



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

April 1, 2024

MINUTES

The April 1, 2024 Warren County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Pierce. Commissioners in attendance were Vice-Chair Victor Hunt, Commissioner Tare Davis, Commissioner Bertadean Baker, and Commissioner Walter Powell. Others in attendance were Interim County Manager Crystal Smith and County Attorney Shiekell Richardson.

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

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

2. 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.

- Barbara Espinosa addressed the Board of Commissioners to make sure the Quitclaim Deed for cemetery property owned by Ridgeway Missionary Baptist Church is listed in the correct name.
- Reinaldo Espinosa yielded his time to Deborah Ferruccio.
- Pastor W. T. Ramey informed the Board of Commissioners that Ridgeway Missionary Baptist Church has always owned the cemetery and he doesn't think a Quitclaim Deed is necessary.
- Deborah Ferruccio discussed the Noise Ordinance and the High Impact Land Use. Ms. Ferruccio stated that everyone should have equal protection under the ordinance. Ms. Ferruccio asked that Commissioners consider carefully the decisions they make concerning high impact land use. Ms. Ferruccio further noted that she feels Commissioner Davis should step down from the Warren County Environmental Action Team rather than recuse himself from voting on requests from WCEAT.
- Ken Ferruccio spoke about the Noise Ordinance and how it pertains to noise crossing property lines. Mr. Ferruccio stated that there is no protection for citizens in the Noise Ordinance.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Minutes of the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved.

B. Tax Collector's Report for February 2024 presented for Board's information in accordance with NCGS 105-350 (John Preston, Tax Administrator)

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Collector's Report for February 2024 was accepted.

C. Tax Release Requests (over & under \$100) in accordance with NCGS 105-381 "Taxpayer's Remedies" as information only (John Preston, Tax Administrator)

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous

vote, the Tax Release Requests (over & under \$100) were approved as presented.

D. Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention 2024

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention 2024 was approved.



Child Abuse Prevention Month 2024 Proclamation

WHEREAS, children are our state's most vulnerable members as well as our state's most valuable resources, helping to shape the future of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, positive childhood experiences (PCEs)—like loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—can help mitigate trauma and the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

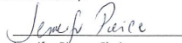
WHEREAS, nurture positive childhoods and preventing child maltreatment is possible because of the partnerships created between families, prevention advocates, child welfare professionals, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and local, state, and national governments; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that in order to solve the public health issue of abuse and neglect we must work together to change hearts and mindsets through storytelling and sharing, center the needs of families, break down bias and barriers, and inspire action from expected and unexpected partners; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to advancing equitable, responsive, and effective systems that ensure all children and families are healthy and thriving; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to prioritize kids and invest in more prevention initiatives like home visiting and family-strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I [Jennifer Jordan Pierce/Chairman] do hereby proclaim April as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in [Warrenton, Warren County] and urge all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention that does not currently exist in this country.


Jennifer Pierce, Chair

ATTEST:


Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board

E. Resolution Declaring April 2024 as National County Government Month

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution Declaring April 2024 as National County Government Month was approved.

National County Government Month - April 2024

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 330 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents' lives; and

WHEREAS, Warren County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Mary Jo McGuire, NACo is highlighting county leadership through the lens ForwardTogether, celebrating the role of county governments in connecting, inspiring and leading as intergovernmental partners; and

WHEREAS, that role includes a responsibility to inspire county residents to engage with their communities, and to lead by highlighting our strength as intergovernmental partners; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Jennifer Pierce, Chairman of Warren County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials,

employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

F. Accept the Abstract of Votes for Warren County for the 2024 Primary Election Held March 5, 2024 As Information

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Abstract of Votes for Warren County for the 2024 Primary Election held on March 5, 2024 was accepted as information.

G. Consider Approval of Resolution Declaring Intent to Participate in the America 250 Grant Program

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution Declaring Intent to Participate in the America 250 Grant Program was approved.

RESOLUTION OF WARREN COUNTY

RECOGNIZING AND APPROVING OF THE WARREN COUNTY OFFICIAL
AMERICA 250 NC COMMITTEE

A resolution of Warren County, North Carolina, supporting the America 250 NC committee for the United States sesquicentennial (AMERICA 250 NC).

WHEREAS, Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina, created AMERICA 250 NC to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and North Carolina's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, AMERICA 250 NC has a mission to engage ALL North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects, and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina's contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of America 250 NC's mission, Warren County Committee is officially formed to achieve the goals of AMERICA 250 NC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Warren hereby endorses AMERICA 250 NC and its mission; and

RESOLVED, the County of Warren officially establishes an AMERICA 250 NC Committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with AMERICA 250 NC on any and all activities. The participants of the Warren County Committee will be strictly voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the legislative delegation and the AMERICA 250 NC Committee.

ADOPTED this 1 day of April, 2024

ATTEST:

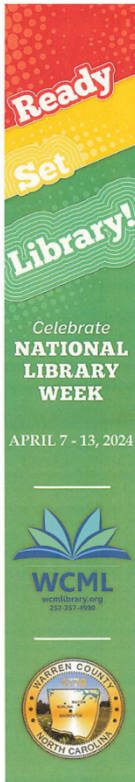

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board




Jennifer Pierce, Chair

H. Proclamation Declaring April 7 - 13, 2024 as National Library Week

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation Declaring April 7-13, 2024 as National Library Week was approved.



Warren County Memorial Library
National Library Week 2024
Proclamation

WHEREAS, libraries offer the opportunity for everyone to connect with others, learn new skills, and pursue their passions, no matter where they are on life's journey;

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted institutions, striving to ensure equitable access to information and services for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, developing and expanding collections, programs, and services that are as diverse as the populations they serve;

WHEREAS, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals;

WHEREAS, libraries play a pivotal role in economic development by providing resources and support for job seekers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, thus contributing to local prosperity and growth;

WHEREAS, libraries make choices that are good for the environment and make sense economically, creating thriving communities for a better tomorrow;

WHEREAS, libraries are treasured institutions that preserve our collective heritage and knowledge, safeguarding both physical and digital resources for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, libraries are an essential public good and fundamental institutions in democratic societies, working to improve society, protect the right to education and literacy, and promote the free exchange of information and ideas for all;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Warren County Board of Commissioners proclaim National Library Week, April 7-13, 2024. During this week, we encourage all residents to visit their library and celebrate the adventures and opportunities they unlock for us every day. Ready, Set, Library!

SIGNED: Jennifer Jordan Pierce ATTEST: Paula Pulley
Jennifer Jordan Pierce, Chairman Paula Pulley, Clerk

I. Consider Approval of Proclamation Declaring April 28 - May 5, 2024 at Soil and Water Stewardship Week

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation Declaring April 28-May 5, 2024 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week was approved.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, healthy, fertile soil and clean water is the lifeblood of nutrition and sustenance throughout the world, and soil conservation is a benefit to everyone; and,

WHEREAS, effective conservation practices ensure soil, water, animals, plants, and air can provide a rich standard of living; and,

WHEREAS, our survival and continued production and access to quality food and water depends upon the robust management of diverse natural resources nationwide; and,

WHEREAS, stewardship calls upon every individual to help conserve these precious resources to ensure their prosperity for generations to come;

Therefore, I, Roy Cooper, Governor of the North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of April 28 - May 5, 2024 as **Soil and Water Stewardship Week**.

April 1, 2024
Date

Jennifer Jordan Pierce, Chair, County Commissioners
Name and Title

Jennifer Jordan Pierce
Signature

4. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith, Interim County Manager

A. Warren County Brownfields Program Update (Information Only)

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan, along with Darin McClure and Ruth Tull, provided an update on the Brownfields Program. The County received an EPA Brownfields

Assessment Grant of \$500,000 in 2022. At this time, the County has approximately 20% of those funds remaining.

B. NC GREAT Grant Update (Information Only)

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan reported that the County agreed to partner with Spectrum on their GREAT Grant Funding. It was reported that Zytel is no longer eligible for funding for Broadband, but NCDIT is looking for ways to cover the areas that Zytel was going to cover and those that are not covered by Spectrum or AccessON.

C. Quilters Lane Committee (Town of Warrenton) Temporary Art Request for Eastern Bluebird Festival

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, request from the Quilters Lane Committee for a temporary art placement on County property for the Eastern Bluebird Festival was approved.

D. Legacy NC Mural Art

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Interim County Manager Crystal Smith was directed to move forward with the Legacy NC Mural Art Project, and to form a committee to work on the Project.

E. Frank Newell Plaque Location Discussion

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, placement of a plaque honoring Frank Newell and his work with Eastern Bluebirds at the Warren County Recreation Center was approved.

F. NC DOT Mobility Hub Grant Update (Information Only)

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan informed the Board that NCDOT did not receive funding for the Mobility Hub Grant, so therefore the County is no longer obligated to the matching funds that were previously approved.

G. RFP for Design and Engineering Services for Mixed-Use Development and Warren County Community Center (information only)

A Request for Proposals for Design and Engineering Services for Mixed-Use Development and Warren County Community Center is on the County website.

H. Keep Warren County Beautiful Update

Seventeen Warren County Employees participated in Litter Sweep on March 22, 2024. Between 35 and 40 bags of trash were collected on Warren Plains Road between Airport Road and Hwy 158 Bypass.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Approval of Landfill Transfer Station Marathon Waste Compactor Replacement in an Amount Not to Exceed \$188,673 - Marshall Brothers, Public Works Director

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, replacement of the Landfill Transfer Station Marathon Waste Compactor in an amount not to exceed \$188,673 was approved.

B. Declare Surplus Property and Authorize Disposal Through Online Auction - Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, resolution declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal through online auction was approved.

C. Consider Approval of Warren County Airport Lease Agreement Termination

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the termination of the Warren County Airport Lease Agreement was approved.

D. Consider Approval of Quitclaim Deed Clarifying Ownership of Ridgeway Baptist Church Cemetery

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Quitclaim Deed clarifying ownership of the Ridgeway Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery was

approved.

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

A. Consider Approval of Re-Appointments of Cathy Alston-Kearney to a 4th Term as Warren County Schools Representative; and Hilda Baskerville and Marion Richards to a 3rd Term as Member At-Large on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) for Two-Year Terms Ending January 31, 2026.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Marion Richards (3rd Term) and Hilda Baskerville (3rd Term) were reappointed to two-year terms ending January 31, 2026 on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). Re-appointment of Cathy Alston-Kearney was tabled until the May 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting for clarification of role.

B. Consider Re-Appointments of Julian Alford (2nd Term), Julius Mann (3rd Term), and Carroll Harris (3rd Term) to the Board of Equalization and Review with Terms Beginning April 2024 and Ending March 2027

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Julian Alford (2nd Term), Julius Mann (3rd Term), and Carroll Harris (3rd Term) were re-appointed to the Board of Equalization and Review for three-year terms beginning April 2024 and ending March 2027.

7. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

Commissioner Davis recognized Dr. DeMarius of Vance Granville Community College. Dr. DeMarius stated she was there to officially ask the County for an appointment to the VGCC Board of Trustees for a four-year term. Dr. Demarius further stated that Vance Granville Community College will be offering admission to VGCC to all Warren County 2024 High School Graduates.

Tyrell Alston of Trillium gave a brief update on the transition to Trillium.

8. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board entered Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) for Property Acquisition.

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

9. ADJOURN April 1, 2024 BOARD MEETING

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board