



**CURRITUCK COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA**

September 14, 2020  
Minutes – Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

**5:00 CALL TO ORDER**

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners met at 5:00 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse, 153 Courthouse Road, for a Special Meeting.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bob White	Chairman	Present	
Mike H. Payment	Vice Chairman	Present	
Paul M. Beaumont	Commissioner	Present	
J. Owen Etheridge	Commissioner	Present	
Mary "Kitty" Etheridge	Commissioner	Present	
Selina S. Jarvis	Commissioner	Present	
Kevin E. McCord	Commissioner	Present	

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

**A. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman White amended the agenda to change the order of items. Item C, Budget/Staffing Review and Discussion, was moved to Item A, to be followed by Legislative Goals and Local Legislation discussions.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payment. The motion carried.

Approved agenda:

**5:00 Call to Order**

A) Approval of Agenda

**New Business**

A) Budget/Staffing Review and Discussion-Amended, moved to Item A from Item C

B) Legislative Goals Discussion

C) Local Legislation Discussion

### **Closed Session**

Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to Consult with the County Attorney and Preserve the Attorney-Client Privilege

### **Adjourn**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bob White, Chairman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike H. Payment, Vice Chairman
<b>AYES:</b>	Bob White, Chairman, Mike H. Payment, Vice Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Commissioner, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Budget/Staffing Review and Discussion**

Denise Hall, Register of Deeds, was invited to address the Board about her request to reclassify a Register of Deeds employee. Ms. Hall reviewed additional duties the employee has assumed and the cost of the reclassification was presented. Reclassification for the employee was approved by the Board.

At the September 8, 2020 Board meeting, Commissioners asked for additional information on a new Major position requested for the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Beickert attended to review the duties of the Major position for the Board. Salary and departmental structure changes were discussed and Sheriff Beickert responded to questions from Commissioners. Concerns over possible salary compression and the change to the command structure resulted in Commissioners denying the Sheriff's request for a Major. Commissioners instead authorized an additional Captain position. A Lieutenant and Evidence Tech for the Sheriff's office had previously been approved by Commissioners and put back into the budget.

Ben Stikeleather, County Manager, presented job duties and costs of salary and benefits for a new Solid Waste Superintendent position to support Public Works. The position was approved by Commissioners. Following discussion, Commissioners requested digital signs be installed at county waste sites that could be used to disseminate information to citizens.

During the September 8, 2020, budget review, Commissioners asked Mr. Stikeleather to determine the cost for an employee bonus to delay implementing the cost of living increase. Mr. Stikeleather reported a cost of \$135,466 for a \$250.00 per employee

bonus, and the Board of Commissioners approved the bonus for distribution in early December.

Discussion concluded at 5:45 PM, at which time Chairman White called a 45 minute recess.

### **B. Legislative Goals Discussion**

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 PM and Commissioners began discussion of selecting which Legislative Goals they want to support for possible consideration by the General Assembly in their next Legislative Session. County Manager, Ben Stikeleather, distributed the most current list of Legislative Goals compiled by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). He said a NCACC goals committee will select and submit the goals to the state legislature and will represent issues that can be supported by all one hundred North Carolina counties.

Commissioners selected several items included in the NCACC listing, including Priority Goals 1, 3 and 5, GG-4, JPS-2 and PE-2. New goals included support for school vouchers, construction impact fees, enhanced safety for large, residential construction, keeping Social Services under local authority, and allowing the transport of mental health patients to the nearest facility, including over state lines.

### **C. Local Legislation Discussion**

The Board of Commissioners selected items to be submitted and considered by the North Carolina General Assembly for Local Legislation in Currituck County. Topics included allowing revenues from Beach Parking Permits to be used for infrastructure upgrades in the off-road area, eliminating the print advertising requirement for legal ads and notices, and allowing access to Currituck County beach communities through Dare County when travel in Dare County is restricted. Other items discussed included legislation to prevent closure of the Currituck/Knotts Island ferry, relief from Coastal Area Management Act regulations that prohibit maintenance of drainage systems, and allowing the transfer of development rights. Two Legislative Goals, school impact fees for new home construction and cross-state travel for medical health transport were also considered for submission as Local Legislation. Mr. Stikeleather said he will contact state representatives to get a time frame for submittal.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to Consult with the County Attorney and Preserve the Attorney-Client Privilege**

Commissioner McCord moved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Board entered Closed Session.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Bob White, Chairman, Mike H. Payment, Vice Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Commissioner, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner

## ADJOURN

Commissioners returned from Closed Session and, prior to adjournment, discussed the idea of a land swap between the county and the National Estuarine Research Reserve. The swap would give the county access to unrestricted land which could be used as an off-road beach recreation area. County Attorney, Ike McRee, explained the plan and said the property exchange would offer access to the county land by providing the ability to shift the road and beach ramp to the north. Commissioners directed staff to contact representatives from the National Estuarine Research Reserve about the land swap.

There was no further business and Commissioner Beaumont moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCord. The motion carried and the Special Meeting concluded at 7:40 PM.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Paul M. Beaumont, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Bob White, Chairman, Mike H. Payment, Vice Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Commissioner, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner

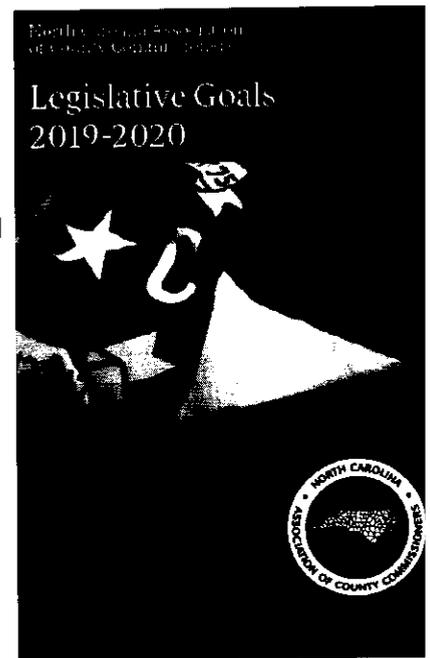
## 2019-2020 Legislative Goals

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### As Approved by the Legislative Goals Conference

#### Top Five Priority Goals

- 1) Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.
- 2) Seek additional revenue sources, including a statewide bond and lottery proceeds, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges.
- 3) Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction to all counties. Oppose efforts to divert to the state, fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county revenue streams.
- 4) Support provision of state resources to ensure county ability to provide essential public health, behavioral health and social services, with specific consideration to the challenges of incarcerated persons, the continued county role in behavioral health governance, and programs addressing substance use disorder, throughout Medicaid transformation.
- 5) Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over appropriations to the local board of education's capital outlay fund.



Attachment: Legislative Goals-Sept 14 2020 SpecMtg (Legislative Goals)

#### Tax and Finance Goals

**TF-1:** Support efforts to preserve and expand the existing local revenue base of counties and authorize local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction to all counties. Oppose efforts to divert to the state fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county revenue streams.

**TF-2:** Support legislation to remove inequities and inconsistencies in the current state economic tier system.

**TF-3:** Support reinstatement of affordable housing tax credits.

**TF-4:** Seek legislation to maximize remote sales tax collection for counties, including sales tax collection from third-party online sellers.

**TF-5 :** Seek legislation to increase funding for the state's current film grant program and review existing legislation to allow tax incentives and other measures that would encourage expansion of the statewide film industry.

### **General Government Goals**

**GG-1:** Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.

**GG-2:** Support increased state funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.

**GG-3:** Seek legislation to authorize counties to require developers to post maintenance bonds on new construction for subdivision roads

**GG-4:** Support maintaining county authority and revenue streams associated with the current ABC system, including the flexibility to determine locations of sales and number of outlets.

### **Health and Human Services Goals**

**HHS-1:** Seek funding to increase access to high quality childcare and early childhood education.

**HHS-2:** Support legislation and state resources for social service reform efforts as identified by the Social Services Working Group to improve outcomes for individuals, families, and children and to continue the NCACC's opposition to mandated regionalization.

**HHS-3:** Support provision of state resources to ensure county ability to provide essential public health, behavioral health and social services, with specific consideration to the challenges of incarcerated persons, the continued county role in behavioral health governance, and programs addressing substance use disorder, throughout Medicaid transformation.

**HHS-4:** Support continued state funding of Medicaid and support legislation and state funding to close the Medicaid coverage gap.

**HHS-5:** Seek to revise the provision in G.S. 108A-74 requiring counties to enter into annual written agreements for all social services programs other than medical assistance.

### **Public Education Goals**

**PE-1:** Seek additional revenue sources, including a statewide bond and lottery proceeds, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges.

**PE-2:** Support legislation to provide exceptions to the K-3 class size mandate including but not limited to lack of school facility space and availability of qualified teachers.

**PE-3:** Support legislation providing flexibility to align K-12 and community college calendars.

**PE-4:** Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-431(c) that allows a local school board to file suit against a county board of commissioners over appropriations to the local board of education's capital outlay fund.

**Justice and Public Safety Goals**

**JPS-1:** Seek legislation to reinstate funding for Drug Treatment and Mental Health Courts.

**JPS-2:** Support legislation and state funding to provide early intervention services for juveniles and fully fund the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act.

**JPS-3:** Support efforts to provide greater flexibility to local governments in expenditure of 911 surcharge funds and ensure adequate funding for next-gen technology.

**Agriculture Goals**

**AG-1:** Support state funding and staffing for agricultural research, Cooperative Extension services and other agriculture-related efforts, including Community Conservation Assistance Program, to support the largest economic driver in North Carolina.

**AG-2:** Support legislation to protect farming operations from nuisance lawsuits including those as defined by the state and small farms in rural counties.

**Environment Goals**

**ENV-1:** Seek legislation to restore county authority over solid waste management and oppose any further shift of authority away from local governments.

**ENV-2:** Support legislation to help improve water quality in the state, including increased funding and resources for state agencies to develop health advisory levels for emerging contaminants, and increased funding for water and wastewater expansion as well as capital projects.

**ENV-3:** Support additional funding to assist local governments in managing electronics recycling.