

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENE

The Greene County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Greene County Operations Center. Present for the meeting: Chairman Bennie Heath, Vice Chairman James T. Shackleford Jr, Commissioners Jerry Jones, Ray Johnson and Derek Burress, County Manager Kyle DeHaven, County Attorney Gay Stanley, and Deputy Clerk Kathy Mooring.

A. Call to Order

Chairman Bennie Heath called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and asked Commissioner Shackleford to give the Invocation and lead the Pledge to the Flag.

There were three Greene County staff in attendance and three people from the public were present.

B. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Heath asked if there were any changes or corrections to the Agenda. Seeing as there were none he called for a motion to approve the Agenda. After Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda, Commissioner Burress held up a Resolution from the Department of Social Services Board and asked if this being added to the Agenda. He was then told that this would be discussed in the Closed Session. Chairman Heath asked to add Personnel to Closed Session.

On motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

C. Consent Agenda

Chairman Heath asked for any changes to the consent agenda. Commissioner Jones noted there were two spelling errors in the December 4, 2023 minutes.

On motion by Commissioner Jones with the corrections and second by Commissioner Shackleford, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

- December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Release/Refunds
- Monthly Collection Report
- Consideration of Late Present Use Value and Property Tax Relief Application
- Financial Report
- Budget Amendment; Senior Center
- Budget Amendment; Economic Development

Refunds: NCVTS Tax & Tag

Ricky Alan Yannarella	\$39.64	Tasha Lashawna Strong	\$8.44	Daniel Lozano Gonzalez	\$136.60
Shena Laquel Reed	\$336.49				

Releases: Ad Valorem Tax

Dennis Wood	\$50.00	Dennis Wood	\$50.00	Joyce Barnes Best	\$50.00
Douglas Eugene Moore, Jr	\$50.00	Rory Allen Wood, Jr	\$50.00	Rory Allen Wood, Jr	\$50.00
Rory Allen Wood, Jr.	\$50.00				

Refunds: Ad Valorem Tax

George McCongia	\$100.00	Martha Ann Colie Moore	\$50.00		
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D. Public Comments

1. Salvador Tinoco, 111 SE Second St., Snow Hill, NC. Mr. Tinoco asked about the Commissioner's pay raises that took place in July 2023. He asked why they received an increase of 106%, what about the employee's who got a 5% increase. Chairman Heath explained that this increase for the Commissioners was approved in the FY 23/24 Budget. He went on to explain that the Commissioners have not had a pay increase from the pay studies done and that their compensation was 3rd lowest in the state and they are now at 47th in the state. Mr. Tinoco would not listen and said he would be back.

E. Presentations

1. LeAnn Bagasala, Mauldin Jenkins CPA's and Advisors

Ms. Bagasala of Mauldin Jenkins presented the FY 22/23 Audited Financial Statements. Which was "unmodified" the highest rating. She provided the highlights and reviewed any weaknesses the firm found that may be improved on in the future. Commissioner Burress stated he had no questions about the audit itself and was pleased with its timely completion, and he expressed his confidence in the auditor's performance, however he recalled last year when, after the audit presentation he asked that he requested that they have a hard copy before the presentation to look at and be able to maybe ask questions during her presentation. Therefore, he advised he would be voting against accepting the audit again this year.

F. County Attorney Report

No comment.

G. Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

Chairman Heath wished all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Jones reminded his fellow Commissioners of the LCC Christmas Breakfast the next morning.

Commissioner Burress congratulated Todd Whaley on becoming Snow Hill's new Fire Chief and thanked former Chief Linwood Bunn for his many years of exceptional service. Commissioner Burress stated that citizens have expressed concerns about the recently announced plans for a new industrial park. This is because the existing industrial site in Walstonburg has seen little development over the years, despite significant taxpayer investment. Commissioner Burress is questioning whether the County has abandoned efforts to develop the Walstonburg site in order to pursue a new project instead. He also wonders why more effort has not been made to recruit new businesses to the existing site, rather than developing a new industrial park. Commissioner Burress would like the County to issue a statement addressing these concerns. The statement should also explain how the new industrial park will have greater development potential through improved infrastructure and strategic partnerships to attract new businesses, reassuring taxpayers that their money will not go to waste. However, no motion was made. Commissioner Burress would like the County Attorney to look into the confusion and breakdown in communication regarding the termination of the Fort Run EMS contract. However, no motion was made. Commissioner Burress believes the County should not have terminated Fort Run's contract before gathering further facts to explain why the Department claimed no notice was received.

Commissioner Burress says he has received inquiries this past week from concerned citizens and employees regarding changes to County Commissioners compensation. Commissioner Burress stated the monthly pay prior to July 1, 2023 was \$485.23; and, as of July 1, 2023, that amount increased to \$1,000. Commissioner Burress requested an official public statement at our next meeting to address and rectify any issues surrounding the Commissioners pay and our lack of openness. He stated we need to be honest, address these concerns, and correct any misinformation. However, no motion was made.

All Commissioners wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

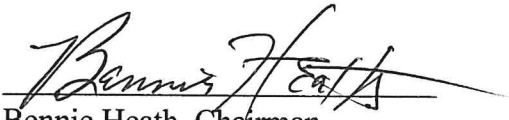
H. CLOSED SESSION – Attorney/Client Privilege, and Personnel

Motion/Second into closed session – Commissioners Jones and Shackleford

Motion/Second out of closed session – Commissioners Jones and Johnson

I. ADJOURN

On motion by Commissioner Jones and second by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.


Bennie Heath, Chairman

Attest:





Kyle J. DeHaven, Clerk to the Board

GREENE COUNTY

LINE ITEM TRANSFER/BUDGET AMENDMENT

12/14/2023
United Way

[illegible]

<u>REVENUES</u>			<u>BUDGET AMENDMENT</u>			<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>			
Senior Services Donations	11170-434820	1854.46	United Way Activities	11586-517600	1854.46			
Total		\$1,854.46	Total		\$1,854.46			

Explanation:

Senior Services Donations applied to activities-3 checks deposited-totalling \$1854.46

Requested by:
S. Harrison

Approved by:

Approved by: 

