

MINUTES
VANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
October 16, 2023

The Vance County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 4:00 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, and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: Commissioners Thomas S. Hester, Jr. and Leo Kelly, Jr.

Also present were Interim County Manager Scott Elliott, Finance Director Katherine Bigelow, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

Finance Timeline. Finance Director Katherine Bigelow presented the upcoming budget/finance calendar outlining when CIP and budget materials are due from department heads, budget public hearings and adoption, and the board's planning retreat. The CIP will be discussed in more detail during the board's January work session. The board suggested that the retreat be held in January instead of March.

Phase IB Water Update. Interim County Manager Scott Elliott noted that when the project went out for bid approximately six months ago, the bids came in well over budget (\$3.7M). The NC General Assembly has appropriated \$4M for this project once the state budget is approved. The question now is whether or not to re-bid the project since the bids were only good for 30 days. The engineer suggests that we wait until the funds are released from the state before making any decisions.

Detention Center Update. Mr. Elliott reported that the board received the results of the jail study from Moseley Architects in June as well as probable costs to renovate the existing jail or to construct a new jail. Also during that time, the board received information from finance director on debt service expenditures and approximate annual payments. He noted that Commissioner Brummitt has had a very informal conversation with the Granville County Chair regarding the feasibility of a regional jail, but nothing formal has been discussed.

Fire Study Update. AP Triton representative Frank Blackley (via phone) provided an update on the fire study. He stated that the project is moving along nicely. He has completed the section on ISO reviews and has some mapping completed based on incident data received from 911. Commissioner Dan Brummitt expressed his displeasure that AP Triton has not involved the commissioners or fire commission thus far and that AP Triton has used the fire chief as a point of contact with collecting data. Mr. Blackley noted that the study is not yet to a point where contact with the commissioners or fire commission is necessary. Site visits will take place October 30, 31 and November 1. At that time, he will be meeting with commissioners and fire departments. The board directed AP Triton to gather further information from each fire department directly or the county manager.

Small Business Initiative. Mr. Elliott noted that funds were included in the current budget for this initiative. Staff sought direction from the board on how to proceed. Commissioner Faines asked what organizations offer funding for small businesses. Finance Director Katherine Bigelow stated that she would research this and will let the board know.

Closed Session. The board entered into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon return to open session, Chair Feimster announced the appointment of Renee Perry as the new county manager, effective November 1, 2023.

-end-