



Moore County Board of Commissioners

May 28, 2024 | 9:30 AM
Moore County Senior Enrichment Center
8040 US Hwy 15/501
West End, NC 27376

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Nick Picerno, Vice Chairman Kurt Cook, Frank Quis, John Ritter, Jim Von Canon

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Picerno called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

County Manager Wayne Vest offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Von Canon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. Administration - BUDGET UPDATE

County Manager Wayne Vest reviewed highlights of his FY25 recommended budget presentation. He discussed the potential for a 2-cent tax rate reduction rather than the 1-cent reduction he had presented on May 21. This would not impact the Schools or the College as they would still receive the amount presented by Mr. Vest previously. Chairman Picerno noted that the previous year was a revaluation year, so they were conservative, but it shook out well. He said the County was still, in his opinion, taking more from the public than was needed and there was a great opportunity to cut another penny. Chairman Picerno discussed funds for the fire departments, pay-as-you-go opportunities, and the County's sound financial condition. He discussed that the additional penny reduction would be helpful to taxpayers, and he recommended that the Board consider it, and that this would be the third straight year of tax reductions for Moore County. Commissioner Ritter thanked Chairman Picerno and Commissioner Cook for their hours of work and dedication on the Budget Task Force. He said it was time consuming and they were mindful that it was the taxpayers' money. Commissioner Ritter endorsed the two-cent reduction. Commissioner Quis noted that he liked the pay-as-you-go philosophy, and the Schools had significant needs. He asked how much of the capital reserve the Schools could draw on if they had a major project Chairman Picerno noted it was approaching \$40 million. The tax reduction would probably allow the County to

put \$3-6 million more instead of \$5-7 million more. Commissioner Quis encouraged the continued building of that fund so pay-as-you-go was an option when they could handle it, and he said this was a very responsible budget. Commissioner Von Canon expressed his appreciation. Mr. Vest said they would go with the two-cent reduction plan.

B. Administration - COUNTY CAPITAL NEEDS PRIORITIES

County Manager Wayne Vest shared that he had received a call from Rep. Jackson the previous week asking if the County had any needs for which State funding might be requested. Some potential needs were reviewed by Public Works Director Randy Gould and by Property Management Director Gene Boles. The commissioners also discussed potential needs for the new high school at Sandhills Community College as well as an upgrade of the Davis Center in Robbins as a potential training site for the College and/or a food bank location. Mr. Vest indicated he would reach back to Rep. Jackson on the timeline.

C. Sheriff - ANIMAL SHELTER UPDATE

Sheriff Ronnie Fields discussed the possibility of the construction of a surgical suite for the animal shelter and hiring an in-house veterinarian. The Board expressed support for a \$500,000 allocation that would be required for this project.

D. Public Works - WATER UPDATE AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE DISCUSSION / ACTION

Public Works Director Randy Gould provided an update on water sources and reviewed the system development fee information. The commissioners discussed the water source options, interbasin transfers, the impacts of growth, and self-reliance. Regarding the system development fees, they agreed to place the item on the next regular meeting agenda.

Chairman Picerno called for a 10-minute recess.

E. Board of Commissioners - SENATE BILL 166

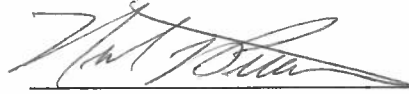
Chairman Picerno discussed the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ) and the different sides of the issue. Planning Director Debra Ensminger reviewed information about the ETJ and County Attorney Misty Leland reviewed information from the general statutes and local legislation. Ms. Ensminger shared the history of some ETJ expansion requests in Moore County. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of the ETJ, and several citizens offered comments and perspectives as well. Chairman Picerno expressed the Board's appreciation for everyone's input.

F. Board of Commissioners - SPECIAL FORCES MEMORIAL CENTER

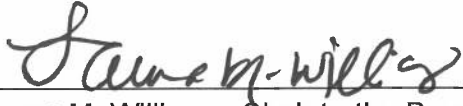
This item was not addressed during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon motion made by Commissioner Quis, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the May 28, 2024, Special Meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners at 12:30pm.



Nick Picerno, Chairman



Laura M. Williams, Clerk to the Board

