MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GUILFORD COUNTY

Greensboro, North Carolina
January 15, 2015

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed regular meeting on January 15, 2015 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 5:59 PM), Alan Branson, Ray Trapp, Justin Conrad, and Alan Perdue.

ABSENT: Commissioners Kay Cashion and J. Carlvena Foster.

ALSO PRESENT: Marty Lawing, County Manager; Mark Payne, County Attorney; Robin Keller, Clerk to the Board; Paul Lowe, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Sheriff BJ Barnes; Colonel T.R. Powers; Major C. J. Williamson, Court Services Bureau-Sheriff’s Office; Michael Halford, Budget Director; Jim Albright, Emergency Services Director; Ben Chavis, Tax Director; Merle Green, Public Health Director; Robert McNiece, Facilities, Parks, and Property Management Director; Bonnie Stellfox, Purchasing Director; Jeff Fowler, Security Director; Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director; Reid Baker, Finance Director; Doug Logan, Court Alternatives Director; Jeff Thigpen, Register of Deeds; Don Campbell, Emergency Management Division Director; 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 5:36 PM.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Twanda Johnson, Greensboro, expressed concerns regarding her family’s efforts to secure a road closure from the County.
Chairman Henning questioned whether staff had reviewed County policies with the family.

County Manager Marty Lawing reviewed the various meetings that staff has held with the property owners. Lawing reported that the County has exhausted all possible options within the provisions of the existing development ordinance.

County Attorney Payne shared that without pursuing a text amendment, the property owners were limited to the options provided to residents under the County’s existing ordinance.

Chairman Henning asked Payne to provide the Board with a chronological accounting of all meetings that staff has held with the family regarding the issue.

Commissioner Branson opined that staff has made several attempts to address the property owners concerns.

Mr. Johnson, property owner, asked for clarification regarding County policies.

Andy Stevens, Greensboro, asked that constraints on concealed carry permit holders be reduced.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

1. Approve the receipt of the Bureau of Justice State Criminal Alien Assistance Grant (SCAAP) in the amount of $66,906. Increase the FY 2014/15 Law Enforcement Budget in the amount of $66,906., to reflect the receipt of the Bureau of Justice State Criminal Alien Assistance Grant. The following items and upgrades will be purchased with these funds. They are: Furnish labor and materials to install 1 Pan/Tilt IP Camera and 17 Axis Dome IP Cameras which are connected to Exacq Server. (HP Jail). Purchase labor and all materials to install 5 LED wall packs at existing mechanical building to light mechanical yard. (Jail Central). Purchase a Dymo Label Writer/Thermal Printer (Jail Central). Purchase /install carpet into 4 offices (Jail Central). Purchase/install flooring behind booking area (Jail Central). Purchase 2 Power Edge R620 Intel Xeon Processers/one server configured to existing ONSSI CCTV System (Jail Central). Purchase Eaton Rackmount UPS (Powerware) Technology (Jail Central) NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUESTED.

The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Appropriation to Law Enforcement $66,906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Federal/State Revenue $66,906</td>
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2. Approve an increase to the FY 2015 Health and Human Services Department (Public Health Division) of $3,550 as detailed below. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.
The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase Appropriation to Public Health by</td>
<td>$3,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Federal/State Funds by</td>
<td>$1,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Other Revenues by</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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3. Increase Appropriation to Court Alternatives by $900; and Increase Other Revenue by $900 - as result of a Donation made by The Dolley Madison Women's Club, a highly recognized organization of the North Carolina General Federation of Women's Clubs, to aid in the development of a full arts program for the juvenile detainees. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

The following Budget Ordinance Amendment was adopted:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Appropriation to Court Alternatives by</td>
<td>$900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Other Revenue by</td>
<td>$900</td>
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B. **CONTRACTS**

1. Approve the purchase of Valcom Class Connection Communications System w/Exacq Vision IP Video System, IP Cameras and Audio Recording System for Juvenile Detention at all inclusive price of $124,032.89. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

2. Approve an interlocal agreement, in substantial form, as attached hereto, with Alamance County to provide access to the WebEOC Software system and increase the Emergency Services FY2015 budget by $4,167. Alamance County will provide cost sharing revenues to assist Guilford County in offsetting initial setup, annual maintenance costs, and any staff time required to support their implementation of WebEOC. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

3. Approve Price Only Contract with lowest responsive bidder G&K Services, 10 Woody Drive, Graham, NC 27253 for linen services to cover shop, bath towels, mats, jackets, overalls used by our EMS staff on a daily basis. Contract amount is $124,382.00 for the initial years ($62,191.00 per year). The contract period will begin on January 15, 2015 and end on January 14, 2017 with the option to renew for three (3) additional years. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

4. Approve a Price Only Contract with the lowest responsive bidder SOUTHDATA, located at 201 Technology Lane, Mt. Airy, NC 27030 for Document Printing, Inserting and Mailing Services for Various Departments in Guilford County. Contract amount is $734,234. per year or the initial three contract will be $2,202,702. The contract period will begin on January 15, 2015 and end on January 14, 2018 with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods at the same price, terms and conditions. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.
5. Authorize Planning staff to administer the 2015 Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grant to assist with maintenance of the Mendenhall Plantation. NO COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Approve VAD Applications # 2104-11 being 33.68 acres being Tax Parcel # 0120000 @ 33.68 acres, owned by Lawrence B. May, McLeansville, NC; Application # 2014-12 being 39.46 acres being Tax Parcel #0117856 @ 39.46 acres, owned by Rodney Speas, Gibsonville, NC; and, Application #2014-13 being 73.03 acres and comprised of two Tax Parcels (#0111754 @ 30.93 acres; and #0111743 @ 42.1 acres), all owned by John A. Clapp and Michael D. Clapp, Greensboro, NC.

2. Approve the refund of $380.00 to Jenkins Law Group for payment of tax stamps per N.C.G.S. §105-228.37.

3. Accept and approve the Tax Department's Beverage License and Tax Collection Reports for the month ending December 31, 2014.


5. Approve the following sets of County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Branson, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 0.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners C. Coleman C. Foster, C. Cashion.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Hold Public Hearing for the purpose of Adding Section 6-7 Dumpster Screening, Section 6-7.1 Applicability, and Section 6-7.2 General Standards, to provide guidance and standards for Dumpster Screening.

Leslie Bell, Planning & Development Director, reviewed the proposed alterations and commented that the amendments would provide developers with greater predictability.

Commissioner Branson questioned how the proposal would impact existing business.

Bell replied that existing business would be exempted from the added standards. Bell noted that the amendments would simply provide the County’s current dumpster screening requirement with technical guidelines for developers to follow.
Vice Chairman Phillips questioned how the standard would be applied to leased properties.

Bell reported that the alteration would apply to new construction or existing properties where there is a change of use. Bell shared that design standards are explained to each developer, who is pursuing permits and approvals, during the development review process.

Commissioner Perdue asked for clarification regarding the proposed amendments.

Bell reviewed scenarios in which property owners would have to comply with the new standards.

Commissioner Perdue questioned if the provision addressed temporary dumpsters.

Bell replied that the proposal did not consider temporary dumpsters.

Commissioner Perdue expressed his concern regarding the request and asked that the item be tabled- so that the Board could fully assess its potential impacts on local businesses.

Chairman Henning then opened the public hearing. No proponents signed up to address the issue. Henning then opened the floor to opponents. Andy Stevens, Greensboro, raised concerns regarding the proposal. Seeing no other speakers, Henning closed the public hearing.

Bell clarified that the County already had a screening requirement in place, and commented that the proposed text amendment would only provide standards for developers to follow.

Commissioner Conrad explained that due to the lack of details pertaining to the County’s current dumpster screening requirement, permit applications can be subjectively turned down. Conrad commented that the amendments would provide consistency in the plan review process while offering guidance to developers.

Commissioner Perdue stated that he did not have an issue with the requirements being applied to new construction, but feared that the proposal could negatively impact existing businesses.

Commissioner Trapp opined that the proposal would help to limit uncertainty in the development process and spoke in favor of the amendment.

Chairman Henning shared his support for the measure.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ray Trapp, and seconded by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips to adopt approve amending sections 6-7 Dumpster Screening, Section 6-7.1 Applicability, and Section 6-7.2 General Standards of the County’s Development Ordinance, to provide guidance and standards for Dumpster Screening.

VOTE: Motion carried 7 – 0.  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: Commissioners C. Foster, C. Cashion.
VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept title transfer of aircraft, as the acting lead agency for the National Institute of Justice Law Enforcement Aviation Technology Multi-Agency Program currently in operation between Guilford County, Alamance, Davidson and Randolph Counties, from the Center for Rural Development; and Authorize staff to take any and all necessary measures to execute the transfer of title, including but not limited to, the amendment of the existing Memorandum of Understanding for the Use of the Light Sport Aircraft.

Colonel T.R. Powers introduced the item and reviewed the history of the aircraft program. Powers noted that the federally sponsored program generated 524 local missions which led to the recovery of drugs, stolen property, and missing persons- while assisting with a number of investigations. Powers explained that the Sherriff’s Department was seeking the Board’s approval to transfer ownership of the plane from the Justice Department to the County.

Commissioner Trapp asked how many aircraft the County operated.

Colonel Powers stated that the County only operates one plane, but occasionally has access to a North Carolina Highway Patrol helicopter.

Commissioner Trapp questioned the ongoing expenses associated with the aircraft program.

Colonel Powers shared the per agency fixed costs, and the per mileage costs of the aircraft.

Commissioner Trapp expressed concerns with the proposal. Trapp shared that he had conducted research on other communities that were awarded an aircraft from the Justice Department, and noted that many of the programs had significant cost overruns.

Colonel Powers explained that a fixed wing aircraft is much less expensive to operate than a helicopter, and added that the County was able to control costs, in part, by utilizing qualified pilots that held other full time positions.

Commissioner Trapp asked Powers if he felt that the program’s costs were justified.

Colonel Powers reported that the Sheriff’s Department regularly covers the program’s costs by utilizing the aircraft- while taking drugs and criminals off the street.

Sheriff Barnes opined that a helicopter would not be appropriate for the County, and explained that the aircraft is used on an as needed basis by number of agencies through an interlocal agreement.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Powers for the update and inquired if the other jurisdictions, which were a part of the interlocal agreement, employed pilots.

Colonel Powers responded that Alamance and Randolph counties employed pilots.
Commissioner Coleman questioned the safety of the aircraft.

Colonel Powers provided an update regarding the safety features of the aircraft.

Commissioner Coleman asked if piloting the plane was included in officers’ job descriptions.

Sheriff Barnes replied that piloting duties were included in a number of Departmental staff’s job descriptions, and stated that pilots for the program volunteered for the service.

Commissioner Perdue spoke in favor of the title transfer, and shared that the aircraft had been utilized during several crisis situations while providing assistance to first responders.

Chairman Henning asked for clarification regarding the action item.

Colonel Powers confirmed that the request sought to transfer the title for the aircraft from the Justice Department to the County. Powers shared that the operational aspects of the program would remain the same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Branson to approve transferring the title for the aircraft, as the acting lead agency for the National Institute of Justice Law Enforcement Aviation Technology Multi-Agency Program currently in operation between Guilford County, Alamance, Davidson and Randolph Counties, from the Center for Rural Development; and Authorize staff to take any and all necessary measures to execute the transfer of title, including but not limited to, the amendment of the existing Memorandum of Understanding for the Use of the Light Sport Aircraft.

VOTE: Motion carried 6 – 1.
NOES: Commissioner R. Trapp.
ABSENT: Commissioners C. Foster, C. Cashion.

B. Receive update on the possible utilization of Body Cameras for the Guilford County Sheriff’s Department.

Commissioner Coleman asked for an update from the Sheriff regarding the possibility of utilizing body cameras in the County.

Sheriff Barnes reported that his office has been in the process of reviewing and testing various models of cameras for the past year and shared that he was looking to acquire 350 body cameras for his armed field personnel. Barnes noted that eventually he would like to provide cameras to detention officers as well. Barnes explained that Federal funds were available to help localities purchase the cameras and added that each unit costs approximately $900.00, making the cost to implement the program at about $315,000.

Commissioner Coleman questioned Barnes’ position on implementing body cameras.
Sheriff Barnes shared that he was in favor of utilizing the technology and stated that the cameras could be useful in collecting information on Departmental operations. Barnes commented that the information captured would not necessarily constitute a public record. Barnes opined that the data collected should only be shared with the DA’s Office and other law enforcement entities.

Commissioner Coleman asked if there were incidents-if videos would be available to the public.

Sheriff Barnes expressed concerns regarding releasing all videos to the public. Barnes stated that such a policy would require additional staff to handle public information requests and reiterated his belief that only law enforcement agencies should have access to the data from the cameras.

Commissioner Coleman responded that she was not interested in seeing all videos released, but wanted the data from the cameras shared after incidents of police shootings or altercations.

Sheriff Barnes reviewed the various types of public information requests that he would anticipate should the County utilize body cameras. Barnes commented that consistency in utilization was important, and added that rules governing the usage of the cameras had not yet been developed.

Commissioner Coleman shared that ultimately she was interested in who would have access to the information- to promote transparency and greater trust in law enforcement agencies. Coleman then expressed interest in the County developing a citizens’ review board.

Sheriff Barnes stated that the Guilford County Sheriff's office has the highest level of integrity, and opined that his Office has nothing to hide. Barnes commented that he was interested in protecting the rights of all citizens of the County. Barnes then reiterated that his Office is committed to providing the best service possible to County residents.

Commissioner Coleman thanked Barnes for his update and shared that she was pleased that the County was considering purchasing body cameras and asked regarding implementation.

Sheriff Barnes replied that his Office was still reviewing various models and waiting for Federal funding to help purchase the new cameras.

County Attorney Payne explained that the current public records act is very restrictive as to what can and cannot be released. Payne opined that the General Assembly needed to review the Public Records Act in regards to the developing issue of body camera implementation in the State.

Commissioner Trapp asked if the data from the cameras would be accessible under the 911 Act.

Payne clarified that the camera recordings would not constitute 911 calls. Payne noted that the data from the cameras would be classified as data as part of a law enforcement investigation and would not be a public record.

Commissioner Coleman commented that the Board had requested that the Greensboro and High Point Chiefs of Police provide an update regarding body cameras and asked if they declined.

Sheriff Barnes reported that they had declined the request. Commissioner Coleman expressed her frustration that the two police departments had not responded to the Board’s request.
C. Approve a resolution supporting the use of $30,000 in NCDOT Contingency Funds to be used to bring this 0.16 mile section of Weslayan Drive to minimum unpaved standards for addition to the State System as an unpaved road.

Lawing stated that there are currently two homes and one business on the unimproved road.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips, and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue to approve a resolution supporting the use of $30,000 in NCDOT Contingency Funds to be used to bring this 0.16 mile section of Weslayan Drive to minimum unpaved standards for addition to the State System as an unpaved road.

**VOTE:** Motion carried 7 – 0.


**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners C. Foster, C. Cashion.

D. New Business from County Commissioners

Commissioner Perdue asked that the Board consider entering into discussions with High Point and Greensboro regarding creating a public safety day in Guilford County. Perdue also expressed condolences to Rockingham County- who lost an EMT during the recent inclement weather.

Lawing stated that he has talked with the managers from Greensboro and High Point regarding working to coordinate a public safety day in the County.

Commissioner Trapp opined that he wanted to expand the event to recognize all governmental employees and commented that the County could work to coordinate an event to honor staff at a County park.

VIII. Appointments and Reappointments to Various Boards and Commissions

Motion was made by Commissioner Justin Conrad, and seconded by Vice Chairman Jeff Phillips to approve appointments and reappointments to various boards and commissions.

**VOTE:** Motion carried 7 – 0.


**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners C. Foster, C. Cashion.

Health and Human Services Advisory Board

Appoint Vincent Townsend (term expiring 1/16/17)

Commissioner Conrad asked for a point of personal privilege. Conrad read the following statement and asked for it to be included in the minutes.
On behalf of all of the residents in my district, and the Board of Commissioners, I would like to express our condolences to the family and friends for their loss of Mr. Robert Casey. Mr. Casey volunteered to serve for over eighteen years as a Fire Commissioner in the Stokesdale Fire District. Mr. Casey passed away in November. Mr. Casey was a Guilford County native, and a veteran of the US Air Force. Mr. Casey has always been active in the Stokesdale community.

I would like to take a moment to recognize his commitment to the Stokesdale community and express this Board’s thanks for this many years of service.

We are asking tonight that Mr. Randall Southard be appointed to fill the void left by Mr. Casey. The Stokesdale Fire District has recommended Mr. Southard and we know he will represent the citizens of the district well.

IX. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Branson thanked the NCDOT, workers from the City of Greensboro, and County Emergency Services personnel for their efforts and service during the recent incident of inclement weather.

Commissioner Perdue echoed his appreciation for Emergency Services workers and wished his daughter a happy 16th birthday.

Commissioner Conrad commented on a recent news story regarding the Board’s work session in High Point on January 9th. Conrad noted that the story failed to cover Commissioners’ discussion of developing a policy to govern future real estate purchases to help protect taxpayers. Conrad then shared that he recently attended a presentation regarding Historic Tax Credits at Revolutionary Mill. Conrad opined that the tax credit is a useful tool to incentivize private development and hoped that the State would restore the provision.

Commissioner Trapp shared his support of the historic tax credit program. Trapp stated that he had reviewed the recently published State of the City of Greensboro report and was concerned regarding some of the findings. Trapp noted that 20% of Greensboro’s and 25% of High Point’s residents live below the poverty line. Trapp opined that there needed to be a community dialogue regarding providing residents of the County with a living wage.

Chairman Henning congratulated the Hayes Taylor YMCA on the opening of their new facility and reminded everyone that the next Commissioner meeting would be the Board’s retreat which will be held at GTCC’s Cameron Campus on February 5th and 6th. Henning then made a suggestion to consider altering the composition of the Parks and Recreation Board and reviewed several options for modifying its membership.

Commissioner Coleman shared that she would support reducing the Board’s membership to nine.

Commissioner Trapp commented that the Board should work to diversify the membership of the various commissions and committees appointed by the County.
Commissioner Branson noted that the Parks and Recreation Board had representation from minority communities and added that it was important to ensure that each municipality was represented. Branson stated that the municipal members offer a unique range of skill-sets that is beneficial to the Board. Branson opined that attendance was a serious issue that the Board faced.

Vice Chairman Phillips suggested increasing the membership of the Board to eighteen.

Commissioner Branson commented on the value of retaining representation from the municipalities. Branson stated that the members provide valuable information regarding fee assessments within their jurisdictions.

The Board then discussed the various options.

Vice Chairman Phillips suggested considering the issue of boards and commissions at the upcoming retreat in February.

Commissioner Perdue expressed his support for providing the Clerk’s Office with additional resources to help them better manage and track the County’s fifty six volunteer boards.

Commissioner Trapp opined that the Clerk’s Office could use additional personnel to assist in managing Departmental operations. Trapp also shared his support for hiring a County public information officer to increase transparency and community engagement.

X. **COMMENTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER**

A. Receive Budget Amendment report for budget amendments that have been processed under the authority granted to the County Manager in the FY 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance.

Lawing shared that there had been a lot of discussion recently regarding County held property and explained that it would be a topic of consideration at the retreat. Lawing then reported that he was contacted by Congressman Mark Walker's staff who expressed interest in utilizing vacant County office space for a period of two months while his permanent offices were being renovated. The Board gave their approval of the short term lease.

XI. **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Andy Stevens, Greensboro, expressed concerns with County development efforts.

XII. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:27 PM.

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Chairman

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Deputy Clerk