

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENE

The Greene County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Greene County Operations Center. Present for the meeting: Chairman Bennie Heath, Vice-Chairman Jerry Jones, Commissioner Derek Burress, Commissioner Ray Johnson, County Manager Kyle DeHaven, County Attorney Gay Stanley, and Deputy Clerk Kathy Mooring. Commissioner Robert Taylor Jr. was absent.

A. Call to Order

Chairman Bennie Heath called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, and asked Commissioner Burress to give the Invocation and lead the Pledge to the Flag.

There were seven Greene County staff and six people from the public in attendance.

B. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

C. Public Hearing

1. Consideration of a Moratorium on Special Use Permit Applications for Solar Farms
Chairman Heath opened the Public Hearing for comments.

1. Mary Jones came forward and asked if anyone on the Board had done research on Solar Farms. Chairman Heath stated he has. The other commissioners also affirmed that they had done some research on Solar Farms.

2. Christy Rouse asked about what will happen if any of the batteries used for these solar farms caught fire, she has heard that the fire departments currently cannot do anything. Todd Whaley from the Snow Hill Fire Department was present and stated they have started the necessary training. Ms. Rouse also asked about what will happen when these solar farms are decommissioned for use. She has been told that the company building these will leave everything as is. She was advised this will have to be looked into. Ms. Rouse then asked about people coming on her land and taking down trees and such. The Sheriff advised her to come to his office and file a report.

3. Bobbie Jo Mewborn asked what the moratorium can do about the land use permit just approved for this big solar farm. She was advised it cannot help with that situation, but it will put a stop to any other solar farms going in during the next twenty four months, giving the Board of Commissioners time to look at the County Ordinance and make necessary changes as needed.

Chairman Heath closed the public hearing.

Consideration of Action on a Proposed Moratorium on Special Use Permit
Applications for Solar Farms

Chairman Heath asked the Board's wishes.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the

Board voted unanimously to approve the Moratorium.

D. Public Information

1. GC Boys and Girls Club Annual Breakfast on March 13 at 7:30 am at the GC Community Center
Chairman Heath made an announcement on Greene County Boys and Girls Club Annual Breakfast will be held March 13th at 7:30 a.m. at the Greene County Community Center on Harper St. The event is a fund raising event, there is no minimum or maximum gift.

E. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

1. 02-17-25 Special Budget Retreat Minutes
2. 02-17-25 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. Releases/Refunds
4. Budget Amendment; Senior Center ARPA Funds

F. Public Comments

No Comments.

G. Presentation(s)

1. Installation of Distribution Gas Line by DESi
Fabian Gomez, DESi Inc. presented on behalf of Piedmont Natural Gas a request for Temporary Construction Easements for the new Greene Central High School and for the State Prison (Maury Correctional). For Greene County and Greene County Board of Education taking time to review and sign the easements, Piedmont Natural Gas is offering \$250 in compensation for each tract of property involved. Commissioner Burress asked about the natural gas line going across a stream, it was noted that it would go under the water.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

H. County Manager

1. Board Appointments: Planning Board and Board of Adjustment
The positions for the Board of Adjustments and the Planning Board were advertised two separate times per direction of the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Adjustments had two open seats. Mr. Leslie Mooring applied to be reappointed and Mr. Grant decided not to continue at the end of his term. Two application were received for that seat by a Ms. Christy Kearney Stroud and Mr. Lemuel Tyler Harper.

It was recommended that Mr. Mooring be reappointed and Ms. Stroud be appointed to the Board of Adjustments.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve as recommended.

After discussing with Brandon Sutton it was noted that Mr. Lemuel Tyler Harper also applied to the Board of Adjustments and that he be appointed as an alternate to the Board of Adjustments.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve as recommended.

The Planning Board has three positions up for appointment due to the end of the term for Donald Beaman, Erwin Sugg, and Jim Davenport. Erwin Sugg did not apply to be reappointed. Both Donald Beaman and Jim Davenport did apply to be reappointed. Three new applications were also received from Lemuel Tyler Harper, Lemuel Allen Harper and Austin Bryce. It is recommended that Donald Beaman be reappointed as he has served only one term. Mr. Davenport has served several terms and it is recommended that he serve as an alternate to allow the new applicants a chance to serve as well. It is recommended to the Board of Commissioners to reappoint Donald Beaman, and appoint Austin Bryce and Lemuel Allen Harper to the Planning Board and appoint Jim Davenport as an alternate.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve as recommended.

I. County Attorney's Comments

No comment.

J. Commissioners' Report and Recommendation

Chairman Heath stated he had a few comments. He said he wanted to take a few minutes to discuss a post made by fellow Commissioner Derek Burress on Social Media. In Commissioner Derek Burress post he stated he voted against the appointment of the new county attorney because of the process. He stated under General Statutes, it is the Board of Commissioners, not the county manager, not the economic developer, and not the county attorney who is responsible for making this appointment. Chairman Heath stated that during the January 15, 2025 meeting the Commissioners voted unanimously to allow the County Attorney Gay Stanley, the County Manager Kyle DeHaven, and the Economic Developer Trey Cash to seek out a new County Attorney, doing the interviews and making recommendations to the Board. This is the same process that was used when the current County Attorney Gay Stanley was appointed and the same process other counties follow. Chairman Heath feels that Commissioner Burress was out of line with his post on Social Media.

Chairman Heath said there will be a pancake supper at the local American Legion on Saturday, March 8th. Commissioner Johnson stated there will also be a pancake supper at

Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church on March 14th and Jerusalem Church will also be having a pancake supper on March 28th. Commissioner Johnson also said Ormondsville Church will be having a Gold City Men of Faith Reunion on March 7th and it starts at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Burress congratulated Brandon Johnson on being selected as Congressman Davis's guest for the next presidential address.

K. Closed Session

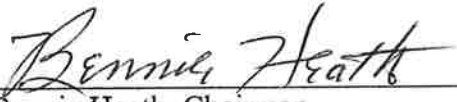
1. Personnel - *To conduct a closed session pursuant to the provisions set forth in N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6)*

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session.

L. Adjourn

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.


Bennie Heath, Chairman

Attest:




Kyle J. DeHaven, Clerk to the Board

Board of Commissioners
Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burrese
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager
Kyle J. DeHaven
County Attorney
Gay Stanley
Finance Officer
Sandy Shirtz

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A TWENTY-FOUR MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR SOLAR FARMS IN GREENE COUNTY

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160D-107 grants counties the authority to impose temporary moratoria on any development approval required by law, including solar farms;

WHEREAS, the Greene County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of promoting development while also ensuring that the existing ordinances effectively address the potential impacts of solar energy farms on the County;

WHEREAS, the Greene County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the Greene County ordinance regulating the Operation and Maintenance of Solar Energy Facilities in Greene County, NC, has not been reviewed in several years;

WHEREAS, the Greene County Board of Commissioners has heard citizen concerns regarding the preservation of agricultural and rural character, environmental considerations, and the compatibility of large solar farms with the surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, the Greene County Board of Commissioners is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §160D-107, the Greene County Board of Commissioners published notice of a public hearing on March 3, 2025 at 10:00 am in in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room Greene County Emergency Operations Center, 312 SE Second Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580, in The Daily Reflector on February 15 and 22, 2025 purpose of such public hearing is to solicit public comment a proposed 24-month moratorium on the acceptance or processing of special use permit applications for solar farms in Greene County, as set forth by the Greene County Zoning Ordinance, pending consideration of amendments to such ordinance;

WHEREAS, following public hearing on the issues, the Greene County Board of Commissioners determined it was necessary to thoroughly review Greene County ordinance for the operation and maintenance of solar energy facilities in Greene County, NC and to consider how to best balance any negative impacts of approving future special use permits with responsible and sustainable development of solar energy conversion systems in Greene County;

WHEREAS, as an alternative to a moratorium, the Board considered directing planning staff to propose any revisions to the Greene County ordinance for the operation and maintenance of solar energy facilities; however, the Board determined its best course of action was to allow the Board sufficient time to research, review, and consider the current ordinance in light of any findings regarding solar farms which have been discovered since the drafting of the ordinance; and to consider State legislation as well as the ordinances of surrounding counties;

WHEREAS, after due consideration and discussion, the Board has been unable to discover a reasonable and adequate alternative to imposing a temporary moratorium on accepting applications for special use permits for solar energy conversion systems that would allow the Board of County Commissioners and the Greene County planning staff a reasonable time to research, consider, debate, and make any desired revisions to its Ordinance;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this moratorium is to allow the Board sufficient time to comprehensively review and consider possible changes and improvements to the County's ordinances related solar energy conversion systems in consultation with community stakeholders, experts, the Planning Board, planning staff, and regulatory agencies;

WHEREAS, the Board determined the moratorium should begin immediately upon passage of this ordinance and continue for a period not to exceed twenty-four months, which is a period necessary to consider and address the concerns stated above; and

WHEREAS, this moratorium is intended to provide a necessary and limited pause to ensure that future development aligns with the County's vision and best interests while maintaining a balance between encouraging renewable energy initiatives and protecting the County's natural and economic resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF GREENE IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §1601-107, a moratorium on the acceptance of applications for the issuance of special use permits for solar farms within Greene County is hereby imposed, effective as of March 3, 2025, the date of the adoption of this ordinance, running until midnight on March 2, 2027, at which time the moratorium shall automatically expire unless sooner terminated or extended by the Board, for good cause shown and as permitted in N.C.G.S. §160D-107.

This moratorium effects and is subject to the following:

1. **Moratorium Imposition:** A 24-month moratorium, effective immediately upon adoption of this ordinance, is hereby imposed on the acceptance of any new special use permit applications for solar farms in Greene County, NC.
2. **Scope and Applicability:** This moratorium applies to all new applications for special use permits related solar energy conversion systems within the jurisdiction of Greene County. Applications that have been submitted and are complete prior to the effective date of this moratorium are not subject to this ordinance or the moratorium. This moratorium on the acceptance of special use permit applications

solar farms will allow the Board to review, gather information, consider, and debate how possible revisions to the County's Ordinance on The Operation And Maintenance Of Solar Energy Facilities and allow the Board to determine the effects of the ordinance on the County's land use compatibility, the preservation of agricultural and rural character, environmental considerations, decommissioning requirements, and the adequacy of existing infrastructure to support increased solar energy conversion system developments. Nothing contained herein shall limit the Board of Adjustments ability to consider special use permit applications that were complete prior to the effective date of this moratorium.

3. Purpose and Review: During the moratorium, the Board will conduct a thorough review of the County's current ordinances governing the Operation and Maintenance of Solar Energy Facilities; consider updates or amendments that address community concerns, land use compatibility, environmental impacts, decommissioning, and infrastructure requirements. The Board will also engage with stakeholders, including residents, environmental experts, energy developers, and regulatory agencies, to ensure a balanced and well-informed approach to regulating the Operation and Maintenance of Solar Energy Facilities in Greene County as well as gathering feedback from the community and relevant stakeholders.
4. Termination: This moratorium shall remain in effect until midnight March 2, 2027, 24 months from the date of adoption, or until the Board enacts updated ordinances, whichever occurs first. The Board reserves the right to extend, amend, or repeal this moratorium as deemed necessary.
5. Schedule: The Board will generally follow a schedule of actions during the moratorium to address the issues and concerns leading to the imposition of the moratorium including:
 - A. During the March 3, 2025 regular meeting of the Greene County Commissioners, the Board will hear public comment regarding a moratorium ordinance and concerns regarding the current solar farm ordinance.
 - B. From March 2025 to January 2026 the County Attorney, Planning Director and County Manager shall research and review the ordinances of surrounding counties and consult with the North Carolina Association County Commissioners and other Counties on behalf of the Board.

- C. From March, 2025 to January, 2026 the Board shall engage with stakeholders and regulatory bodies regarding the impact of solar farms on communities and agriculture.
- D. In the Spring of 2026, the County Manager, County Attorney and Planning Director shall report to the Board findings regarding their research during a Board retreat.
- E. From June of 2026 to the end of the moratorium, the staff shall revise the Greene County Solar Farm Ordinance as directed by the Board and shall present said drafts to the Board for instruction and revisions until such time as the Board is satisfied with the proposed ordinance and ready to schedule public hearings on the matter.

Adopted this the 3rd day of March, 2025.

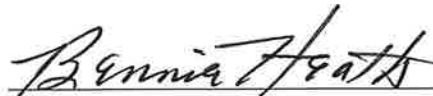


ATTEST



Kyle DeHaven, Clerk to the Board

SEAL



Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

§ 160D-107. Moratoria.

(a) Authority. – As provided in this section, local governments may adopt temporary moratoria on any development approval required by law, except for the purpose of developing and adopting new or amended plans or development regulations governing residential uses. The duration of any moratorium shall be reasonable in light of the specific conditions that warrant imposition of the moratorium and may not exceed the period of time necessary to correct, modify, or resolve such conditions.

(b) Hearing Required. – Except in cases of imminent and substantial threat to public health or safety, before adopting a development regulation imposing a development moratorium with a duration of 60 days or any shorter period, the governing board shall hold a legislative hearing and shall publish a notice of the hearing in a newspaper having general circulation in the area not less than seven days before the date set for the hearing. A development moratorium with a duration of 61 days or longer, and any extension of a moratorium so that the total duration is 61 days or longer, is subject to the notice and hearing requirements of G.S. 160D-601.

(c) Exempt Projects. – Absent an imminent threat to public health or safety, a development moratorium adopted pursuant to this section does not apply to any project for which a valid building permit issued pursuant to G.S. 160D-1108 is outstanding, to any project for which a special use permit application has been accepted as complete, to development set forth in a site-specific vesting plan approved pursuant to G.S. 160D-108.1, to development for which substantial expenditures have already been made in good-faith reliance on a prior valid development approval, or to preliminary or final subdivision plats that have been accepted for review by the local government prior to the call for a hearing to adopt the moratorium. Any preliminary subdivision plat accepted for review by the local government prior to the call for a hearing, if subsequently approved, shall be allowed to proceed to final plat approval without being subject to the moratorium. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a complete application for a development approval has been submitted prior to the effective date of a moratorium, G.S. 160D-108(b) applies when permit processing resumes.

(d) Required Statements. – Any development regulation establishing a development moratorium must include, at the time of adoption, each of the following:

- (1) A statement of the problems or conditions necessitating the moratorium and what courses of action, alternative to a moratorium, were considered by the local government and why those alternative courses of action were not deemed adequate.
- (2) A statement of the development approvals subject to the moratorium and how a moratorium on those approvals will address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.
- (3) A date for termination of the moratorium and a statement setting forth why that duration is reasonably necessary to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.
- (4) A statement of the actions, and the schedule for those actions, proposed to be taken by the local government during the duration of the moratorium to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium.

(e) Limit on Renewal or Extension. – No moratorium may be subsequently renewed or extended for any additional period unless the local government has taken all reasonable and feasible steps proposed to be taken in its ordinance establishing the moratorium to address the problems or conditions leading to imposition of the moratorium and unless new facts and conditions warrant an extension. Any ordinance renewing or extending a development moratorium must include, at the time of adoption, the findings set forth in subdivisions (1) through (4) of subsection (d) of this section, including what new facts or conditions warrant the extension.

(f) Expedited Judicial Review. – Any person aggrieved by the imposition of a moratorium on development approvals required by law may apply to the General Court of Justice for an order enjoining the enforcement of the moratorium. Actions brought pursuant to this section shall be scheduled for expedited hearing, and subsequent proceedings in those actions shall be accorded priority by the trial and appellate courts. In such actions, the local government has the burden of showing compliance with the procedural requirements of this subsection. (2019-111, s. 2.4; 2020-3, s. 4.33(a); 2020-25, ss. 4, 51(a), (b), (d).)

GREENE COUNTY

LINE ITEM TRANSFER/BUDGET AMENDMENT
ARPA Funds III-D & Family Caregiver Support
DATE: 02-28-2025
DEPARTMENT: Greene County Senior Center

LINE ITEM TRANSFER					
<u>FROM</u>			<u>TO</u>		
<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total		\$ -	Total		\$ -

BUDGET AMENDMENT					
<u>REVENUES</u>			<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ARPA Aging Services	11171-437911	\$ 6,194.00	Salaries	11590-510100	\$ 3,129.00
			Medicare	11590-513000	\$ 44.00
			FICA	11590-513100	\$ 186.00
			Retirement	11590-513200	\$ 598.00
			Supplies & Grocery cost	11590-517100	\$ 2,237.00
Total		\$ 6,194.00	Total		\$ 6,194.00

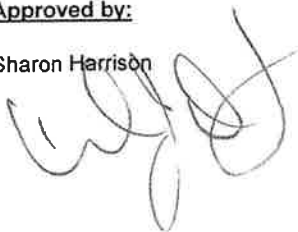
<u>Explanation:</u>	The Greene County Senior Center was recently awarded additional ARPA Funds through Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging. For Ensure Supplements \$2237, Family Caregiver Administration-\$2300, III-D Programs \$1657.
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Requested by:

Sharon Harrison
2/28/2025

Approved by:

Sharon Harrison



Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager

Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney

Gay Stanley

Finance Officer

Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. Lemuel Allan Harper
5855 NC Hwy 58 N
Stantonsburg, NC 27883

Dear Mr. Harper;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been appointed to the Greene County Planning Board by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie Heath".

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



GREENE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

County Manager

Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney

Gay Stanley

Finance Officer

Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. Austin Bryce
8414 NC 903
Ayden, NC 28513

Dear Mr. Bryce;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been appointed to the Greene County Planning Board by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie Heath". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager

Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney

Gay Stanley

Finance Officer

Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. Donald B. Beaman
652 Beaman Old Creek Rd.
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Dear Mr. Beaman;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been re-appointed to the Greene County Planning Board by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie Heath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H".

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



GREENE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

County Manager
Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney
Gay Stanley

Finance Officer
Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. James Davenport
525 Greenridge Rd.
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Dear Mr. Davenport;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been appointed to the Greene County Planning Board as an alternate by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie Heath". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager

Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney

Gay Stanley

Finance Officer

Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. Leslie V. Mooring
101 Deer Pointe Dr.
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Dear Mr. Mooring;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been re-appointed to the Greene County Board of Adjustments by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie Heath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager
Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney
Gay Stanley

Finance Officer
Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Ms. Christy Kearney Stroud
865 Hwy 58 N
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Dear Ms. Stroud;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been appointed to the Greene County Board of Adjustments by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie Heath".

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton

Board of Commissioners

Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burrese
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



County Manager

Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney

Gay Stanley

Finance Officer

Sandy Shirtz

March 3, 2025

Mr. Lemuel Tyler Harper
5135 NC Hwy 58 N
Stantonsburg, NC 27883

Dear Mr. Harper;

It is with great pleasure to advise you that you have been appointed to the Greene County Board of Adjustments as an alternate by the Greene County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie Heath".

Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brandon Sutton