

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the commissioners' conference room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those commissioners present were as follows: Chair Yolanda J. Feimster, Vice-Chair R. Dan Brummitt, Commissioners Sean A. Alston, Sr., Carolyn Faines, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Leo Kelly, Jr., and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: None

Also present were County Manager Jordan McMillen, Assistant County Manager Chris Dillon, Finance Director Katherine Bigelow, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

Pastor Carolyn Roy, Plank Chapel United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

Before the meeting began, several county employees were recognized for volunteering during the recent Spring Litter Sweep. Fire Chief Chris Wright, who helped coordinate the cleanup, noted that 15 employees worked to clean litter from portions of Thomas Road, Will Jefferson Road and Joe Taylor Road. A total of 29 bags of trash were collected. Chair Yolanda Feimster thanked the volunteers for all their help and a job well done.

Public comments were heard next. Cokesbury VFD Chief Adam Pegram and Drewry VFD Chief Charles Holtzman spoke on behalf of their respective departments and both expressed opposition to the proposed fire reorganization.

Chair Yolanda Feimster noted that the board is still sitting as the Board of Equalization and Review to hear from any taxpayers who feel their property is incorrectly listed or appraised. There was no one present who wished to make an appeal. The Board of E&R will remain open during this meeting and will adjourn at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Frankie Nobles, Vance County Employee Engagement Team Chair, appeared before the board to recognize the new employee of the month. He noted that employees are nominated by their peers, and this month's recognition goes to Sherri Boylorn with the Vance County Finance Office. Her peers noted that she is always willing to help others, rarely takes time off without prior approval, and always has a positive attitude. Ms. Boylorn will receive a \$100 gift card and a designated parking space for the month. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation and the board congratulated her on receiving this recognition.

Tax Administrator Porcha Brooks was next on the agenda and presented the following untimely exemption application for approval:

Untimely Exemptions

Name	Exemption Requested	Tax Administrator’s Recommendation
William and Wendy Peace 71 Peacehaven Lane Parcel 0404 01036	Present Use Agriculture and Forestry	Approve Application

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the exemption as requested.

Mr. Logan Parsons, LKC Engineering, was next on the agenda to provide an update on the Industrial Park EDA grant project. He noted that the project is the second phase of paving the road and extending the sewer line at the industrial park. He stated that the project is slightly behind schedule due to a snag with permitting, but is in the process of being resolved, hopefully within the next couple of weeks. Once the permit is received, we can then advertise for bids within 30 days and award the construction contract within 60 days after that. If all goes to plan, paving should be complete by the end of the year and sewer lines should be in place by early spring 2024. He noted that once the road is complete, it will be maintained by the Department of Transportation.

Water District Board

Chair Yolanda J. Feimster called the Water District Board to order.

Water Planning Committee – Phase 1B Bid Update. Assistant County Manager Chris Dillon stated that the Committee (Brummitt, Feimster, Hester/absent) met to review the bids for the Phase 1B expansion and water tank rehabilitation. Contract 1, which includes the water system expansion, had one bid at \$8,785,559 from H.G. Reynolds Company. Contract 2 received four bids, with the low bidder being Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group at \$483,235. The total of the two contracts is \$10,178,090. This amount is \$3,679,890 over the approved funding, roughly 42%. LKC Engineering has had conversations with USDA to split the project and move forward with Contract 2 as additional funding opportunities and scaling are explored for Contract 1. Recommendation: Approve a formal request to USDA to split the project and approve Contract 2 to Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group for \$483,235 while directing staff to continue to work with LKC Engineering and federal and state legislative delegations to research additional funding opportunities for Contract 1.

After brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Faines, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, to approve a formal request to USDA to split the project and approve Contract 2 to Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group for \$483,235 while directing staff to continue to work with LKC Engineering and federal and state legislative delegations to research additional funding opportunities for Contract 1.

The March 2023 monthly operations report was presented to the board for information.

Chair Yolanda J. Feimster adjourned the Water District Board.

Committee Reports and Recommendations

Public Safety Committee – EMS Land Purchase. Mr. Dillon stated that the committee (Alston, Brummitt, and Faines); Kelly attending, met on Monday April, 10 and received an update from the county attorney on the proposed amendments to the restrictive covenants on the land being considered for purchase for the central EMS station. The attorney indicated progress was being made, although slowly, to amend restrictions that could impact the county's use of the property. The matter will be discussed further in closed session.

Public Safety Committee – Northern EMS Substation. Mr. Dillon stated that the committee noted an EMS reorganization plan called for an EMS substation in the northern part of the county. EMS Director Javier Plummer indicated that repositioning a current EMS vehicle to the north could increase response time in the central portion of the county where 50% of the calls originate. Commissioner Brummitt noted the future need for a fifth EMS vehicle, a new logistics model, and asked for committee support prioritizing the purchase of land for the construction of a northern EMS substation. Recommendation: Direct staff to begin seeking property for purchase for a northern Vance County EMS substation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Faines to direct staff to begin seeking property for purchase for a northern Vance County EMS substation. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. and unanimously approved.

Public Safety Committee – Fire Service Districts Realignment and Reorganization. Mr. Dillon stated that the committee discussed realignment of current fire service districts. Committee members discussed the possibility of increasing the size of the Bearpond Service District to take in the southern and southeastern portions of the current Golden Belt district and discussed the possibility for the Cokesbury district to take in the eastern portion of the current Golden Belt district; subject to the agreement of the Bearpond and Cokesbury Boards of Directors. The

committee also discussed a possible reorganization of the Vance County Fire Department and recommended these two items be discussed with the Vance County Fire and Rescue Association. Staff voiced Human Resources, liability, and legal issues related to the reorganization specifically if it locates county employees within independent non-profit fire stations and requires the county employees to report and be subject to the management of non-county employees. Recommendation: Direct the Public Safety Committee to proceed with an investigation and development of a plan of the realignment of fire service districts and reorganization of the Vance County Fire Department through discussions with the Vance County Fire and Rescue Association.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to direct the Public Safety Committee to proceed with an investigation and development of a plan of the realignment of fire service districts and reorganization of the Vance County Fire Department through discussions with the Vance County Fire and Rescue Association. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines.

After lengthy discussion, the vote on this matter was ayes four (4); noes three (3), with the dissenting votes being cast by Commissioners Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Leo Kelly, Jr., and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Public Safety Committee – Closed Session: Property Matter. The committee met in closed session under N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) related to a property matter and further discussion will take place with the full board in closed session.

Planning/Environmental Committee – White Goods Collection Contract Renewal. Mr. Dillon reported that the committee (Brummitt, Feimster, and Taylor) met to review the contract renewal for white goods (washers/dryers, appliances, etc.) collections at Vance County convenience sites. The current contractor, Mike's Auto Salvage, picks up from the county's four sites, twice weekly. The contractor asked for an increase of roughly \$11,000 annually for continued service to all four sites. Staff informed the committee the cost could be reduced if collections were limited to a single site. The committee voiced concerns over illegal dumping and limited disposal options for county residents. Recommendation: Approve contract renewal with Mike's Auto Salvage for \$43,160, for two pickups weekly at the county's four convenience sites.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines, vote unanimous, to approve the contract renewal with Mike's Auto Salvage for \$43,160, for two pickups weekly at the county's four convenience sites.

Finance Director's Report

KARTS Funding Request. Finance Director Katherine Bigelow stated that KARTS is a transportation authority created by joint resolution of the Boards of Commissioners of Granville, Vance, Warren, and Franklin Counties. Their board includes one commissioner as well as one human service organization representative from each county. KARTS has been without a finance director for several months and has requested emergency funding from each of the counties to get through the remainder of the fiscal year. According to the interim director, they are in need of \$75,000 to close out the fiscal year plus the \$19,127 (requested 56,588 and we provided \$37,461) that the county did not provide in the current year budget which serves as a match for their other federal and state funding. In total the request is \$94,127 to close out the month of June. Ms. Bigelow stated that for preventative purposes we would like to ask for this conditional funding in the amount up to \$94,127 so that KARTS will be able to keep their doors open and make payroll. Requirements: See actuals, bank statements, etc. Recommendation: Authorize the finance director to disperse conditional funding in an amount up to \$94,127 to KARTS subject to the other counties agreeing and subject to KARTS showing the need for funding.

After discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Sean A. Alston, Sr. to authorize the finance director to disperse conditional funding in an amount of \$94,127 to KARTS subject to the other counties agreeing and subject to KARTS showing the need for funding. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. and unanimously approved.

County Manager's Report

Resolution of Appreciation – Brian Short. County Manager Jordan McMillen stated that Brian Short is retiring on May 31 after 32 years of service to the county. A resolution of appreciation was provided to the board for approval and will be provided to Brian at his retirement reception on May 19.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Archie B. Taylor, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the following resolution of appreciation to Brian Short:

[illegible]

R E S O L U T I O N
of
Appreciation
by the
Vance County Board of Commissioners
to

Brian K. Short

WHEREAS, Brian K. Short began his employment with Vance County in May 1991 as a part-time 911 Dispatcher and became full time in 1996. He was promoted to the position of Interim 911 Director on January 17, 1998 and was appointed as Emergency Operations Director on October 1, 1998; and

WHEREAS, during his many years of valuable service to the citizens of Vance County, Brian Short oversaw the extensive development, expansion and modernization of the County's Emergency Management program and 911 center to include construction of a new center in 2001 and a backup center in 2013; and

WHEREAS, he is well known for bringing together various partners and identifying grants and funding sources that have enhanced the County's emergency resources, capabilities, and operational preparedness; and

WHEREAS, Brian epitomizes helping others before himself having been involved in as many as 17 declared disasters in Vance County and serving those in need through 14 deployments across North Carolina and the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, during his career he has advocated for the betterment of the emergency management profession and the County through his service as a member and chairman of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association’s Legislative Committee where he helped develop priorities for the association and represented NCEMA on numerous occasions in Washington DC. In addition, he assisted the Vance County representative on the 100 Counties Prepared initiative through the NC Association of County Commissioners in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Vance County has benefited greatly from Brian's vast knowledge and experience and has been fortunate to have him as a dedicated public servant and employee for 32 years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vance County Board of Commissioners does duly recognize and express its utmost appreciation to Brian K. Short for his dedicated public service to the citizens of Vance County, **AND, FURTHER,** does express best wishes to Brian and his wife, Ann, for many years of a well-deserved retirement.

This, the 1st day of May, 2023.

Yolanda J. Feimster (signed)
Yolanda J. Feimster, Chair

Fireworks Permit – Tourism. Mr. McMillen stated that the Vance County Tourism Department is requesting approval of a fireworks permit for its Independence Day celebration at Kerr Lake on Saturday, July 1, 2023. According to Tourism Director Pam Hester, the TDA has obtained the necessary permits and approvals from NC State Parks and the Corps of Engineers and the show will be contracted with a professional pyrotechnics firm which has the appropriate credentials and insurance coverage. Recommendation: Approve the request from Tourism for a permit and fee waiver to discharge fireworks at its Independence Day celebration at Kerr Lake planned for Saturday, July 1, 2023, contingent upon the necessary approvals from the fire marshal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carolyn Faines, seconded by Commissioner Sean A. Alston, Sr., vote unanimous, to approve the request from Tourism for a permit and fee waiver to discharge fireworks at its Independence Day celebration at Kerr Lake planned for Saturday, July 1, 2023, contingent upon the necessary approvals from the fire marshal and to include a rain date if applicable.

Presentation of FY 2023-24 Recommended Budget. County Manager Jordan McMillen presented the FY 2022-23 proposed budget and provided a brief synopsis of the budget as follows:

- The recommended general fund budget is \$57,500,689 which represents an increase of \$2,485,944 or 4.5% over the current year budget.
- Budget presented with **no increase in the general fund property tax rate**. Tax Rate = 89 cents per \$100 in value. The budget includes **no increases in the solid waste household fee** (\$120 per household), **no increase in the fire tax rate** (8.9 cents), and **no increase in the water usage rate** with a total of \$29,312 transferred from the general fund to cover water system debt service. A major improvement in the fire tax fund allows for adding 24 hour coverage in the north and south portions of the County with no tax increase.
- A total of \$1,883,237 is appropriated from the general fund to balance the budget. This is \$227,340 more than the current year budget. The general fund balance is projected to be 36% of expenditures by the end of FY23.
- The property tax base is increasing \$63 million from the prior year which along with an increased tax collection rate is providing \$592,051 in additional property tax revenue. One penny on the tax rate totals \$285,354 in revenue.
- Sales tax revenue is the major source of revenue increases and conservative budgeting has allowed for increased revenue projections in the coming year to meet growing expenditure demands. Sales tax revenue is projected to come in \$1.9 million more than budget in the current fiscal year and we are budgeting an increase of \$1.14 million from the current year budget.
- The budget invests in county employees and prioritizes competitive pay. This is achieved through providing a cost of living adjustment to mitigate recent increases in inflation, introducing a 401K employer matching contribution, reducing health insurance costs for dependents, funding employee appreciation efforts, and covering state mandated retirement increases.
- The budget prioritizes ongoing and increased costs related to improving community health, meeting educational needs, and training our future workforce. This is achieved through providing a \$40,000 increase for the Granville-Vance Health Department, a \$288,425 increase for Vance County Schools and a \$220,732 increase for Vance-Granville Community College.
- The budget addresses board goals for economic development by allocating funds for implementation of the economic development strategic plan as well as marketing and advertising the county and shell building.
- The budget addresses board priorities by appropriating funds for a small business job creation and capacity building program, expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas, partnering with the City to improve enforcement and appearance within the extra territorial jurisdiction, and maintenance improvements at the jail.

Mr. McMillen asked the board to consider setting work sessions to review the proposed budget in detail. The public hearing on the budget should be set for the evening of June 5, which is the date of the regular meeting. He requested that the board receive the FY 2023-24 proposed

budget, schedule budget work sessions, and schedule budget hearings for the June 5 regular meeting.

Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. stated that he cannot support the budget as presented. He stated that the budget continues to increase and the tax rate is too high. Also, he cannot support an increase in commissioner salaries.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to receive the FY 2022-23 proposed budget and schedule the budget hearings for the June 5 regular meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines and vote was ayes – six (6); noes – one (1), with the dissenting vote being cast by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr.

The board scheduled budget work sessions for May 9 and 10 at 2:00 p.m.

County Attorney's Report

REO Property – Bid Acceptance Resolution. County Attorney Jonathan S. Care noted that during its April 2023 meeting, the board of commissioners approved the public sale process for 1010 Standish Street (Parcel 0091 07007A). The property was advertised through the upset bid process and the board is now free to sell the property or reject the offer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the following resolution accepting the bid for 1010 Standish Street (Parcel 0091 07007A).

.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BID FOR COUNTY OWNED REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Vance County Board of County Commissioners received an offer for the purchase and sale of County owned real property, which is more particularly described below:

1010 Standish Street, Henderson, NC, Vance County Tax Department Parcel Number 0091 07007A.

WHEREAS, pursuant to NCGS 160A-269 and the Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process for Sale of Real Property adopted by the Vance County Board of Commissioners on April 3, 2023, a notice was published in the *Daily Dispatch* on **April 6, 2023**, stating that said offer by **WaKisha Turrentine** in the amount of **\$900.00** had been received and that any person wishing to submit an upset bid should do so within 10 days; and

WHEREAS, no upset bids were received within the statutorily prescribed time period.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vance County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to NCGS 160A-269 that:

The bid submitted by **WaKisha Turrentine** in the amount of **\$900.00** subject to the terms and conditions contained in the submitted bid, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, is hereby accepted for the property described herein and the Board’s Chairperson shall execute the documents necessary to complete the transfer of title to such property.

This the 1st day of May, 2023.

Yolanda J. Feimster (signed)
Yolanda J. Feimster, Chair
Vance County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kelly H. Grissom (signed)
Kelly H. Grissom, Clerk to the Board

.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., vote unanimous, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: March 2023 Tax Refunds and Releases, departmental monthly reports, and the minutes of the April 3, 2023 regular meeting and the April 17, 2023 work session.

.

TAX OFFICE REFUND AND RELEASE REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

TAXPAYER NAME	TAX YR	REAL	PERSONAL	SOLID WASTE FEE	REASON
COMFORT ZONE COOLING & HEATING	2022	0	290.41	0	BILLED IN NCVTS
COMFORT ZONE COOLING & HEATING	2022	0	283.06	0	BILLED IN NCVTS
COMFORT ZONE COOLING & HEATING	2022	0	283.06	0	BILLED IN NCVTS
KLINGER ASHLEY	2022	0	16.16	120	PERS PROP BILLED
TOTAL		0	872.69		
GRAND TOTAL	872.69				

.

MONTHLY REPORTS: 911 Emergency Operations, Administrative Ambulance Charge-Offs, Cooperative Extension, EMS, Human Resources, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Tax Collections and Veterans Service.

.

Miscellaneous

Appointments. The following appointments were presented to the board for consideration:

911 Advisory Board – three year term
Reappoint Sean Alston and Chuck Elgin.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to approve the reappointments as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines and unanimously approved.

At this time, motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Faines, vote unanimous, to enter into closed session to discuss a property matter and a personnel matter.

Upon return to open session, motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 and February 9, 2023 closed sessions.

Chair Yolanda J. Feimster adjourned the Board of Equalization and Review.

As there was no further business, at 8:50 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Sean A. Alston, Sr., vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed June 5, 2023.

Yolanda J. Feimster, Chair