



Board of Commissioners Work Session
RESCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2025 TO
FEBRUARY 24, 2025
February 24, 2025
MINUTES

Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap called the February 24, 2025 Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance. Those attending were Vice Chair Victor Hunt, Commissioner Tare Davis, Commissioner Al Cooper, County Manager Crystal Smith, and County Attorney Shiekel Richardson. Commissioner Bertadean Baker attended virtually.

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Warren County Historic Jail and Potential MOU Revision Discussion - County Manager Crystal Smith and Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan

Discussion concerning the Warren County Historic Jail and Potential MOU Revision was moved to the April 16, 2025 Work Session.

B. Public Access Channel (PEG) - County Manager Crystal Smith

County Manager Crystal Smith informed the Board of Commissioners of ongoing discussions concerning the creation of a Public Access Channel for Warren County. The implementation will require an upgrade to the internet service which will increase the monthly cost. More information will be provided as available.

C. Space Needs Study Update - Marshal Brothers, Public Works Director

Thomas Madre of The Wooten Company presented the findings of the recent Space Needs Study.

Overall, the current space available for all Warren County facilities is 98,479 square feet and the current need is 166,515 square feet. The full report is available at [Warren County Space Needs Final Report](#).

D. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Economic Development Commission as Recommended by the Economic Development Commission

After much discussion about the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Economic Development Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote to refer the item back to the Economic Development Commission, Community & Economic Development Staff, County Manager, and County Attorney for further discussions and revisions.

E. Consider Approval of Purchase of Phone System from ATCOM for Department of Social Services in the Amount of \$76,407.17 Financed Through Graybar Financial for a Total Cost of \$132,625.80 to be Paid in 60 Monthly Installments of \$2210.43 and Authorize County Manager to Execute All Related Documents

After discussion concerning the financing terms, motion was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the phone system from ATCOM at the cost of \$76,467 and to pay in full from Fund Balance rather than financing.

F. Opportunity to Voice Concerns and Questions to US Representatives - Chair Angelena Kearney Dunlap

Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap informed the Board and the public that County officials will be meeting with US Representatives in Washington, DC. Chairperson Kearney Dunlap invited Departments

and organizations to write letters to the Representatives detailing their needs. The letters will be delivered by Commissioners during their visit.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Carolina Across 100 "Our State, Our Homes" Initiative Update - Rose Ponton, Community Development Division Manager

Community Development Division Manager Rose Ponton and Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan provided information about the Carolina Across 100 "Our State, Our Home" Initiative. Warren County was selected as one of 14 teams in the state to participate in this strategic planning program. All costs associated with this program are covered by the Carolina Across 100 initiative.

B. Co-ops for Community Transformation - Carolyn Ross Holmes, Ella Baker Education Project of NC

Carolyn Ross Holmes provided information on Co-ops and the ways they impact communities. Ms. Ross Holmes invited Commissioners, staff, and community members to join The Front Porch Co-op. More information on that co-op can be found at thefrontporch.coop.

4. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

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

5. ADJOURN February 24, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the February 24, 2025 Work Session was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board