MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY

Greensboro, North Carolina
May 5, 2011

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on May 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 301 W. Market St., Greensboro; North Carolina.

PRESENT: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston; Vice Chairman Linda Shaw; Commissioners Bill Bencini, Kay Cashion; Bruce Davis, Paul Gibson, John Parks, Kirk Perkins, Mike Winstead, Billy Yow. (Commissioner Carolyn Coleman participated via phone at 6:33 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Fox, County Manager; Sharisse Fuller, Assistant County Manager/Human Resources Director; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Effie Varitimidis, Clerk to Board; Crystal Maurer, Deputy Clerk to Board.

I. INVOCATION

Reverend Durwood Bell, New Creations Christian Fellowship Church, provided the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Girl Scout Junior Troop 40895, Service Unit 151 of the “Carolina Peaks to Piedmont Council” which meets at Jamestown United Methodist Church and Daisy Troops 41001 and 01711 which meet at Lake Jeanette Swim & Tennis Club Clubhouse led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

IV. RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM DEAN "BILL" GORDON (Delayed until Vice Chairman Shaw arrives).

V. PRESENTED PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 6-12, 2011 AS NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Commissioner John Parks read the proclamation declaring May 6-12, 2011 as National Nurses Week.
Felicia Reid, Community Health Services Program Manager, Guilford County Public Health and Judy Southern, Clinic Services Program Manager, Guilford County Public Health, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board for the recognition.

VI. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Michael Norberry, 4109 Palladium Drive, expressed concern over proposed tax increases.

Linda Gladstone, 112 W. Bessemer Drive, expressed concern about the future funding of Family Service of the Piedmont. She spoke on the services they provide involving domestic violence. She pointed out that they provide the only 24/7 crisis line in the area.

Linda McKnight, 6114 Chalet Drive, Oak Ridge, spoke about the clients served by Family Service of the Piedmont and their need for funding. She said the services they provide are invaluable to the area.

Kate Cummings, 2102 Briarwood Drive, Media Specialist at Grimsley High School, spoke on the Guilford County High School Poet Laureate project. She presented each Commissioner with a booklet of poetry and Samantha Flitter, student at American Hebrew Academy, read one of her poems: “The Spider.”

Vickie Alston, 1713 Scarborough Road, High Point, spoke in support of Family Service of the Piedmont. She said Guilford County is not immune to domestic violence. She said continued funding of Family Service of the Piedmont is money well spent.

Jeff Hyde, 1117 W. Cornwallis Drive, said that last year Commissioner Perkins encouraged citizen groups to get involved in the budget and suggest ways to reduce the county budget. He said a group of concerned citizens has done so and they have found opportunities for the Board to reform county tax spending. He invited the Board to attend the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011 in the Old County Courthouse.

Bill Foster, 2704 Corrieton Court, Oak Ridge, spoke on the criteria for recognizing an All American City. He spoke on debt. He said tax increases are not the answer for a spending problem. He asked the board to avoid a tax increase and meet with the citizen group on May 16th to save money.

Jim Lewis, 1101 Hammel Road, said the current proposed budget is unsustainable. He said median household income is flat, inflation is up in the double digits, the cost of living is sky rocketing and citizens have less disposable income and state funding will be less. He added that raising property taxes is not an option and it could put people into default. He asked the Commissioners to cut the budget because revenue will not be there to sustain it.

Jeremy Williams, 2049 Treyburn Lane, High Point, spoke about the proposed budget and said he hoped dialogue will open up and allow for more compromises. He noted several savings options
that citizens have worked on to avoid a tax increase. He also everyone to pray for the nation on
the National Day of prayer and come together as one nation under God.

Luther Falls, Jr., 1603 Landsdown Avenue, spoke about his small business network in Guilford
County and thanked Guilford County for their support. He also encouraged everyone to visit
Gateway Gardens and support Big Brothers and Big Sisters in their fundraising efforts.

Kevin Buckholtz, 1306 Clarendon Drive, spoke in support of the county’s school based public
health dental hygiene program. He said the school based public health dental hygienist is
important and urged the Board to continue funding the position and allow the services to
continue.

Van Clippard, 8404 Creek Ridge Court, Oak Ridge, spoke on the base budget presented by
County Manager Fox. He asked the Board to do the hard work and ask the hard questions
regarding the proposed budget. He thanked the Commissioners that have stated they support no
tax increase and asked those that have not stated their position to do so at the end of the meeting.

READ RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM DEAN "BILL"
GORDON

Vice Chairman Linda Shaw read the resolution in honor of the life of William Dean “Bill”
Gordon and expressed her deepest sympathy to the family. Several of his family members were
present to accept the resolution and they thanked the Board for the honor.

VII. APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Alston asked if anyone would like to remove any items from the consent agenda for
further discussion. Chairman Alston pointed out Revised Item VIII. (A) (1) for the Board’s
approval on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Cashion made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to approve the
following consent agenda: the motion carried on the following roll call vote:

VOTE: Motion carried 9 - 1
AYES: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston; Vice Chairman Linda Shaw;
Commissioners Bill Bencini, Kay Cashion, Bruce Davis, Paul Gibson,
John Parks, Kirk Perkins, Mike Winstead.
NOES: Commissioner Billy Yow
ABSENT: Commissioner Carolyn Coleman

A. CONTRACTS

1. Approved the Price Only Contracts for the Security Department for Security Services
Event #223 (Guilford County's Security Services) was released on March 11, 2011 and
the following was determined to be the lowest responsive bidder based on Security's
evaluation team. Approved a two-year Price Only Contract to begin July 1, 2011 and end
on June 30, 2013 with a one year renewal option for Security Services with Lankford Protective Services, Inc. for a Contract amount not to exceed: $652,735. Security Services Awarded: Lankford Protective Services, Inc., 2711 Pinedale Road 2-B, Greensboro, Awarded Amount $652,735. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS ARE REQUIRED.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Approved minutes from the following Commissioners' Meetings:
   03/15/11 - Work Session

2. (a)Accepted the donation of a public access easement through the McAllister Place neighborhood for construction of Bicentennial Greenway Phase 5 Section 1 (the first easement). This easement is approximately 2,700 linear feet with an area of approximately 54,800 square feet (1.26 acres). (b)Acquired a public access easement through Guilford County parcel #76403, located at 1719 Harrod Lane owned by Gary Burkhart, Trustee for Dann Burkhart (the second easement). The appraised value of the easement is $14,500 and the owner has agreed to that price. This easement is approximately 1,002 linear feet with an area of approximately 20,040 square feet (0.45 acres). NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS ARE REQUIRED.

VIII. HELD PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Carolyn Coleman participated in the meeting via phone at this time. 6:33 p.m.

A. Held Public Hearing on the County Manager's Recommended Budget for FY 2011-12.

Altina Layman, 212 W. Newlyn Street, spoke on behalf of the United Arts Council of Greensboro in support of arts funding. She provided the Board with several facts supporting the need for arts funding.

Debbie Lumpkins, High Point Area Arts Council, requested arts funding be sustained in next year’s budget and cited recent county policy concerning community based organizations. She asked the Board to honor a long-term funding commitment to the arts.

Melissa Willeford, 3398 Valley Crossing Drive, said she is concerned about the children in Guilford County and asked the Board to support school funding. She also noted the recent voter approved bond in support of school funding and provided the Board with insight to her personal involvement with the schools and the immeasurable services they provide the students.

Lillian Gomez, 606 Park Avenue, thanked Commissioner Parks for attending school events. She said she supports school funding and urged the Board to restore the schools capital outlay budget. She further asked the Board to support citizen’s wishes regarding school bonds.

Brian Kendall, 3401 Round Hill Road, asked the Board to approve the school superintendent’s request for school funding. He added that no operational increase for three years is acceptable.
Stephanie Cordick, 3909 Waterside Drive, spoke in support of the arts. She shared that the Eastern Music Festival benefits from arts funding and urged the Board to continue their support. She also said the Guilford County benefits from the Eastern Music Festival economically.

Yvonne Johnson, 4311 King Arthur Place, reconsider funding for the One Step Further program. She said they provide adult and youth mediation services as well as many others and have contracted with the county for many years.

Jean Reagan, 4823 Harvey Road, Jamestown, spoke in support of the Guilford County Schools Hanes Inman Special Needs Facility. She said schools are very different today and student needs are great. She added that school nurses are important as well as dental hygienists and asked the Board to continue their funding.

Sally Hayes Williams, 1101 North Elm Street, spoke in support of Communities in Schools of Greater Greensboro and the 600 children involved in the TANF program associated with the Guilford County Department of Social Services. She asked the Board to continue their funding.

William Heasley, 4103 King Edward Court, said resources are scarce and spoke on the political economy and public choice economics. He said taxpayers need to understand what is happening.

Jodi Riddleberger, 4017 Westmount Drive, said the economy is bad. As a participant on a citizens committee reviewing the budget she said they have spending reform options for the Board to consider. She encouraged the Board to hear what they have found and hoped they will attend the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011.

Adeline Talbot, spoke in support of arts funding and asked the Board to continue to support the United Arts Council. She said it has proven its value to the community.

Laura Hundley, 4701 Wellford Court, spoke on the impact of art on students with disabilities. She thanked the Board for supporting the arts council and asked them to continue supporting the arts for students with disabilities.

Chuck Hodierne, 715 N. Eugene Street, Executive Director of Youth Focus, requested the Board reinstate their funding in next year’s budget. He said the support many programs such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. He urged the Board not remove their allocation.

Kay Epps, 3633 Akers Court, High Point, spoke in support of the High Point Area Arts Council. She asked the Board to invest the future of children and support arts programs.

Frankie Heath, 1104 Hobbs Road, spoke in support of keeping the Prison Farm open. She said education is key for offenders and the prison farm offers innovative programs through the NC Department of Corrections. She said the Prison Farm is an asset to Guilford County.

Joe Williams, Pleasant Garden, spoke in support of the County Farm and One Step Further. He urged the Board to support organizations and programs that divert people away from the court system. He said it is his patriotic duty to pay taxes.
Jamie Collins, 1222 Yorkshire Drive, High Point, Board Chair for Communities in Schools in High Point said Communities in Schools is vital to the neediest children in High Point. He said they work with the Guilford County Department of Social Services TANF program and asked the Board to continue their funding.

Cerise Collins, 3866 Parkway Vista Drive, Executive Director of Communities in Schools in High Point, said they believe in partnerships. She indicated that they do receive funding from Social Services and work on the preventive approach with students and families.

Charrisse Franklin, 1809 Boulding Avenue, High Point, spoke in support of Communities in Schools and asked the Board to fund their program.

Jimmi Williams, 1101 N. Elm Street #708, representing Communities in Schools, thanked the Board for their support in the past and hoped they will continue to support their efforts. He provided the Board with high school dropout statistics and indicated their program helps change some of the dire statistics relating to dropout rates, teen pregnancy and unemployment.

Francine Scott, 1200 Lincoln Street, Communities in Schools site coordinator at Dudley High School, connects students with a variety of resources to keep students in schools. She said she has developed partnerships to ensure success and urged the Board to continue their funding.

Kiera Baskerville, 604 Apt. B Banner Avenue, Sr. at Dudley HS, said Communities in Schools has changed her life and thanked the Board for the program. She asked the Board to continue their funding.

Angie Carter, 200-E Kenwick Circle, read a letter in support of Communities in Schools from a former participant Omega McKinnin.

Shirley Spears, 508 Willoughby Blvd., spoke on behalf of Family and Children Services. She said domestic violence happens in every neighborhood and asked the Board to consider the requested amount for funding Family and Children Services in FY 2011-2012.

Jim Lewis, 1101 Hammam Road, questioned how inflation will affect everything. He said he wants to keep everyone grounded and rational and encouraged the Board to not increase taxes.

Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, GSO, said times are bad and he is worried about a tax increase this year. He said everyone can make cuts and tough choices must be made. He asked the Board to do so without a tax increase.

Laura Way, 311 Isabell Street, Executive Director of the Green Hill Center for NC Art, said the arts make a difference and create jobs. She asked the Board to sustain funding for the arts.

Kay Gable Brassfield, 7 Provence Court, pediatrician, spoke in support of Guilford Child Health. She stated children need health care. She said belt tightening is one thing but eliminating this program will be detrimental to the children and the community.
Dennis Frederick, spoke on the escalating federal deficit. He said we are borrowing and spending ourselves into insolvency. He said we must prepare for the future and make difficult decisions. He urged the Board to listen to the citizen volunteers and find solutions to budget problems.

Brittney Draper, 2 Belia Court, stated the purpose of the economy is to grow and cutting the budget can negatively affect the growth of the economy. She asked the Board to make limited cuts in order to allow the economy to grow in Guilford County.

Having no other speakers the Chairman closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Chairman Alston pointed out that the Board will have a Budget Work Session on May 12th.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Business from County Commissioners.

Commissioner Parks announced an Audit Committee meeting will be held on May 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the County Manager’s Conference Room. He also asked if the Board Work Session previously scheduled for 2:00 p.m. could be moved up to 1:00 p.m. on May 12th.

The Board agreed by unanimous consent to set the Work Session at 1:00 p.m. on May 12th in the Blue Room.

XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perkins informed everyone he attended the Awards Breakfast for Master Gardener’s sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Office on April 13 and thanked the volunteers for their hard work in the community. He indicated he attended several other community events and recognized Lenny Williams, Mayor of Gibsonville, in attendance. He also stated there needs to be a long term solution to the land fill problem.

Commissioner Winstead informed citizens that he will attend the upcoming “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011 and said he will keep an open mind during the budget process.

Commissioner Perkins said he will also keep an open mind during the budget process but indicated it is a balancing act. He added that the Board will be fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Parks said he attended a “Communities in Schools” event and congratulated all the volunteers and participants. He congratulated Guilford Public Health for their 100 years of
service and announced that Judge Joe Turner was recently sworn in as a Resident Superior Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District.

Commissioner Yow and Vice Chairman Shaw thanked Chairman Alston for organizing County Commissioner District Meetings.

Vice Chairman Shaw presented a photograph taken on the Old County Courthouse steps many years ago with six men and no indication of who they are. She asked if anyone knows who they are to contact the County Manager’s office.

Commissioner Cashion said she attended a meeting in Raleigh with the Governor concerning legislative priorities. She indicated that lottery funds and misdemeanants were key issues addressed. She also thanked the Guilford County delegation in successfully getting lottery funds increased and pointed out she will have an open mind during the budget process.

Commissioner Davis said he looks forward to attending the GTCC graduation. He also said he would love to see no tax increase in this year’s budget and he will have an open mind during the budget process.

Commissioner Coleman said she will unable to attend the “People's First Spending Reform Summit”. She also said she will be open to any information and suggestions on the budget but indicated services must still be provided for those people in need.

Commissioner Gibson stated he plans to attend the “People's First Spending Reform Summit”. He said he also recently attended a Substance Abuse Academy graduation. He said a walk-through for the new detention center will be helpful in understanding the sheriff’s staffing needs.

Commissioner Gibson made a motion to set Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. as a time to conduct a walk-through of the new detention facility. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yow.

Following discussion, Chairman Alston suggested the Board check their schedules and those that can attend on the 10th to do so and those that are unable to attend at that time another date will be forthcoming.

The motion made by Commissioner Gibson and seconded by Commissioner Yow carried by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Gibson expressed concern on the new format for the Commissioner’s Events Calendar. Commissioners Gibson, Perkins, and Cashion said they like the prior format.

Chairman Alston advised the County Manager to take the comments under consideration.

Chairman Alston said he would like to form a Redistricting Committee to discuss redistricting in detail and appointed Vice Chairman Shaw along with Commissioners Kay Cashion, Bruce Davis, Kirk Perkins.
Chairman Alston informed everyone of the City/County Golf Tournament scheduled for May 16th at Bryan Park and invited county employees desiring to participate to contact Fred Jones. He stated that he will not attend the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011 because he said he thinks the group is not diverse and they have not done their homework.

Discussion ensued regarding the City/County Golf Tournament.

Commissioner Perkins asked the County Attorney for his opinion regarding Commissioners attending the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011.

County Attorney advised that the Board can attend and the meeting will be properly noticed by staff.

Discussion continued regarding the logistics for the reform summit meeting and they were addressed by the County Manager. The County Attorney also advised the Board on the meeting procedures.

Jeff Hyde, spokesman for the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” said a presentation will be made to the Commissioners in document form and the public is also invited to attend.

For clarification purposes Commissioner Coleman stated the “Peoples First Spending Reform Summit” on May 16, 2011 is a public meeting that anyone can attend and the Board of Commissioners is invited just as anyone else.

XII. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER

There were no comments made from the County Manager.

XIII. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Jeff Hyde, 1117 W. Cornwallis Drive, announced that all of their meetings are open to the public and invited everyone to attend.

William (Bill) Heasley, 4103 King Edward Court, spoke about the school budget and the several layers of dollars that they have. He said he hoped the Board will look very closely at the school budget during budget deliberations.

XIV. HELD CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A REAL ESTATE MATTER OR POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSULT WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY ON POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Cashion to enter Closed Session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter or possible land acquisition and consult with the County Attorney on potential litigation. The motion carried by unanimous consent 11 to 0 on the following roll call vote:
VOTE: Motion carried 11 - 0  
AYES: Chairman Melvin “Skip” Alston; Vice Chairman Linda Shaw; Commissioners Bill Bencini, Kay Cashion, Carolyn Coleman (via phone), Bruce Davis, Paul Gibson, John Parks, Kirk Perkins, Mike Winstead, Billy Yow.  
NOES: None.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 9:50 p.m.

COUNTY MANAGER FILED REPORTS OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL AND CONTRACTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2011

County Manager Fox filed her report of out of state travel and contracts approved by her for the month of April 2011. (See copy in file with these minutes.)

XV. ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:50 p.m.

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Chairman, Guilford County Commissioners

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Clerk to Board