

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

**December 18, 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

Board Members Absent: Commissioner Craig Turner

CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - VICE-CHAIR CARTER

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Commissioner Thompson

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Morcombe, a Graham resident, submitted written comments to the Board. He felt that Alamance-Burlington School System (ABSS) could have performed better while they spent less. He mentioned the audit report for ABSS was now available.

Josh Gustaf, General Manager of Coble's Sandrock/Meridian Waste, introduced himself to everyone and gave background information on himself. He shared they had submitted the landfill permit to be transferred to Meridian's name from Coble's Sandrock.

Chris Smith, a Mebane resident, said that he was a supporter of the public schools. Mr. Smith said funding the schools was an investment that had allowed him to graduate from high school, serve his country for 4 years in the Airforce and graduate from college. He continued that none of that would have been possible without public schools.

Henry Vines, a Snow Camp resident, said it had been a tough year with many more tough decisions that needed to be made in the new year. He wished the Board, the staff, and everyone Happy Holidays.

Barry Joyce, a Burlington resident, said that the company that was used for mold remediation was mentioned to the school system by a County Commissioner. He questioned why the school board was criticized for a no-cap contract. He gave different examples of contracts that were necessary but had no caps.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by: Vice-Chair Carter

Seconded by: Chairman Paisley

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS

Justice Advisory Council (JAC)- Eric Crissman

Board of Health (BOH)- Ann Riley-Caldwell

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council- Ricky Champion

Veterans Service Committee – Clifton Carter & Ursula Evans

Mebane Review Officer Resolution

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment SCIF Fund

2024 NCEM Hazardous Materials Emergency Program Grant

2024 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant

Second Reading of GFL Environmental Franchise Extension

Second Reading of Republic Services Franchise Extension

MEI Incidental Solid Waste Projects Agreement

Resolution Approving the Creation and Distribution of Funds For The Alamance County

Tourism Development Authority Scholarship Fund

PRESENTATIONS/OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Audit Presentation - Elsa Watts, Martin Starnes & Associates

Elsa Watts, Martin Starnes & Associates, presented the audit highlights. Ms. Watts thanked staff and credited Susan Evans, Finance Officer, with being a competent finance officer.

Ms. Watts shared that the annual general fund revenues totaled \$204 million, an increase of about 4%. The expenditures totaled \$196 million, an increase of about 4%. The fund balance added about \$6.6 million up to \$91 million. The available fund balance was \$75.9 million, an increase of about \$7.4 million. The available fund balance as a percent of expenditures for the general fund was 38.6%. The unassigned fund balance was \$46.7 million. The unassigned fund balance as a percent of the general fund expenditures was 23.75%.

Ms. Watts said the top 3 revenues for the general fund were property taxes (52%), local option sales tax (23%), restricted intergovernmental revenues (13%), and other revenues (12%).

Ms. Watts said the property tax revenues were \$105 million, an increase of 2%. She explained that the local option sales taxes were \$46.5 million, an increase of 6% due to increased consumer spending. Restricted intergovernmental revenues, remained comparable at \$26.9 million, an increase of about 2%. She mentioned that the top 3 expenditures for the General Fund were public safety (26%), education (28%), human services (18%), and other expenses (28%).

Ms. Watts said education was at \$55.4 million, an increase of about 7%. Human services expenditures were \$36.1 million, an increase of about 1%. Public safety expenditures were at \$50.2 million, which increased by about 8% primarily due to salary increases.

Ms. Watts noted that the landfill fund's operating income was \$669,000. She shared landfill had an investment in capital assets of \$9.6 million, an unrestricted net position of \$13.8 million, and a total net position of \$23.5 million.

She said the quick ratio for the landfill fund was 53. The Local Government Commission (LGC) would be concerned if it was less than one.

Ms. Watts discussed performance indicators for that year. She said the audit was submitted timely with a couple of compliance findings. She explained one of the compliance findings was related to Medicaid where a couple of missing child support referrals and household compositions were incorrect on a couple of cases that were tested. The other was three low-income energy assistance program cases that were missing application signatures.

Alamance County Board of Adjustment Appointments

County Attorney Stevens recommended the Board appoint five members and two alternates with staggered terms. He recommended that three members be appointed to a 3-year term and two members be appointed to a 2-year term. Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager, advised that the appointment of 5 members and 2 alternate members were needed to the Board of Adjustment. He said the applicants for consideration were Ray Cobb, Richard King, Isaac Holt, Michael Owens, Debra Hyder, Lindsey Causey, Max Morgan, and Henry Chandler.

Commissioner Lashley asked for clarification on picking who would receive the two-year terms instead of the three-year terms. County Attorney Stevens suggested they picked the members in alphabetical order. He said there was no right or wrong way to stagger the terms.

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Vice-Chair Carter

Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Vice-Chair Carter, moved to appoint Ray Cobb and Issac Holt to a two-year term and Michael Owens, Debra Hyder, and Michael Wilson to a three-year term as full members of the Alamance County Board of Adjustment. Richard King would be appointed to serve as alternate #1 and Henry Chandler would serve as alternate #2 as members of the Alamance County Board of Adjustment.

APPROVED UNANIMOUS

Alamance County Planning Board Appointments

Assistant County Manager Baker explained that four appointments were needed for the Alamance County Planning Board. He mentioned applications for reappointment had been received from Amie Perkins, Sandy Ellington-Graves, and Rodney Check. He continued that applications had been received for a new appointment and an unexpired term from Henry Vines, Henry Chandler, Lee Isley, David Hadley, Catherine Dickens, Max Morgan, Michael Wilson, and Lindsey Causey.

Commissioner Thompson moved to reappoint Sandy Ellington-Graves, Rodney Cheek, and the appointments of Lee Isley and Henry Vines. That motion failed due to a lack of second.

Moved by: Commissioner Lashley

Seconded by: Chairman Paisley

Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Chairman Paisley, moved to reappoint Rodney Cheek, Amy Perkins and appointments of Lee Isley and Henry Vines (unexpired term) to the Alamance County Planning Board. The motion carried 3 to 1 with Commissioner Lashley, Chairman Paisley, and Vice-Chair Carter voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Thompson voted in opposition.

APPROVED

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report given.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

No Report given.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Thompson shared a bible account about the Prophet Elisha and Naaman who suffered from leprosy. She said do not stop your miracles from happening because this was the season of miracles. She continued that everything should be done for the right reason and not too quick no matter how difficult things were. Commissioner Thompson stated that leaders have to make the difficult decision not to quit no matter how difficult the decision. She said do not forget who was born that week to save us all.

Commissioner Lashley explained why he chose not to seek re-election. He shared that the citizens of Alamance County depended on him to take the job seriously and make sure the finances of Alamance County were taken care of. He felt that he could not fulfill that obligation to the citizens of Alamance County for another 4 years. Commissioner Lashley responded to the public comment regarding the school's funds. He recommended the speaker review the numbers from Martin & Starnes so that when he talked to the voters of Alamance County, he would have the correct information. Commissioner Lashley thanked everyone for their support and wished them Happy Holidays.

Vice-Chair Carter mentioned he had met Mr. Bass of Builder Services at the Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He said after a discussion with Mr. Bass, he called Ms. Graves and Dr. Butler and passed along the information that was given to him. He said he did not benefit from any work done by Builder Services. Vice-Chair Carter wanted to see them work better and harder than they did in 2023. He too wished everyone a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

Chairman Paisley addressed public comments made about open-ended contracts. He mentioned that some of the ABSS contracts do have set amounts that are not to be exceeded. Chairman Paisley continued that some contracts were by the hours and some did not have caps. He said he had not personally signed a construction contract that did not have a cap on it, that was what he referred to in his discussions. Chairman Paisley said it was a pleasure serving with the Board and staff. He mentioned he had talked to the Board members about their 2024 Committee Assignments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Carter, 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 adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

John Paisley, Jr., Chairman

Alamance County Board of Commissioners

Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board