

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

**August 21, 2023, 6:30 PM  
Commissioners' Meeting Room  
124 West Elm Street  
Graham, NC 27253**

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

---

**CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - VICE-CHAIR CARTER**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Commissioner Turner

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Cole, spoke about the revaluation and the appeal process. He said the property value of his 1600 sq ft condominium value had increased 82%. Mr. Cole said he went through 3 telephone appeals and 1 in-person appeal before the Board of Equalization and Review. He disagreed with the outcome of the appeal decision.

Barrett Brown, President of the Alamance Branch of the NAACP, spoke in support of public education. He asked that the County Commissioners adopt a resolution that has been circulating in other counties. Mr. Brown said the resolution to remind the legislatures that it was a constitutional right in North Carolina to have access to free public education and to fund that right. He also asked them to support funding teachers with a living wage and an increase in teacher salaries of 18%. He stated that the largest investment that the state legislature made was public education.

Henry Vines, Snow Camp resident, explained why the price of eggs had increased. Mr. Vines spoke that he supported option 2 in the Meridian Waste agreement. He expressed his issues with bringing in debris from other counties.

Medora Burke Scroll, Vice-President of the Alamance-Burlington Association of Educators, spoke about the resolution and wanted them to encourage the General Assembly to hurry and pass a budget. Ms. Scoll said North Carolina was 46th in starting teacher pay. She emphasized how important the expansion of early childhood education was for 80% of North Carolina families reporting the lack of affordable child care. She identified other points in that resolution.

Barry Joyce, Burlington resident, spoke that the State of North Carolina had no statutes that mandated the county was obligated to provide teacher supplements. He opined that the county was forcing taxpayers to pay for teacher supplements by voting them in the budget. He discussed an article in the local paper and offered his own data on principal and assistant principal supplements.

Leonard Harrison, said he was running for Congress, and expressed how fed up he was with the narrative that was going on throughout the country. He said the narrative that this was a racist country was not correct. He said he had served side by side with all nationalities and had raised children who were people of color. Mr. Harrison mentioned some displays and observations that he said were in the county libraries.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion: Fee Update- Public Health; Budget Amendment - Lottery Fund; Year-End Designations; and Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023.

### **Tax Refunds, Releases and Exemptions - TAX-2023-018**

**Moved by:** Commissioner Lashley

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Fee Update – Public Health**

Rebecca Rosso, Environmental Health Director, brought some fee amendments to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule before the Board to incorporate N.C.G.S. S.L. 2023-90 and House Bill 628. The fees would have an effective date of September 1, 2023.

Commissioner Turner had a couple questions for clarification.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Turner  
**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

## **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

### **Budget Amendment-Lottery Fund**

Susan Evans, Finance Officer, presented a budget amendment for \$16,114.80 which was due to the close out of the state lottery project. Ms. Evans explained that when the county was notified by ABSS that a lottery project has been completed, the county has 60 days to file that application. She confirmed that the county had filed that application and it was approved by the state. Ms. Evans said this amount would reduce the county budget and failure to do that within the 60-day time-frame would cause audit findings for the county.

Commissioner Lashley asked which School Board meeting was this request approved. Ms. Evans responded that according to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), one of the leading agencies, either the School Board or the County Commissioners takes the lead on filing that application. She said during her tenure, the county had always taken the lead.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Lashley  
**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **Year End Designations**

Susan Evans requested Board approval for the county to designate \$3,284,762.60 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. She noted this was part of the normal year-end closeout.

#### **General Fund:**

Capital Transfers-County (FY 23-24 Budget)	\$ 1,479,223.00
Capital Transfers-ACC Capital Reserves	150,407.00
DSS - Child Welfare-Cardinal	1,181,200.00
Legal - Settlements	424,475.88
Maintenance – Ongoing Pay-go CIP projects	38,022.52
Parks – Ongoing Pay-go CIP projects	3,734.11
Clerk of Court – Jury System	7,703.09

Total \$ 3,284,762.60

Commissioner Turner clarified whether these were monies that were designated from last year's budget that were not fully spent. He confirmed if these funds would still be spent on the items they were allotted in this year's budget. Ms. Evans confirmed that was correct.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Turner

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of August 7, 2023

Commissioner Turner said that the minutes reflected that the runway and the apron improvements were connected to the hangar economic development project and were two separate projects unrelated. He did not want it implied that he was saying federal money was being used for those improvements when it was not the case. With that amendment to the minutes, Commissioner Turner, seconded by Vice-Chair Carter, moved approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2023, as amended. The motion carried without opposition.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Turner

**Seconded by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

### **Library Committee Appointments**

Vice-Chair Carter, second by Chairman Paisley, nominated Paula Hendricks, Jessica Simmons, and Cheryl Sandford to serve on the Library Committee as county appointees.

**Moved by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**Seconded by:** Chairman Paisley

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

### **2023 NCACC 4-H Youth Voice Delegate – Noah Snyder**

Noah Snyder, 4-H Youth Voice Delegate, will represent Alamance County at the 2023 NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference. Mr Snyder spoke before the Commissioners as part of the requirement to attend the NCACC Conference. He shared his future goals and involvement in school activities.

### **DSS – Child Support Proclamation**

Chairman Paisley and the Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation in recognition of August as Child Support Awareness Month to Candice Gobble, Director of Social Services, LaPorsha McCulloch, Child Support Program Manager, Rebecca Hendry and Willie Smith, both Child Support Supervisors.

**Moved by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**Seconded by:** Chairman Paisley

**APPROVED UNANIMOUS**

**Public Safety Training Center Update - Dr. Larry Keen, Interim President of Alamance Community College**

Dr. Larry Keen, Interim President of Alamance Community College, gave an update on the Alamance Community College (ACC) Public Safety Training Center. Dr. Keen reported that ACC had one of the biggest Basic Law Enforcement Training Programs (BLET) in the state.

Dr. Keen describes some of the features of the future training center in the Town of Green Level. He anticipated that construction would begin on the site in January 2024 and that he was hopeful to have final numbers of the costs by October 2023. He said the total project budget was \$15,850,218 and that was the best figure they could work with right now. He discussed the dirty burn building and how putting it in Green Level could change the current contract. He noted that the law enforcement folks here were outstanding. He advised that they were pushing hard and fast to try and get this project completed.

**Meridian Waste Franchise Ordinance - County Attorney Stevens**

County Attorney Stevens advised the Board they would need to approve the sale of Coble's Sandrock to Meridian Waste and then approve the franchise agreement.

Frank Longest, attorney for the Cobles, thanked County Attorney Stevens and County Manager York for putting together a good packet. He suggested considering Meridian's application for a new franchise. He said the Cobles had run a good business. Mr. Longest indicated that other businesses had approached the Cobles to purchase their business. Mr. Longest explained that Meridian could expand the current site, put money into the site for the expansion in the future, and offer the term natural life of landfill subject to the franchise with a host fee of \$1 per ton. Mr. Longest understood that the traffic study said that in the projections for 2023-2026, there would be some increased traffic, but that increase would not cause a need for improvement on Foster Road.

Mary O'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer for Meridian Waste, asked the Board to consider the new franchise agreement. She said waste would only come from NC and would name 26 counties that would be allowed to bring debris to this county. She thought the new franchise agreement was more protective of the county. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that all Alamance County

residents with "DIY" projects would receive a discount when they brought debris to the landfill. The county would receive a discount on storm-related debris. She explained some of the advantages for the county if they approved the new franchise agreement: guaranteed an increase on the insurance, would meet all state financial closures and post-closures, and guaranteed improvement of the road frontage. She emphasized this was a better business deal for the county to adopt the new franchise.

The Board heard from Sam Powell, a Burlington resident, Dave Mills, an engineer, and Michael Stubbs, an engineer.

Commissioner Turner asked about the traffic study done in March and if it was based on the daily amount of 750 tons. Mr. Mills responded it was based on that study.

Commissioner Turner asked County Attorney Stevens whether Mr. Coble could allow Meridian to run his facility under his current franchise. County Attorney Stevens responded that the existing Coble Franchise was silent on contracting the operations. He said it merely stated it would be owned by the Cobles and operated as Coble's Sandrock. He continued that it did not say who had to do the operations.

Chairman Paisley commented that the Cobles could go out of state for the 25 customers under the current contract, but the Meridian contract reduced that to a geographic area.

Commissioner Lashley discussed discrepancies that he saw in the report. He asked how much Meridian was going to charge. He voiced that he did not see how it was prudent to take other people's garbage from 20 miles away and put it in the county's landfill. Commissioner Lashley asked how much it costs to close a landfill. Mr. Stubbs responded that every site was different, but for a ballpark number, it would be \$150,000 to 200,000 dollars per acre. Commissioner Lashley asked how many acres they were talking about. Mr. Stubbs responded maybe 100 acres.

County Attorney Stevens reiterated that two votes were needed.

- 1) The first vote was on the county agreement to allow the sale of the Coble's Landfill to Meridian Waste.
- 2) The second vote was on approving the franchise ordinance, which would be the first of two readings on the franchise ordinance.

Commissioner Turner commented he believed that the contract was more restrictive than what the Cobles and Meridian had the right to do currently; he would support it.

Commissioner Thompson commented she decided to go with the neighborhood and did not want those changes in traffic in that small community.

**Moved by:** Chairman Paisley

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Turner

Chairman Paisley, seconded by Commissioner Turner, moved approval of the sale of the Coble's Sandrock C&D Landfill to Meridian Waste. The motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Paisley, Vice-Chair Carter and Commissioner Turner voting in favor. Commissioners Lashley and Thompson voted in opposition.

**APPROVED**

**Moved by:** Vice-Chair Carter

**Seconded by:** Chairman Paisley

Vice-Chair Carter seconded by Chairman Paisley, moved for approval of the franchise ordinance. The motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Paisley, Vice-Chair Carter and Commissioner Turner voting in favor. Commissioners Lashley and Thompson voted in opposition.

**APPROVED**

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Lashley addressed comments made by public comment Michael Cole. He said he understood where he was coming from. Commissioner Lashley noted that the fiscal year budget still came in under the rate of inflation. He addressed public comments made by Barrett Brown. He expressed concern over public comments made about the library.

Vice-Chair Carter concurred with Commissioner Lashley on the impact of the revaluation on residents. He said he looked at this from the perspective of an increase in wealth. He explained the problem today was when you get an increase in wealth, it is hard to use because everything has gone up.

Commissioner Thompson commented that she received emails from people who were barely making it and their taxes went up. She said she voted for her last incentive for anyone who comes to the county. She said she would not give them a break before she gave a break to the citizens of this county.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Paisley, seconded by Commissioner Lashley, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

---

John Paisley, Jr., Chairman

Alamance County Board of Commissioners

---

Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board