

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE
COUNTY
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017**

Call to Order - Chairman Boswell

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Eddie Boswell	Chairman	Present	
Bill Lashley	Vice Chairman	Present	
Robert E. Byrd	Commissioner	Present	
Tim Sutton	Commissioner	Present	
Amy Scott Galey	Commissioner	Present	

Invocation - Vice Chair Lashley

Public Speakers

Joe A Tickle

He read the definition of recuse and suggested that the board take another vote on the PART funding. Mr. Tickle spoke that the board should throw Robert's Rules of Order out of order and that taxpayers should have a right to speak.

Andrea Chase

She asked the board to support the schools and mentioned that Dr. Thorpe's request for lottery funds for projects was for routine maintenance for schools. Ms. Chase continued that a bond referendum was needed to bring ABSS in 21st century. She indicated that while the process was long and arduous, she strongly urged them to give the bond 2 chances during next year's primary and general elections. Ms. Chase advised letting the bond go before the people and let them decide. She mentioned that "Robert's Rules of Order" allowed for civil discourse and personally thought it was a great thing. Ms. Chase noted that the Part riders do work out of the county but they live, spend their money and pay property taxes in this county.

Jennie Goforth

Part rider that lives in Burlington, spoke in support of PART funding. She said that if she had to drive to work 2 hours a day that would give her less time to spend with her family. She felt that every effort should be made to encourage people to take public transportation to lessen the effects on the environment.

Amy Ciccotti, PART rider and taxpayer, spoke in support of the \$2 vehicle registration fee to help fund Part.

Penny Hawkins, PART rider and Mebane resident, read from a general statute on the purpose of regional transportation. She provided examples of cost and repairs to roads to demonstrate her point that less cars on the road was a good idea.

Sandy Barnhart, PART rider and Mebane resident, spoke that her husband had to sell his car to put the down payment on their home which left them with one car to share. She said that if it was not for mass transit option then she would have had to give up her job at UNC that she has been employed at for 17 years. Ms. Barnhart also commented that her elderly mother-in-law would not have been able to move in with them because she is the primary bread-winner.

Don & Deborah Moose, residents that spoke against the vehicle registration fee to support Part. Ms. Moose said that if Alamance County allocated the projected \$298,000 per year from the vehicle registration fees then that would result in a benefit of \$2,300 to each of the 131 bus riders per year

from taxpayers. She mentioned that the taxpayers were going to have to subsidize travel expenses for 131 out of 158,000 residents.

Carson Coe, resident, that opposed vehicle registration fee. He commented that both sides presented good arguments. Mr. Coe felt that this was more about principle and campaign promises to keep taxes low and spend money wisely. He said that it would not be wise to allow the \$2 vehicle registration fee and that it would not be holding up to campaign promises. He said that he had 6 vehicles that he would have to pay the \$2 fee.

Steve Carter, resident, spoke against PART funding and saw this as raising taxes. He said that it blew his mind that \$300,000 would be spent for only 131 riders. Mr. Carter advised the board to take a hard look at this. He mentioned that as a Burlington resident, he and the other residents are already paying \$5 towards LINK Transit. He stated that the additional \$2 would total \$7 that he would be expected to pay.

Tony Cox,

Janice McSherry, spoke against PART funding, she stated that she worked out of county for 40 years and made the conscious decision to provide her own transportation. She noted that her son, daughter, and daughter -in-law work outside of Alamance County. Ms. McSherry asked the board not to tax the taxpayers of Alamance County anymore because they have already been triple taxed.

Gary Mansfield, spoke against the \$2 vehicle registration fee, he said that he supports mass transit. He said that he has always been his responsibility take care of his car, pay for gas and pay his taxes. He asked the board not to tax him for \$2.

Doug Carroll, Mebane resident that opposed the \$2 vehicle registration fee. He said that he was neither a democrat nor a republican but an American. He questioned how the Part riders got to work before the Part bus came along. Mr. Carroll stated that he was against making people pay for something that they are never going to use.

Bob Renigar, resident that opposed vehicle registration. He spoke that he had traveled to work in Winston-Salem for a total of 120 miles per day for 2 years. He said that the transportation responsibility should not be placed on people that provide their own transportation.

Commissioners' Responses

Approval of the Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Lashley, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Robert E. Byrd, Commissioner
AYES:	Boswell, Lashley, Byrd, Sutton, Galey

Consent Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robert E. Byrd, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
AYES:	Boswell, Lashley, Byrd, Sutton, Galey

Appointments/Reappointments

Tourism Development Authority (TDA) - Elizabeth Leggate**Out-of-State Travel****Out of State Travel - Landfill**

Carolina Recycling Association Conference, March 28-30, 2017, Myrtle Beach, SC, for Emily Ball and Johnny Dehart.

Signatory Resolution-Finance

Approval of updated signatory resolution.

Tax Refunds and Releases

Approval of tax refunds & releases. A copy of the refunds are set forth hereafter.

Approval of Minutes**Alamance County Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 20, 2017 7:00 PM****Presentations/Other Business****PART Funding Discussion**

Scott Rhine, PART Executive Director, spoke that the 130 number of riders were mentioned several times during the public comments. He explained that the reason that the number of riders was 130 was due to no growth. He explained that there was no room for that number to grow due the bus being overcrowded and no room for any additional riders. Commissioner Sutton asked about the \$15 million that was referenced. Mr. Rhine answered that \$10 million in federal funds was earmarked by Congressman Howard Coble for a public utility facility which is currently under construction. Commissioner Sutton inquired whether PART was servicing 65 people or 131 people. Mr. Rhine said that it depended on who is getting on and getting off and that he was not able to provide that number. He explained that he was not tracking customers to see if they were the same riders every day because the service was open to everyone. Commissioner Sutton argued that there had to be some way to determine exactly how many people are being served.

Commissioner Galey announced that she would like to make a motion to amend her previous motion and strike the \$2 car registration fee and replace it with 5% rental car tax pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-551. Commissioner Byrd seconded that motion. Commissioner Sutton voiced his frustrations with the way that motion was handled. He argued that discussion should take place before a second was made. He pointed out that the board should her more information before a second was made. Commissioner Sutton voiced that when a second was orchestrated before discussion was not good government.

Commissioner Galey countered that if she made a motion then she should be able to speak in support of her motion. She continued that once her statements are made then it should be open for discussion for other board members. Commissioner Byrd added that he did not interpret the proposed rules as compulsory in requiring discussion before a second was made. He spoke that the board had a history of making a second right after a motion was made.

Commissioner Galey spoke in support of her motion by saying that it was never a wrong time to do the right thing. She continued that the bus service was an investment in infrastructure and it stimulated the economy. She continued that we do not need a public transportation system that is barely used and struggling to find riders. Commissioner Galey said that we have heard that Route 4 is standing room only and heavily used for residents to travel to work. She spoke that it was time to stop saying no to what working people need and look out for the middle class. Commissioner Galey emphasized that she has taken a lot of heat for claiming to be a conservative or a republican. She reinforced that she was a conservative and a republican that supported infrastructure that gets people to work and supports building a thriving, growing economy. She reminded everyone that it was only

3 ways to pay for this bus system. She reviewed funding out of the general fund which was off the table; and that the car registration fee has turned out to be unpopular. Commissioner Galey said it was time to consider the 5% car rental tax. She said the car rental tax impacted fewer people. Vice Chair Lashley declared that he was not going to vote for this tax or any taxes. He felt taxes were already too high and that people are in need of help on what they already pay. Commissioner Byrd conveyed that County Attorney Albright advised him that there was no legal requirement for him to recuse himself. He explained that it was his duty to vote and participate in this discussion. He mentioned that the PART Board was a unit of government and that the membership was comprised of elected officials. Commissioner Byrd reiterated in his view there was no conflict of interest. He echoed some of Commissioner Galey's statements. He mentioned that public transportation reduces congestion on the roadways. Commissioner Byrd noted that he supported more capacity for people to use public transportation and that transportation linked options together for people who cannot drive or afford to own a vehicle. Chairman Boswell spoke that he had received emails from citizens that ride the bus. They said there was a problem with overcrowding and having to stand. He said that he also heard from riders that had to use the bus to get to the hospital for treatment and they had to stand-up on the bus. Commissioner Sutton asked how far was government willing to go to get its pet projects through. He asked at what expense of integrity, morality, and legality. He challenged Commissioners Galey and Byrd to tell him why PART should receive funds from a private enterprise that is totally unrelated. Commissioner Sutton said that articles had been written across the nation about this "farce". Commissioner Galey responded that the board had 3 devils to deal with; general fund, vehicle registration fee, and car rental tax fee. She spoke that she could not turn her back on these families that use this service to support their families or to get medical treatment. Commissioner Byrd said taxing private entities has been happening. He felt that it was not a moral or ethical problem.

Amend previous motion and strike the \$2 Car Registration fee and replace it with 5% Rental Car Tax

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 2]
MOVER:	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Robert E. Byrd, Commissioner
AYES:	Eddie Boswell, Robert E. Byrd, Amy Scott Galey
NAYS:	Bill Lashley, Tim Sutton

1838 : Proclamation: National County Government Month - County Gov Academy

Participants: Vanessa Diggs & Andrea Chase

Vanessa Diggs and Andrea Chase, County Government Academy Participants, read a proclamation in recognition of National County Government Month.

Alamance-Burlington School System Lottery Fund Request - Dr. Todd Thorpe, Asst. Superintendent of ABSS

Dr. Todd Thorpe, Asst. Superintendent of Alamance-Burlington School System, presented a request for \$1,514,093 from lottery funds for various school repairs over the summer.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Lashley, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Tim Sutton, Commissioner
AYES:	Boswell, Lashley, Byrd, Sutton, Galey

Alamance County Military Support Group - Veteran's Services

A promotional video was debuted highlighting Veteran's Services and a new Military Support Group.

1836 : Tax Lien Advertisement - Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator

Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator, reviewed that N.C.G.S. 105-369(a) required the tax collector to report to the governing body the amount of delinquent taxes. He requested that the board approve the recommended \$5 fee attached to each delinquent account. He said that the amount of liens against real property for the current year was \$2,674,532. He reported that as of that afternoon the amount had been reduced to \$2,237,701 due to collecting an additional \$400,000. Mr. Akins stated that advertisements will run on or about April 20, 2017.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eddie Boswell, Chairman
SECONDER:	Bill Lashley, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Boswell, Lashley, Byrd, Sutton, Galey

Proposed Draft Rules and Procedures for ACBOC Meetings

County Attorney Albright reviewed that emailed the board the revised changes. He believed that he had made the changes that the board had instructed. He stated that "Robert's Rules of Order" and the Social Media Policy was deleted. Commissioner Sutton asked for clarification on whether a second had to be made before discussion took place. County Attorney Albright confirmed that a second was only required to a motion, discussion could take place before a motion or after a motion a motion was made. A discussion ensued to gain clarification on future votes and about the order of the previous Part funding vote on the way that the motion, second, and discussion was handled. Vice Chair Lashley declared that he was not going to vote for this. Commissioner Galey said she did not see the rules as being a lawyer thing and that this went back to the strategic plan that provides transparency. Chairman Boswell said just about every board has a Rules of Procedures. He said he was okay with motion, discussion, and then second. Commissioner Byrd suggested Commissioners' Comments prior to any closed sessions. Commissioner Sutton said that he believes in proper decorum. He felt that he will have to go look up items in the rules before he can speak going forward. He said it was not clear what he could or could not do now. Chairman Boswell said that he would like some type of guidelines as board chairman. He said that if it is in writing and if he messes up then call him out on it.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 2]
MOVER:	Eddie Boswell, Chairman
SECONDER:	Robert E. Byrd, Commissioner
AYES:	Eddie Boswell, Robert E. Byrd, Amy Scott Galey
NAYS:	Bill Lashley, Tim Sutton

Budget Amendments

DSS Budget Amendment

Susan Osborne, Director of Social Services, presented a budget amendment for \$140,869. to cover the latest state and federal funding authorizations.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Robert E. Byrd, Commissioner
AYES:	Boswell, Lashley, Byrd, Sutton, Galey

County Manager's Report

County Manager Hagood discussed alternate plans the budget retreat due to scheduling conflicts. He suggested using the regular meeting of April 17th as a mini-retreat with Alamance-Burlington School System, Alamance Community College, and county government presentations. Chairman Boswell suggested hearing the budget request of outside agencies on May 1st.

Closed Session - N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Chairman Boswell, seconded by Vice Chair Lashley moved to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the conditions of appointment of an employee.

Chairman Boswell, seconded by Commissioner Byrd moved to reconvene in open session. Chairman Boswell announced that the board negotiated the county manager's annual salary of \$125,000 per year.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Galey said that since Vice Chair Lashley had challenged her in open session about her chances in the 2018 primary. She said she and Vice Chair Lashley are friends. She commented that she enjoyed the spirit of competition and debate with these gentlemen. Commissioner Galey challenged anyone who wants to compete against her in 2018 to "bring it" because it is going to be a tough race for them. She stated that she would rather do the right thing step by step and take her chances rather than compromise what is the right thing to do.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

CLERK TO THE BOARD