

November 21, 2017

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Informal Session in the Meeting Chamber Conference Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. and in Formal Session in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chair Ella B. Scarborough and Commissioners  
Dumont Clarke, Patricia "Pat" Cotham, George Dunlap,  
Trevor M. Fuller, Bill James, Vilma D. Leake,  
Jim Puckett, and Matthew Ridenhour  
County Manager Dena R. Diorio  
County Attorney Marvin A. Bethune  
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

**Absent:** None

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**-INFORMAL SESSION-**

***Commissioners Dunlap and Ridenhour were absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.***

***The meeting was called to order by Chair Scarborough, after which the matters below were addressed.***

**REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT**

The Board identified item(s) 17-4342, 17-4348, & 17-4357 to be removed from Consent and voted upon separately.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**17-4351      CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY**

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Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and carried 7-0 with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, and Scarborough voting yes, to go into Closed Session for the following purpose(s): Consult with Attorney.

*The Board went into Closed Session at 5:17 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 5:59 p.m.*

*Commissioners Dunlap and Ridenhour were present when the Board came back into Open Session. They entered the meeting during Closed Session.*

*The Board then proceeded to the Meeting Chamber for the remainder of the meeting.*

**-FORMAL SESSION-**

*Chair Scarborough called this portion of the meeting to order, which was followed by invocation by Commissioner Clarke, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introductions; after which, the matters below were addressed.*

**AWARDS/RECOGNITION – NONE**

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**17-4349 PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

No one appeared to speak during the Public Appearance portion of the agenda.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**17-4352 NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**CHARLOTTE – MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Fuller nominated all applicants for appointment consideration to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee: Destiny Jenkins, Gail Johnson, and Eboni Lewis.

*Note: Appointments will be made on December 5, 2017.*

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**CITIZEN’S CAPITAL BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner James and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to nominate and appoint Corey Crawford to the Citizen’s Capital Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term expiring July 31, 2020.

*Note: He replaced Eric Sieckmann.*

**GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner James and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to nominate and appoint David Hanley to the Groundwater Advisory Committee as the environmental consultant representative to fill an unexpired term expiring July 31, 2020, effective December 4, 2017.

*Note: He replaces Michael Armour, who will be retiring, effective December 4, 2017.*

**HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner James and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to nominate and appoint Dru Meier and Cezanne Cody to the Human Resources Advisory Committee for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2020 as recommended by the Human Resources Advisory Committee.

*Note: They replace Daniel McRae and Michael Mulder.*

**2019 CITIZEN’S REVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Leake nominated all applicants for appointment consideration to the 2019 Citizen’s Revaluation Advisory Committee:

- Crosland, Jacquelyn
- Gallo, Peter
- Hege, Mike
- Horn, Kenneth

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Houston, Carell  
Janezic, Robert  
Johnson, Samuel Alan  
Lattanzio, John  
Manuel, Jonathan  
Nagy, Kellianne  
Scott, Jeff  
Shiplett, Roscoe  
Thomas, Felecia Vereen  
Warren, Alvenia  
Zuyus, Emily

*Note: Appointments will occur following the receipt of a recommendation from the Board's Ad Hoc Committee, who will interview the nominees.*

*The following Commissioners volunteered to serve on the Board's Ad Hoc Interview Committee for appointment considerations to the 2019 Citizen's Revaluation Advisory Committee: Commissioners Dunlap, Cotham, Leake, and Ridenhour.*

*Chair Scarborough appointed Commissioner Dunlap to serve as chair of the committee. County Assessor Ken Joyner or his designee was also asked to serve on the committee.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE**

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**17-4365 APPOINTMENT OF FINANCE OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a resolution appointing Sarah Lyberg as the Finance Officer of Mecklenburg County as recommended by the County Manager.

*Note: Commissioner Leake thanked Assistant County Manager Mark Foster for his service as Interim Finance Officer.*

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**RESOLUTION OF THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNTY  
MANAGER APPOINTING SARAH LYBERG AS FINANCE OFFICER OF  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the former County finance officer had given notice of her retirement effective February 17, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, under G.S. 159-24, each county government shall appoint a finance officer who is legally responsible for establishing the accounting system, controlling expenditures, managing cash and other assets and preparing financial reports; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Manager recommended and the Board of County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County approved that Assistant County Manager Mark Foster serve as Interim Finance Officer of Mecklenburg County until such time as the position was permanently filled; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Finance Director, Sarah Lyberg was hired effective November 13, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarah Lyberg has the qualifications to serve as finance officer of Mecklenburg County; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to G.S. 159-24, the finance officer shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing board or official; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County does hereby approve the County Manager's appointment of Sarah Lyberg as Finance Officer of Mecklenburg County, whose oath of office shall be filed in the permanent records of the Clerk to the Board.

***Resolution recorded in full in Minute/Ordinance Book \_\_\_\_\_, Document # \_\_\_\_\_.***

**DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS**

**17-4339      FEATURED DEPARTMENT – COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Board received an overview of the Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS) Department from Director Stacy Lowry.

***A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

Comments

Commissioner Leake thanked Director Lowry and her staff for the work that they do, especially in the area of domestic violence.

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Commissioner Cotham thanked Director Lowry and her staff for the work that they do, especially in the area of homelessness. She inquired about cross communication between Community Support Services and other County human services departments, as well as, with the City of Charlotte, which was addressed.

Commissioner Cotham when was the date of the upcoming “point in time count.” *The response was January 31, 2018.*

Commissioner Cotham asked about the trends being seen, as it related to homelessness in Mecklenburg County, which was addressed. *It was noted that the numbers had decreased.*

Director Lowry said the lack of affordable housing in the community was a big barrier for many that were homeless.

Commissioner Fuller asked was there any structural connection between Community Support Services and the City of Charlotte, as it related to affordable housing. *The response was yes, that CSS works with the City’s Neighborhood Services Department. Director Lowry elaborated on interaction that was taking place, as well as, the prospect of a new strategic plan around homelessness.*

Commissioner Fuller asked would the new strategic plan address “low income” housing, which he said was different from “affordable housing. “

Director Lowry said it was her understanding that “affordable housing” ranged from 0% to 120% of the area median income. She said she’d heard what was missing was the 30% and below. This was the extremely low income, usually the most “vulnerable” residents in the community, the population that the County focuses on.

Director Lowry said her hope was that the City’s plan with respect to affordable housing would include this population.

Commissioner Fuller asked what percentage of the County’s eligible veterans that apply for benefits receive them. *Director Lowry said she wasn’t sure if that information was available from the Veterans Administration (VA), but there were about 55,000 veterans in Mecklenburg County. She said she would follow up with the VA to see if that information was available. She said there were a lot of factors involved with respect to determining who’s eligible for what.*

Commissioner Fuller said he wanted the County to continue its outreach efforts to veterans to make sure they’re aware of the benefits that were available to them. He said many veterans were not aware of their eligibility for benefits.

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Commissioner Fuller asked Director Lowry if she was aware of efforts to create a Military Veterans Hall of Fame in Mecklenburg County that would be for the entire state. *Director Lowry said she was aware and that a member of her staff was a part of those discussions.*

Commissioner Fuller said this would be a first for the state to have a Military Veterans Hall of Fame. He encouraged staff to continue to be a part of that discussion.

Commissioner Dunlap commended Director Lowry and her staff for the work that they do.

Commissioner Dunlap asked about job placement for the homeless, which was addressed. He asked if there was any data available regarding the number of homeless that had found employment. *Director Lowry said she would check on that.*

Commissioner Ridenhour said he would like see trend data in staff's next presentation regarding Mecklenburg County's homeless population over a five-year period.

Commissioner Ridenhour said he'd heard concerns from residents that work and/or visit uptown that in their opinion the homeless population was increasing, also in other areas of the community. He said some have stated that they don't frequent uptown because of crime and being approached by the homeless.

Director Lowry said staff had heard those concerns as well. She said one of the distinctions that needed to be made was that most individuals that residents see panhandling were not homeless. She said the increase in panhandling was not related to homelessness. She said often it was individuals using that as a means of getting additional income.

Commissioner Ridenhour thanked Director Lowry and her staff for their work with veterans.

Commissioner Fuller asked if the County served veterans from other counties that desired to apply for benefits. *Director Lowry said the majority of persons served were residents of Mecklenburg county. She said non-county residents were referred to their county of residency, except for persons that work in Mecklenburg County. She said services were provided to them for convenience purposes.*

Chair Scarborough thanked Director Lowry and her staff for their work. She noted that homelessness for some was a choice.

Commissioner Clarke asked about the number of CSS part-time temporary staff in Prevention and Intervention Services Division, which was addressed.

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Commissioner Clarke commented on panhandling and encouraged everyone to give to organizations that provide services to the homeless and others, rather than giving directly to a panhandler.

Commissioner Cotham noted that many homeless individuals were unable to find jobs because of personal challenges, which sometimes were mental and physical challenges.

*Note: The above was not inclusive of every comment, but was a summary.*

#### **17-4366 DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Board received as information monthly department management reports for November 2017.

Commissioner Cotham thanked County Manager Diorio for the reports. She said they were very informative.

*Note: The County Manager requested department directors develop department management monthly reports highlighting key activities and initiatives within the departments showing relevant performance indicators of departmental activity.*

***A copy of the reports is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

#### **STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS - NONE**

#### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS & REQUESTS**

#### **17-4383 I-77 LOCAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTMENT (CHAIR SCARBOROUGH)**

Commissioner Puckett commented on the request from the NCDOT to appoint a representative to serve on the I-77 Local Policy Advisory Group. He informed the Board that he would be serving as an at-large member.

Commissioner Puckett nominated Commissioner Cotham to serve as the Board's representative.

Commissioner Leake asked would funding be requested from the County. *The response was no, that this was just an advisory group.*

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Commissioner Leake asked how often would the advisory group meet. *The response was probably monthly.*

Commissioner Clarke asked to be excused from voting on the selection of a Board representative to avoid a conflict of interest, since his brother is a member of the Board of Transportation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner James and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour, and Scarborough voting yes, to excuse Commissioner Clarke from voting on the selection of a Board representative to serve on the I-77 Local Policy Advisory Group, to avoid a conflict of interest.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner James and carried 8-0 with Commissioners Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to select Commissioner Cotham to serve as the Board's representative on the I-77 Local Policy Advisory Group as requested by the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to approve the following item(s):**

**17-4347      TAX ADMINISTRATION RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS**

Approve amendments to the Tax Administration records retention schedule.

*Note: Amendments are made periodically by the NC Department of Cultural Resources.*

**Amendments:**

**STANDARD 5. PERSONNEL RECORDS**

**Amending item 19 Employee Eligibility Records**

**STANDARD 12. PROGRAM RECORDS: BUSINESS AND OTHER TAX RECORDS**

**Adding Item 3 Excise Tax Records**

**Amendments recorded in full in Minute/Ordinance Book \_\_\_\_\_, Document # \_\_\_\_\_.**

**17-4350 MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of Regular meeting held November 8, 2017.

**17-4353 TAX REFUNDS**

1. Approve refunds in the amount of \$10,390.86 for registered motor vehicles as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor; and

*Note: This Board action is necessary to approve registered motor vehicle tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, value changes and appeals processed in the new statewide vehicle tax system.*

2. Approve refunds in the amount of \$92,370.83 and interest as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Note: This Board action is necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, audits and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. Accrued interest is estimated to be \$16,356.77.*

***A list of the taxpayer recipients is on file with the Clerk to the Board.***

**THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**17-4342 SOLE SOURCE VENDOR APPROVAL – KOMTECH AMERICAS, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to approve the purchase of equipment as authorized by the sole source exemption of G.S. 143-129(e)(6) for a Multi Star L:3 Compost Screen Hybrid Unit from Komtech Americas, LLC.

Commissioner Leake removed this item from Consent for more public awareness.

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**17-4348      PREGNANCY CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR WOMEN INELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submission of grant application for \$50,000 per year for up to three years from the North Carolina Division of Public Health to be effective June 1, 2018; and if awarded, recognize, receive and appropriate funds for the grant.

*Note: The Mecklenburg County Health Department is requesting approval to apply for funding from the North Carolina Division of Public Health (DPH) Women's Health Branch for the period June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2021. This application is for Pregnancy Care Management Services for Women Ineligible for Medicaid. These funds will be used to enhance the woman's ability to receive quality medical care and address social determinants of health that affect pregnancy outcomes.*

Commissioner Leake removed this item from Consent for more public awareness.

*Note: Commissioner Leake requested information on approved grants that included positions, specifically, when positions were filled.*

**17-4357      NCDOT URBAN STATE MATCH GRANT APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, to:

1. Affirm submission of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Urban State Match Grant for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 submitted November 3, 2017; and
2. Recognize, receive and appropriate grant funds when awarded.

Commissioner Leake removed this item from Consent for more public awareness.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, James, Leake, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Janice S. Paige, Clerk

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Ella B. Scarborough, Chair