

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY**

**August 7, 2023, 9:30 AM
Commissioners' Meeting Room
124 West Elm Street
Graham, NC 27253**

Board Members Present: Vice-Chair Steve Carter
Commissioner William "Bill" T. Lashley
Commissioner Pamela Thompson
Commissioner Craig Turner

Board Members Absent: Chairman John Paisley Jr

CALL TO ORDER - VICE-CHAIR CARTER

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - VICE-CHAIR CARTER

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Commissioner Turner

Seconded by: Commissioner Lashley

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Morcombe, a resident, spoke about teacher supplements rankings in the state and the article that was printed in a recent news article. He said it was a bit misleading to say that ABSS was below the state average when they ranked #22, which was still in the top quartile of all the school districts. Mr. Morcombe said he wanted to know if school performance was going to improve since ABSS was in the bottom of the third quartile in performance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Commissioner Turner

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS

Burlington Planning and Zoning Commission (ETJ)- Ethan Raynor

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team- Meredith Edwards

Jury Commission- Gary Jackson

PTRC Workforce Development Board – J Bradley Moser

Recreation & Parks Commission – Elizabeth Read

Voluntary Agricultural District- Blair Robertson and John Leo Boswell

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment – Public Health

Budget Amendment – HCCBG Grant

Grant Request – Recreation and Parks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes of July 17, 2023

Closed Session Minutes of July 17, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing – Street Name Appeal - Marlena Isley, GIS Director

Marlena Isley, GIS Director, requested the Board of Commissioners' approval to adhere to the Addressing Ordinance that had been in existence since 2011. Ms. Isley said they were there because of the non-conventional spelling of "parc" which was phonetically similar to "park". Ms. Isley continued that the project was located in Elon. Elon had signed onto the Addressing Ordinance back in 2016. She reviewed that it had taken several years to approve the ordinance by the previous Board of Commissioners who worked together with GIS, Emergency Services, and several municipalities to bring about this ordinance. The ordinance was put in place to increase public safety and reduce human error in 911 dispatch. She commented that the ordinance has helped the county prepare the municipalities for the Next Generation 911 System. The Next Generation 911 System will route all statewide calls through non-GIS data. Ms. Isley noted that the county had about 11,000 streets in 2011 and currently the county has 14,000 and is climbing. She said they had already met with Central Communications, Elon Fire and Police, and the developers earlier in the year to reach a resolution about the street name. Ms. Isley reiterated that the developers requested street names spelled "Parc" instead of the traditional spelling of "Park". She detailed that the biggest issue was that residents and visitors would have to spell the street name every time they called 911 and it would cause delays. She discussed that

GIS delivered data to Geo Comm every single week and had to maintain a 98% accuracy rating. She noted that the state of North Carolina already had over 5.5 million address points and almost 900,000 streets across the state.

Chad Huffine, civil engineer for the project, presented information on the project. He recognized Jeremy Medlin, Lane Jackson, with GreenHawk Corp., Inc. and Tony Tate with Tate Landscape-Architecture. Mr. Medlin provided background information about GreenHawk Corp, Inc. He said the development was underway and that it will be 184 residential units, 200 apartments in 54,000 square feet of space.

Mr. Huffine said they were seeking an alternative spelling and commented that it was important for them to have Village Parc as the main access. He mentioned they had received endorsements from the Town of Elon and Elon fire and police which would be the responding agencies.

Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Commissioner Turner, moved to open the public hearing. The motion carried without opposition.

No public speakers wished to be heard from the floor.

Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Commissioner Turner, moved to close the public hearing. The motion carried without opposition.

Moved by: Commissioner Turner

Commissioner Turner moved to approve the developer's appeal. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

FAILED

Moved by: Vice-Chair Carter

Seconded by: Commissioner Lashley

Vice-Chair Carter, seconded by Commissioner Lashley, moved to deny the appeal request and approve the GIS recommendation. The motion carried 3-1 with Vice-Chair Carter, Commissioners Lashley and Thompson voting in favor. Commissioner Turner voted in opposition.

APPROVED

PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS

Family Justice Center and Family Abuse Services Presentation - Skye Sullivan and Detra Betts

Skye Sullivan, Director of the Alamance County Family Justice Center (FJC), and Detra Betts, Executive Director of Family Abuse Services of Alamance County, Inc.(FAS) presented information on their respective agencies. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the history of the FJC and shared some statistics. She mentioned the top five statistics for FJC were:

- July 2010- currently, they had served a total of 14,180 victims, 19,154 victims in-person at FJC.
- 2011-2022 the demand for services had increased by 192%.
- 2013-currently, the FJC has e-filed 4,324 restraining orders onsite.
- An average of 3,000 referrals have been made to on-site partners per year.
- FJC staff averaged 1,500 intakes per year, 75-80% of those referrals were referred to FAS.

Ms. Sullivan described the client intake process and how clients were navigated to correct services with a follow-up at the end. She mentioned that FJC administered the grant funding for financial assistance for all of their partners using a pot of grant money that fluctuated between \$24,000-\$80,000 depending on which grants they had. She noted that the Elder Justice Project had provided a lot of financial assistance but they no longer have access to those funds since that grant had ended. Ms. Sullivan commented that they were seeing a high turnover rate in their partner agencies. She noted they were seeing some of the highest numbers for services in the entire 13 year history of FJC.

Ms. Betts spoke that FAS was one of the many partnering agencies of FJC. She said her agency provided alot of the in-depth crisis components for individuals that come in for services. Ms. Betts said some of the services they provided were civil and court accompaniment, crisis intervention walk-in services, providing emotional support, safety planning, protection orders and referrals to other community partners. She continued that they offered short-term emergency housing where they had units where individuals could stay for a longer period of time versus hotel stays. Ms. Betts shared they do community education programs, outreach, and violence prevention throughout the communities. She shared some statistics for FAS for the past 6 months. FAS had served 688 clients, provided 6,319 services, provided 1,850 emergency housing services including 56 hotel accommodations, and supervised visits for 18 families.

Annual Settlement of 2022-2023 Taxes - Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator

Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator, presented an overview of the 2022-23 annual settlement of taxes. He said the total levy for 2022 was \$93,577,915.66 of which \$92,622,054.54 was collected. The uncollected amount was \$955,861.12 for a collection rate of 98.98% for 2022.

The five-year average was 98.79%. Mr. Akins noted that 2022 was the second-highest collection rate year for the county.

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Commissioner Thompson

Acceptance of the 2022-23 annual settlement report.

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

Charge-Off of 2013 Property Taxes - Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator

Mr. Akins requested approval to write-off 10-year old taxes. He reminded the Board that the statute provided 10 years to enforce tax collections on accounts that the owner chose not to pay. Mr. Akins explained at the end of the fiscal year they had an outstanding balance of \$91,019.77. As of that morning, the outstanding amount was \$81,577.88. He said they will continue to collect until the end of the month. He said they would charge off 2013 property taxes as of September 1, 2023.

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Commissioner Turner

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

Order of Collection of 2023 Taxes - Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator

Mr. Akins requested the Board charge him with the Order of Tax Collection which gave him the remedies and statute to collect 2023 taxes.

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Commissioner Turner

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

Report on 2023 Revaluation Value Change by Property Type - Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator

Mr. Akins said he was asked to talk about some of the concerns that had been raised about how the revaluation had impacted different types of properties. He noted that the real estate market was discussed as if it was just one market, but it was many sub-markets grouped together. He discussed the market comparisons by type. Mr. Akins continued that the residential sub-market had increased by 81%, industrial had risen by 76%, farms had risen by 61%, and commercial had risen by 60%. He reiterated that these were sub-markets so he had concerns when he heard

statements that residential properties were the only properties that had increased and commercial properties had not.

Mr. Akins discussed what happened to other property taxes when taxed.

- Personal property was revalued every year. Over the last years, the average growth had been 6.1% per year.
- Public service companies were revalued every year. Over the last ten years, the average growth had been 4.0% per year.
- Registered motor vehicles were revalued every year. Over the last ten years, the average growth had been 6.7% per year.

Mr. Akins noted that real property was revalued periodically. He said on average the revaluation was a good one across the board. He did not find any property category carrying a disproportionate load to the other categories. Mr. Akins said they had worked to get everyone to market value.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager York deferred to Bruce Walker, Assistant County Attorney, to give an update on the GREAT Grant.

Assistant County Manager Bruce Walker reported that Alamance County was awarded the Lumos GREAT Grant. He mentioned the Board of Commissioners approved ARP funds of \$50,000 for a \$6.0 million project to leverage the GREAT Grant fund project to the state and federal funding. Mr. Walker shared that AT&T had received the second part of the GREAT Grant funding. He recommended residents complete the state NC Broadband Survey to help bring internet access to their areas.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lashley spoke about some residents lacking internet access close to the Chatham County line. He encouraged the residents to take the NC Broadband Survey.

Commissioner Turner thanked Impact Alamance for the walking tracks for B. Everette Jordan and AO Elementary Schools. He announced that this month was Child Support Awareness Month in North Carolina. He listed events taking place in awareness during August: August 15th- Child Support 101 Class; August 17th - Community Day; August 21st - Custodial Class.

Commissioner Turner reported that the Burlington-Alamance Airport was closed this month while undergoing repairs. The \$10.9 million improvement project, with 90% being covered by

the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), will help with the completion of the new corporate hangar scheduled for completion in June 2024.

Vice-Chair Carter said he hoped the residents of this county feel that the County Commissioners were working for them. He thanked the residents for bringing their questions, concerns, and issues to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Steven J. Carter, Vice-Chairman

Alamance County Board of Commissioners

Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board