

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Davidson County, North Carolina**

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**Tuesday, November 26, 2019  
6:00 PM**

**Commissioners' Meeting Room  
County of Davidson**

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Don Truell, Vice-Chairman Steve Shell, Zak Crotts, Chris Elliott, Fred McClure and Karen Watford. Commissioner Todd Yates was not present at the outset of the Meeting, and was excused immediately following Public Address.

OTHERS PRESENT

County Manager Zeb Hanner, County Attorney Chuck Frye, Assistant County Manager Casey Smith, Clerk to the Board Debbie Harris, Assistant County Manager Jason Martin, IT Director Joel Hartley, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, Parks and Recreation Director Thomas Marshburn, DSS Director Dale Moorefield, Health Director Lillian Koontz, Senior Services Director Thessia Everhart-Roberts, Emergency Services Director Larry James, Human Resources Director Kathy Cashion, Support Services Director Dwayne Childress, Board of Elections Director Ruth Huneycutt, Soil and Water Director Andy Miller, Fire Marshal Danny Ward, Maintenance Director Alan Harris, Assisant Board of Elections Director Andrew Richards, Purchasing and Contract Coordinator Robert James, Deputy Fire Marshal Jacob Thompson, Budget Analyst Tim Maness, Deputy DSS Director Scott Craver, Zoning Officer I Josh Tussey, Assistant County Attorney Danielle DeAngelis, Senior Activity Coordinator Kelly Burchette, Major Stephen Pace, Senior Center Manager Christie Smith, Board of Elections Member Randall Lanier, Board of Elections Member Jon Myers, Board of Elections Member Rita Haire, Thomasville City Councilwoman Jane Murphy, Mike Hoots [LifeStar Emergency Services, LLC], David Stevens [Providence Transportation, Inc.], Mike Chrisofferson, Kelly Hulin, Paul Hulin, Tony Turner, Jan Hauck, Barney W. Hill and Lexington Dispatch Reporter Ben Coley.

<b><u>1. CALL TO ORDER</u></b>
Chairman Truell called the Meeting to order.
<b><u>2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></b>
The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Commissioner McClure.
<b><u>3. RECOGNITION</u></b>
<b>A. Recognition</b>
The Chairman recognized Mike Christofferson, who was at the Meeting representing the Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Chambers.
<b>B. Recognition - Kelly Burchette of Senior Services</b>

Mr. Hanner reported that Kelly Burchette, Senior Services Senior Activities Coordinator, had recently been recognized at a ceremony in Winston-Salem, on October 24 as a 2019 graduate of the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management. The program, a comprehensive three-year, six-module training, was administered by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work's Center for Educational Research and Studies. Chairman Truell read remarks put together for this occasion (included with the original Minutes). Ms. Burchette was thanked for her service and photos were taken.

Ms. Everhart-Roberts reported that Ms. Burchette had started with Senior Services in 2016 and felt her willingness to participate in this Program said something great about her character and added that Ms. Burchette was an exceptional employee who shines.

**4. REGISTER FOR PUBLIC ADDRESS**

The Chairman noted the need to register if interested in speaking at Public Address.

**5 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

There were no additions for the Agenda.

By a vote of 7-0 as follows, the Agenda was adopted as presented.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Shell, Steve  
 Second by: Elliott, Chris

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates	X			

**6. PUBLIC ADDRESS**

Barney W. Hill spoke regarding Agenda Item 9.E. of November 12, 2019, the events of a recent Sheriff's Office standoff and his thoughts on armored vehicles. He spoke regarding Agenda Item 9.B. and his thoughts on election equipment; he asked for a return to paper ballots. He then spoke about Agenda Item 8.J. and there being no job description or salary information included with the request. A copy of Mr. Hill's remarks is included with the original Minutes.

**EXCUSE COMMISSIONER YATES**

Upon motion by Commissioner McClure and second by Commissioner Crotts, the Board voted 6-0 to excuse Commissioner Yates from the Meeting.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Public Hearing - LifeStar Emergency Services, LLC Ambulance Franchise Application**

Mr. James reported an Application had been submitted from LifeStar Emergency Services, LLC (LSES) for a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise to operate in Davidson County 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The Application had been reviewed and he felt it met the criteria for granting the Franchise.

The Chairman declared the Public Hearing open.

Mr. Hoots reported on the current service area, staff and equipment. LSES was requesting the ability to provide convalescent services in Davidson County, and Mr. Hoots reported on those services.

Barney W. Hill spoke in favor of both Applications for Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchises and requested that his remarks be entered into the record for both Public Hearings. He felt the entire Franchise process was not needed.

There being no one else to speak, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing closed.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner McClure into how the trips would be proportioned, Mr. James reported that each entity promotes its own business and the agencies/citizens would be able to choose who is called. It is up to the individual Franchise holders to promote themselves to the hospitals, retirement homes, etc. to get calls, since these calls do not run through Emergency Communications. Chairman Truell questioned costs, to which Mr. James reported the Franchise holders cannot charge any more than the County charges for its services.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board granted a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise to LifeStar Emergency Services, LLC to provide service for Davidson County 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and authorized execution of any necessary documents on behalf of Davidson County.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Crotts, Zak

Second by: Elliott, Chris

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates	X			

**B. Public Hearing - Providence Transportation, Inc. Franchise Application**

Mr. James reported an Application had been submitted from Providence Transportation, Inc. (PT) for a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise to operate in Davidson County from 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Application had been reviewed and he felt it met the criteria for granting the Franchise.

The Chairman declared the Public Hearing open.

Mr. Stevens reported PT wanted to expand its services to include non-emergency ambulance services. He spoke regarding its location and staffing, and felt the Franchise would enhance Davidson County Emergency EMS's services. He felt granting the Franchise would decrease response times, and noted he had hired a seasoned individual to be the Director. In speaking with nursing facilities and medical centers in the County it was felt additional providers needed to be added, and all he had spoken to were in favor of request for a Franchise, due to the limited availability of the current vendor. Mr. Stevens read a letter of support.

Barney W. Hill spoke in favor of both Applications for Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchises and requested that his remarks be entered into the record for both Public Hearings. He felt the entire Franchise process was not needed.

There being no one else to speak, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board granted a Non-Emergency Ambulance Franchise to Providence Transportation, Inc. to provide service for Davidson County from 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday and authorized execution of any necessary documents on behalf of Davidson County.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Elliott, Chris  
 Second by: Watford, Karen

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**C. Rezoning Request by Kelly and Paul Hulin, Beneficiaries in Emmons Township Containing 8.82 Acres from RS to RA-1**

Mr. Cornman reported this was a request by Kelly and Paul Hulin to rezone properties located in Emmons Township, Tax Map 3, Lots 25, 102 and 120 containing, in total, 8.82 acres more or less. The properties are located on the east side of S NC Highway 109 approximately 675 feet, 1000 feet and 1300 feet, respectively, south of the Ernest Snider Road intersection at 125 and 131 J Nettie Drive and 10119 S NC Highway 109. Rezoning was requested to change from that of RS, Low Intensity Residential, to that of RA-1, Rural Agricultural District. The Planning Board recommended approval by a vote of 5-0 at its November 5, 2019 Meeting. The property was shown on a slide [PowerPoint slides included with the original Minutes]. The area currently has smaller wooden-framed homes that had fallen into disrepair.

Ms. Hulin reported that she and her husband wanted to move a double-wide to the property to allow her parents to live with them. Her parents' house was falling down and would cost many thousands of dollars to repair. The adjacent neighbors asked to join in the petition, and all were in agreement.

Mr. Hill felt the Applicants should succeed on contiguity alone, and agreed with the citation of Policy 6.5, but felt 6.10 also applied. He was in support of the request. A copy of Mr. Hill's remarks is included with the original Minutes.

There being no one else to speak, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Cornman reported the property is contiguous to existing RA-1, and Policies 6.5 and 6.10 supported the request. Also, the request was reasonable and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the area. Staff was recommending approval of the request.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board rezoned properties located in Emmons Township, Tax Map 3, Lots 25, 102 and 120 containing, in total, 8.82 acres more or less, located on the east side of S NC Highway 109 approximately 675 feet, 1000 feet and 1300 feet, respectively, south of the Ernest Snider Road intersection at 125 and 131 J Nettie Drive and 10119 S NC Highway 109, from that of RS, Low Intensity Residential, to that of RA-1, Rural Agricultural District. The Board also adopted the revised Resolution of Consistency, with Policy 6.10 being added.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Elliott, Chris

Second by: Crotts, Zak

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**D. Rezoning Request by Tony S. Turner in Alleghany Township Containing 10.95 Acres from CU-RC to RA-2**

Mr. Cornman reported this was a request by Tony S. Turner to rezone property in Alleghany Township, Tax Map 21, Lot 1L containing 10.95 acres more or less. The property was located on the south side of NC Highway 49 approximately 1.1 miles west of the NC Highway 8 intersection. Rezoning was requested to change from that of CU-RC, Conditional Use Rural Commercial District, to that of RA-2, Rural Agricultural District. In 2018 Mr. Turner had the property rezoned to CU for a landscaping business that did not come to fruition, and he now wants to put a residence on the property.

Chairman Truell declared the Public Hearing open.

Mr. Turner asked that the property be rezoned to residential as he had individuals who were supposed to join him in opening a greenhouse and landscaping business that did not happen. He wanted to build a small house on the property for retirement.

Mr. Hill spoke regarding the Staff recommendation citing Policies 10.1 and 10.3, and then the Resolution on Statement of Consistency citing Policies 7.3 and 10.1. He asked why all were not cited originally. The property was contiguous to a much larger area of RA-2, and he was in favor of the request. A copy of Mr. Hill's remarks is included with the original Minutes.

There being no one else to speak, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Cornman reported that all of the surrounding properties were large tracts and zoned RA-2. He concurred that Policies 10.1, 10.3 and 7.3 should all be on the Resolution, and that the request was reasonable and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the area. Staff recommended approval of the request.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board rezoned property in Alleghany Township, Tax Map 21, Lot 1L containing 10.95 acres more or less, located on the south side of NC Highway 49 approximately 1.1

miles west of the NC Highway 8 intersection from that of CU-RC, Conditional Use Rural Commercial District, to that of RA-2, Rural Agricultural District. The Board also adopted the amended Resolution on Statement of Consistency, with Policies 10.1, 10.3 and 7.3 all being included.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Crotts, Zak  
 Second by: Elliott, Chris

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**E. Rezoning Request by Jan H. and Susan O. Hauck in Silver Hill Township Containing 1.55 Acres from CU-RC to RA-2**

Mr. Cornman reported this was a request by Jan H. and Susan O. Hauck to rezone property located in Silver Hill Township, Tax Map 2, Lot 26 containing 1.55 acres more or less. The property was located at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Old Highway 64 and New Bowers Road. Rezoning was requested to change from that of CU-RC, Conditional Use Rural Commercial District, to that of RA-2, Rural Agricultural District. The Planning Board recommended approval by a vote of 5-0 at its Meeting of November 5, 2019. Mr. Hauck had the property rezoned to CU-RC on November 8, 2004, and it has been used for the purpose of a barbershop since that time. He had entered retirement and was asking for restoration to RA-2.

The Chairman declared the Public Hearing open.

Mr. Hauck asked that the property be rezoned to residential, as the business is no longer operational.

Mr. Hill noted there was once again a discrepancy in Policies, with the Planning Board citing Policies 7.3, 10.1 and 10.2., and the Resolution on Statement of Consistency citing Policies 6.9, 6.10, 7.3, 10.1 and 10.2. He agreed that all five supported the request and felt it was appropriate to rezone the property to RA-2. A copy of Mr. Hill's remarks is included with the original Minutes.

There being no one else to speak, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Cornman reported the entire area was used for rural agricultural purposes, and there was much farming in the area. The tract was contiguous to RA-2 on all four sides, and the request was reasonable and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the area. All five Policies stated in the Resolution support approval, and Staff recommended approval of the request.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board rezoned property located in Silver Hill Township, Tax Map 2, Lot 26 containing 1.55 acres more or less, located at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Old Highway 64 and New Bowers Road from that of CU-RC, Conditional Use Rural Commercial District, to that of RA-2, Rural Agricultural District. The Board also adopted the Resolution on Statement of Consistency.

**VOTING**

Motion by: McClure, Fred  
 Second by: Watford, Karen

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**8. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION - CONSENT**

**A. Approval of Consent Agenda**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. By a vote of 7-0 as follows, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Watford, Karen

Second by: Elliott, Chris

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**B. Correcton to HR Personnel Resoution**

**C. Reclassification Request - Health Department**

**D. Approval of Minutes - November 7, 2019 and November 12, 2019 Board of Commissioners' Meetings**

**E. Bid Award for Asbestos Abatement for Lexington Library**

**F. Bid Award for Flooring for Lexington Library**

**G. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Town of Denton for County to Provide IT Services**

**H. Appointment - Denton ETJ Board**

**I. Resolution for Reimbursement by Department of Infrastructure for Fort York Sewer Project**

**J. Establish Temporary "County Manager Consultant" Position**

**K. Budget Amendment- Assistant County Manager**

**L. Approval of Fire Inspection Software Agreement**

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION/INFORMATION - DELIBERATION**

**A. Proclamation - National Family Caregiver Month - November 2019**

Commissioner McClure read the Proclamation.

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board proclaimed November 2019 as National Family Caregiver Month in Davidson County.

Ms. Everhart-Roberts came forward and accepted the Proclamation and photos were taken.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Watford, Karen

Second by: McClure, Fred

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**B. Elections Equipment Replacement**

Mr. Myers reported the Board of Elections (BOE) is required to make two recommendations for equipment: the preliminary and the final, noting the original recommendation of the hybrid model had changed. The BOE had met since the last Commissioners' Meeting and discussed the outcomes and experiences, and this had changed the recommendation. Going with the hybrid model would mean precinct officials would need to account for every ballot handed out, as reconciliation takes place at the precinct level. Large precincts can have up to 2,500 ballots. Part of the thought in the change in recommendation was that saving that time will offer results to the public timelier. The new quotes provided (included with the original Minutes) include removal of the ballot-on-demand printer, with the BOE continuing to order paper ballots as needed. The BOE did not hear good things about this printer out of the last election, and there were also concerns regarding maintenance costs. Should the Commissioners elect to go with the hybrid option, the BOE will continue to order paper ballots at a cost of between \$.25 to \$.28 each. The Express Vote machines use cardstock that costs between \$.10 to \$.12 each, and use a thermal printer with no toner. Voting is about 50/50 early voting versus day of voting. Mr. Myers felt the new machines would last well past the 15-year recommended lifespan, and it would also take up less space than the current machines and paper. He felt stepping back from the paper ballots would allow the BOE to recruit and retain precinct officials. Mr. Myers remarked that a more intangible outcome of going with the total Express Vote system would be voter intent, as individuals do not always follow instructions and create errors. He felt the Express Vote system would clearly set out voter intention. He felt the inconsistency in the hybrid model would be confusing to voters, with Express Vote machines at early voting, but paper ballots at the precincts. The BOE felt there was greater possibility of human error in the paper ballots, and they will take longer to complete, which could lead to delays in voting and the closing time for precincts, as all those in line at 7:30 p.m. get the opportunity to vote. Mr. Myers noted that no matter the selection of the Board, the BOE would fulfill its duties fully and efficiently. Vice-Chairman Shell questioned whether the number of machines was adequate, to which Mr. Myers reported it was enough for each precinct, with some spares in reserve. One complaint the BOE has heard is long wait times, and this will allow them to send extra units out to some sites. The Express Vote machines can be used for early voting and at the precinct sites on voting day, where the current equipment cannot be used for both purposes. Commissioner Crotts questioned where the additional funds would come from for the Express Vote method, as there was currently \$1.5 Million set aside in the current budget, to which Mr. Smith reported it would come from Capital Reserve. Maintenance

for the first year was included in the total for the proposals. The Commissioner then inquired into whether the maintenance costs could be passed along to the municipalities who use the machines, to which Mr. Smith felt some of these fees could be picked up in some way through billing for the elections. There was discussion about paper ballots versus the Express Vote, and it was felt the Express Vote process would speed up the voting time and closing process at the end of the night, because the officials would not have to physically count the ballots. The BOE would still need to do post-election audits to lend to the credibility and integrity of the votes.

By a vote of 5-1 as follows, the Board accepted the recommendation of the BOE for the Express Vote model; set up a Capital Project for Elections Equipment Replacement; and, appropriated funds in the amount of \$1,737,221 for the purchase of the equipment to put the Express Vote model into action.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Crofts, Zak

Second by: McClure, Fred

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crofts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford		X		
Todd Yates				

**C. Discussion Regarding EDC Action Planning Workshop Meeting Dates**

Mr. Hanner reminded the Board of the recent presentation made by Craig Goodson with EDC, which left off that EDC would be proposing dates for a planning session. There was discussion by the Board on whether or not to meet. It was the consensus that the January 9<sup>th</sup> date was acceptable. Ms. Harris will prepare a Notice of Special Meeting for the event, and the date will be put on each Commissioner's schedule.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Closed Session**

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board went into Closed Session for matters of Attorney/Client and Personnel.

**VOTING**

Motion by: McClure, Fred

Second by: Elliott, Chris

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crofts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**B. Closed Session - Personnel**

**C. Closed Session - Attorney/Client**

**D. Return to Open Session**

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board returned to Open Session.

**VOTING**

Motion by: McClure, Fred  
Second by: Crotts, Zak

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Frye reported the Board had considered matters of Attorney/Client and Personnel and directed Staff to take further action. Also, that the Board needed to amend the Agenda to add a matter of Personnel.

**MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA**

Upon motion by Commissioner McClure and second by Chairman Truell, the Board voted 6-0 to amend the Agenda to add Personnel.

**9.D. Personnel**

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Board approved the following:

- Appointment of Danielle DeAngelis as Interim Tax Assessor and Collector; and,
- Engagement of the firm of Teague Campbell for investigative work.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Elliott, Chris  
Second by: Watford, Karen

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

By a vote of 6-0 as follows, the Meeting was adjourned.

**VOTING**

Motion by: Crotts, Zak  
Second by: Shell, Steve

Commissioners	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Don W. Truell	X			
Steve Shell	X			
Zak Crotts	X			
Chris Elliott	X			
Fred McClure	X			
Karen Watford	X			
Todd Yates				

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Deborah J. Harris  
Clerk to the Board

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Karen Watford, Chair  
Davidson County  
Board of Commissioners