facilities capital project ordinance and associated Bond proceeds by $14,000,000 and decrease GTCC Northwest Campus capital project ordinance and associated Bond proceeds by $14,000,000 to fund renovation of the acquired property and facilities that will house the transportation, welding and other instructional programs. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

Chairman Henning recognized Dr. Randy Parker, President of GTCC. Dr. Parker asked the Board to approve a transfer of funds from a capital project ordinance to complete an ongoing construction project. Dr. Parker commented that the project would help the college to keep pace with industrial demands of educational institutions. He shared that 157,000 sq. ft. of property would be renovated and would move the college forward in meeting the manufacturing needs of the community.

Motion made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster, to adopt the increase in the GTCC Transportation and Welding Facilities capital project ordinance and associated Bond proceeds by $14,000,000 and decrease GTCC Northwest Campus capital project ordinance and associated Bond proceeds by $14,000,000 to fund renovation of the acquired property and facilities that will house the transportation, welding and other instructional programs. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

VOTE:  Motion carried 8 - 0
NOES:  None
ABSENT:  Commissioner K. Cashion

B.  New Business from County Commissioners

There was no new business for the Board to consider.
VIII. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

Marty Lawing, County Manager, requested Merle Green, DHHS-Public Health Director, and Heather Skeens, DHHS-DSS Director, address the Board with an update.

Green commented on the State of Health Report, which acts as a road map helping County staff plan, prepare, and respond to a range of public health issues countywide. Green shared that the report allows staff to identify priorities and where to place resources. Green explained that the County’s outreach program was recognized by the Federal Government for staff efforts in enrolling residents for Affordable Healthcare. Green closed her report by sharing recent training efforts for staff.

Skeens spoke to the current state of Food & Nutrition (FNS)/Medicaid applications, sharing that staff continue to ensure re-certifications are completed in a timely fashion. She also noted the County has approximately 20,000 reviews to complete before the end of June. She stated there are 6,012 to be processed by the end of May and explained the three timelines for due dates. Skeens stated the goal is to have staff working a month ahead of work that is currently due. She advised the department passed the recent Work First monitoring review by 100% for FY 14/15. Skeens then made the Board aware of an upcoming event to raise awareness of elder abuse.

Commissioner Trapp spoke to concerns that the NCDHHS is not complying with the Voter Registration Act. He inquired if Skeens was aware how this issue could affect Guilford County.

Skeens shared the issue has impacted DHHS locally and staff send the information to the Board of Elections; however, when the information was hand tallied, the Board of Elections received the information quicker. She noted the information was captured, but not captured ideally within NCFAST. Skeens stated procedures have been put in place for staff to maintain better records of voter registration efforts and to remind staff of the importance of this data. Additionally, an upcoming training session has been scheduled to ensure staff are informed of the requirements.

Commissioner Trapp inquired if NCFAST is the problem.

Skeens shared that there is a tab within NCFAST that asks the question, but it doesn’t query, making the process cumbersome. Staff are unable to tally the information within NCFAST.

Commissioner Trapp expressed his concerns as to public perception of this issue, sharing that he does not want any opportunity for someone to suggest that individuals are being kept from registering or that disenfranchising is taking place. He further stated that he would assist in writing registrations in his off time, if needed.

Skeens assured the Board that staff have refocused attention on this matter to ensure the Department meets the requirements of voter registration.

Vice Chairman Phillips questioned the status of the approximately 6,012 re-certifications that need to be processed.
Skeens shared the 6,012 re-certifications must be completed by the end of May. There are currently 300 re-certifications in the backlog from April. She explained the re-certifications will roll over into June, with no impact to the customer, as it is considered a backlog for the department, not the State.

Vice Chairman Phillips thanked Ms. Skeens and staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Coleman requested clarification on the monthly rollover of re-certifications.

Skeens explained the re-certification process, sharing that re-certifications are automatic rollovers, which have no impact on the individual and do not affect their benefits, nor is their eligibility lost. They continue Medicaid until the caseworker recertifies the individual.

Commissioner Coleman inquired if Ms. Skeens had asked for additional staff.

Skeens shared that the department did not ask for additional staff with the budget and are using contracted employees to get through this fiscal year. She noted DSS asked for 14 temporary staff in addition to the contract and requested a six month period to determine the workload needs prior to requesting additional staff.

Commissioner Coleman inquired if Ms. Skeens felt her staff would meet the June 30, 2015 deadline or if she will need additional staff/temps.

Skeens shared she feels they can meet the goal with the current full-time and Vanguard contract staff. She stated that employees are working 60-70 hours per week to accomplish the goal and noted that at this point, to meet this deadline, it is too late to bring on new staff unless the County recruits trained staff from another county.

Commissioner Coleman inquired if staff are being paid overtime for this extra work.

Skeens confirmed that employees are being paid time and a half for every hour worked over 40 hours per week and explained that it is not double time.

Commissioner Foster inquired as to how the State’s recalculation of parents’ fees impacted the Work First Employment Services, child care/services, and child care waiting list.

Skeens explained that the new legislation that went into effect in October substantially impacted family caregivers, step-parents and those who were not in the Work First Employment Services program. Skeens also shared that because of the market increase in daycare fees, fewer children are being placed in daycare and noted when parent fees increase, fewer children are placed into daycare and are placed on a waiting list. She explained that they give priority to child welfare cases.

Commissioner Foster inquired if Work First parents are on the waiting list.
Skeens explained that technically they are not, but in theory, yes. She shared that these families are typically not served first from the waiting list.

Commissioner Foster inquired if this impacts the parents’ ability to attend school or search for work.

Skeens stated that yes, it can impact those matters.

Commissioner Foster questioned how this is calculated into the 100% compliance requirements for parents.

Skeens shared that if there are no funds for daycare for a parent in Work First, it is not counted against the parent and they are still considered in compliance, noting if a service is not available, they are not considered out of compliance.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the Medicaid recertification process.

Skeens shared the types of Medicaid cases, the process that caseworkers perform, and time frames involved.

Commissioner Coleman requested clarification on what type of work employees are doing when working overtime on the weekend.

Skeens shared that employees are keying in previously obtained information into NCFAST and calling applicants to confirm information. She advised that the NCFAST system is operational from 7:00AM-9:00PM. Skeens further explained that line staff, supervisors, program managers, and division directors are also working overtime and on the weekend and confirmed that these employees are exempt and do not receive overtime compensation.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concerns about the quality and accuracy of work after an employee has worked 60-70 hours a week.

Commissioner Branson and Commissioner Coleman discussed average hourly work weeks within various occupations.

Skeens shared that they know that there may be errors due to NCFAST and the fact that we do not know how to operate the program to its fullest extent. She stated they are aware staff are tired as some have been working this schedule for about a year. Skeens noted the process has been difficult and employees are working very hard every week.

Commissioner Branson directed a question to Merle Green concerning the Renaissance Community Cooperative and asked who supplies the data related to food insecurity within Guilford County. He also questioned the requirements for proximity of food sources in urban versus rural communities and expressed concerns regarding the quality of the data presented.
Green shared the data is not collected by Guilford County, but by the Federal Government and is then provided to the County. She stated the data is based on information from Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) programs at the state and local levels and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Green stated data from agencies such as the Department of Labor, provide statistics on those receiving social services, and number of children receiving free or reduced-cost lunch are also used to calculate this information. She explained the definition of a food desert is defined by the number of people or households within federally defined income threshold that live greater than 2-3 miles from a full-service grocery store that sells fresh fruits and vegetables.

Commissioner Branson requested clarification on the differences in mileage for those living in urban areas versus those living in rural areas.

Green explained there is information quoting ranges between 2-3 miles and reiterated the definition does account for income and proximity of the nearest full service grocery store.

Commissioner Branson inquired if the County is doing its due diligence and background study in areas such as free/reduced lunches to ensure that the data provided by applicants is correct.

Green clarified the question and shared that department has to trust the accuracy of the information provided by the Federal Government is accurate that it has been properly vetted.

IX. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Appoint Ray Alexander to the Planning Board and Re-appoint Susan Alt to the GTCC Board of Trustees.

Chairman Henning read the list of proposed appointments and reappointments.

Planning Board
Appoint Ray Alexander (term expiring)

GTCC Board of Trustees
Re-appoint Susan Alt (term expiring)
Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Coleman to appoint Ray Alexander to the Planning Board and Re-appoint Susan Alt to the GTCC Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Motion carried 8 - 0
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner K. Cashion

Chairman Henning invited the County Manager to present his Budget Message.

County Manager Marty Lawing advised the Board that the recommended budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 would address the majority of the goals set during year’s retreat. He thanked Directors and Budget Department staff for their work in preparing the budget and thanked Deputy County Manager, Clarence Grier, for his strategic insights and feedback throughout the process.

Lawing began by stating that, as in previous years, all requests are not fully funded. He provided a visual presentation of the budget and reviewed local and national economic statistics, such as the unemployment rate and population growth. He discussed the increase in property and retail sales since February 2014, and the decrease in fuel rates. Lawing reviewed the budget summary, noting an increase in the General Fund of $21 million, an increase in Fire District requests, and the Internal Service fund increase of 1.9%. Lawing noted the General Fund revenue of $588 million, with a proposed property tax of $0.77, representing no increase. Lawing continued to discuss items such as the fund balance, lottery funds, NCFAST, and debt service. Lawing closed his presentation by noting upcoming budget work sessions and the budget adoption schedule.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the location of the Community Based Organization (CBO) information within the budget packet.

Lawing advised that the information is located in the detailed document with a listing of the organizations that requested funding. He advised he would provide a copy after the meeting.

The Board discussed the scheduling of the June 4, 2015 work session.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concerns with the potential length of the June 4, 2015 work session.
Chairman Henning recommended the Board reassess the scheduling of the June 4, 2015 work session at the conclusion of the June 2, 2015 work session.

The Board further discussed the scheduling of the June 2, 2015 work session.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Branson thanked Lawing and staff for their efforts in developing the preliminary budget. He shared his attendance at the Thomas Built Bus Preserve ribbon cutting in High Point on May 9, 2015. He commented on the Founder’s Day Parade in Summerfield and shared he attended the Bluegrass Festival at Hagan Stone Park, noting that there was quite a bit of activity outside of the festival. Branson expressed his appreciation for those involved in Guilford County sports, congratulating the Southeast Guilford Falcons on a great season (22-6 record) and winning their fourth straight Metro 4A Championship. He recognized members of the 2015 graduating class who have received scholarships and shared his attendance of the inaugural graduation of UNCG’s Middle College, where his daughter served as Junior Marshal.

Commissioner Perdue shared he also attended the Thomas Built Bus preserve ribbon cutting, noting its benefits to High Point and District 2. He announced this week was National EMS week and thanked the men and women that provide emergency services. Perdue shared he attended the American Red Cross Salute to Hero’s in Guilford County and encouraged citizens to remember the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for our freedom, during the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

Commissioner Coleman acknowledged community leader, Mr. Gayland Oliver’s presence at tonight’s meeting and extended her condolences on the passing of his mother, Mary Oliver. She shared that Ms. Oliver was the founder of the Greensboro Public Library McGirt-Horton Branch and originally housed a library within her home until one was built in the area. She expressed her appreciation for the works of Mary Oliver and her son, Gayland Oliver.

Vice Chairman Phillips expressed condolences to County Manager Marty Lawing and his family in the passing of his mother, on behalf of the Board. He thanked Lawing for his service to the County and to the Board. Phillips reminded those present that as always, the budget is a challenging task to the Board. He shared his concerns regarding the recommendations, specifically an increase in spending of $22 million. He expressed that the Board has a long way to go in the budget process and expressed his appreciation to Lawing and staff in effectively bringing the Board to this starting point. Phillips stated the Board will continue this process and be very sensitive, methodical, and careful; and assured those present that great care is given to the budget.

Commissioner Foster expressed her personal condolences to Lawing and wished the citizens a safe and happy Memorial Day.

Commissioner Conrad echoed condolences to Lawing. He shared he participated in the Summerfield Founder’s Day Parade, along with Vice Chairman Phillips and expressed his appreciation to the organizers of the event. Conrad congratulated all local graduates.
Commissioner Trapp extended condolences to Lawing, and thanked him for his service to the County. He recognized EMS received a grant from the NCDHHS, which will aid them in diverting mental health patients away from emergency rooms when in crisis. He acknowledged and thanked Jim Albright and staff for working to obtain the grant. Trapp shared he attended today’s Mobile Oasis opening at DSS, which was a success. He thanked Merle Green and staff for their hard work at the opening of Mobile Oasis, which provides access to fruits and vegetables, along with cooking instructions for the public. Trapp also extended his condolences to Gayland Oliver on the passing of his mother, Mary Oliver and shared that Ms. Oliver was an institution in East Greensboro and specifically, Phillips Avenue. He stated he grew up in this area and is a product of her hard work. He expressed his gratitude for Ms. Oliver, her efforts, and encouraged Mr. Oliver in his efforts to sustain her legacy.

Chairman Henning echoed condolences to Lawing and his family.

**XII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER**

Lawing thanked the Board for their support during this most difficult time.

**XIII. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. & §143-318.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

No closed session was held.

**XIV. ADJOURN**

The Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 7:45PM.

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Chairman

Paul Lowe
Deputy Clerk to Board