Call to Order - Chair Galey

Chair Galey announced that Commissioner Lashley and Commissioner Sutton were physically present. Commissioners Boswell and Vice Chair Carter were calling in on the phone. Chair Galey spoke that we were experiencing significant challenges in our community during this time of the coronavirus. She continued that this was the governing board of this county and they were meeting to conduct essential business of this county. She mentioned that Commissioners Boswell and Vice Chair Carter volunteered to call in and that they were spread out around the room since being limited to 10 people being physically present to remain in compliance with Governor's Executive Order. Chair Galey noted that during the course of the meeting, they may have a person leave and another person may come in. She stated that she, Commissioner Lashley, Commissioner Sutton, Tory Frink, Clerk to the Board, Clyde Albright, County Attorney, Bryan Hagood, County Manager, Sheriff Terry Johnson, Jeremy Akins Tax Administrator, and Susan Evans, Finance Officer were physically in attendance. Chair Galey advised there would be a public comment period during the meeting. Chair Galey clarified with Ms. Frink that a public notice was sent out. They had public statements, but none pertain to the Agenda items, and nobody asked to be called during the meeting.

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<tr>
<th>Attendee Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Lashley</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
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<td>Amy Scott Galey</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Steve Carter</td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
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<td>Eddie Boswell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim D. Sutton</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Present</td>
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Invocation - Chair Galey

Public Speakers

(Citizens may address the Board for no more than 3 minutes per speaker on topics which are related to this meeting agenda.)

Commissioners' Responses

Approval of the Agenda

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Bill Lashley, Commissioner
SECONDER: Tim D. Sutton, Commissioner
AYES: Lashley, Galey, Carter, Boswell, Sutton

Consent Agenda

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Bill Lashley, Commissioner
SECONDER: Tim D. Sutton, Commissioner
AYES: Lashley, Galey, Carter, Boswell, Sutton

Tax Refunds and Releases

Approval of tax refunds and releases: a copy of the tax refunds are set forth hereafter.
Approval of Minutes

Alamance County Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jan 21, 2020 7:00 PM

Presentations/Other Business

2020-38 : Discussion of Waiving Late-Listing Penalties until July 15th
Jeremy Akins, Tax Administrator, spoke the businesses in the state of North Carolina were required to list their personal property for taxation, no later than January 31st, of each year. He explained many businesses had filed an extension, because they reconciled their personal property filing with their state and federal income taxes. The April 15th date allowed them to prepare both filing together, and submit simultaneously. Mr. Akins further explained due to COVID-19, many businesses are struggling to meet filing deadlines, and both the state of North Carolina and the United States of America recognized the need for additional time by extending the income tax deadline to July 15th. He mentioned that the North Carolina Department of Revenue had recommended that counties considered waiving late listing penalties, all counties may have not moved the deadline to list personal property, they may waived any and all associated fees, de facto creating an extended filing time.

Mr. Akin reminded the Board, in Alamance County that late listers usually either failed to obtain an extension during the month of January, or failed to list altogether. He mentioned those businesses who filed for extension on time, nearly always submitted their listing by the deadline. As of today, they had about 450 businesses that had filed timely extensions. They had not failed to list in previous years, but they did not submit their listing by the April 15th deadline. He mentioned this was a one-time windfall caused by COVID-19. Mr. Akin would like the board to considered waiving the late list penalties. He suggested it be made effective only for those who have timely filed extensions with the tax office who submit their listing by date, specified by the board.

Chair Galey confirmed there was a motion by Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Commissioner Boswell to grant waiver of the late listing penalty out to July 15th only to persons who had filed extensions back in January. The motion carried.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Bill Lashley, Eddie Boswell
AYES: Lashley, Galey, Carter, Boswell, Sutton

2862 : Alamance-Burlington School System FY 2020-21 Budget Presentation - Dr. Bruce Benson, Superintendent
Dr. Bruce Benson, Superintendent of ABSS, appreciated the opportunity to bring the school system request. This year they were asking for $3.3 million. He reviewed a very brief summary of some of the major items that are included in both the continuation fund and the expansion fund. The continuation fund total was about $1.8 million.

Dr. Benson was looking to expand the compensation model for the School Resource Officer (SRO). The first thing on the expansion list was to increase the teacher supplement by 0.25%. This would put teachers that have years of experience from zero to five at 10%, from 6 to 10 at 11% and 11 plus years at 12%. This was something that both the commissioners and the school board had worked on over the years to put Alamance-Burlington in a competitive position with the rest of North Carolina. Mr. Benson also discussed they were looking to implement a strategy with the school bus drivers that would put them into a pay banding model. Salaries would range
from a starting salary of $15 an hour to a maximum of $20 an hour. Next he discussed adding athletic trainers to the school system. They requested to add an athletic trainer as a safety measure, making sure the students were taken good care of on and off of the field. Dr. Benson expressed the need to gradually expand access to nurses in the schools. He wanted to get to a point where they would have a nurse on staff at each of school. This would gradually happened over a three year period. He also mentioned the need for interpreters in the school. Dr. Benson mentioned chromebooks needed to be updated. They had a large number of devices that were coming up on the end of the support period, which meant they would no longer be supported by the company with system updates. Without support, they posed a security risk if they were unable to get a security patch on a regular basis.

Dr. Benson asked Mr. Teetor, Chief Finance Officer to come up and provide a more detailed explanation of the requests.

Commissioner Sutton asked regarding charter school continuation, what did that mean, or how did that work. Dr. Benson responded he anticipated a new charter school opening up in the community, which meant there would be some resources that will need to follow the children as they moved to that new charter school.

Commissioner Sutton asked whether there was an athletic director for the system. Dr. Benson answered they did have an athletic director for the system.

Commissioner Lashley asked who was responsible for paying for their cost of the resource officer. Is it the county or the state. Dr. Benson said Mr. Teetor had a really well developed break down of those costs that he can share with them, where the resources come from, how much of it was local funding and how much of it came from the state. Commissioner Lashley said that still did not answer the question. Dr. Benson said Mr. Teetor will provide more information. Commissioner Boswell asked about the additional 3 school nurses for $275,000 and whether that was $90,000 per nurse. Dr. Benson reiterated Mr. Teetor was going to go through each one of the individual items and would provide more detailed information about the cost and where that cost came from.

Mr. Teetor jumped directly to answer Commissioner Lashley's question. Traditional high schools were the responsibility of the state. They did not use state funding to pay for the SRO's at the high school level. He said they were somewhat disconnected at the state level from what they actually cost. They gave them a little less than $38,000 per high school to help us pay for the SRO’s. For the high school SRO's that they provide funding for, they made up the difference between what they were paying and what they were allocated. He said they had SRO's at the elementary level that were with grant funds.

Mr. Teetor discussed the question about charter schools. He explained each month they received a roster of how many students were in the Alamance County boundaries that attended a particular charter school. With a simple calculation, they took how many kids plus how much money was given to the school and divided that out to figure out how much they would have to pass on. He said the new charter school was estimating that they will have 400 new students in their first year.
Mr. Teetor continued with a recap of the funding sources and where they came from. The state had the largest share of the financial support for the school system. That was predominantly for positions. He said this fund comes with a lot of rules on how it needed to be use. He explained part of that was for SRO’s, some of that was for teachers and school administrators. The local share included the county appropriation, share of fines and forfeitures that were passed on through the clerk of the court.

Federal was the next largest shared supplemental money that they received, or Title I. Mr. Teetor said they had a fair number of schools that qualified for Title I support as well as federal money. The child nutrition and daycare funds were the two enterprise funds that did not depend on local dollars in order to make them work. They were self-sufficient. Next Mr. Teetor discussed the child nutrition fund. He said this was one that they were monitoring carefully, because we were trying to keep a full staff working. He said the state had provided leave in order to protect our child nutrition employees. Mr. Teetor mentioned they were not dispersing the same number of meals they would have on a normal day to day basis in a school. He explained they were delivering meals and operating food sites.

Vice Chair Carter questioned the impact they expected to see on the budget from the CARES ACT distribution. Mr. Teeter responded that was a good question. They had received from the state level, a onetime allotment of about $861,000 to help close some of the immediate gaps. He explained the additional costs that was spent on sanitizing and those supplies, as well as the additional expenses for technology. They had seen preliminary information on the CARES ACT from the federal level of what those dollar amounts could be. Mr. Teetor shared that last week at the State Board of Education, had a presentation from the Department of Public Instruction on what they are recommending. He said the initial plan looked like ABSS could receive between $5.5- $6 million additional dollars as a result of the CARES ACT.

Chair Galey asked with school buildings closed, have they seen savings in other places and whether there would be a surplus at the end of the year. Mr. Teetor said as April and May progressed it would be interesting to see that balance. He noted that they did not need energy or water during that time. He estimated that it could be a $400,000 savings for April and May.

Mr. Teetor discussed the retirement rate increase. They had determined what that new rate was going to be. It had increased from 19.7% to 21.44 for next fiscal year. He said school day salaries was another category. If the state ended up not doing anything with compensation that was something they would. He discussed that the ERP modernization was basically the system they used to manage accounting and human resources. The state had been using technology that was developed in 1994. An annual increase was needed in order to have a more modern system for accounting and human resources. Mr. Teetor mentioned the health insurance rate was one of two things that was addressed in the last session. The rate this year was $6,306 per employee for their share of health insurance, and that was going to increase to $6,647 next year.

Mr. Teetor discussed the chromebook lease program. They had about 8000 Chromebooks that were expiring and would need to be replaced. They would lease those in order to mitigate the cost. This estimate was based on a 4-year lease. He pointed out many companies had started selling chromebooks in the past few months, because of that the price started to drop. A chromebook could probably be brought for less than $550.
Mr. Teetor referred back to the discussion about the additional school nurses. Dr. Benson mentioned the cost of the school nurse salary ranges was on a fairly large scale. It depended on the certification that the nurse brings to the table. Some of the nurses had master's degrees in nursing or some nurses had worked in a hospital setting for 25 or more years. The state gave them credit for all that experience. In this category, they were just preparing for the most expensive possible scenario with the highest salary and benefits. He continued the goal as a district was to bring on 3 additional nurses each year for the next 3 years. That would fill in the gaps in order for them to have a nurse at each school.

He mentioned they had conversations and collaboration with the Sheriff Johnson in the past year about SRO's and providing an appropriate rate. The rate that they were paying was very much married to their ability to get additional SRO's in the door. He described that they were attacking two fronts with SRO’s: trying to get the pay rate up and trying to make steady progress on adding them. The 2 additional SRO's that they want to add this year would be split between EM Holt and Alexander Wilson. Mr. Teetor said they will apply for additional state grant funding. The additional SRO's was to provide additional support for the secondary schools within the Burlington city limits. The $110,000 figure was driven by the rate that were hopeful to pay which was $55,000 per SRO.

Dr. Benson had alluded to the increasing number of students and their families that needed interpreting services. That calculation was $65,000 for salary and benefits for an additional interpreter.

Mr. Teetor discussed capital outlay. He said they were happy with the capital improvement plan was put in place. He was hopeful that would continue as it was working well for them. He noted they had additional expansion requests beyond what they were asking for. The state will owe them some additional dollars to the low wealth funding formula for the year ahead that they intended to tap into. Instead of $500 it was going to be closer to $403. He said last year they county raised the property tax rate which pushed Alamance County closer to the state average and pushed it up just a hair over the state average. He said when that happened, it triggered additional funding from the state level based on how they calculate their low wealth formula.

**Budget Amendments**

**Budget Amendment - Health**
Stacie Saunders, Health Director, presented a budget amendment in the amount of $128,163.00 from the Division of Public Health, Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch. The funds will be used to carry out access to testing, reporting of cases and additional surveillance.

Ms. Saunders gave an update on COVID-19. She stated the cumulative COVID-19 cases was 55, 39 of those were now out of isolation, 16 were active and 6 of them were seeking care at the hospital. In North Carolina, there had been about 80,000 completed COVID-19 tests. In Alamance County, they had completed about 600 reviews of tests, and of those 55 of them have been positive.

Ms. Saunders discussed the call center. She mentioned the total calls, thus far, were 1,585 with 535 of those calls being referred to the nurse bank over at the health department.
Ms. Saunders discussed long term care facility task force the health department put it together. She said the purpose was to prevent and delay outbreaks in the county and congregate living settings. She said the health department had been doing a lot of technical assistance with long term care facilities regarding their existing protocols in implementing precautions and subsequently implementing the Executive Order 131. They were doing some assessing of their ability to collect specimen for testing and providing that collection, when they're not able to do it themselves.

Commissioner Lashley asked if they made those collection on a regular basis. Ms. Saunders responded it depended on the facility itself. They had been working with a couple of facilities, and if someone had influenza like symptoms similar to COVID-19, they would be interested in testing those folks. She said they continued to do the investigation and contact tracing. Ms. Saunders pointed out they continued to do community messaging on the county's website and social media. They were continuing to provide technical assistance to county, city governments, the school system, and other community partners regarding essential personnel precautions.

Chair Galey confirmed that Commissioner Lashley, seconded by Commissioner Boswell moved for approval of the budget amendment. The motion carried.

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<tr>
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<td>AYES:</td>
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Public Speakers

(Citizens may address the Board for no more than 3 minutes per speaker on issues of public interest.)

Chair Galey said public speakers who wish to be heard on non-agenda related items were submitted to the clerk to the board. Clerk Frink read the following submitted written comments:

Elizabeth Smith, 1002 Scotch Pine Way, Mebane  “We want a resolution and want to know that you are doing your part to go ahead and start the reopening under safe conditions.”

Betsy Adams, 3017 Bidney Drive, Burlington “Now is NOT the time to consider increasing taxes on the citizens of Alamance County. If business owners and their employees must cut spending, then perhaps it is time for all government agencies in the County to do the same.”

George Adams, 317 Bidney Drive, Burlington “Before you vote, please take time to read last April 9th Alamance News editorial called Covid-19 pandemic should put a freeze on county's annual big spending, tax hike plans! $ 181 million is requested with already $ 8.4 over projected revenues, now because of Covid-19 it will be at least $ 15 million over! I hope you know that there are alot of former working people who now are unemployed by government_at! I Samuel Chapter 8”

Joe Tickle, 3148 Gordon Road, Burlington “The county needs to cut wanna be projects, and create a tax-free year for our county residents. The people have no money, no jobs, and are just getting by. Please do not make this situation any worse than it already is! If you vote to take
more money from the people that must do without food and medicine, your conscious need help. If you put the projects, and raises, above survival, what is this world becoming?”

**Commissioners' Responses**

Commissioner Sutton asked did the county's state of emergency add onto what the governor had done or did it do anything above and beyond what he had done.

Chair Galey responded that it did not.

Commissioner Lashley said he thinks the governor was a little fast to make a decision, and needed to open up the state.

Commissioner Sutton said he was sure the governor would not do anything until he saw what other people had done.

Commissioner Lashley responded that was for sure, he was not a doer, but a setter.

**County Manager's Report**

County Manager Hagood brought to the Commissioner's attention that they were working on the budget for fiscal year 20-21. He originally planned to bring his recommended budget on May 18th the last time they met. He was now suggesting that he will bring it on June 1st. He wanted to gather more data on how sales tax revenues were doing this year, what the governor was doing, and the economy. He said all of this information would help with the budget. There was no need to take a vote at this meeting, this was just informational. He recommended June 15th as the public hearing. A special meeting could be set up after June 15th, before the June 30th meeting. The Commissioners agreed that would be fine, as long as they could have a discussion before the public hearing.

**Alamance County Fiscal Report 4-20-20**

**Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Lashley voiced that he did not want to see any increases in the budget and that he would not support any.

Chair Galey said she has been contacted about broadband in the rural areas, and asked Bruce Walker, Assistant County Manager/ IT Director to give an update.

Mr. Walker said they recognized this was a problem before COVID-19. He said there was some federal dollars but the county had been considered a Tier 3 county which meant the county had a lot of internet access. He said they had tried hard with surveys and trying to get information to the state. He encouraged citizens to complete the census to help provide accurate information. He offered that internet service providers were offering COVID-19 relief. He suggested people visit these service provider websites to see what they are offering for COVID-19 relief.

County Attorney Albright said Vice Chair Carter asked him to provide a statement in response to the review of the Snow Camp Quarry permitting process which he read aloud: "After a thorough and complete review of the file and available materials, the independent attorney retained by the Alamance County Board of Commissioners reached the following conclusions:
1- The Intent to Construct Permit has not expired. Alamance Aggregates in the
development of the Quarry remains vested with the rules and standards set forth in the
Heavy Industrial Development Ordinance of October 3, 2011;
2- The issuing of the Intent to Construct Permit is not in conflict with the Heavy Industrial
Development Ordinance of October 3, 2011. A stream buffer will remain in effect 100
feet of either side of the streams;
3- The issuing of the Intent to Construct Permit is not in conflict with the Heavy Industrial
Development Ordinance; and
4- Nothing in the facts or North Carolina law justifies a revocation of the Intent to
Construct Permit at the present time.
Alamance County wishes to thank Craig Justus of the Van Winkle Law Firm for his work and
dedication to this review. Alamance County will be proceeding based on the recommendations
made in the review."

Commissioner Sutton asked if they gave a report if the county should do anything different with
the ordinance. County Attorney Albright said he had not seen that yet but would follow-up with
him.

Sheriff Johnson mentioned there was a lot of damage in the southern part of the county and they
needed to go down and look at the damage.

Chair Galey read a letter addressed to Governor Cooper that she had drafted. She said she began
thinking of a regional approach as she was looking at the News & Observer update article.

Commissioner Lashley said it was a great idea, Commissioner Sutton said after hearing her read
the letter, he liked it. Commissioner Boswell and Vice Chair Carter said she did a great job
drafting the letter. Chair Galey said it was important for everyone to understand the respect that
she had for Governor Cooper and the job that he had done in handling this very difficult
situation.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

____________________

CLERK TO THE BOARD