



**MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023**

The Moore County Board of Commissioners convened for a Special Meeting beginning at 9:00am, Monday, April 17, 2023, at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US HWY 15, West End, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting, duly advertised, was for a work session for updates, review, and recommendations for task forces.

Commissioners Present:

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

Chairman Picerno called the meeting to order. County Manager Wayne Vest offered the invocation and Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Picerno welcomed everyone.

Chairman Picerno discussed that after speaking with legislators, it was determined the time had come and passed for submitting resolutions for legislators to consider. Therefore, he recommended dissolution of the Legislative Task Force (Commissioners Cook and Ritter). Upon motion made by Chairman Picerno, seconded by Commissioner Von Canon, the Board voted 5-0 to dissolve the Legislative Task Force.

Budget Task Force (Commissioners Picerno and Quis)

Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Tami Golden reviewed funds for the FY24 proposed budget and County Manager Wayne Vest provided a few updates including that the proposal included some new positions, a COLA for employees, and holding the line on health insurance premiums. Chairman Picerno asked the Board if there were any questions or suggested adjustments and the commissioners responded favorably to what was being proposed. Chairman Picerno said he and Commissioner Quis recognized that it was not their money, and every penny was money the County took.

Economic Task Force (Commissioners Quis and Von Canon)

County Manager Wayne Vest provided an update on the Iron Horse project, which was currently on hold because the owners of the front parcel were not willing to provide an easement for an access road.

Mr. Vest and Commissioner Quis provided updates regarding the Community Transportation Program and Metropolitan Planning Organization, including that the County's population was projected to increase to

about 170,000 by the year 2050. It was shared that Foxfire and Carthage had recently contacted NCDOT with requests to be added to the MPO. The Secretary of Transportation would ultimately have to approve whatever was proposed. Chairman Picerno asked how the Board could assist and Commissioner Quis said there was nothing that needed to be done at this stage. He said the County would be part of the MPO because of the areas that were unincorporated. He indicated he would share updates in a few weeks. Discussion followed regarding potential areas available for development, density, funding, etc.

Mr. Vest commented regarding the Board's recent meeting with the Airport Authority and their request to the County for funding for grant matching. Chairman Picerno shared that Sen. McInnis put in a request for \$5 million in the State's budget for renovation of the terminal.

Mr. Vest shared that Assistant County Manager Janet Parris had been attending meetings relating to childcare. Ms. Parris indicated she did not have anything new to share at this point and there would be another meeting the next month. She said the group was looking at another county's solutions. Commissioner Quis, who also attended the meetings, said they would be presented with the Cabarrus County model at the next meeting.

Homelessness Task Force (Commissioners Picerno and Von Canon)

Chairman Picerno discussed that input was needed regarding ideas/suggestions on how to move forward, and that there was only so much a governmental entity could do. He encouraged the public to give input as well. Commissioner Von Canon discussed affordable housing and working with Cliff Brown with TeamWorkz, who had presented to the Board at a previous work session. Chairman Picerno mentioned a senate bill that would provide housing space that would not be overseen by Moore County but would rather be under State jurisdiction. He said Commissioner Cook had brought up some good points regarding giving up local control and had written an analysis. Commissioner Cook indicated he would share it with the Board.

Commissioner Quis noted housing was an issue statewide. He shared that he had received an invitation from Habitat for Humanity to talk with various parties regarding 100 acres they had purchased. Their intention was to build a mix of housing, and they were asking if the County wanted to be a partner in it. Commissioner Quis said he would plan to attend the meeting.

Land Use Plan/Unified Development Ordinance Task Force (Commissioners Picerno and Ritter)

County Manager Wayne Vest noted that the next Planning Board meeting was coming up on May 4 so now was the time to decide anything the commissioners wanted them to consider. Mr. Vest reviewed the land use and zoning maps and discussed discrepancies in the Land Use Plan and UDO regarding major subdivisions. Chairman Picerno discussed the 2013 Land Use Plan and noted that there were representatives on the steering committee at that time from both sides of the development issues, but the overall driver of the plan was to keep the County's rural integrity. He said the differences in the documents needed to be reconciled because it was not fair to homeowners or the business community and everyone needed to know what the rules were. Mr. Vest discussed options including reconciling the Land Use Plan to the UDO, reconciling the UDO to the Land Use Plan, or leaving it like it was and sending it to a committee. He reviewed possible language and noted what processes would have to be followed for each option. Commissioner Quis said he hoped the people would have a chance to understand this and weigh in. He said there was certainly an advantage to

making the documents match but noted issues such as water quality, etc. and said they needed to think about long-term growth that extending water lines would cause. He said he really did want to hear from the people of Moore County about the changes. Mr. Vest noted public comment periods and public hearings held at the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Quis discussed that this was the perfect opportunity to really begin to look long-term. He said they needed to think about the future and proceed in a prudent way. Chairman Picerno said he agreed that they needed to revise the Land Use Plan and go through some of that process, but they did not need to start over. He said there was an inconsistency that existed now, and a person had just spent thousands of dollars trying to follow inconsistent rules. He said the long plan was necessary, but they needed to fix this immediate problem. Mr. Vest offered further review of approval processes for major subdivisions and the history of some that had been approved and what had previously been allowed versus what was currently allowed. Commissioner Ritter said that before going through the scenarios this day he was inclined to fix the immediate problem but said maybe greater planning would not have to take forever. Commissioner Quis said he thought the rest of the year they could address inconsistencies. Commissioner Von Canon said they should proceed with caution. Commissioner Cook said if they did not fix the issues now, they would keep happening. He said they needed to pump the brakes because growth was inevitable. Chairman Picerno said they would come up with a timetable for getting it done and he encouraged everyone to remember property rights. Mr. Vest discussed UDO text amendments that had been brought to the Board back in the fall and they wanted to let the newly seated Board take it up. He inquired about bringing it forward again and said it was currently on the Planning Board's May 4 agenda. Chairman Picerno said to let the Planning Board tackle it and then come to the Board, and the other commissioners all agreed.

Chairman Picerno called for a short break.

Law Enforcement/Veterans Task Force (Commissioners Cook and Von Canon)

Commissioner Von Canon shared that he and Commissioner Cook had spent some time at the public safety/detention center the previous week and he provided an update regarding some of the needs identified, including HVAC for the annex, a place to impound vehicles, someone to manage parts/equipment, etc. He said the staff was working hard and conservatively. Chairman Picerno shared that the Budget Task Force had approved two positions for the Veterans office in the FY24 proposed budget and had also proposed to increase the Sheriff's budget by about \$2.8 million. Property Management Director Gene Boles commented regarding renovation processes. Commissioner Cook discussed the electronic system that would also operate for the new courthouse. Commissioner Von Canon discussed the issue of childcare for staff.

Schools Liaison (Commissioner Cook)

Commissioner Cook briefly mentioned a recent Board of Education work session he had attended. Chairman Picerno said that Commissioner Cook had sent out an amazing summary of that meeting.

Opioid Task Force (Commissioners Quis and Ritter)

County Manager Wayne Vest shared that the Opioid Task Force had also created the Review and Recommendation Committee for funding proposals, and he said eleven proposals had been received.

Chairman Picerno requested that the other commissioners also receive the proposals so they could get a basis for what questions they would need to ask when they met.

Solid Waste Task Force (Commissioners Picerno and Von Canon)

County Manager Wayne Vest provided an update regarding some of the Solid Waste contracts and projects, including the Aberdeen collection site, and discussion followed. Chairman Picerno inquired about the ability to burn some of the County's leaf and limb and Property Management Director Gene Boles discussed issues with the smoke impacting the golfing community and said also the County was not permitted to burn on that site. Chairman Picerno noted the workload for Solid Waste and the addition of a new position in the proposed budget.

Water/Sewer Task Force (Commissioners Cook and Picerno)

County Manager Wayne Vest mentioned a recently approved resolution by the Board requesting State funding for sewer lines. Chairman Picerno asked if there was any way to speed up the water study and Public Works Director Randy Gould said he could certainly ask and said he did know it was being worked on. Mr. Vest and Mr. Gould discussed potential changes to interbasin transfer requirements which would be of great benefit to the County. Mr. Vest asked if the County could weigh in on it and Mr. Gould said it had been recommended to contact legislators. Chairman Picerno said he did not think it would do any good to do a resolution at this point, but they could certainly call. Commissioner Quis said as a community, they had not seen some of these proposed bills and they had not been voted on yet, so he thought they should pay attention and if they did not do a resolution, they should at least have a position.

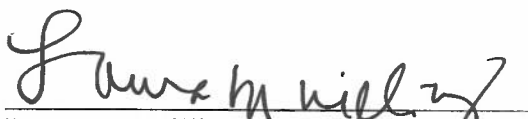
Mr. Gould noted he had a consultant proposal he would like to go over with the Task Force. Chairman Picerno asked when the water lines on Hwy 211 would be moved for the widening project and Mr. Gould said he understood it would be after the 2024 US Open. He said he had noticed they had moved some electrical utilities. Mr. Vest indicated a Task Force meeting would be scheduled.

Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion made by Commissioner Ritter, seconded by Commissioner Von Canon, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn the April 17, 2023, Special Meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners at 11:14am.



Nick Picerno, Chairman



Laura M. Williams, Clerk to the Board

