

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ALAMANCE  
COUNTY  
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020**

**Call to Order - Chairman Paisley**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
John Paisley Jr	Chairman	Present	
Steve Carter	Vice Chairman	Present	
Pamela Tyler Thompson	Commissioner	Present	
William T Lashley	Commissioner	Present	
Amy Scott Galey	Commissioner	Present	

**Invocation - Commissioner Galey**

**Fire Marshal's Office Life Saving Awards**

John Payne, Alamance County Fire Marshal, presented Life-saving Awards to brothers, Scott and Sean Soloman for their heroic and life saving measures. The Soloman brothers had pulled Susan Bishop from a burning vehicle during a June 2020 motor vehicle accident.

**Public Speakers**

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

No public speakers.

**Commissioners' Responses**

**Approval of the Agenda**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Pamela Tyler Thompson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Paisley suggested they needed to assign an alternate delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner Galey seconded by Commissioner Lashley moved to amend the consent agenda item #6C. Appointment of Voting Delegate for the 2021 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference and assign Vice Chair Carter as the alternate conference delegate. That motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Galey, seconded by Vice Chair Carter moved for approval of the consent agenda as amended. That motion carried without opposition.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

**Appointments/Reappointments**

**Alamance County Senior Services Committee- Alesia Burnette**

**Board of Health- Troy King and Eleanor Rodriguez Rassi****Historic Properties Commission - Ravi Balan****Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)- Larry Simpson, Michael Lane, Bradley Reid Allen, Sr. & Tony Lo Giudice****Planning Board - Jimmy Ray Cobb Jr. & Arthur Hall****Review officer appointment - Audrey Vogel****Voting Delegate for 2021 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference- Chairman Paisley**

Appointment of Chairman Paisley as the 2021 voting delegate for the 2021 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Conference. Vice Chair Carter was appointed as the alternate delegate.

**2021 Commissioners' Committee Assignments****Tax Refunds and Releases**

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

**Approval of Minutes****Alamance County Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Nov 2, 2020 9:00 AM****Presentations/Other Business****Alamance-Burlington School System FY19-20 Finance Presentation - Jeremy Teetor, Chief Finance Officer**

Jeremy Teetor, Chief Finance Officer, did a presentation on the Alamance-Burlington School System finances. He discussed where the funding came from last year and the capital outlay. He pointed out why capital outlay looked larger than normal. Mr. Teetor explained that they had put the full value of the \$150 million bonds on their books. He continued that local funding was their 2nd largest funding source and they were very fortunate to receive the local funding that they did of a little over \$47 million. He mentioned that the child nutrition fund and the daycare funds were their enterprise funds. He noted that both were profitable programs.

Mr. Teetor discussed their fund balance which he noted was always an interesting topic amongst the school boards and county commissioners. He reviewed the history of the school system's fund balance. He showed that the fund balance was at its highest peak in 2011 at \$21 million. He indicated that the school board at the time was encouraged to engage in a spin down to bring that down to a more reasonable point. Mr. Teetor advised that at this point, the fund balance was \$6.2 million.

Mr. Teetor explained some of the reasons why they had maintained their fund balance. He said one reason was the timing of state budget versus the local budget. He explained that county government was much more efficient in producing a budget than what they see at the state government. He stated in the next few months, they will begin their budget development process and have discussions with County Manager Hagood about their budget needs. Mr. Teetor commented that having a fund balance in hand was critical for them to manage their cash flow. He highlighted their needed to have a little bit of a fund balance when it came to preparing for large technology expenditures. He indicated they would be replacing 2,000 laptops for teachers and replacing 9,000 student devices.

He discussed how state funds were appropriated in about 40 different buckets that they had to manage. He provided an example of how they received \$800,000 a year intended for central office administrators so they could only spend that money on the central office administrators. Mr. Teetor gave another example about the funding for school resource officers (SRO). That money can only be used for at risk schools to hire SRO's. He pointed out that the lion's share of state funding was spent on salary benefits for employees with teachers being the largest population. He touched on local dollar transfers and how it pertained to charter schools. Mr. Teetor continued that in North Carolina, the public school system was the middleman between the local funding source and the charter schools. They had passed along \$1.9 million in 2016 and as of last year it was a little over \$2.7 million to charter schools as seen on the chart from last year. He commented that from 2016-2020 in terms of fiscal years, ABSS enrollment grew by 73 students and had held steadily and that charter school growth was 279. Mr. Teetor spoke that what they were seeing was as they continued to grow, charter school were absorbing some of what would otherwise be challenges in terms of facilities and any other needs. Commissioner Thompson advised that charter schools were public schools and many people believed they were private schools when in fact they were not.

Chairman Paisley asked whether there were many students returning back to ABSS from charter schools after the October cut-off. Mr. Teetor responded that they did not see a huge wave but maybe anywhere from 5-10 potentially. He said it was not enough to make or break in terms of how the school system operated.

Mr. Teetor discussed some of the professional services which included the custodial contract. Mr. Teetor highlighted that contracting that service out saved the system about \$1.5 million per year. He discussed the second largest category in their chart and that was property services which was predominantly utilities. He mentioned that the School Board and the County Commissioners had worked in tandem in authorizing a performance contracting effort to replace the lighting in every building with energy efficient lighting. He said because of the events of 2020, it was hard to tell what share of savings was from performance contracting or from having less people in the building. Mr. Teetor said once they had a normal school year, they could establish a good baseline for utility usage. He said the federal category was heavy on salary and benefits. The two largest federal programs that they participated in was the Title I program and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Mr. Teetor next discussed the capital outlay revenue and bond projects from last year in detail.

Dr. Benson expressed his appreciation for the support from the County Commissioners. He said they worked hard to make sure they were spending money in ways that had a positive outcome and managing those resources.

### **Alamance-Burlington School System 2020 DPI & Capital Report - Todd Thorpe, Asst. Superintendent**

Dr. Todd Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent of Alamance-Burlington School (ABSS), spoke that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) required school systems to do a facility study every 5 years. He presented the DPI report and a detailed bond capital report on repairs being done at the schools. He said the Board of Education approved the facility needs at a previous meeting. He mentioned the Commissioners did not have to approve it but they had to sign off saying they were given a copy if the study. County Manager Hagood was given a notebook that detailed the background work in the report.

<b>RESULT: INFORMATIONAL</b>
------------------------------

**Alamance-Burlington Schools FY20-21 Capital Funding Update - County Manager Hagood**

Bryan Hagood, County Manager, reviewed with the Board the school system Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for this fiscal year. He mentioned Articles 40 and 42 could only be used for the school system. He said the restricted sales tax revenues was also used to pay some debt services. County Manager Hagood explained they had laid out \$3.3 million a year, for 7 years, for the school system to have in the CIP funds. He said because of this, it enabled the school system to be able to plan out the list of projects in the past. He shared COVID-19 had a significant impact on the projections for sales tax dollars. County Manager Hagood said because of the feedback and guidance they were getting from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina League of Municipalities, they had projected a 20% sales tax revenue decrease for this fiscal year. He shared instead of the school system getting \$3.3 million, they projected the school system would get \$2,702,204 available for them to use. So because of the 20% decrease, they would have lost \$597,760 from their annual CIP amount. County Manager Hagood said he was extra cautious and had budgeted only \$1,502,240 into capital reserves. He wanted to wait and see what would happen throughout the fiscal year. The school system had received \$600,000 from county government for their CIP plan for this fiscal year, and they paid them \$100,000 a month for 6 installments.

County Manager Hagood reviewed the current fiscal year 2020-2021 sales tax revenue. He said September 2020 versus September 2019 was a 20% increase. He continued for the fiscal year July-September 2019 verses July-September 2020 was an increase of 9.6%. March-September 2020 (COVID-19 months) verses March-September 2019 was in increase of 5.42%. He stressed that overall sales tax revenues were coming in extremely strong this fiscal year.

County Manager Hagood recommended budgeting a one-time allocation of \$1,050,000 million from additional sales tax revenues. He also suggested increasing monthly ABSS CIP allocation from \$100,000 to \$275,000 for the rest of this fiscal year. He said the total ABSS CIP funding for fiscal year 2020-2021 would be \$3,300,000. He requested the Commissioners to consider the budget amendment that was in the packet and pass it to get the funding to the school system because they have some plans for it for additional safety measures and projects.

Commissioner Galey, seconded by Vice Chair Carter moved for approval of the budget amendment in the amount of \$1,050,000 that was included in the packet for the one-time allocation to ABSS. The motion carried without opposition.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

**COVID-19 Emergency Sick Leave Benefit Extension - County Manager Hagood**

County Manager Hagood requested approval to extend the COVID-19 sick leave benefits for county employees. He noted that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was set to expire December 31, 2020 which the county had been operating under. He explained that this federal act allowed employees to take up 2 weeks of paid sick leave if they were sick with COVID-19, quarantined, or self-isolated. County Manager Hagood explained that the act also allowed

employees to take up to 2 weeks of emergency sick leave, paid at 2/3 the employee's salary to care for a dependent that had been quarantined or a child that was out of school due to COVID-19. He recommended that the Board consider the local benefit which would be similar to the federal act from January 1 to June 30. He did not recommend extending the 10-week paid FMLA for kids out of school. He indicated that kids had been out of school and most employees had already made other arrangements. He estimated it to be \$44,000 per month based on previous costs.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Scott Galey, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

### **Discussion of Regular Meeting Times and Adoption of 2021 Regular Meetings Schedule**

Commissioner Galey said that she had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. She continued that it was a good time to discuss this. Traditionally, since 2012, the first Monday meeting of the month had been held at 9:00am. Commissioner Galey said it was a good time for the new Board to consider whether they wanted to move that meeting to an evening meeting at 7:00pm. So both monthly meetings would be at 7:00pm. She noted that she had never missed a meeting in serving her 4 years on the Board and how it was a priority for her. She explained that it might give an opportunity for people who may want to serve on the Board without giving up half of the day every month. She mentioned it was believed that members of the public did not always want to attend evening meetings and having morning meetings gave them an opportunity to participate with public comments. She commented that since the virus pandemic they have live-streamed the meetings and created other opportunities for the public to participate with their comments. Commissioner Galey highlighted that with modern technology, everyone should be able to make public comments through zoom or telephone conferencing. She advised that she did not have a personal stake in the decision and the Board could decide to stick with the 9:00am meetings.

Commissioner Thompson said this was great because Zoom was not going to be forever and she was supportive of the time change.

Chairman Paisley inquired about the location of the meetings. He said as per the way it was written it stated that all meetings "shall be" held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. He provided that when budget hearings come around, the Board may want to move those to another location. He recommended that regardless of what time they set, that they be able to move the location somewhere other than this room.

Commissioner Galey, seconded by Commissioner Thompson moved to adopt the 2021 regular meeting schedule with the amendment that the phraseology that Mr. Albright mentioned that the regular meeting location was "subject to" change by action of the Board; and the amendment of changing the regular meeting time of the first of the month to 7:00pm instead of 9:00am where there is a first Monday meeting of the month. The motion carried 4-1 with Chairman Paisley voting in opposition.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [4 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Scott Gale, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Pamela Tyler Thompson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Steve Carter, Pamela Tyler Thompson, William T Lashley, Amy Scott Gale
<b>NAYS:</b>	John Paisley Jr

**Revision of Recreation and Parks Enabling Ordinance - Brian Baker, Director of Alamance Parks**

Brian Baker, Director of Recreation and Parks, discussed making changes to the Recreation and Parks Enabling Ordinance. He suggested increasing the number of appointed members from 7 to 9. He pointed to another change that would change the status of the 2 elected official members from regular member to ex officio members. Those 2 elected official member were from the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education. Mr. Baker indicated that those 2 officials would still be members but as ex-officio members and their attendance at the meetings would not impact their ability to establish a quorum.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Scott Gale, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	William T Lashley, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Gale

**Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Gale**

Commissioner Gale called the public's attention to the hard work and dedication of Alamance County employees. She shared the names of the recipients of the Alamance County SOAR Award for employee excellence. Commissioner Gale expressed how much she had learned and was well-prepared for the next chapter in her life. Commissioner Gale thanked the voters of Alamance County for allowing her to serve them. She mentioned how delightful it had been to work with the County Manager Hagood for the past 4 years. She recognized her children who were in attendance: Mary, Jack, and Sam.

Chairman Paisley presented Commissioner Gale with a plaque in recognition of outstanding service and leadership and the Alamance County flag.

Sheriff Johnson presented Commissioner Gale with items of recognition as well.

**Budget Amendments**

**Budget Amendment - Elections**

Andrea Rollins, Budget and Management Director, requested approval of a budget amendment that would increase the current elections department budget by \$24,626.04. She said they were notified that there was grant funding available from the state to provide a bonus of \$19.56 per day for each election worker who worked the one-stop voting. She noted the funds had already been received from the State of Board of Elections. There was no local match required.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Scott Gale, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Gale

**Budget Amendment-DSS (Low Income Energy Assistance)**

Adrian Daye, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS), requested to establish a

budget line for monies received for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) from the Cares Act Fund in the amount of \$253,295.67. No county match was required.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	William T Lashley, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

**Budget Amendment- DSS (CARES Act Foster Care Stipend Funds)**

Adrian Daye, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS), requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$300 from the Cares Act for foster care stipends. The department had previously received was \$37,00.00. This was an additional \$300 for 3 additional children that had entered foster care. No county match was required.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Pamela Tyler Thompson, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Steve Carter, Vice Chairman
<b>AYES:</b>	Paisley Jr, Carter, Thompson, Lashley, Galey

**Public Speakers**

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

No public speakers.

**Commissioners' Responses**

**County Manager's Report**

**Nov 2020 Fiscal Update**

**Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Lashley offered that he had sat in on the school board meeting and he was glad the school board had taken the vote 4-3 to get the majority of students back into school on February 1st. Commissioner Lashley noted this was really good progress to get the students back into school. He suggested to anyone that had students in the school system take a look at the numbers. He continued that according to the numbers Dr. Benson provided, students were doing much worse in this environment and that the number of F's in middle and high schools had almost doubled. He stressed the need to have more students back in the classrooms.

Commissioner Thompson shared that she had visited the county landfill and she complimented Richard Hill and his staff for the job that they do. She requested that they put some kind of moratorium in place to protect the Snow Camp area until some type of zoning is in stone. Commissioner Thompson said they cannot let anything go in there on top of the quarry. She stated that these were their citizens and tax payers and the Commissioners needed to stand up for them and keep that area safe. She said that she was thankful to be on the Board.

Commissioner Galey challenged both newspapers to include the county SOAR Awards in the paper and challenged the media to let people know the good things going on with county government.

Vice Chair Carter commented what a night and moving things forward that were needed. He said he had really enjoyed working with Commissioner Galey and he knew she will do a great job in Raleigh. Vice Char Carter shared that his grandson was doing remote schooling at home. He noted that it was a challenge for his wife to keep a second grader on tract for about 8 hours a day was like a full-time job. He was glad the students were going back to school. He mentioned the frozen positions that were frozen in the Sheriff's Office and the health department. Vice-Chair Carter spoke that it was time to get these departments back on track. He thought it was time for them to step up since the money was coming. He looked forward to working with the Board to do the right thing.

Chairman Paisley spoke that they had to be conservative but at the same time, they had to step up and do what was right for the county. He offered appreciation and thanks again to Commissioner Galey on her future in Raleigh. Chairman Paisley thanked the county manager and the clerk to the board for helping him to prepare for the meeting.

Chairman Paisley addressed Commissioner Thompson's comments on the moratorium and suggested putting that on the February 1st agenda. He explained that Commissioner Galey's replacement would be on the Board by that time. He said the Board had not dropped the ball or forgotten anyone. They wanted to be inclusive with all members of the Board and wait to hear more about this at the February 1st meeting when they had the new Commissioner.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

---

CLERK TO THE BOARD