The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on April 2, 2015 at 5:30 PM, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC.

PRESENT: Chairman Hank Henning, presiding; Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips; Commissioners Carolyn Q. Coleman (joined the meeting by phone at 5:45 PM), Alan Branson, Kay Cashion, Ray Trapp, J. Carlvena Foster, Justin Conrad, and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Marty Lawing, County Manager; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Robin Keller, Clerk to the Board; Paul Lowe, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Michael Halford, Budget Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Merle Green, Public Health Director; Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Reid Baker, Finance Director; Clarence Grier, Deputy County Manager; Bonnie Stellfox, Purchasing Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Doug Logan, Court Alternatives Director; Thomas Marshburn, Parks Division Director; Frank Park, Chief Plans Engineer; Susan Heim, Community Environmental Services Manager; Randal Lyons, Budget Analyst; Major C. J. Williamson, Court Services Bureau-Guilford County Sheriff’s Office; Captain K. L. Whitesell, Special Projects Division-Guilford County Sheriff’s Office; Catherine Johnson, Family Justice Center Director; and members of the media and community.

I. INOCATION

Board Chaplin Ben Chavis provided the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henning welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.
IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Anne Hice, of Pleasant Garden, spoke to the benefits of the voluntary agricultural program (VAD). She urged the Commissioners to consider placing the Prison Farm into a VAD district.

Eddie Bridges, Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, shared his support for retaining the Prison Farm property, and for implementing educational programming at the site.

Anne Cassebaum, of Greensboro, spoke in support of, and urged the Board to follow, the proposed Prison Farm Transition Plan.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Health Month Proclamation

Commissioner Trapp read the Proclamation declaring April as Public Health Awareness Month and recognized Merle Green, Public Health Director, to accept the proclamation.

Whereas, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and commends the County’s Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health for providing 104 years of immeasurable service, programming, and support which have helped to bolster the quality of life for all County residents; and

Whereas, the County’s Division of Public Health has implemented initiatives to control and eliminate infectious diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and promote healthy lifestyles which have helped to enhance the health status, and increase the life expectancy of County residents; and

Whereas, the County’s Health Division plays a critical role in eliminating health inequities and preventing chronic diseases and injuries, resulting in improved productivity and decreased health care costs for all residents of Guilford County; and

Whereas, the County’s Health Division responds to both local and state emergencies including natural, man-made disasters, and widespread disease outbreaks-while working to coordinate outreach efforts to local residents; and

Whereas, Guilford County’s Health Division assures that restaurants, hotels, and daycares are safe establishments to patronize through the hard work of environmental health specialists that inspect these facilities on a routine basis to ensure compliance with State statutes; and

Whereas, the County’s Health Division promotes better health through the lifespan by providing services and supporting policies to help young people stay well and develop into healthy adults, through care for pregnant women, immunizations for all ages, dental care for children, promoting physical activity, and helping schools to provide healthy foods; and
Whereas, the Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health protects the public from zoonotic diseases through the management of animal control services.

Now therefore, be it resolved that Guilford County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim April 2015 as:

PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH

This Board encourages all Guilford County residents to take steps to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of their families by making healthy personal lifestyle choices, seeking regular preventative healthcare and logging on to www.myguilford.com for information and suggestions for maintaining and improving health.

Green shared that she and her staff enjoyed working to keep County residents healthy and highlighted a number of events that the County and various community partners were sponsoring during the Public Health Month.

B. Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month

Commissioner Cashion read the Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month in Guilford County. Cashion recognized Susan Brady of Family Services of the Piedmont to receive the proclamation.

Whereas, sexual violence and child abuse are widespread and impact every community member of Guilford County; and,

Whereas, sexual assault and child abuse are a public responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of Guilford County; and,

Whereas, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment adversely impact our community. Nationally, one in six women and one in 33 men will be victim of rape, or attempted rape, at some point in their lives; and

Whereas, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before age 18; and

Whereas, statistics reported by Family Service of the Piedmont, a local nonprofit agency in Guilford County offering quality support services, advocacy and education for individuals and families in crisis, show that through the end of December of this year, 1308 crisis line callers have requested services, up 5% over last year; 532 individuals have been referred and received domestic violence advocacy services from law enforcement, DSS and the courts through January, up 59% from last year; and client enrollment in the domestic violence intervention program is up 7% over last year; and 144 Forensic interviews of children suspected of having been sexually or physically abused have been completed through January of this year; and
Whereas, effective sexual assault and child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

Whereas, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is evidence that we can be successful in preventing sexual violence and child abuse in Guilford County through increased education, awareness, and community involvement; and  
Whereas, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent both child abuse and sexual violence. Guilford County is committed to starting conversations, taking appropriate action and supporting one another to create a safe, stable and nurturing community for all.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Board of Commissioners join advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent child abuse and sexual violence. Along with the United States of America and State of North Carolina, we hereby proclaim April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Child Abuse Prevention Month.”

Brady thanked the Board for continuing to raise awareness of abuse and sexual assault in the County and supporting preventative and advocacy programming.

C. Recognition of Jim Albright for outstanding service and accomplishing 70 pre-hospital resuscitations

Commissioner Perdue praised Emergency Services staff for their efforts to serve the citizens of the County, and recognized Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director, for personally reviving seventy patients- a feat accomplished by only one other in the history of Guilford County.

Albright then thanked the Board for acknowledging the efforts of his staff and emergency responders.

Vice Chairman Phillips commended Albright for his service to the County.

Commissioner Coleman entered the meeting at 5:45PM via simultaneous communication.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Henning asked if any Commissioners wished to pull any item on the consent agenda for separate consideration. There being none, Commissioner Branson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Trapp.
A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. Approved receipt of the Governor's Crime Technology Improvement Grant Award, in the amount of $58,509. These funds will be used to purchase computers, cameras, Cellbrite and technological items for law enforcement purposes. The Governor's Crime Commission serves as the chief advisory board to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety on crime and justice issues. The purpose of this grant is to purchase computers, cameras, Cellbrite and technological items for law enforcement.

   a) Increase the Law Enforcement FY 2015 budget to reflect the receipt of the Governor's Crime Commission Technology Improvement Grant, in the amount of $58,509. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

   The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

   | BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT                      |
   | General Fund                                     |
   | Increase Appropriation to Law Enforcement: $58,509 |
   | Increase Federal/State Revenue: $58,509           |

2. Approved an increase to the FY 2015 Health and Human Services Department (Public Health Division) budget by $2,097 detailed below:

   a) Approved a $2,097 increase in State/Federal funds (Chronic Disease & Injury, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch) for additional funds received for educational materials and promotion of Smoke-free Restaurants and Bars Law, tobacco cessation, and program sustainability by the local Health Department. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED. (Merle Green)

   The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

   | BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT                      |
   | General Fund                                     |
   | Increase Appropriation to Public Health by $2,097 |
   | Increase Federal & State Funds by $ 2,097        |

B. CONTRACTS

1. Approved the purchase of twenty-five (25) 800 Mhz radios and related accessories from Motorola Solutions, Inc., 1303 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196, in the amount of $138,802.00. The purchase is made from State Contract 725G, and includes a discount due to the volume of the order. The purchase will help complete subscriber upgrades for public safety agencies operating in Guilford County. Funds will be used from an existing capital project ordinance that was approved by the Board of Commissioners in November 2011 to complete the upgrade. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.
C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Approved the Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health Division) to accept a -70 degree benchtop freezer from Melinta Therapeutics. (Letter attached). This freezer will be used by Public Health Division at the 1100 E. Wendover Ave. location. Guilford County is a sentinel site that participates in a program with CDC to monitor trends in antimicrobial susceptibilities of stains of N. gonorrhea. Specimens containing N. gonorrhea are placed in this subzero freezer to be frozen at minus 70 degrees Celsius until ready for shipping to CDC for testing. Retail value of this freezer is approximately $7,000.

2. Approved the following sets of County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes:

   02/05-02/06/15 - Commissioners' Annual Retreat
   3/19/2015 - Work Session
   3/19/2015 - Regular Meeting

Commissioner Alan Branson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ray Trapp.

VOTE: Motion Carried 9-0.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Held Public Hearing for the purpose of amending the General Development Ordinance Section 7-1.6. (A) Design of Improvements. This ordinance revision allows design flexibility where site constraints or other factors make it impractical to upgrade the existing storm control device.

Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director, introduced the public hearing and explained that the proposed alternation did not constitute a new regulation to the County’s Development Ordinance, but was offered to provide additional clarity for developers and builders regarding the appropriateness of storm water control systems. Bell noted that the proposal was approved by both the Environmental Review Board and the Planning Board.

Chairman Henning opened floor for proponents. There being none, the Chairman closed the floor for proponents and opened the floor for opponents. There being no opponents the Chairman closed the public hearing. Chairman Henning asked the Board for discussion on the matter. There being none, the Chairman called the vote.
Motion was made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to approve Text Amendment Case #15-02-GCPL-00679 amending the General Development Ordinance Section 7-1.6(A) Design of Improvements, to better define and clarify the opportunity to upgrade existing storm control devices in lieu of new device requirements.

VOTE: Motion Carried 9-0.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reviewed and Approved the County Prison Farm Management Transition Plan

Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director, reviewed the proposed Transition Plan, and shared that his Department had received seven bids from prospective farmers who had expressed interest in working the site. McNiece stated that the highest bidder had offered the County $38,000 a year to lease the available parcels.

Commissioner Branson commented on the various bids submitted to the Facilities Department; he stated he wanted to ensure that an educational component could be included in the final transition plan for the Prison Farm. Branson also inquired about the financial reporting that would have to be completed as a part of the lease approval process.

McNiece then explained the due diligence process that his Department would employ before executing the lease agreement, which would include background checks.

Commissioner Branson questioned the Facilities Department’s outreach efforts. Branson asked for clarification as to the amount of outreach and time frame that was offered to potential bidders.

McNiece replied that his Department had made a good faith effort to inform the County’s farming community about the Prison Farm property that was available for lease.

Commissioner Conrad questioned the utility of placing easements on the Prison Farm property to ensure that the location was preserved for future generations. He asked if the actions recommended in the proposed transition plan would preclude the County from considering any future storm water mitigation or wetland mitigation credits.

McNiece reported there was potential for exploring the establishment of credits, and added that doing so would not interfere with the County’s efforts to lease the Farm.

Commissioner Perdue shared he had received several concerns regarding the County’s outreach efforts, and stated that longer lease terms and a more comprehensive marketing initiative would result in a greater number of bids for the property.

McNiece responded that the actual number of bids submitted had exceeded Departmental estimates.
Commissioner Perdue inquired if the Agricultural Extension Center had been consulted regarding the bid process.

McNiece confirmed that the Extension Center participated in the pre-bid process.

Marty Lawing, County Manager, addressed the due diligence requirements and explained that the letter of credit requirement, which was a part of the County’s property acquisition plan, was in place to protect the County financially. Lawing then asked, as the proposed leases were for a relatively short timeframe, if the Board would want to waive the requirements of the Plan.

Vice Chairman Phillips stated that his preference would be for the Board to follow its established procedures when considering the submitted Prison Farm leases.

Commissioner Trapp shared his support for adhering to the adopted property management guidelines.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the prospective lessees were aware of the reporting requirements of the Plan, and added that if they weren’t, then staff should work to inform all interested parties.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the proposed additional staff person that was included in the initial recommendation.

McNiece reviewed the duties that would need to be addressed by an employee to manage the properties.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if the grounds maintenance duties would warrant a full time position given the seasonal responsibility.

McNiece clarified the existing count of maintenance staff, and shared his opinion that a supervisor for the additional 740 acres and facilities would be warranted.

Commissioner Cashion then expressed her support for following established protocols for leasing and selling property when considering the various Prison Farm leases.

Vice Chairman Phillips agreed that each farmer who submitted a bid should be notified regarding the County’s due diligence processes.

Commissioner Coleman reviewed discussions during the work session in which the Board requested a transition plan for the Prison Farm. Coleman referred to the motion she made during the work session, and suggested Facilities staff bring forward several options for long-term farm utilization. She added that the Board should work to develop a long term plan for the Prison Farm.

Chairman Henning commented that when the transition plan was discussed the intent was for immediate management to transition from the Sheriff’s office to Facilities and Property management, but that he did not recall discussions regarding long term planning of the farm. He stated that he would ask the Board to move forward with the transition plan and proposed leases; and consider in future discussions, perhaps in future work sessions, to look into other uses for the farm property.
Commissioner Coleman emphasized her previous request for a long range plan, and asked clarification of the full Board’s intent to receive additional long range planning options.

Commissioner Branson shared information regarding a recent Parks and Recreation meeting discussing potential educational opportunities and farm expos. He stated that he has asked individuals to prepare some additional options for the property. Branson discussed a large hurdle of liability, and working relationships with the lessee that will continue to be worked through as leasing the property is a fairly new venture. He stated that he would like to share some potential long term usage ideas with Commissioner Coleman.

Commissioner Cashion noted the time sensitivity to move forward with the leases, and shared her interest in additional long term planning regarding the property.

Commissioner Branson questioned Mr. McNiece as to the recent information regarding the stream and wetland mitigation credit estimates and potential opportunities.

McNiece stated there would be a cost to make improvements to the stream and wetland areas to qualify for the credits up to $250,000 with a potential credit of $2.5 million. He shared there are several options to market the credits or to sell the credits. McNiece reviewed the long term commitment of the credits.

Commissioner Branson asked additional questions regarding necessary buffer zones around the streams and cautioned the Board to ensure that proper environmental impact studies, as well as an appraisal, should be conducted to ensure that the Board has adequate information for long range planning purposes.

Commissioner Coleman reiterated her caution of moving forward with the transition plan without having a more long range plan in place. She shared that she did not believe that the transition plan, as presented, provided adequate strategic planning information.

Commissioner Foster questioned how the current lease of grazing land will be affected, should the County move forward with the additional proposed leases.

McNiece stated that the current lease would not be affected.

Commissioner Foster questioned the amount of revenue intake from the farm.

McNiece confirmed that the cost to produce farm product currently runs at a deficit to any revenues received.

Commissioner Perdue questioned what the transition plan allows and disallows in regards to the farm.

McNiece stated it allows clean up of the property, and that the overall day to day operation will transition from Law Enforcement to Facilities staff. He stated that the buildings will continue to be maintained and the property will remain virtually the same. McNiece noted that the transition plan only addresses how the property will be managed but does not prevent or impede any future decisions regarding the property.
Captain Ken Whitesell with the Sheriff’s Department clarified that his staff will continue to maintain the jail facility for at least one year.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Justin Conrad, and seconded by Commissioner Carlvena Foster to approve the Prison Farm transition management plan as presented.**

Commissioner Conrad shared that he was pleased that the transition plan allows for future modifications as long range planning is considered. He expressed support of the N.C. Wildlife Habitat and stated his excited regarding the potential uses for this property for the community (i.e. scouting events, trails, revenue, etc.)

**VOTE:** Motion Carried 8-1.
**NOES:** Commissioner A. Branson
**ABSENT:** None

**IX. APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips, and seconded by Kay Cashion, to approve the two year appointment of Robert G. Cashion, appointed by Commissioner Kay Cashion, and Cynthia Davis, appointed by Chairman Hank Henning, to the Parks and Recreation Commission effective April 1, 2015.

Vice Chairman Phillips reminded the Board that there are still five remaining appointments for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He inquired if Commissioners Foster, Perdue, Coleman, or Branson had any appointment recommendations for their open spots.

Commissioner Alan Perdue offered a friendly amendment to move forward in appointing Commissioner Alan Branson as Commissioner Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Commission. By general consensus the Board agreed to include in the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion as amended carried 9-0.
**NOES:** None.
**ABSENT:** None.

**X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Trapp shared he recently visited the Industries of the Blind with Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman Sharon Hightower. He was pleased and amazed at the work being manufactured at that facility, particularly the items being made for the military. He would like the opportunity to tour the facility again with the County Manager and any other interested Commissioners.
Commissioner Trapp also reminded the Board that a softball game against the City will be held on June 20, 2015 at Gibson Park in High Point. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Thomas Marshburn for his help in facilitating this event.

Commissioner Conrad shared his concern regarding the Sales Tax Reallocation Bill that is currently before the NC Senate and noted that an article related to this topic was in the recent Rhino Times. He encouraged citizens to research this bill and expressed his hope that the Guilford County delegation will fight against this plan.

Commissioner Conrad shared that his Church will participate in the Feeding of The 5000 tomorrow, April 3, 2015. The event will take place at Muirs Chapel United Methodist Church, and 1000 boxes of food for a family of five will be distributed. He invited those in need to attend and welcomed volunteers to participate in the event.

Commissioner Foster shared that on March 9, 2015, she and Chairman Henning participated in a panel discussion at the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors at High Point University. It was a very interesting discussion and she was pleased to represent the County and this Board. On March 24, 2015, she and Commissioner Trapp participated in a radio interview on WNAA 90.1 located on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University. She shared her attendance at a ribbon cutting with Vice-Chairman Phillips at the Greensboro Museum for the displaying of one of the original copies of the Emancipation Proclamation. She thanked her fellow Commissioners for including her in these events.

Commissioner Foster also expressed her condolences to Commissioner Coleman on the recent passing of her brother.

Commissioner Cashion echoed condolences to Commissioner Coleman. She shared that the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has had two sessions with agencies seeking state and county funding, reporting that those evaluations were finished yesterday. She stated that for her this process has worked very well and has been more informative and open than in the past.

Commissioner Cashion shared she attended the retirement party for Pat Danahy, retiring from the Greensboro Partnership, following the reception for US Congressmen Mark Walker. She expressed congratulations to Pat Danahy, Sheriff Barnes, and his wife, Summerfield Mayor Pro-Tem Dena Barnes, on being awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine.

Vice Chairman Phillips also congratulated Sheriff Barnes and wife, Dena Barnes, in being awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine. He acknowledged and thanked the Sheriff for his commitment and long standing service to citizens. He also thanked Dena Barnes for her ongoing work for Guilford County.

Vice Chairman Phillips wished the citizens a happy and safe Easter Holiday weekend.

Commissioner Perdue echoed congratulations to the Sheriff and his wife, Dena Barnes, stating that the award is a high honor. He wished everyone a happy Easter Holiday.
Commissioner Branson also congratulated Sheriff Barnes and Dena Barnes on their recent award. He recognized that there was another recipient of the Order of the Longleaf Pine in the audience, Mr. Eddie Bridges with the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation. He expressed his appreciation for the work that Mr. Bridges has done for the Boy & Girl scouts, church groups, and farming community. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and urged citizens to celebrate with their families. Branson also invited the public to attend a Cross Walk being held this weekend at the Hanes-Lineberry funeral home.

Chairman Henning echoed congratulations to the Sheriff and Dena Barnes.

X. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

There were no comments from the County Manager.

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:16PM.

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Paul “Hank” Henry, IV
Chairman
Guilford County Board of Commissioners

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Robin Keller
Clerk to Board