MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
Greensboro, North Carolina
December 11, 2014

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on December 11, 2014 at 5:30 PM, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Hank Henning, presiding; Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips; Commissioners Carolyn Q. Coleman (in at 5:42 PM), Kay Cashion, Alan Branson, Ray Trapp, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Marty Lawing, County Manager; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Paul Lowe, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Michael Halford, Budget Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Joe Raymond, Health and Human Services Director; Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director; Bonnie Stellfox, Purchasing Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; Alexis Underwood, DSS Contracts Manager; Reid Baker, Finance Director; Myra Thompson, DSS Administration and Transportation Division Director; Donna Riner, Legal Services Administrator; and members of the media and community.

I. INVOCATION
Board Chaplin Chavis provided 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 5:33 PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR
Camela Broadnax, McLeansville, spoke to her efforts to close a road located near her property. Broadnax expressed concerns with the County’s response to her situation.

Commissioner Branson asked Mark Payne, County Attorney, to address the issue.
Payne commented that his staff had reviewed the case and had proposed alternations which would be required to implement the road closure.

Commissioner Branson addressed the rural nature of the property.

Payne replied that due to subdivision standards the residents proposed changes were not allowed.

Commissioner Branson expressed concerns with the County's subdivision policies and asked the Board to consider updating the code to make it more functional to rural landowners.

Payne suggested that staff could prepare a report documenting the history of the case.

Chairman Henning advised staff to keep working to find a solution to the issue.

Ron Tuck, Greensboro, commented on his family’s service to the County and noted that he served as a precinct judge. Tuck then asked the Board to provide County poll workers a raise.

Andy Stevens, Greensboro, raised concerns regarding spending and gun rights in the County.

Cecil Huffman, Brown Summit, expressed concerns with a recent judgment made against his property. Bobby Huffman, Reidsville, shared his father's account.

Chairman Henning asked County Manager Marty Lawing to address the issue.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. Approve an increase to the FY 2015 Health and Human Services Department (Public Health Division) of $34,853 as detailed below.

   The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

   **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**
   General Fund
   Increase Appropriation to Public Health by $34,853
   Increase Federal/State Funds by $34,853

   *Removed from Consent Agenda*

2. Approve Increase to Department of Human Services-Social Services Division in the amount of $353,828 for the purpose of funding 9 additional CPS positions (7 Social Workers and 2 Social Work Supervisors) to reduce the current average caseload closer to the State recommended standard of an average of 10 families per worker (1:10).
The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

General Fund  
Increase Appropriation to Social Services by $353,828  
Increase Federal/State Revenue by $353,828

---

**B. CONTRACTS**

1. Approve (revenue) Memorandum of understanding, in substantial form, with Guilford County Partnership for Children, Inc. by and through the Health and Human Services Department (Social Services Division) and appropriate $572,350 in additional Smart Start funds. The total Memorandum of Understanding amount is $1,908,594.00 with the additional funding. The memorandum of understanding period will begin on July 1, 2014 and end on June 30, 2015. This Memorandum of Understanding is required by the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and will be used to serve Guilford County Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible families with preschool children ages 0-5 in 4 and 5 star licensed child care placements. The funding will serve approximately 300 children per month.

**Removed from Consent Agenda**

2. NC General Statute 18B-805 outlines the provisions for NC counties receiving and spending Bottle Tax Revenue proceeds collected by local ABC boards and allocated to Counties from the local sales of alcohol each month. NC G.S. 18B-805(h) specifically states that "funds distributed under subdivisions (b)(4) and (c)(3) of this section shall be spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse".

3. Approve the renewal of the Grazing Agreement, attached hereto in substantial form, between Guilford County and Summerfield Farms, DFC, LLC.

4. Approve the purchase of an Interviewer Tracker, from Sole Source vendor, Phoenix Dictation Corporation, 6700 Woodlands Parkway, Woodlands, TX 77832. The total costs for this purchase is $9,001.00 and will be purchased from Federal Forfeiture funds. The purchase price includes installation of the Interviewer Tracker and the training necessary for staff to use the system. This equipment is being added to an existing system and will be used by the Sheriff's Office to record interviews, in the District 3 Sheriff's Office, as required by state statute. Balance of Federal Forfeiture Funds: $610,976. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

5. Approve the contract agreement, in substantial form, with North Carolina Emergency Management for the 2014 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) and adjust the FY15 Emergency Services budget in the amount of $9,700 for the purposes of hiring a contractor to facilitate the planning and execution of the HMEP Grant Requirements, specifically managing an Emergency Response Exercise. This is a 100% grant funded program with reimbursement based on actual expenditures and NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.
C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Accept and approve the Tax Department's Beverage License and Tax Collection Reports for the month ending November 30, 2014.


3. Approve the following sets of County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes:
   11/06/2014 - Regular Meeting
   11/12/2014 - Jail Population Reduction Committee
   11/20/2014 - Regular Meeting
   12/01/2014 - Organizational Meeting

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.


NOES: None.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

A.2. Approve Increase to Department of Human Services-Social Services Division in the amount of $353,828 for the purpose of funding 9 additional CPS positions (7 Social Workers and 2 Social Work Supervisors) to reduce the current average caseload closer to the State recommended standard of an average of 10 families per worker (1:10).

Commissioner Foster questioned the budget amendment. Foster asked how close to the State standard the County could get to by employing the additional social workers.

Joe Raymond, Health & Human Services Director, reported that with the additional staff the County would be able to meet the State standard of ten families per social worker. Raymond explained that his Department currently had 633 active cases, and would soon close out 150.

Commissioner Foster asked what the ratio of employees to supervisors was in his Department.

Raymond responded with the additional staff the ratio would be about five to one.

Commissioner Branson asked how many child protective workers the County currently employs.

Raymond replied that currently 43 child protective workers are employed by the County. Raymond noted that five social workers recently approved by the Board had not yet been hired. Raymond concluded that the County would have 57 child protective personnel if the proposal before the Board was approved.

Commissioner Branson asked if caseloads decrease- would that trigger State funding cuts.
Raymond responded that funding was tied to the total number of employees, not caseloads.

Commissioner Branson shared that he had heard concerns from staff that some supervisors were unresponsive to subordinates which has hampered morale at DSS. Branson commented that though he supported enhancing service deliver to County residents, he felt that the Board should not add any additional staff due to potential future financial ramifications.

Raymond stressed that managing the County’s caseload was a very important task and noted that his Department received over 5,000 reports of child abuse annually and needed to maintain adequate staffing arrangements to ensure the safety of children placed in the County’s care.

Commissioner Branson inquired what the current caseload per employee was.

Raymond stated that when he arrived the caseload was about 27 cases per worker- with approximately 1150 open cases. Since his employ with the County, Raymond added his staff has been able to successfully close out 500 cases and shared that the additional State resources would allow the County to meet both State guidelines and the needs of the community.

Vice Chairman Phillips commended the General Assembly for providing the additional funding to the County and questioned the status of the DSS positions approved in November.

Raymond responded that he was working to fill the open positions- noting that interviews had been scheduled. Raymond shared that it takes about three to five weeks after a position is approved to get it added to the County Human Resource’s system. Raymond opined a long term goal of his Department would be to work to develop a talent bank to help the County more quickly fill open vacancies- as turnover among staff is quite high.

Vice Chairman Phillips urged Raymond in future to fill positions as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Trapp asked what the level of County funding which supports DSS functions was.

Raymond reported that County appropriations accounted for 3% of DSS’s total budget. Raymond noted that if DSS staffers make a mistake while managing a child protection case then the County would be held financially liable-reiterating the importance of proper staffing.

Commissioner Trapp stated that higher caseloads endanger children that the County is charged with protecting and urged the Board to move forward with hiring the additional staff.

Commissioner Foster noted that the proposal would constitute a win-win for the County and thanked the State for allocating funds to address the issue.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.Carlvena Foster, and seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman to approve an increase to the Department of Human Services-Social Services Division in the amount of $353,828 for the purpose of funding 9 additional CPS positions (7 Social Workers and 2 Social Work Supervisors) to reduce the current average caseload closer to the State recommended standard of an average of 10 families per worker (1:10).
VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.


NOES: None.

B.2. NC General Statute 18B-805 outlines the provisions for NC counties receiving and spending Bottle Tax Revenue proceeds collected by local ABC boards and allocated to Counties from the local sales of alcohol each month. NC G.S. 18B-805(h) specifically states that "funds distributed under subdivisions (b)(4) and (c)(3) of this section shall be spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse”.

Commissioner Coleman questioned how long the County had awarded the contract to ADS.

Michael Halford, Budget Director, stated that ADS had received the contract for about ten years.

Commissioner Coleman commented that working to diversify the County’s service providers was important and asked if the ADS contract was put out to bid.

Halford replied that the contract was not placed out to bid and explained that when Mental Health, the Guilford Center, was under the County’s jurisdiction that program staff worked to manage the contracts to provide substance abuse education. Halford noted that since the County had merged with Sandhills, the Bottle Tax revenue had remained with the County. Halford stated that staff worked to develop an agreement with Sandhills to manage the contract, but the proposed arrangement had fallen through. To maintain service delivery, Halford shared that it was staff’s recommendation to award the contract to ADS. Halford added that a more established RFP process could be developed in future budget years.

Commissioner Coleman asked if the Purchasing Department could have developed the RFP.

Halford responded that County staff could have developed the RFP, but during the budget development process his understanding was that the Board wanted staff to award the contract to ADS then pursue a more formalized process with Sandhills in later years.

Commissioner Coleman questioned who made that decision.

Halford commented that he presented the proposal to the Board-during the budget development process, and was not directed to pursue another approach.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concerns with the proposal as the County was consistently utilizing the same firm to provide the services under the contract. Coleman urged staff to put the contract out to bid in future in an effort to be more inclusive to other agencies in the County that provide similar services.

Commissioner Perdue asked regarding the timing associated with the contract.

Halford then reviewed the timeline associated with the contract.
Vice Chairman Phillips inquired what the total bottle tax revenue was.

Halford replied that the tax provides approximately $160,000-$170,000 per year.

Vice Chairman Phillips questioned if other service providers were considered for the contract.

Halford stated that there could be additional service providers in the County, but that budget staff does not retain the technical skill-set necessary to evaluate mental health professionals.

Vice Chairman Phillips encouraged staff to consider additional firms in the future.

Halford inquired if the Bottle Tax revenue contract should be included in the County’s CBO process.

Commissioner Coleman commented that the contract should remain a separate Board approval.

Chairman Henning expressed agreement with Coleman that the approval process should remain separate and asked if the funds were restricted to a particular vendor.

Halford reported that the proceeds from the Bottle Tax were earmarked to support substance abuse treatment services in the County, and were not directed to a particular service provider.

Vice Chairman Phillips stated that the Board was looking for results and wanted to support the vendor which best utilized the County’s resources while meeting the needs of the community.

Commissioner Cashion noted that ADS had been vetted by an RFP process implemented by the former Guilford Center.

Commissioner Coleman shared her interest for additional agencies to respond to County issued RFPs in an effort to diversify the service providers which are ultimately awarded contracts.

Commissioner Foster inquired how funds are disbursed to the service providers.

Halford commented that funds are disbursed through reimbursement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to approve an agreement with ADS in accordance with NC General Statute 18B-805 outlines the provisions for NC counties receiving and spending Bottle Tax Revenue proceeds collected by local ABC boards and allocated to Counties from the local sales of alcohol each month. NC G.S. 18B-805(h) specifically states that " funds distributed under subdivisions (b)(4) and (c)(3) of this section shall be spent for the treatment of alcoholism or substance abuse, or for research or education on alcohol or substance abuse".

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.
NOES: None.
VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider request from Hero Farms, Inc. (HFI), a farmer-producer cooperative (coop), operating in Guilford County, to acquire an additional 20 to 40 acres of farmland for crop production, to meet the terms of a USDA/ Rural Development value-added grant for $200,000. The deadline for acquiring such land by lease or other means is 08 Jan 2015.

Chairman Henning asked Lawing to provide an update regarding the history of the request.

Lawing reported that representatives from Hero Farms had met with both the Sheriff and Facilities staff regarding the proposed use of County property located at the Prison Farm or the Hines Chapel Preserve. Lawing noted that the group was seeking to utilize County owned parcels to develop an agricultural operation.

Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director, shared that he had also held preliminary conversations with the group from Hero Farms.

Raleigh Bailey, Greensboro, spokesman for Hero Farms, recognized members of his group. Bailey explained that the operation would operate as a co-op with eighty four Montagnard families working the site growing various vegetable crops. Bailey noted the Montagnard’s service to the United States during the Vietnam War and commented that Hero Farms was interested in leasing seventy five acres of County owned land.

Commissioner Coleman inquired regarding Hero Farm’s organizational structure.

Raleigh replied that the group was a non-profit farming operation of approximately eighty four Montagnard families which would work to farm the land.

James Fry, Farm Manager of Hero Farms, shared that the organization had a grant from the USDA pending and needed to secure seventy five acres to meet grant guidelines.

Commissioner Coleman noted that the prison farm was located in a fairly remote portion of the County and asked Fry how Hero Farms would handle logistical issues.

Fry reported that Hero Farms staff could provide appropriate transportation services to the site, but was currently considering the Hines Chapel Preserve as the site of its agricultural operation.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the request.

McNiece then reviewed a map of the proposed operation.

Commissioner Coleman inquired how the members of the cooperative would earn a living between growing seasons. Coleman also asked how profits earned by Hero Farms would be distributed to the members of the co-op.
Fry explained that though some of the members would work full-time as employees of Hero Farms—most of the Montagnard already held permanent employment and would work in a part-time capacity at the site. Regarding profits, Fry commented that income realized by Hero Farms would be distributed to members of the co-op that helped to work the site.

Commissioner Coleman asked what lease terms the cooperative was looking to secure.

Fry responded that Hero Farms wanted to acquire at least a three year lease.

Commissioner Branson shared that he had met with representatives from Hero Farms—who first expressed interest in locating their operation at the County’s Prison Farm. After further conversations the Prison Farm was eliminated as potential option for Hero as the County is actively working to market the site. Branson explained that as the Hines Chapel Preserve has been identified as a potential location for an incubator farm—as the County works to expand locally sourced urban agricultural operations, the site would be suitable for a farming operation. Branson added that though he would prefer Hero Farms to acquire their own property to limit any competitive advantage that the lease could provide over County based producers; he encouraged the representatives from the cooperative to make their request to the Board.

Commissioner Coleman commented that she was not totally opposed to the group’s request, but opined that the Board should work to develop a policy to handle requests made by non-profits to use County held land and property.

Chairman Henning agreed with Coleman that such a policy should be developed, and then noted if Commissioners did not approve the agreement—that Hero Farms would not be eligible to secure the proposed grant from the USDA.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the timeline of the organization’s grant application.

Fry replied that his colleagues have been working to meet USDA grant requirements.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concerns regarding last minute requests and reiterated that the Board should develop a policy to manage future proposals regarding County property.

Raleigh shared that the application process was initiated in 2012.

Commissioner Foster inquired regarding the timeline associated with the grant approval process.

Fry reported that Hero Farms needed to have the lease agreement approved and complete other administrative considerations, including securing insurance bonds.

Commissioner Foster asked if this was the first time that representatives from Hero Farms had approached the Board for approval of the proposed lease agreement.

Fry stated that Hero Farms was making its first appearance before the Board regarding its planned agricultural operation.
Commissioner Conrad questioned the request, and noted that the group would only be farming thirty five acres- but was requesting seventy five acres from the County. Conrad then opined that if approved the project would constitute 20% of the entire Hines Chapel Preserve property.

Fry commented that his group needed to lease seventy five acres to secure the grant.

Commissioner Cashion inquired if the group had reviewed other potential properties.

Fry reported that Hero Farms had assessed multiple parcels while trying to site the facility.

Commissioner Cashion asked how long the group had been looking for land.

Raleigh replied that the USDA had informed the group of the grant award three months ago and they have been looking for land for the cooperative ever since.

McNiece noted that the group was offering to pay fair market rates to lease the land.

Commissioner Cashion questioned how profits would be distributed.

Fry stated that profits would be disbursed among members of the cooperative.

Commissioner Cashion asked for clarification regarding how the operation would be funded.

Fry responded that the USDA was considering providing a $200,000 grant to the operation while Needful Provisions Inc. was offering $200,000 to support the group’s farming efforts.

Commissioner Cashion questioned how the co-op would operate after the onetime USDA funding was removed from the group’s operating budget in subsequent years.

Fry shared that profits from the operation would supplement the nonrecurring grant funds.

Commissioner Cashion inquired what the goals of the proposed project were.

Fry replied that the project would help to produce employment opportunities for the Montagnard. Another benefit of the operation, Fry opined would be the production of fresh locally sourced foods which would help to alleviate food insecurity issues in the County. Fry then noted that the project would foster partnerships between the Extension Service and NC A&T University.

Commissioner Branson commented that experts from NC A&T University had reviewed the 400 acre site. As the property is currently being farmed, Branson recommended that the County provide Hero Farms with a three year lease which would allow the group time to garner community support which might help the co-op find a permanent home. Branson then thanked the Montagnard for their service to the armed forces of the United States.

Commissioner Cashion opined that it was a viable concept, but she needed additional time to consider the issue. Cashion then asked if the co-op would compete with established farmers.
Fry reported that the produce would be sold on the open market, and noted that the cooperative would be growing products that would be unique to the Triad- and would not directly compete with County based producers.

Commissioner Perdue asked if the funds from the non-profit had been earmarked for the project.

Fry commented that the funding from Needful Provisions had been appropriated to the co-op.

Commissioner Perdue inquired regarding proposed infrastructure improvements.

Fry explained that the improvements would include an irrigation system for the site.

Commissioner Perdue questioned if the lease agreement would be paid up front.

McNiece stated that the co-op had requested that the lease be paid in installments.

Commissioner Trapp asked how the farmers would pay the lease if crops were not produced.

Fry reported that crop insurance programs are available, and added that as the proposed crops are not water intensive- that a total failure of the farm would be unlikely. Fry also noted that the produce grown at the site could be sold locally in the County.

Commissioner Trapp opined that the farm could help address food insecurity issues.

Commissioner Cashion asked for clarification regarding the group’s request.

Fry responded that Hero Farms has been working to comply with USDA regulations and are required to locate seventy five acres of land to lease to secure the $200,000 grant.

Vice Chairman Phillips noted that NC A&T University was originally apart of incubator project, and expressed concern that the University was no longer involved. Phillips stated that the County should not be in the farming business and shared that he could not support the request.

Commissioner Coleman questioned a former lease of the Hines Chapel property.

McNiece explained that the former lease was to the County’s benefit as the previous farmer helped to maintain the property.

Commissioner Coleman inquired regarding the approval and execution of the former lease.

Payne stated that leases of less than one year did not require Board approval.

Commissioner Coleman asked whether the co-op was incorporated as a non-profit.

Fry replied that the cooperative was not a 501(C) 3, but noted that Needful Provisions was a non-profit and would be providing support to the endeavor.
Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips to approve a request from Hero Farms, Inc. (HFI), a farmer-producer cooperative (coop), operating in Guilford County, to lease seventy five acres of farmland for crop production, to meet the terms of a USDA/ Rural Development value-added grant for $200,000. The deadline for acquiring such land by lease or other means is 08 Jan 2015.

VOTE: Motion failed 1 – 8.
AYES: Commissioner A. Branson.

Commissioner Coleman reiterated her proposal that the Board develop a policy to handle future requests from outside agencies to lease County held properties.

Commissioner Branson commented that any such discussions should be held when all members of the Board are available to take part in developing the policy.

Chairman Henning asked staff to develop various options for the Board to consider.

B. Consider and designate a commissioner or other official as a voting delegate for the 2015 Legislative Goals Conference (January 15-16, Pinehurst Resort - Moore County, NC)

Commissioner Foster expressed interest in attending the conference and asked for clarification.

Chairman Henning stated that all members are welcome to attend, but noted that the Board only appoints one Commissioner to act as the County’s voting delegate at the Conference.

Commissioner Cashion encouraged the Board to become more involved with the NCACC and added that the proposed legislative goals had been posted online for Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concern that the Board did not submit any provisions to the NCACC for review. Coleman shared that she was interested in the Board addressing the state of juveniles in the judicial system, especially the age in which minors can be tried as adults.

Commissioner Cashion replied that NCACC’s Public Safety Committee would be pleased to consider the issue.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Branson to designate Commissioner Kay Cashion as the County’s voting delegate for the 2015 Legislative Goals Conference (January 15-16, Pinehurst Resort - Moore County, NC).

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.
NOES: None.
C. **New Business from County Commissioners**

Commissioner Coleman commented regarding recent incidents of police violence in which African Americans have been killed. Coleman noted that there was a lack of community involvement among police organizations and the citizens that they serve. Coleman stated that the police entities in the County could do a better job interacting and getting to know the local citizenry. Coleman opined that the interaction would benefit both citizens and the police. Coleman then stated that she wanted to go on record requesting that the Sheriff’s Office and the Greensboro & High Point Police Departments to enter into a dialogue to enhance their effectiveness with interacting with all members of the community. Coleman also asked for all police units operating in the County to deploy body cameras to every officer and patrolman. Coleman then shared her support for developing a Police Review Board in the County.

Chairman Henning suggested that the topic could be discussed at work session before holding a vote on the consideration- so the Board could be provided with additional information.

Commissioner Coleman expressed concerns with the suggestion- noting more should be done to improve the transparency of police units and stated that cameras would help to facilitate this.

Commissioner Conrad shared that Federal dollars are to be appropriated to help law enforcement agencies purchase body cameras and agreed with Henning that more discussion was needed.

Commissioner Coleman commented that the topic was highly important and needed to be addressed by County officials.

Commissioner Branson opined that in his opinion that the issue was a lack of respect for local law enforcement personnel. Branson added that body cameras could be a consideration discussed by the Board, and shared his suggestion that smaller police units and university public safety departments be included in conversations regarding the issue.

Commissioner Foster noted that the topic was quite pressing and should be a consideration that the Board reviews enthusiastically. Foster then added that State Representative Elect Brockman was planning to introduce legislation to require law enforcement agencies to purchase and employ body cameras.

Commissioner Coleman expressed her support for Representative Elect Brockman’s efforts.

Commissioner Trapp opined that distrust of law enforcement agencies was also an issue.

Commissioner Coleman noted that ultimately her goal was to have local law enforcement agencies implement body cameras to enhance transparency regarding police operations.

Commissioner Perdue stated that the Board could hold discussions without taking a vote.

Commissioner Coleman commented that her motion asked law enforcement agencies to review their community outreach efforts and for the Sheriff to consider purchasing body cameras.
Commissioner Cashion stated that as community dialogue is important to foster, she supported holding further discussions regarding the issue.

Commissioner Conrad inquired if the Sheriff was already considering the request, why did the Board need to review the motion.

Commissioner Coleman replied that the vote would let the Sheriff know where the Board stands.

Chairman Henning asked for clarification concerning the motion.

Payne provided insights regarding the proposed motion and parliamentary procedure.

Commissioner Trapp asked to restate Coleman’s original consideration.

Commissioner Coleman was agreeable to the request.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster supporting instituting body cameras for the Guilford County Sheriff’s Department and to ask law enforcement professionals in the County to enter into a dialogue regarding police and community relations in the County.

VOTE: Motion carried 9 – 0.


NOES: None.

VII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Branson wished everyone happy holidays and a happy New Year.

Commissioner Perdue shared that he recently attended the opening of BuzziSpace in High Point and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Commissioner Coleman wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Vice Chairman Phillips shared that he hoped everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Phillips then welcomed newly elected Commissioners to the Board.

Commissioner Cashion wished members of the Board and County staff a merry Christmas. Cashion then reminded everyone of the FJC renovation kickoff which is scheduled for Friday, December 19th at 9:30 AM at the Greene Street Building.

Commissioner Foster shared that she enjoyed her first meeting and thanked the County staff for their hard work. Foster then wished everyone a very blessed holiday season.

Commissioner Conrad commented that he was looking forward to working with his fellow Board members and wished everyone a merry Christmas. Conrad then updated the Board on a proposed
piece of legislation that would alter how the State distributes sales tax revenues to local units of
government. Conrad noted that as a sales tax constitutes 13% of County appropriations, the
change could impact operations. Conrad in closing invited everyone to the Stokesdale Christmas
Parade, which will be held Saturday, December 13th.

Commissioner Trapp wished everyone a merry Christmas and reminded the Board of the
upcoming Guilford Cup Basketball game on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 PM at the Griffin
Recreation Center.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

Lawing provided the Board with a brief update regarding two recent department director
positions which have been filled. Lawing noted that he has hired nine directors since he came to
the County in May 2013. Lawing shared that he would be holding the first round of interviews
for the vacant Deputy County Manager position in the coming weeks. Lawing then asked the
Board to consider holding a work session in High Point- to discuss the Russell Street Building,
potential Courthouse improvements, and the County’s audit report.

After discussing various dates, the Board set a work session for Friday, January 9th at the Russell
Street Building in High Point from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM.

Commissioner Foster thanked staff for addressing the Russell Street Building issue and noted
that she had received many phone calls regarding the situation at the facility.

IX. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Andy Stevens, Greensboro, expressed concerns with unfunded mandates.

X. HOLD CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 FOR THE
PURPOSES OF CONSIDERING A BUSINESS LOCATION OR EXPANSION
AND TO CONSULT WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Lawing informed the Board that they did not need to enter into closed session.

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business the Board adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 8:17
PM.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk