

May 3, 2021

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM by using ZOOM—virtual meeting software (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) for Facebook Live Streaming and in person in the Commissioners' Room, 116 Adams Street, Plymouth, NC. Commissioners Tracey Johnson, Ann Keyes, Carol Phelps, Bill Sexton and Julius Walker, Jr. were present. Also present were County Manager/County Attorney Curtis Potter, Clerk to the Board Julie J. Bennett and Finance Officer Missy Dixon.

Chair Sexton called the meeting to order. Commissioner Walker, Jr. gave the invocation; Commissioner Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Mr. Potter, CM/CA requested to delete Item 1c) Resolution 2021-004 Authorizing Sale Of Real Property, 90 Cumberland St., Plymouth, By Electronic Public Auction Pursuant To NCGS 160 A-270.

**CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda:**

*Items listed under the Consent Agenda are generally of a routine nature. The Board may take action to approve/disapprove all items in a single vote. Any item may be withheld from a general action, to be discussed and voted upon separately at the discretion of the Board.*

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Tax Refunds & Releases and Insolvent Accounts
- c) ~~Resolution 2021-004 Authorizing Sale Of Real Property, 90 Cumberland St., Plymouth, By Electronic Public Auction Pursuant To NCGS 160 A-270~~
- d) Proclamation 2021-006 Older Americans Month
- e) Audit Contract for FY21
- f) Approval of Elections Equipment
- g) JCPC Certification

**Commissioner Phelps seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC FORUM: Mr. Wesley Stokes, 395 Backwoods Road, Roper and Mrs. Diane Stokes, 395 Backwoods Road, spoke to the Board. Mr. Stokes said he was in his garage and heard the water heater making a noise. He went in the house and turned on the facet and no water came out. He checked the meter and no water was going through it. He said he has had a leak before and had used an abatement and was paying \$170/mth. He had it directly drafted. He stopped it when the time was up. Mr. Stokes presented a copy of his water bill to the Commissioners. He said he is doing on-line banking. Mr. Stokes said he came and talked to Mr. Potter when he had no water and had not been late and just been through paying \$170 a month for the past year. Mr. Stokes said he comes here tonight with a solution—the County should use electronic banking. He said other businesses

(VISA/MC) will give you grace for a late payment if you've been a good customer. Mr. Stokes said he was here to ask the Commissioners' to change the ordinance so the County can cut off and on the same day. Chair Sexton asked did Mr. Stokes have something in writing he could leave with Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter said in January, the County Water Dept. had 140 cut-offs and 59 cut-ons. He mentioned to the Board that he was getting concerned. In February, the County Water Dept. had 80 cut-offs and 32 cut-ons. In March, the County Water Dept. had 70 cut-offs and 40 cut-ons and in April, the County Water Dept. had 30 cut-offs and 15 cut-ons. Mr. Potter said he has checked with other counties to see if Washington County is that different from them. It all boils down to the sheer volume that has to be cut-off and cut-on. Discussion ensued.

Quinterlene Bowen, McNair Road, spoke to the Board regarding trash pick-up. Her trash sat for over four days. Ms. Bowen said all they do is pick up trash and the trash folks acted like it was no big deal for it to sit there. She was told Republic had 'unforeseen difficulties'. Chair Sexton said the Commissioners' have discussed this with Republic. Chair Sexton said even his trash was not picked up because they had a truck down. Republic said they were sorry that it took as long as it did. Republic had to go out and rent a truck. Mr. Potter said Republic was working overtime to catch up over the 2 week period. He also mentioned that the drivers are subject to the same rules as over-the-road truck drivers so it may be difficult for them to work their drivers a lot of overtime. Mr. Potter said he thinks Republic is back on schedule now.

**PUBLIC HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 160D, A NEW LAND USE LAW FOR NORTH CAROLINA: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to open the public hearing on the updated ordinances in accordance with 160-D. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

Washington County Planning Board Chair, Mr. David Clifton and Mr. Allen Pittman, Planning & Inspection Director spoke about bringing the County's documentation up to code by following the new GS Chapter 160D for the following Ordinances. The deadline for getting these approved is July 1, 2021. The following changes were made:

## ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGES

### Article 1

Zoning Ordinance Constitution

No changes

### Article 2

General Regulations

No changes

### Article 3

Zoning Districts

No changes

### Article 3A

Rural Area Single Family Residential District

No changes

Article 3B

Corridor Commercial District

No changes

Article 4

Zoning Amendments

No changes

Article 5

Special Use Permits

Effect upon Conditional Uses and Permitted Conditional Uses are deleted per GS160-D

Article 6

Nonconforming Uses

Inserted amendments as previously approved:

age of nonconforming lot of record: **(Amended November 15, 2010)**: If a lot was approved on a subdivision plat and duly recorded prior to the effective date of this Ordinance and if such lot met the requirements of the Subdivision Ordinance in effect at the time of recordation, then, such lot may be used for any use permitted under the current zoning district designation even though the lot does not meet the lot area or lot width and depth requirements of the district. **Provided that all other regulations (including setbacks, yards, requirements, density, screening, etc.) of this Ordinance can be satisfied. However, the following regulations shall apply:**

- a. In any district in which single-family dwellings are permitted, a single-family (including mobile homes) and customary accessory buildings may be erected on any single lot on record prior to January 1, 2004.
- b. For lots on record as of January 1, 2004, CAMA regulations will apply for waterfront lots, and the following dimensional requirements shall apply:
  1. Lots with 6,000 square feet or less:
    - a. Front yard setback 15 feet
    - b. Side yard setback 5 feet
    - c. Rear yard setback 10 feet
  2. Lots with 6001 to 10,000 square feet
    - a. Front yard setback 20 feet
    - b. Side yard setback 8 feet
    - c. Rear yard setback 10 feet
  3. Lots with 10,001 to 15,000 square feet
    - a. Front yard setback 25 feet
    - b. Side yard setback 8 feet
    - c. Rear yard setback 10 feet

4. Lots with 15,001 to 19,999 square feet
  - a. Front yard setback 30 feet
  - b. Side yard setback 10 feet
  - c. Rear yard setback 10 feet

#### Article 7

##### Signage Regulations

References to Special Exceptions deleted per GS

#### Article 8

##### Site Plan Regulations

No changes

#### Article 9

##### Administration and Adjustment

The Planning Coordinator shall act under the provisions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment Law (GS 160D-406)

#### Article 10

##### Board of Adjustment: Variances and Appeals

All references to Special Exceptions have been deleted per 160D

#### Article 11

##### Definitions

No Changes

#### Article 12

##### Process for the Construction and Operation of Wind Energy Facilities

No Changes

#### Article 13

##### Solar Energy Development Ordinance

### 17. PERMIT CHOICE

An applicant shall not be made to wait for final action on the proposed change before proceeding if the applicant elected determination under prior rules. (G.S. 143-755; G.S. 160D-108(b).)

If a local development regulation changes after an application is submitted, the applicant may choose the version of the rule that applies; but may require the applicant to comply with new rules if the applicant delays the application for six months. (G.S. 143-755; G.S. 160D-108(b); S.L. 2019-111, Pt. I.)

An application for one development permit triggers permit choice for permits under any development regulation; such permit choice is valid for eighteen months after approval of the initial application. (G.S. 143-755; G.S. 160D-108(b); S.L. 2019-111, Pt. I)

This ordinance is bound by the requirements of G.S. 160D. All applicable requirements of the statute shall apply.

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS:  
WILLIAM "BILL" R. SEXTON, JR., CHAIR  
TRACEY A. JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR  
ANN C. KEYES  
CAROL V. PHELPS  
JULIUS WALKER, JR.



POST OFFICE BOX 1007  
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CURTIS S. POTTER  
COUNTY MANAGER/COUNTY ATTORNEY  
cpotter@washconc.org

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FINANCE OFFICER  
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JULIE J. BENNETT, CMC, NCMCC  
CLERK TO THE BOARD  
jbennett@washconc.org

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RESOLUTION 2021-007

RESOLUTION ON STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 160D, the Board of Commissioners does hereby find and conclude that the proposed Ordinance Amendments are reasonable and in the public interest because it brings the local Ordinances into compliance with applicable North Carolina law. Additionally, the proposed Ordinance amendments support the following policies and goals of the County.

- Article 1 Zoning Ordinance Constitution
- Article 2 General Regulations
- Article 3 Zoning Districts
- Article 3A Rural Area Single Family Residential District
- Article 3B Corridor Commercial District
- Article 4 Zoning Amendments
- Article 5 Special Use Permits
- Article 6 Nonconforming Uses
- Article 7 Signage Regulations
- Article 8 Site Plan Regulations
- Article 9 Administration and Adjustment
- Article 10 Board of Adjustment: Variance and Appeals
- Article 11 Definitions
- Article 12 Process for Construction and Operation of Wind Energy Facilities
- Article 13 Solar Energy Development Ordinance

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve and adopt the text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as presented.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2021.

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William R. "Bill" Sexton, Jr., Chair  
Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board

Page 1 of 1

Chair Sexton said it looked like the only changes made were related to 160D . Mr. Pittman said that is what the Planning Board did.

Commissioner Keyes made a motion to close the public hearing on the Ordinances. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Keyes made a motion to approve the Statement of Consistency for Ordinances Resolution as presented above. Commissioner Walker seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL, INC. (EIC): Dr. Landon Mason, Director of EIC, spoke to the Board by ZOOM. Dr. Mason reminded the Commissioners that the EIC serves 13 counties including Washington County.

Dr. Mason stated he would like to ask Commissioners to donate to the Big Pop Up. (see flyer below)

Final 1/14



**PERQUIMANS COUNTY  
RECREATION CENTER**

**310 GRANBY STREET  
HERTFORD, NC 27944**

**TUESDAY  
MAY 25, 2021**

**10 AM - 2 PM**

**POP THE TRUNK & WE PACK IT.**

**DRIVE-THRU IN A SAFE AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED  
ENVIRONMENT. FOR YOUR SAFETY, DRIVERS/PASSENGERS  
MUST REMAIN IN VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES.**

FOOD BOXES, HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, AND MORE.

**SPONSORS**



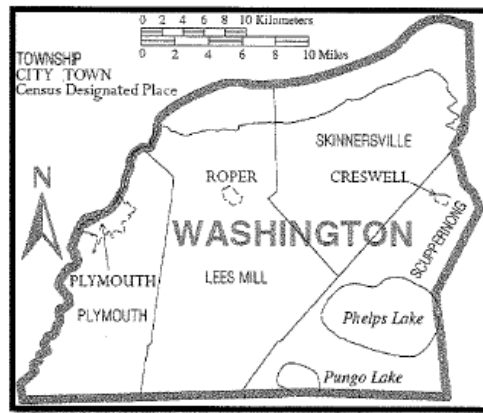
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL AT  
[WWW.EICCA.ORG](http://WWW.EICCA.ORG)

Commissioner Walker said he has worked with Dr. Mason and thanked him for what they do for Washington County. Chair Sexton said it looks like they have a great event coming up.

Dr. Mason spoke about the following statistics for Washington County.

## Economic Improvement Council Inc.

### Washington County



### Economic Impact FY2019-FY2020

WASHINGTON COUNTY	CUSTOMERS SERVED	AVERAGE COST PER FAMILY	TOTAL REVENUE
Head Start	34	9,207.41	313,051.94
Early Head Start	24	8,000	192,000.00
Section 8 HV	164	386.49	760,608.00
CSBG	10	4,599.61	45,996.13
Weatherization	7	3,780.18	22,681.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>		<b>1,334,337.15</b>

The Board thanked Dr. Mason for all that EIC does for Washington County.

EDDIE SMITH SERVICE DISTRICT PRESENTATION: Mr. David Gadd, Attorney, 415 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh and Ms. Martha Prinsloo, Washington County Soil & Water Technician spoke to the Board by ZOOM. Mr. Gadd has been talking to Mr. Potter and Ms.

Prinsloo about this project. Mr. Gadd explained that Service Districts have different laws so he is looking into converting Eddie Smith from a Drainage District to a Service District. Mr. Gadd said that the Eddie Smith Drainage District has been in effect since 1994. Mr. Gadd also said the landowners often get confused, in part because the Washington County Drainage District #5 abuts the Eddie Smith Special Assessment District. A drainage district has classes of land that are assessed at different rates based on many different factors relating to how much drainage is afforded a parcel of land (factors such as soil type, elevation, distance to canal, etc.). A drainage engineer and independent board of viewers perform a study and set the classifications. Those classifications are then approved by the Court after a hearing where the landowners have a chance to weigh in.

Please see the Drainage Report below:

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**DRAINAGE PROJECT REPORT**  
**Establishment of a County Service District**  
**to improve drainage by maintaining ditches, canals and watercourses**  
**pursuant to NCGS §153A-300 – §153A-310**

1. **A map of the proposed district showing the boundaries is attached hereto as Exhibit A.**
2. **The proposed district meets the standards set out in NCGS 153A-302(a):**

The majority of the property in eastern Washington County encompassing the proposed service district is within the boundaries of the Eddie Smith Special Assessment District, which was established in 1994. The new service district will replace the Eddie Smith Special Assessment District and its boundaries will be slightly expanded. The purpose for replacing the special assessment district with a service district is that the statutory framework pertaining to service districts is better suited for funding ongoing drainage related services. Upon expenditure of all funds held for the Eddie Smith Special Assessment District, the Eddie Smith Special Assessment District will be discontinued and abolished by Washington County. The need for drainage maintenance in this area of the County to enhance farming, forestry and residential uses is perpetual.

The primary use of the land in the proposed area is farming. The resident population is sparse. The appraised value of the property in the proposed district is approximately \$51,840,380. The present County tax rate is \$0.8550 per \$100.00 valuation and the only other taxing district existing in the same location is the aforementioned Eddie Smith Special Assessment District.

The proposed district is well prepared to sustain the additional taxes necessary to improve and maintain drainage. The Eddie Smith Special Assessment District has been used for the same purpose since its inception. As a result, the landowners have come to expect and rely on improved drainage provided by Washington County.

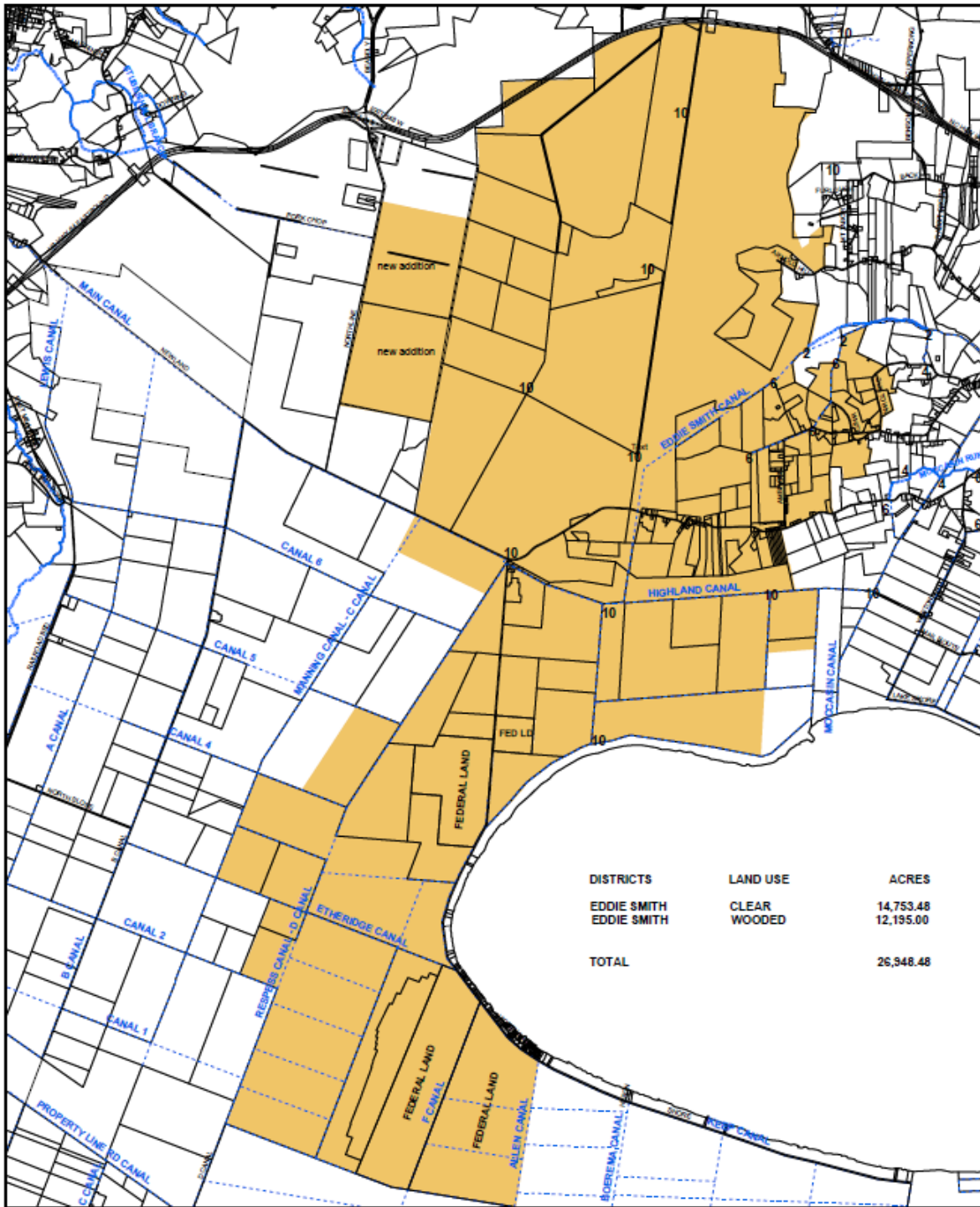
3. **Plan for providing proposed services within the boundaries of the service district:**

The project entails all forms of drainage maintenance within the proposed boundaries, including but not limited to:

- a. clearing and snagging of trees, logs, alligator weed and other debris in the canals, ditches and watercourses.
- b. mowing of ditch banks
- c. clearing and removal of sediment from canals, banks and ditches

The County will primarily contract with independent service providers to perform the services listed above.





EDDIE SMITH DRAINAGE MAP



Mr. Gadd also stated that notices need to go out regarding a public hearing and documents need to be available in the County office. Ms. Prinsloo spoke and gave some background on working on Eddie Smith canal. Chair Sexton asked who would set the rates. Mr. Gadd said the County Commissioners

would. Then there could be an advisory board to discuss what projects were needed and also a tax could be assessed to those who are affected.

Commissioner Johnson asked how the site was come up with for this Service District. Ms. Prinsloo gave an explanation. Chair Sexton asked what the difference is between the white vs yellow federal land on the map. Ms. Prinsloo said she made an error and needs to fix the map. Commissioner Johnson asked about PILT (payment in lieu of taxes). Mr. Potter explained it and it will also be in the Board's budget book this year. Commissioner Phelps asked if the Advisory Board will have any authority to tie into other ditches/canals. Mr. Potter said not without coming to the Commissioners. Commissioner Phelps asked could a moratorium be put in place on some of the drainage canals because all of the water that flows to Cherry and Creswell. Commissioner Keyes thanked Ms. Prinsloo and Mr. Gadd for all their hard work on this project.

Chair Sexton asked if the County has to have a public hearing. Mr. Potter said yes. Mr. Potter also said the watershed tax and this tax would work similarly.

TTA UPDATE AND NEW LOGO DISCUSSION: Mr. Tom Harrison, TTA Director spoke to the Board. Mr. Harrison said that everything is falling into place for the NC Black Bear Festival in June. The Governor said regulations should be relaxed beginning on June 5. Mr. Harrison said he does have ways of dispersing the crowds since it is spread out over a large area. The TTA will have a COVID Compliance Officer available. There will be a theater set up in Cooperative Extension and folks will have their temperature checked before entering. There will be a fireworks show and a laser light show. This year's festival offers lots of activities for everyone. Our State magazine wrote an article about the NC Black Bear Festival and should be out in June.

Mr. Harrison said that there will be drag boat races on July 31 and motorcycle stunts, poker run, car show – a Motorsports Weekend.

The folks that run 116 Bistro opened their business here in Plymouth after visiting the Bear Festival one year. Also the Garden Spot said one year during the Bear Festival they had the most business they ever had since they've been open.

Mr. Harrison went on to talk about the possible new County logo. (See below.)



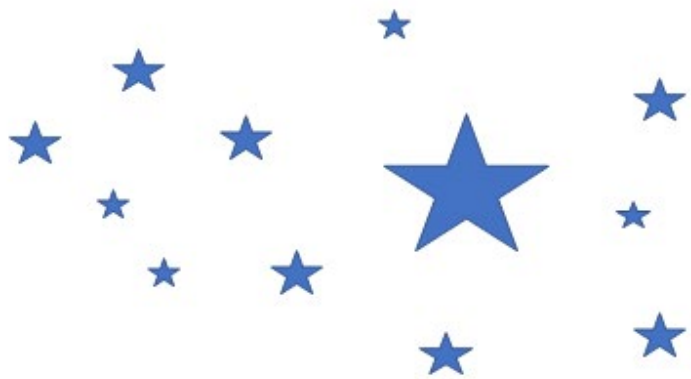
Forsell Design is a full-service design company, founded in 2001, focusing primarily on Place Branding and Tourism Marketing.

Since specializing in Place Branding in 2009, Forsell Design has created over 75 brands for locations in the United States and Canada.



Old Logo →





## Why the Stars



## INTO THE DARK



Courtesy of NASA.

Because of the OAP's immense tracts of protected and unpopulated terrain, these night skies are some of the darkest on the U.S. Atlantic Coast between Boston and Miami.

Riggs recalls when he previously could view the Milky Way from his own back doorstep, a level of visibility astronomers consider necessary both for optimal stargazing with the unaided eye and for exploring the farther reaches of space with binoculars and telescopes. Today, he says, due to light pollution from nearby residential developments, "I can't see either the Milky Way or the Little Dipper."

In large part, the conspicuous black sky over the OAP that appears on nighttime satellite maps of the Eastern Seaboard prompted Riggs to document this terrain. Naturalists and astronomers covet such conditions, which offer a paradise for both professional and amateur explorers alike — with significant implications for the future economic health of the whole region.

To partner with astronomy experts, his NC LOW joined forces to form the Night-Scape Resource Project with another nonprofit, Greenville's "A Time For Science." The project trained survey teams to journey across the peninsula to catalog night landscapes and soundscapes, as well as the views of those deep and spacious skies untouched by artificial light.

The teams would visit sites on national wildlife refuges (Alligator River, Pocosin Lakes, Mattamuskeet, and Swanquarter), state parks and reserves (Pettigrew, Somerset Place, and Buckridge), and vast parcels of public game lands (NC Wildlife Resources Commission). But first, there was a caution for everyone who had volunteered for the assignment — scientists, educators, and students alike — about the remote ground they were about to cover.

"Most of this land is low, wet, and wild," reads the project's instructional guide. "Do not drive off any paved, graveled, or sand roadway. YOU WILL GET STUCK."

To be sure, venturing off the beaten path on the OAP could lead you into territory Edgar Allan Poe could have borrowed for a literary milieu. Undaunted, though, three adventurous teams fanned out across Tyrrell, Washington, mainland Dare, and mainland Hyde counties to map and develop profiles of optimal sites to experience the nightscape.

## Many flags contains stars and constellations.





North Carolina  
was the 12<sup>th</sup> State  
to Join the Union  
November 21, 1789







1-Color Seal  
Black



Solid Color Seal  
Black



Solid Color Seal  
Blue





**Bear-olina**

**Base Camp Plymouth**

**Pocosin Lakes NWR & Pettigrew State Park  
Plymouth - Roper - Mackeys - Creswell**  
Tel. 252-793-6627 www.bear-olina.com

Washington County  
"BEAR-OLINA"

Washington County, North Carolina Home | Contact Us

Commissioners	Meetings & Events	Agenda	Minutes	Budget	County Manager	Boards & Committees
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Departments	<p><b>Welcome to Washington County, NC.</b> Located in northeastern North Carolina, 120 miles east of Raleigh and 80 miles west of Nags Head and the Outer Banks.</p> <p><b>Hyper-Reach</b> is a system the County uses to be able to contact the citizens in case of an emergency. If you would like to be on the contact list, please call this number 252-484-3277 to have your phone number (either house or cell or both) or by texting "alerts" to 252-484-3277.</p>
Personnel Search	
Flood & Safety Info	
Pay Taxes Online	
Tax Property Records	
Ordinances	
Maps	
Job Openings	
Office Holiday Schedule	
Legislative Offices	

**Earn Extra Money &**

**Go Wild (Tourism)**

Video Tour of Washington County

Welcome  
Economic Development

## Washington County

washconc.org



**Ann C. Keyes**  
County Commissioner

P.O. Box 1007  
116 Adams Street  
Plymouth, NC 27962

Phone: (252) 793-5823  
Fax: (252) 793-1183  
Cell: (252) 217-1135

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## Washington County

washconc.org



**Ann C. Keyes**  
County Commissioner

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Mr. Harrison went over the logos. The reason for the 12 stars is by design because NC was the 12<sup>th</sup> state to join the Union on November 12, 1789.

Commissioner Keyes told Mr. Harrison that he has done a wonderful job on this and on the Bear Festival. Commissioner Keyes noted that since Mr. Harrison was including the three Towns, maybe he could give each of the towns a presentation. Commissioner Phelps liked the “Black Bear Capital of the World” on logos. Chair Sexton asked Mr. Harrison what the next step is. Mr. Harrison said he would get on the next Town Council meeting agendas to get their opinion. Mr. Harrison said he would get back on the Commissioners’ agenda and bring back info from the Towns and let the Commissioners have the final

say. Once a new logo is decided upon, the County could start using it as things are depleted with the current logo.

Commissioner Phelps echoed Commissioner Keyes and thanked Mr. Harrison for his hard work. Ms. Bennett, Clerk to the Board asked to speak about the Seal of the Commissioners. Ms. Bennett stated that the seal she uses on documents approved by the Commissioners has “Washington County Board of Commissioners” on the outer ring. Ms. Bennett said she had no issue with using a new bear image for the inside of the seal but would need to leave the outer ring as it is.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE UPDATE: Mr. Wes Gray, MTW Health Department Director gave an update on COVID-19 and the vaccines.



# Martin-Tyrrell-Washington

## DISTRICT HEALTH

Wes Gray, MPA, MPH, Health Director

252.793.3023 (p) • 252.791.3108 (f) • mtwdistricthealth.org



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

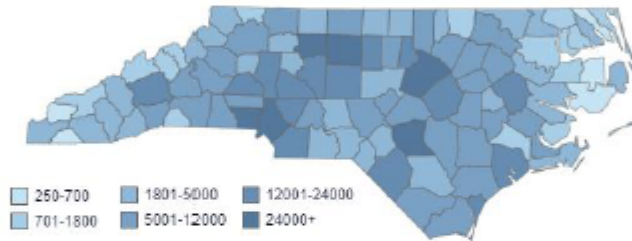
### Coronavirus Update

May 3, 2021 5:00 pm

The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 220 countries and territories around the world.

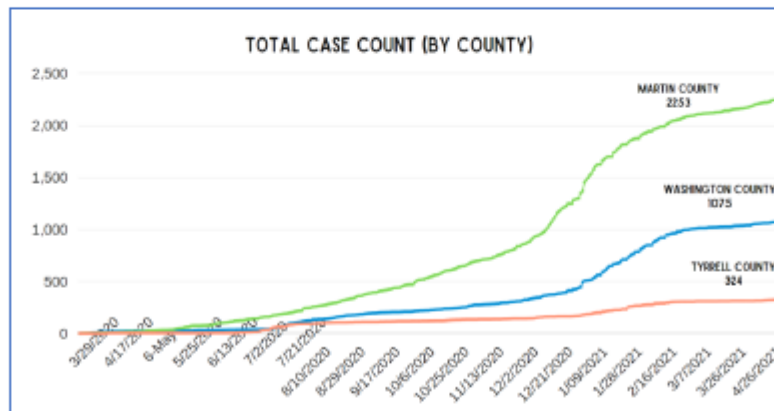
North Carolina		United States		Global	
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>974,319</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>33,215,049</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>154,029,171</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>12,691</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>591,367</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>3,223,016</b>
<b>Recovered</b>	<b>938,740</b>	<b>Recovered</b>	<b>25,881,816</b>	<b>Recovered</b>	<b>132,098,252</b>

### Total Confirmed Cases in North Carolina



### District Profile (3 hospitalized)

County	Martin	Tyrrell	Washington
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>2253</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>1075</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Cases since 4/30</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>+0</b>	<b>+1</b>



**Martin County**  
210 W. Liberty St.  
Williamston, NC 27892  
252.793.1819

**Tyrrell County**  
408 Bridge St.  
Columbia, NC 27925  
252.793.1750

**Washington County**  
198 Hwy. 45 North  
Plymouth, NC 27962  
252.793.3023

**Total Tests Completed in NC - As of 5/3: 12,504,937 (6.0% positive) Slight Increase**  
**Diagnostic tests - As of 4/20: Tyrrell (3,034 or 75.5% of the population), Washington (14,450 or 125.8% of the population), Martin (25,770 tests or 111.9% of the population)**  
**% Positive from April 4 - April 17: Martin (3.2%), Tyrrell (4.9%), Washington (5.7%)**  
 Population Source: United States Census Bureau - County Quickfacts, July 1, 2019 Population Estimates

**Ongoing Outbreaks - 4/30 (these are total case counts since the start of the facility outbreak, not active case counts)**

Facility Type	County	Facility	Staff		Residents / Students		Total	
			Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
no open outbreaks								

**Vaccination Dashboard May 3: NC is currently 35<sup>th</sup> in the US for % of population vaccinated)**

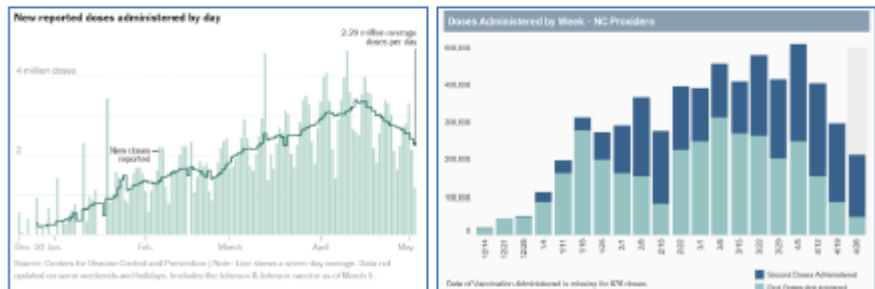
Location	Doses Distributed / Shots Given	% Used	% of population with 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose / 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
US	312,509,575 / 246,780,203	79%	44% / 32%
NC	9,907,630 / 7,200,210	73%	40% / 30%

**County Residents (all sources including hospitals and health departments. As of 5/3, MTW has administered (or transferred to District congregate living homes) 12,640 doses of vaccine)**

Martin		Tyrrell		Washington	
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose
7,116	6,262	1,258	1,140	3,221	2,794
Population = 22,440		Population = 4,016		Population = 11,582	
% 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	% 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	% 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose
31.7%	27.9%	31.3%	28.4%	27.8%	24.1%

**Graphic of the Day: (New York Times and NC DHHS)**

Vaccine rollout is slowing nationwide and in NC due to low demand



**Notes on Numbers:** For the counts above, I check the following four sources regularly (Some have different update times so I if I see any discrepancies I record the highest number): [Johns Hopkins Case Map](#), [Coronavirus Worldometer](#), [NC DHHS Coronavirus State Count](#)

Mr. Gray said the mandate still limits occupancy by the size of your room.

Commissioner Johnson asked when MTW will have their next clinic. Mr. Gray said a J&J vaccine clinic is planned in Oak City this week and another one in Washington County after that.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION UPDATE—IT: Ms. Darlene Fikes, gave the following presentation.

# Washington County

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Good evening. I'm Darlene B. Fikes, I work in the County IT Department and I'm here this evening to give you an Information Technology presentation. I've worked in the IT office since May 2, 1979, so as of yesterday I've been with the County for 42 years.

### PURPOSE OF IT

Helps departments to organize, manage and work more efficiently



The purpose of IT is to help the departments organize, manage and work more efficiently by using the technology that is available to meet their growing demands. But there's more to it than the departments just storing or retrieving data and sending or receiving information.





The IT office supports 28 departments – 7 of which are outside the Courthouse – Veteran’s office, Airport, Water Plant, Landfill, EMS, Senior Citizens Center & Co-op. So, it is not uncommon to see me outside the Courthouse in the middle of the day. In addition, I am on call 24-7 for the 911 Center. I go nowhere without my County phone.



So being a one-person department means some days can be very challenging. My priorities can shift day to day depending on the needs of the departments, equipment that fails unexpectedly or project deadlines.



I cannot say enough good things about the people that back me up when I'm out of the office. We have a contract with Soundside who assists when the workload gets hectic and they are on call when I'm out of the office. Their techs have met me in the middle of the night in the 911 Center to work on issues and Jessica has rearranged schedules in order to make sure a tech gets here when needed.

Sherri Wilkins, the Tax Administrator, takes calls for me when I'm out of the office and if Sherri is out then Darlene Harrison, the Delinquent Tax Coordinator fills that position. These two ladies have their own jobs to do, but somehow find the time to step up and help when needed.



Now to give you a snippet of some of the larger projects I've been working on.

\* We completed the installation of a Courtroom Speaker System at the end of last year per the directions of the NC Supreme Court. Due to COVID the plan was for the jurors to be seated in the gallery of the Courtroom and the judge was concerned that the jurors would not be able to hear the cases being tried.

\*We completed the installation of the Fiber+ line in March to replace the dsl line for internet connectivity in the Courthouse. With the increase of online meetings due to COVID, the 20MG dsl line we had was not sufficient in keeping up with the demand. The Fiber+ line is not a true fiber line, but it does give us 100MG connectivity. That was not a simple switch from one box to another. We had ip address changes that had to be made within our network/firewall and I had to contact 24 people/vendors to determine if they would be affected by the ip changes and if so, coordinate the changes so we would not lose connectivity with them. Critical connections such as SBI, State Board of Elections and our software vendors.

\*We have also completed cabling at the WOW building, so that BCCC can use the auditorium for video streaming.

\*And we have also completed the installation of the MondoPad here in the Commissioners Room.

\*The EMS Directors office is being moved to the old Strader Building, which requires connectivity to the Courthouse, so I have gathered quotes and currently coordinating the installation for a wireless connection, cabling, network equipment and phone installation.

\*The Detention Center is need of upgrading the video system. Currently, there are 6 cameras not working. I've worked with their vendor, Cornerstone to get a quote for replacing these 6 cameras. Clinta has also received a quote from Cornerstone for replacing the entire video system and I have reviewed that with the Sales Rep. I have also called surrounding counties to see what vendors they use for a product and price comparison.

\*The Water Plant is getting notifications of hard drive failures on their SCADA computer. I've worked with their vendor ISI to get a quote to replace that computer. **SCADA computer monitors tank levels, chemical levels, ultraviolet (UV) intensity, and environmental conditions, as well as pumps, valves, and filters.**

\*I received a phone call from Southern Software to inform me that Verizon was getting ready to make a change that would affect our 911 Center sending out text messages to our first responders. Verizon has a 5G network and plans to decommission their 3G network. The decommission of the 3G network will prevent those first responders with Verizon phones from receiving the texts from our 911 Center. In order for the first responders to continue to get the text messages we would have to sign a EMAG agreement (Enterprise Messaging Access Gateway). Sounds simple enough, but there are 7 steps involved and it take about 6 weeks to complete.

\*We are upgrading the 911 Center equipment and that's a big project that has a lot of moving pieces that has to be coordinated carefully. I have to get quotes from the vendors and verify that all the pieces of equipment are compatible. I have to review the quotes to verify there are no errors (if errors they have to go back to vendor), send them to the State 911 Board to verify what is eligible for reimbursement and when I get that back I have to itemized this out for Missy and Curtis so that they know what the 911 Board pays and what we have to pay out of County funds, and then once approved and all the agreements have to be reviewed by Curtis and signed, then I have to coordinate the purchase, installation and training of the staff. The ESInet cabinet and equipment was delivered on March 11 and is currently being set up. Just so you know ESInet stands for Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network and that is our 911 phone. The projected go-live date is June 24, 2021. In the past we've had on-premise equipment, but the State 911 Board awarded the contract to AT&T for a hosted system and PSAP's across the State are migrating to this new system. Not only do we have a 911 phone, but there is radio equipment, a recorder, a server, a netclock, software and connections that have to be made. In addition, GIS also plays a critical role. This is where 911 gets there maps from, so Harry in GIS had to work with the State vendor to verify all the mapping records were 98% or more accurate. Harry put a lot of work in this and did a great job. From beginning to end this project can take a year to complete.



\*Now what everyone wants to know – what in the world happened to the email in March. On March 2 I received a notification from MS-ISAC of a Microsoft Exchange vulnerability (Multi State Information Sharing and Analysis Center-improve the cybersecurity posture of the nation’s state, local, tribal and territorial governments thru prevention, response and recovery – and we are a member of that group) then on March 3 I received another notification from Shannon Tufts with the UNC SOG of the same vulnerability. There were recommendations and patches suggested. We installed the patches on our servers and on March 11 I received an email from Shannon Tufts that stated Washington County could have had a potential webmail server exposure. Microsoft released the patch for this vulnerability on March 2, however the web shell was dropped on our Exchange February 28. I notified Curtis and Missy of the possible exposure. I worked very closely with NCLGISA Strike Team and the NC National Guard. The NC National Guard performed a forensic scan of our network (Microsoft charges \$35,000 for this scan – we got it for free thru the NC National Guard) and the results found that there were no indications of com-pro-mise other than the Exchange Server. The recommendation was for Washington County to rebuild the Exchange server. We began this process on March 16 and completed it on April 1.

What took so long? A combination of an older server and very large email accounts – it just took time to migrate.



\*Now you know what's going in the IT world of Washington County. This ends my presentation, so I'd like to thank you for your time and if you have any questions I can take those now.

Commissioner Walker asked Ms. Fikes was she the only person in her department. Ms. Fikes said yes.

Commissioner Keyes said that Ms. Fikes is a stickler for details and thanked her for what she does. Commissioner Phelps echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Keyes and Commissioner Walker. Chair Sexton thanked Ms. Fikes for what she does.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW: Ms. Bennett gave the oaths to the Commissioners so they could convene as the Board of Equalization and Review.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Keyes seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Sherri Wilkins, Tax Administrator, noted there were no appeals as of today.

Chair Sexton said he hasn't received anything on the reval yet. Ms. Wilkins said she verified that the reval notices went out today. Chair Sexton asked will the reval folks be able to work with the folks that want to appeal. Ms. Wilkins said yes; however, the appeals go through her office first.

**Commissioner Keyes made a motion to recess the Board of Equalization & Review until May 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room and a virtual ZOOM meeting livestreamed on the County's Facebook page. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps,**

**yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

**BOARDS & COMMITTEES:**

**Albemarle Commission—Area Agency on Aging**

The Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is in need of two appointed representatives on their Regional Advisory Council (RAC); one re-appointment and a new appointment. Ms. Gail Spiewak currently serves as the Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegate for Washington County and the Vice President of RAC. They would like to recommend Ms. Spiewak for reappointment.

Ms. Spiewak has agreed to serve if reappointed.

Ms. Vanessa Joyner, Senior Center Director has expressed an interest to fill the vacant seat on the Regional Aging Council. The Albemarle Commission would like to recommend that she be appointed by the Board.

**Northeastern Workforce Development Board**

Commissioner Johnson would like to discuss identifying a new appointee to replace Diane White (Business Representative—Washington County) who is resigning from the Northeastern Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Johnson asked to bring this back to the May 17, 2021 Board meeting.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the appointment and re-appointment to the Albemarle Commission Boards as presented. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHER ITEMS BY CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY MANAGER/ COUNTY MANAGER OR CLERK:**

Commissioner Walker has had issues with people speeding on Boush Street.

Commissioner Phelps talked to Marshall Gill at DOT and was told I64 has been broken up into 4 sections. One starts at the Creswell intersection where you turn off to go to Edenton. Commissioner Phelps said Creswell is having a lot of trouble with speeding and it's turning into drag racing at night. Commissioner Phelps thanked the Water Dept. for getting things fixed with their meter issue at the Fire Station. He said he is attending a meeting there tomorrow night.

Commissioner Keyes stated that she filled in for Commissioner Johnson at the Albemarle Commission meeting.

Chair Sexton said Washington County's 4-H Livestock Show is this Wednesday. Chair Sexton said he attended the demonstration for the new voting machines and felt that the new machines made him feel better about purchasing them.

Mr. Potter said the Board authorized a parcel of land in Roper to be auctioned off beginning May 10, 2021.

Mr. Potter noted that a lot of activity is going on regarding the national opioid lawsuit—it's been in the media for many years now. Commissioner Johnson said she thought the deadline is May 21<sup>st</sup> for joining the lawsuit. She said all 100 counties have to sign by the due date and 12 towns that contain over a certain amount of people. The way it is written, all 100 counties have to sign.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Dixon said the budget transfers, budget amendments and the financial report were in the Commissioners' package.

Chair Sexton said people must be doing a lot of cleanup since the tipping fees are increasing. Mr. Potter said there has been an increase in trash regionally and we think it's related to people staying at home and not eating at restaurants and people generating more trash by being at home.

**Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the budget amendments/transfers as presented above. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Walker made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS§143-318.11(a)(3)--attorney-client privilege and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel. Commissioner Phelps seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

Back in Open Session, at 8:45 PM, with no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Johnson made a motion to recess to May 17 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room and by ZOOM to livestream to the County's Facebook page. Commissioner Keyes seconded. Chair Sexton proceeded with the roll call: Commissioner Walker, yea; Commissioner Phelps, yea; Commissioner Johnson, yea; Commissioner Keyes, yea; Commissioner Sexton, yea. Motion carried unanimously.**

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William R. "Bill" Sexton  
Chair

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Julie J. Bennett, CMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board