

**MINUTES**  
**VANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**August 21, 2023**

The Vance County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, August 21, 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, Leo Kelly, Jr., and Archie B. Taylor, Jr.

Absent: Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, 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.

*Jail Study.* Interim County Manager Scott Elliott noted that the board received results of the study from Moseley Architects at its June 5<sup>th</sup> work session. Probable costs are \$5.3M to renovate the existing jail, \$31.3M to renovate the existing jail with an addition, and \$42.6M to construct a new jail. Finance Director Katherine Bigelow stated that according to board policy, the ratio of tax supported debt service expenditures shall not exceed 15% of the total expenditures, which equates to \$8.625M. Payments for a new jail would be \$3.2M annually, which equates to a 13¢ tax increase. Payments to renovate the existing jail with an addition would be \$2.4M annually, which equates to an 8¢ tax increase.

The board discussed regionalization, the need to shorten inmate length of stay before trial, and whether or not state or federal funding would be available for this type of project.

*Henry A. Dennis Building.* Ms. Bigelow asked for the board's thoughts on possibly selling the Henry A. Dennis Building. She stated that only three departments occupy the entire building - Elections, Veterans Service, and the Office of Juvenile Justice. These departments could be relocated to other county buildings. Elections and Veterans Service could possibly be relocated to the Eaton Johnson Building. Proceeds from the sale could be used for other capital needs. Commissioner Dan Brummitt suggested that no one be relocated to the Eaton Johnson Building until we see what happens with Medicaid expansion.

*Fleet Management.* Ms. Bigelow provided information to the board on fleet management software which would track mileage, insurance costs, driver downtime, vehicle depreciation, etc. A GPS would provide real-time technology of fleet performance and would provide the ability to monitor vehicle and driver location, reduce costs tied to vehicle maintenance and fuel, and improve daily operations. It would also include gas cards for county vehicles. She stated that the software would give staff the tool to oversee fleet management without having to hire someone to do this. She also noted that the Sheriff is on board. This will be brought back to the board at its September meeting for approval.

*Head Start Request to Lease Kitchen at Eaton Johnson.* Mr. Elliott informed the board that Head Start has requested to lease the kitchen at the Eaton Johnson building. This will go before the properties committee on August 28 and to the full board on September 5.

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