



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

December 2, 2024

MINUTES

The December 2, 2024 Board of Commissioners Organizational and Regular Meeting was called to order by County Attorney Shiekell Richardson. In attendance were Commissioners Victor Hunt, Tare Davis, Bertadean Baker, newly elected Commissioners Al Cooper, Jr. and Angelena Kearney Dunlap, and County Manager Crystal Smith.

1. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS:

Angelena Kearney Dunlap - District 1

Al Cooper, Jr. - District 5

Newly elected Commissioners Al Cooper, Jr. and Angelena Kearney Dunlap were sworn into the office of Commissioner by Warren County Clerk of Court Rolanda Hedgepeth.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A. Election of Chairman to the Board of Warren County Commissioners

County Attorney Shiekell Richardson opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Warren County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Hunt nominated Commissioner Kearney Dunlap for Chair.

Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Cooper, but Cooper declined the nomination. On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, nominations for Chair were closed.

County Attorney Richardson called for a vote for Chair. With five votes, Commissioner Kearney Dunlap was elected Chair of the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

B. Election of Vice-Chairman to the Board of Warren County Commissioners

Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Cooper for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Baker nominated Commissioner Hunt for Vice-Chair. On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, nominations for Vice-Chair were closed. By a vote of three to two, Commissioner Hunt was elected Vice-Chair of the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

C. Appointment of County Attorney (Shiekell Richardson presently serving)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Shiekell Richardson was re-appointed as County Attorney. Pursuant to NCGS 153A-114, the County Attorney is appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

D. Appointment of Clerk to the Board (Paula Pulley presently serving)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Paula Pulley was re-appointed as Clerk to the Board. Pursuant to NCGS 153A-111, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint or designate a Clerk to the Board. The Board may designate the Register of Deeds or any other County Officer or employee as Clerk. The Clerk shall perform any duties that may be required by law or the Board of Commissioners. The Clerk shall serve as such at the pleasure of the Board.

E. Appointment of Deputy Clerk to the Board (Monique Hinton presently serving)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Monique Hinton was re-appointed as Deputy Clerk to the Board.

F. Appointment of Finance Officer (Nikki Dickerson presently serving)

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Nikki Dickerson was re-appointed as Finance Officer. Pursuant to NCGS 159-24, each local government and public authority shall appoint a Finance Officer to hold office at the pleasure of the

appointing Board or Official. The Finance Officer may be entitled "accountant", "treasurer", "finance director", "finance officer", or any other reasonably descriptive title. The duties of the Finance Officer may be imposed on the budget officer or any other officer or employee on whom duties of budget officer may be imposed.

G. Appointment of Deputy Tax Collectors: Jane Wilson, Cherrina Neville, Joanna Dickerson, Tax Collection Specialist Yvonne Sharps, Delinquent Tax Collector Karen Towns

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Alma Jane Wilson, Cherrina Neville, Joanna Dickerson, Yvonne Sharps (Tax Collection Specialist), and Karen Towns (Delinquent Tax Collector) were re-appointed as Deputy Tax Collectors.

H. Designation of Depositories for Warren County Funds: First Citizens Bank & Trust, Truist, NC Capital Management Trust

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, First Citizens Bank & Trust, Truist Bank, and NC Capital Management Trust were designated as depositories for Warren County Funds.

I. Authorization to Honor Facsimile Signatures for Warren County Operating Account, Warren County General Funds - Payroll Account & Flexible Spending Account: County Finance Officer, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, authorization of honor facsimile signatures of County Finance Officer Nikki Dickerson, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Angelena Kearney Dunlap, and Clerk to the Board Paula Pulley for Warren County Operating Accounts and Warren County General Funds was approved.

J. Warren County Department of Social Services Trust Fund Account: Department of Social Services Director Renae Alston, Warren County Manager Crystal Smith, Finance Officer Nikki Dickerson

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, authorization to honor facsimile signatures of Department of Social Services Director Renae Alston and/or Warren County Manager Crystal Smith and/or Finance Officer Nikki Dickerson for Warren County Department of Social Services Trust Fund Account was approved.

3. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda, with the removal of Item 6B, was adopted.

4. 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.

1 - Reinaldo Espinosa spoke to the Board about a need for a dedicated place for Veterans to gather.

2 - Dwayne Hicks suggested that the Sheriff's Department use more AI technology in order to free up money that could be used for the school system.

3 - Deborah Ferruccio spoke to the Board about the need to look at how we protect and use the land in the county. Ferruccio stated that the county has county-wide zoning, but needs to do something about the High Impact Land Use section of the Noise Ordinance.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

B. Tax Collector's Report for October 2024 Presented for Board's Information in Accordance with NCGS 105-350

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

vote, the Tax Collector's Report for October 2024 was accepted.

C. Tax Release Requests (over/under \$100) in Accordance with NCGS 105-381 "Taxpayer's Remedies" as Information Only

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Release Requests (over/under \$100) was accepted.

6. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith

A. Update on CAB 2.0 broadband funding and HB10

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan stated that the previously required match for the CAB grant that Warren County was awarded has been released. Matching funds of \$400,000 were already paid to NCDIT and we can either leave the funds there for future broadband expansion, or request the funds be returned. On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the funds will be left with NCDIT for future broadband expansion funding.

B. Consider Approval of Revised Resolution to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by the Warren County Board of Commissioners

This item was removed pending further information.

C. Organization Updates

1 - Public Utilities Director Eric St. Sing informed the Board of the increase in water line locate requests with the build-out of Spectrums fiber broadband services. There is currently not enough man-power in Public Utilities to keep up with the request load. More information will be available at the December 18, 2024 Work Session.

2 - County Manager Crystal Smith stated that Tina Robinson and Yvonne Sharps of the Tax Office have assumed additional duties following the resignation of Tax Administrator John Preston.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider the Approval of the Schedule of Values for the 2025 Revaluation

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Schedule of Values for the 2025 Revaluation was approved.

8. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

1 - Commissioner Davis congratulated Commissioner Kearney Dunlap and Commissioner Cooper and welcomed them to the Board of Commissioners.

2 - Commissioner Cooper stated he is looking forward to working with the Board and the community.

3 - Commissioner Baker welcomed Commissioner Kearney Dunlap and Commissioner Cooper.

4 - Commissioner Hunt congratulated Commissioner Kearney Dunlap and Commissioner Cooper.

5 - Commissioner Kearney Dunlap thanked the Board for the honor of serving as Chair of the Board of Commissioners, and stated she plans to hold more listening sessions and sessions to educate the community about local government.

9. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION

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 Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board returned to Open Session.

10. ADJOURN December 2, 2024 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the December 2, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting was closed.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board