

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE COUNTY

**April 28, 2025, 9:30 AM
Commissioners' Meeting Room
124 West Elm Street
Graham, NC 27253**

Board Members Present: Chairman John Paisley Jr
Vice-Chair Steve Carter
Commissioner Pamela Thompson
Commissioner Ed Priola
Commissioner Kelly Allen

CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN PAISLEY

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - VICE CHAIR CARTER

CIP OVERVIEW & PROJECTS

County Manager York gave an overview of the capital improvement plan. She stated that the meeting was a chance for the Board to ask questions. The Board submitted questions to County Manager York that focused on additional information to the courthouse project and the vehicle replacement policy.

Brian Baker, Assistant County Manager, discussed the design concept for the courthouse project. The courthouse expansion project consisted of two to four new courtrooms and 9,000 square feet of additional office space. He noted that the design included separate passages for the judges and inmates. Mr. Baker stated that the final design was a work in progress.

County Manager York discussed the financing costs for the last piece of the \$37 million courthouse project; the county would borrow a principal of \$22 million with an estimated interest rate of 5% and the debt service would be almost \$2.2 million annually. She indicated additional revenue would be needed to support the debt service. \$15 million was already set aside.

Commissioner Priola stated that he wanted to explore options that excluded a tax increase. He inquired about the \$37 million price tag for the courthouse project.

Mr. Baker stated that costs were determined by calculating square footage.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she did not support the courthouse expansion project.

Commissioner Allen stated that the courthouse expansion was needed due to population growth.

Vice Chair Carter asked about the costs of renovating the Civil Courts Building space into office space for the county.

Mr. Baker answered that it was not part of the \$37 million cost.

Chairman Paisley stated that the original costs of the courthouse project were close to \$99 million. Chairman Paisley continued that the \$37 million costs met the current needs of the county. He emphasized that taxpayers could not afford a property tax increase.

Commissioner Priola stated that he was not in favor of a tax increase and suggested cutting county expenses.

Commissioner Allen agreed that she opposed increasing property taxes.

County Manager York discussed the vehicle replacement policy adopted in July of 2023. Per the policy, county owned vehicles would be evaluated on an annual basis and placed into a rotational schedule for replacement. All vehicles over ten years old would be given priority in replacement schedules. She highlighted the mileage threshold to replace county vehicles:

- Sherriff Vehicles - 125,000
- Ambulances - 250,000
- Truck/Utility Vehicles - 125,000
- Normal use Vehicles- 150,000

Commissioner Thompson asked what happened to Sherriff's Office vehicles that were out of circulation. She also asked about the total amount of vehicles assigned to the Sheriff's Office.

County Manager York stated that most vehicles were donated to ACC and allocated to other county departments. She added that the Detention Center had 20 vehicles, and the Sheriff's Office had 210 vehicles on the fleet.

Vice Chair Carter inquired whether increasing the mileage thresholds in the vehicle replacement policy would lead to safety liabilities.

County Attorney Stevens thought that an increased mileage thresholds did not make county vehicles less safe as vehicles had documented regular maintenance records and damaged vehicles were taken out of circulation. He recommended waiting on input from the insurance company.

County Manager York discussed the recommended capital funding for the fiscal year 2025-2026:

- ABSS \$11.4 million,
- Alamance County Government \$18.9 million

- ACC had requested no funding for capital in the current year.

Total projected costs of \$30.3 million.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

John Paisley, Chairman Alamance County Board of Commissioners

Tory M. Frink, Clerk to the Board