



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

February 5, 2024

MINUTES

The February 5, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Jennifer Pierce, and began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Victor Hunt and Commissioners Tare Davis and Walter Powell attended in person, and Commissioner Bertadean Baker attended virtually. Others in attendance included County Manager Vincent Jones, County Attorney Shiekell Richardson, Finance Director Nikki Dickerson, and Senior Assistant to the County Manager Crystal Smith.

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda was approved.

2. PRESENTATION

A. Environmental & Climate Justice Community Grant - Bill Kearney and Patrick Barnes

Bill Kearney of the Warren County Environment Action Team provided a presentation regarding the EPA's Community Change Grants. WCEAT is asking the County for a brownfield site with NFA status to be used for targeted redevelopment, support with site redevelopment, planning, and design, support with grant writing and initial management activities, and support with outreach and engagement of the community.

Commissioner Davis stated for the record that he is part of the WCEAT Committee and therefore would recuse himself when it is time to vote on this project.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Rules for Citizen Comments: Please sign up to speak. The maximum time allotted to each speaker will be FIVE (5) minutes; Clerk to the Board will keep time. Any group of people who support or oppose the same position should designate a spokesperson. Please address only those items which might not have been addressed by a previous speaker. If a response from the County Manager and/or Board is desired, leave a copy of your comment(s) with the Clerk to the Board. Order and decorum will be maintained. This is not a question and answer session.

Reinaldo Espinosa stated he is holding a semi-pro basketball game on February 17, 2024 at the John Graham Gym, and he will hold a Town Hall Meeting in March for candidates for upcoming elections.

Kim Coley thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing citizens to speak. Ms. Coley stated she bought property in Warren County in the early 2000's and has only good things to say about the community. She appreciates being able to reach out to Board members, staff, and emergency service organizations as needed.

Mike Hairston provided written information on why he believes the Board of Commissioners should support the construction of a consolidated elementary school, and be prepared to absorb a 10% school cost overrun before committing to other projects.

Doug Gross stated he moved to Warren County for the natural beauty, but has noticed the amount of litter around the county. Mr. Gross asked why there isn't an initiative to keep the county more beautiful.

County Manager Vincent Jones stated there is a Keep Warren County Beautiful Committee and more information will be given to Mr. Gross about actions that are being taken to clean up litter.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting and January 17, 2024 Budget Work Session

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting and January 17, 2024 Budget Work Session were approved.

B. Tax Collectors Report for December 2023 Presented for Boards Information in Accordance with NCGS 105-350 (John Preston, Tax Administrator)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Collectors Report for December 2023 was approved.

Tax Collector's Report
to the Warren County Board of Commissioners
For the Month December 2023

2023-2024

Current Year Collections

Tax Year	Charge	Collected in December	Collected to Date	Balance Outstanding	Percentage Collected
December 2023 FY 24	\$20,231,611	\$4,902,274	\$15,784,167	\$4,447,444	78.02
December 2022 FY 23	\$19,733,375	\$4,689,167	\$15,579,773	\$4,153,602	78.95

Delinquent Collections

2022	\$430,384	\$17,916	\$114,460	\$315,924	26.60
2021	200,499	4,128	28,498	\$172,001	14.21
2020	138,694	1,978	7,737	\$130,957	5.58
2019	152,066	642	5,812	\$146,254	3.82
2018	90,433	321	3,089	\$87,344	3.42
2017	89,045	186	2,761	\$86,284	3.10
2016	67,964	244	2,450	\$65,514	3.61
2015	56,751	206	1,437	\$55,314	2.53
2014	48,197	206	1,153	\$47,044	2.39
2013	76,551	278	2,326	\$74,226	3.04
Total Delinquent Years	\$1,350,584	\$26,104	\$169,722	\$1,180,862	

Other December Receipts

County Penalties	\$ 7,277	\$ 4,558
Landfill User Fees	\$ 319,467	\$ 1,129,283
Municipalities	\$ 184,282	\$ 497,035
Fire District Taxes	\$ 250,653	\$ 889,753
Advance Taxes	\$ 3,237	\$ 15,532

DECEMBER GRAND TOTAL

\$10,382,461	\$34,069,823
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John Preston, Tax Administrator 1/12/2024
John Preston, Tax Administrator

C. Tax Release Requests (over & under \$100) in Accordance with NCGS 105-381 "Taxpayers Remedies" as Information Only (John Preston, Tax Administrator)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Release Request (over & under \$100) was approved.

Over \$100	2/5/2024	CO MGR INITIALS: <u>VJ</u> Date: <u>1/24/2024</u>
ERROR CORRECTION RELEASES:		
GARDEN CARL	2022 844	31001 \$ 145.28 SOLD PP IN 2021
DAVIS ADAM	2023 5953-300 G8-78C	17467 \$ 278.48 REMOVE LFUF & PP SOLD IN 2022
DOYLE JM & KERRI	2023 12625-200	26624 \$ 122.05 SOLD IN 2022
EVANS SHIRLEY	2013 01191-200	48851 \$ 258.89 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2014 01191-200	51471 \$ 244.30 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2015 01191-200	54262 \$ 234.65 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2016 01191-200	57416 \$ 244.23 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2017 01191-200	30131 \$ 260.41 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2018 01191-200	30131 \$ 246.65 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2019 01191-200	26217 \$ 231.53 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2020 01191-200	26199 \$ 216.84 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2021 01191-200	26343 \$ 201.93 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2022 01191-200	29218 \$ 186.81 TAXPAYER DECEASED
EVANS SHIRLEY	2023 01191-200	26610 \$ 171.69 TAXPAYER DECEASED
HARGROVE ALICIA	2022 28172-200	3026 \$ 259.17 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2021 28172-200	26914 \$ 214.92 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2020 28172-200	26708 \$ 231.12 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2019 28172-200	26389 \$ 246.64 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2018 28172-200	26232 \$ 262.84 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2017 28172-200	26232 \$ 276.97 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2016 28172-200	57033 \$ 260.54 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2015 28172-200	53912 \$ 251.38 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2014 28172-200	51179 \$ 259.70 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HARGROVE ALICIA	2013 28172-200	48520 \$ 276.01 MH REMOVED IN 2011
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2017 18720-200	29092 \$ 282.22 DECEASED/MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2016 18720-200	57312 \$ 265.52 DECEASED/MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2015 18720-200	54173 \$ 248.16 DECEASED/MH NO LONGER EXIST
LEGGETT GEORGIA DAVIS	2023 1875-300 G8-78F	17471 \$ 366.99 REMOVE LFUF & PP SOLD IN 2022
MARSHALL HUNTER & CHERIE M	2023 32482-300	27289 \$ 505.49 SOLD BOAT IN 2022
WARREN COUNTY	2023 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 459.34 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2022 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 507.43 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2021 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 548.83 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2020 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 590.37 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2019 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 622.50 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2018 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 663.30 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2017 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 683.15 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2016 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 793.30 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WARREN COUNTY	2015 02267-431 G8-58F	2187 \$ 780.48 WARREN COUNTY PROP
WILEY RALPH G III & LOTTIE B	2018 441	32802 \$ 672.31 BILLED IN ERROR
TOTAL ERROR CORRECTIONS:		\$ 13,571.42

LANDFILL USER FEE RELEASES:		
HAWTREE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT	2023 2363-300 E3-41	1274 \$ 150.00 REMOVED LFUF/NO ELECTRIC
TOTAL LFUF RELEASES:		\$ 150.00
Total Releases		\$ 13,721.42

Under \$100	2/5/2024	CO MGR INITIALS: <u>VJ</u>	Date: <u>1/24/2024</u>			
ERROR CORRECTION RELEASES:						
NAME	Year	ACCT#	MAP #	RECORD #	AMOUNT	REASON
DUNLEVY DRAFFIN & LINDY	2023	12323-201		26616	\$ 43.37	SOLD PP IN 2022
DUNLEVY'S MARINE & CONSTRUCTION	2023	12323-202		26617	\$ 72.34	NO LATE LISTING FEE
DUNLEVY'S MARINE & CONSTRUCTION	2023	12323-202		20102	\$ 2.68	NO LATE LISTING FEE
EATON MARY	2023	12625-200		26624	\$ 4.00	NO DOG
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2018	18720-200		29092	\$ 71.22	DECEASED/ MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2019	18720-200		26301	\$ 54.90	DECEASED/ MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2020	18720-200		26405	\$ 42.36	DECEASED/ MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAWKINS CHARLES D	2021	18720-200		26574	\$ 39.56	DECEASED/ MH NO LONGER EXIST
HAYES CHARLES	2023	41548-200		27860	\$ 34.85	NO LATE LISTING FEE
HAYES CHARLES	2023	30925-200		27233	\$ 4.35	NO LATE LISTING FEE
HILL STEVEN A & ANDREA A	2023	48999		3372	\$ 8.21	NO LATE LISTING FEE
HILL STEVEN A & ANDREA A	2023	48999		26435	\$ 32.64	NO LATE LISTING FEE
MYERS JAMES E & FRANCES M	2023	22874-300		26938	\$ 10.43	PAID TAX IN WAKE COUNTY
SHEARIN BRIAN R & L E WICENSKI	2022	41087-301		31131	\$ 86.06	SOLD MH IN 2021
SIOMON DAVID E JR	2023	41240-200		28631	\$ 71.72	REDUCE PP VALUE
SUB-TOTAL ERROR CORRECTIONS:					\$	578.69

<u>MOTOR VEHICLE RELEASES:</u>					
DAVIS JAMES ROBERT	2013	11101-113	V-48268	\$	54.56 DECEASED
SUB-TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE RELEASES:				\$	54.56
SUB-TOTAL CORRECTION RELEASES:				\$	578.69
Total Releases				\$	633.25

D. Consider Approval of Proclamation Declaring February 2024 as Black History Month

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the proclamation declaring February 2024 as Black History Month was approved.



WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
602 WEST RIDGEWAY STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 619
WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27589

Warren County Board of Commissioners Proclamation Declaring February 2024 Black History Month

Jennifer Pierce, Chairman
Victor Hunt, Vice Chairman
Tare Davis
Berladean Baker
Walter Powell

Vincent Jones
County Manager

Paula Pulley
Clerk to the Board

WHEREAS, the 2024 theme for National Black History Month is African American and the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is the observance of a special period to recognize and honor the determination and commitment of generations of African Americans in pursuing the promises of America; and

WHEREAS, it was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson as Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, since 1976 it has been celebrated the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, African American leaders such as Sojourner Truth, Phillis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Leon Sullivan caused America to examine its heart and to respect the dignity and equality of all people, regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have made significant contributions as leaders at the highest levels of the military, business, education, law, government, the arts, sports, and religion; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of FEBRUARY as Black History Month and urge all citizens of our community to give full regard to the past and continuing service of African Americans in our county, our state and our nation.

This the 5th day of February 2024.

5. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Vincent Jones

A. Consider Approval of Joint Supplemental Application for Needs-Based Public Schools Capital Funds for FY 23-24

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Joint Supplemental Application for Needs-Based Public Schools Capital Funds for FY23-24 was approved.

B. Operational Updates

1. The annual Strategic Planning Work Session will be held on February 21, 2024 at Warren County Emergency Services. After some discussion, it was determined the meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m.
2. FEMA has released updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps. There is an appeal process, and the timeline for appeals is January 24, 2024 through April 23, 2024.
3. Two parcels of land were recently purchased that were previously used as farm land. Community and Economic Development held a proposal process to allow farmers an opportunity to bid on the use of that land.
4. Warren County has been awarded funds from NC Railroad. Funding can be used to develop property on US 1.
5. Recently the Board approved a contract to sell water to Aqua. Aqua is now serving customers and expanding. The County Attorney will look into updating the agreement with Aqua.

6. FINANCE OFFICE – Nikki Dickerson

A. Consider Approval of Budget Amendment #4

Budget Amendment #4 (see attached) to the FY 2024 Budget Ordinance is being presented for approval. This amendment does the following:

General Fund Balance for FY23 carry-over:

1. Appropriates \$ 7,400 to Epsom and Cokesbury Fire Departments that was not requested last FY.

General Fund Balance for FY24 Expenses:

2. Appropriates \$ 8,500 to Animal Control for Outdoor Kennels as approved in the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting.
3. Appropriates \$ 41,000 to Library for Digital Control Replacement as approved in the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting.

Revenue:

4. Appropriates \$ 60,000 in the Health Department budget for Eastpointe Grant funds received for the Homelessness Initiative, Mental Health Officer Salary, and various other Health initiatives.
5. Appropriates \$ 45,749 in the Emergency Management budget for Homeland Security Grant funds received.
6. Appropriates \$194,000 to the Community Center from the State Grant received 1/26/24.
7. Appropriates \$500,000 to the Sheriff's Department from the State Grant received 1/26/24.

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Budget Amendment #4 to the FY23-24 Budget was approved.

B. Consider Approval of Audit Contract Extension to February 29, 2024 with No Additional Cost

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Re-Appointment of Tax Administrator John Preston to a Two-Year Term, Beginning February 1, 2024 and Ending January 31, 2026, in Accordance with NCGS 105-294 and 105-349 - Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, John Preston was re-appointed as Tax Administrator for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2024 and ending January 31, 2026 in accordance with NCGS 105-294 and 105-349.

B. Consider Approval of Purchase of 40 APX 4000 MHZ Portable Radios From Motorola Communications in an Amount Not to Exceed \$154,396.40 - Sheriff John Branche

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the purchase of 40 APX 4000 MHZ Portable Radios from Motorola Communications in an amount no to exceed \$154,396.40 for the Sheriff's Office was approved.

8. BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS

A. Consider Appointment of Commissioner Baker and Health Director, Dr. Margaret Brake to the Trillium Advisory Board

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous

vote, Commissioner Bertadean Baker and Health Director Dr. Margaret Brake were appointed to serve on the Trillium Northern Regional Advisory Board.

B. Consider Approval of the Re-Appointments of M.E. Turner, P.T. Hight, T.P. Wagner, G. Durham, and T. Ross to the Macon Fire District Tax Board for three year terms beginning February 2024 and ending January 2027

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, M.E. Turner, P.T. Hight, T.P. Wagner, G. Durham, and T. Ross were re-appointed to the Macon Fire District Tax Board for three-year terms beginning February 2024 and ending January 2027.

C. Consider Approval of Appointment of Howard Roderick Epps to a 1st Two-Year Term on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Beginning February 1, 2024, and Ending January 31, 2026.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Howard Roderick Epps was appointed to a first two-year term on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) beginning February 1, 2024 and ending January 31, 2026.

D. Consider Appointment of Alan Daeke for a First Three-Year Term on the Board of Health Beginning February 1, 2024 and Ending January 31, 2027

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Alan Daeke was appointed to a first three-year term on the Board of Health beginning February 1, 2024 and ending January 31, 2027.

9. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

No updates at this time.

10. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5) FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS AND NCGS 143-318(a)(3) FOR ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board entered Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) for Personnel Matters, and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client Privilege.

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board returned to Open Session.

11. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Appointment of Library Director

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Taneka Alston was appointed as Library Director at a Grade 32 and salary of \$73,500 effective March 1, 2024.

B. Consider Appointment of Emergency Services Director

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Chris Tucker was appointed as Emergency Services Director at Grade 32 and salary of \$78,850 effective immediately.

C. Consider Approval of Emergency Services Assistant Director Position

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the position of Emergency Services Assistant Director was approved.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Chris Pegram was appointed Emergency Services Assistant Director at a Grade 30 and salary of \$73,500 effective immediately.

12. ADJOURN February 5, 2024 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the February 5, 2024 Regular Meeting was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board