



# Wake County

301 South McDowell Street  
Raleigh, NC

## Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

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Monday, April 6, 2020

5:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

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### Regular Meeting - Meeting Held Remotely

#### Meeting Called to Order: Chairman Greg Ford

Chairman Ford called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

#### Rollcall

**Present:** 7 - Chairman Greg Ford, Vice-Chair Vickie Adamson, Commissioner Matt Calabria, Commissioner Susan Evans, Commissioner Jessica Holmes, Commissioner Sig Hutchinson, and Commissioner James West

Others Present: David Ellis, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Emily Lucas, Chief Financial Officer; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Yvonne Gilyard, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager

#### Pledge of Allegiance

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#### Invocation: Commissioner Susan Evans

Chairman Ford made comments about COVID-19 and the 1st case being one month ago. He said that Wake County is working to keep everyone safe. He thanked the citizens for their support. He said that Wake County continues to make the best decisions based on the data that Wake County has. He acknowledged the first responders and staff for their continued service.

#### Items of Business

1. Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2020

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Land Acquisition of a Parcel of Land Containing a Total of 19.59 Acres Located off S. Main Street in Southern Wake County (Fuquay-Varina Area) (Second Reading)

Attachments: [BOC Agenda Item - ToFV - Second Reading 4-6-2020 \(1\).docx](#)

[WCPSS Land Acquisition Second Reading 04-06-20.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners approve funding of the purchase price together with closing costs in an amount not to exceed \$771,921 pursuant to N.C.G.S 115C-426. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Conveyance of Waterline Easement to the City of Raleigh for the Wendell Falls Public Safety Facility

Attachments: [Agenda Item 200317.docx](#)

[Deed of Easement for Waterline and Exhibit A.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners:**

**1. Approve the conveyance of a Waterline Easement to the City of Raleigh for the Wendell Falls Public Safety Facility; and**

**2. Authorize the Chairman to execute a Deed of Easement for Waterline along with any other supporting documentation, subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Amendment to Bond Sale Approach Utilized for Proposed Series 2020A and 2020B General Obligation Refunding Bonds not to exceed \$77,000,000

**Attachments:**    [20200406 Item Summary - 2020AB GO Refunding Bonds Amending Resolution.docx](#)  
[20200406 Attachment 1 - Amending Resolution.docx](#)  
[20200406 Attachment 2 - Statement of Financial Advisor.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution making certain amendments to resolutions adopted by the Board regarding the proposed issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds by the County of Wake, North Carolina. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Grant Award for Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal Child Health

**Attachments:**    [Agenda Item.docx](#)  
[Wake County Human Services- ICO4MCH RFA 370 Applicants Letter .pdf](#)  
[Budget Memo - Human Services DHHS 4-6-20.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners accept and appropriate \$39,581 of revenues and expenditures into the General Fund from the NC DHHS and establish 5 FTES to improve community outcomes for maternal child health. The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Wake County Unallocated Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety

**Attachments:**    [Agenda Item.docx](#)  
[Budget Memo - Human Services JCPC 4-6-20.pdf](#)  
[JCPC Raise the Age Expansion Allocations by County.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners accept and appropriate \$150,746 of additional funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). The funds will be used to support community-based programs to purchase additional equipment for JCPC funded programs. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.

**Attachments:**    [Budget Reallocations Item Summary 4-6-20.doc](#)  
                          [County Capital Fund Budget Memo - Automation.pdf](#)  
                          [County Capital Fund Budget Memo - Public Safety.pdf](#)  
                          [County Capital Fund Budget Memo - Open Space.pdf](#)  
                          [County Capital Fund Budget Memo - Parks.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners:**

**1.    Reallocate \$793,927.00 of savings in projects across multiple Elements to Uncommitted Funds in the County Capital Projects Fund; and**

**2.    Reallocate \$70,339.61 of sale of fixed asset revenue from the Open Space Element to the Parks, Recreation, Greenways, and Open Space Element of the County Capital Projects Fund.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.    WakeMed and Wake County Memorandum of Understanding regarding Prescription Pricing by WakeMed for Vulnerable Populations**

**Attachments:**    [WakeMed MOU bc ver1.docx](#)  
                          [Memorandum.docx](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wake County and WakeMed regarding the provision of indigent care by WakeMed, upon terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.    Amendments to the Wake County Public School System Appropriation**

**Attachments:**    [Amendments to FY 2020 WCPSS Appropriation.docx](#)  
                          [FY2020 WCPSS Purpose and Function Amendments.pdf](#)  
                          [2.21.2020 ADOPTION OF THE 2019-2020 ANNUAL BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION.pdf](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners amend the FY 2020 General Fund Budget Ordinance to reflect realignment of WCPSS's allocation by purpose and function based on the Board of Education's revised budget. The motion passed unanimously.**

**11. Resolution Dissolving the Wake County Commission for Women**

**Attachments:**    [Item Summary Commission for Women Dissolution 2020-Revised.docx](#)  
[Womens Commission Resolution 4-6-20.docx](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners consider a dissolution of the Wake County Commission for Women effective April 6, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.**

**12. Tax Committee Recommendations for Value Adjustments, Penalty Waivers, Tax Relief Applications, Refund Requests and Various Reports**

**Attachments:**    [Tax Collections Item Summary](#)  
[Tax Committee Agenda Process](#)  
[Executive Summary 1](#)  
[Executive Summary 2](#)  
[April 2020 Refunds Under 500.pdf](#)  
[April 2020 Refunds Over 500.pdf](#)  
[Daily Updates For Exemptions](#)  
[Daily Updates For Penalties](#)  
[Daily Updates For Tax Relief](#)  
[Daily Updates For Tax Deferments](#)  
[Municipal Collection Report](#)  
[Wake County Collection Report](#)  
[Monthly In-Rem Foreclosure Report](#)  
[PFB Summary Report](#)

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, that the Board of Commissioners approve the attached recommendation by the Tax Committee. The motion passed unanimously.**

**16. Public Comments**

**Attachments:**    [Responses\\_All\\_200406.pdf](#)

Ms. Denise Hogan, Wake County Clerk, provided a summary of public comments received.

Brittany, Cary, N.C. expressed her concern about Duke Hospitals allowing birth partners to come and go from the hospital and she would like to know if that can change.

Michael Atwood, Holly Springs, N.C. asks the board to rescind the emergency stay-at-home order.

Keith Karisson, Raleigh, N.C. asks the board for more details on the concentration of where the COVID-19 cases are located in Wake County.

Matt C, Apex, N.C. is concerned about why pet grooming businesses are closed in Wake County.

Nicole, Wake Forest, N.C. asked the board about accelerating unemployment applications for the self employed.

Patrick Gentry, Raleigh, N.C. asked the board to rescind the stay-at-home order, he said it is a violation of the 14th Amendment.

Kristen Blair, Cary, N.C. asked the board to reconsider allowing landscaping and garden centers to remain open.

Tonya Harper, Fuquay-Varina, asked the board to consider closing model homes and to allow realtors to sell homes virtually.

Hilary, Willow Spring, N.C. asked for more strict rules for the stay-at-home order.

Steve Rao, Morrisville, N.C. asked the county to participate in the Global Hackathon for a more efficient way to view pandemic data.

Geraldine Alshamy, Raleigh, N.C. asked the county to allocate resources for families renting homes.

The full version of the Public Comments will be part of the public record and attached to the minutes of the board.

Chairman Ford asked Ms. Hogan if these comments could be provided to the commissioners prior to receiving the finalized minutes in order for them to address some of the more time sensitive concerns. Ms. Hogan said that she would provide these to the board.

Commissioner West asked if staff could develop some of the concerns into action items. Chairman Ford suggested that once the public comments are received they can determine if staff needs to develop them and the commissioners can address them if they choose to.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **13. Update on Wake County's COVID-19 Response**

Attachments:     [Item Summary - COVID-19 Update 4-6-20.docx](#)

County Manager Ellis gave a COVID-19 Update:

Mr. Ellis said the COVID-19 landscape has changed a lot since our last meeting, and he would provide an update on Wake County's response efforts. Emily Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, will present on the proposed appropriation of emergency funds to cover the ongoing costs of responding to this virus.

Currently, North Carolina has 2,870 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 317 of them being right here in Wake County. However, that's not the complete picture. Since we're no longer testing everyone who shows symptoms of the virus, we estimate the real number of positive cases is even higher. We know, and we've said all along, that it's going to get worse before it gets better.

As the situation continues to evolve, so does our response. To increase social distancing, we issued a stay-at-home order for our community that runs through April 16th. I believe that is the right thing to do and I believe that as the data comes in we will see that this was the right step to take at the right time.

The order:

Restricts gatherings of any size beyond a family or household;  
Closed more non-essential businesses; and  
Provides stricter social distancing guidelines.

These restrictions help protect our residents, our healthcare workers and our hospitals by slowing the spread of the virus.

The volume of calls, emails and social media conversations we have received has increased significantly since this order went into effect. The call center received more than 5,000 calls in the two days following our announcement about the order. People wanted to know if their businesses could stay open and where their children could play outside. Our call center staff who are not professional call center staff but are nurses, social workers, and librarians, the people who chose to step up and assist the county in this time of need, have done a great job answering these questions in a calm, confident way that helps ease the callers' anxiety. Their job is not easy. It's hard to tell small business owners that they have to close their doors, and couples that they can't have their dream wedding. He said he wanted to thank the public health educators, librarian, administrative assistants and everyone in the county who has stepped up and really just got in place to assist the county in wrestling this issue.

He said since we last met, our strategy to address the virus has changed. Now that North Carolina has community spread of COVID-19, determining who came in close contact with a positive case is less useful, because the virus could be anywhere. Under our new strategy, testing is focused on those who are at higher risk for developing severe illness if they contracted the virus. That includes people over 65 years old, women who are pregnant and folks with serious underlying health conditions. In addition to this high-risk group, we're reserving testing and personal protective equipment (PPE) for our healthcare workers. They're on the front lines of this pandemic, and it's imperative that we protect them, so they can continue to serve others and save lives. By shifting to this strategy that focuses on testing our high-risk populations, we can preserve the limited personal protective equipment and test kits we have while also preventing our healthcare system from becoming overrun.

It's hard to believe, but as of today, our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been up and running for a month. Since March 6th, we've staffed the EOC from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every single day and, at this point, we're not sure when that cycle will end. Our EOC team is about 130 people strong right now, and it will probably grow over the coming weeks. These dedicated people are from every department within the county. From EMS and public health to finance and environmental services, they're coming together to serve our 1.1-million residents during this challenging time in the largest county in North Carolina. It's truly a team effort. To protect them, we've tightened our protocols. We've issued security badges that all employees assigned to the EOC must wear. We also screen all employees as they enter the building. We ask them questions about their health and take their temperature. I strongly believe we have to "walk the walk." We're doing exactly what we've recommended that businesses do, so we help keep our employees safe and healthy to tackle the challenging workload ahead.

To help share important data with the public and the media, we've launched a new dashboard on our website. It provides the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wake County - broken down by age and gender. We update it three times a day, because we're committed to being open and transparent. We also think these numbers as they grow demonstrate why it's so important for folks to stay home. We've also placed some interactive charts and graphs on our website that show projections of how quickly we could see our COVID-19 caseload double. This information seems to be resonating with the public. In March, our website had nearly 3-million unique views which is a 33 percent increase from the previous month!



The data we share online is the same data that our EOC team uses to plan for the future to keep our community safe and ultimately, save lives. When we talk about our community, that includes our most vulnerable residents. We're taking steps to protect those experiencing homelessness and those *at risk* of becoming homeless. Some of them are parents who live with their children in hotels and are feeling the economic impacts of the pandemic. Today, we're expanding our Wake Prevent! program to include these families, because you can't obey a stay-at-home order, if you don't have a home. The funding from our Housing and Community Revitalization Department will go a long way toward helping these families stave off homelessness and stay healthy. We also have been partnering with the school system and other non-profits to deliver meals. We have 34 meal distribution sites, 42 community delivery sites, we are delivering meals to 23 hotels for the homeless, targeted deliveries of dry meal bags family casseroles and frozen meal bags. Weekly deliveries of 1,150 boxes of shelf stable food. We have distributed over 226,000 meals in the county and that does not include the meals that have been prepared by the schools.

Going forward, we're focused on ensuring the EOC has the resources it needs to continue leading our coronavirus response efforts. On March 16th, the board appropriated 2 million dollars for expenses associated with COVID-19. They include salary and overtime for staff, personal protective equipment for first responders and emergency supplies. As of April 3rd, the estimated cost of our effort is 3.8 million dollars. Given the unknown duration of this response, we must look ahead and consider additional funding. Today, we will ask the board to appropriate 8.8-million dollars of the emergency fund balance to cover costs and support our response.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act passed by the federal government on March 26th will provide us with some relief funding. The President has also approved North Carolina's disaster declaration, which will make the county eligible for reimbursement for some of the expenses we've incurred.

Ms. Lucas said that in follow up to the County Manager's comments this appropriation does bring our total appropriation to \$10.8 million dollars. She said that as the County Manager stated earlier, so far the county has spent approximately \$3.8 million dollars for salaries, PPE, and contracts to support our vulnerable populations as well as keeping our facilities clean and safe for those who are still needing to come into the office. Ms. Lucas added that the federal government approved a \$2 trillion dollar stimulus package last week to go toward COVID-19 efforts and response. She said that as a jurisdiction with a population of over 500,000 the county will be able to apply directly to the federal government for this aid, hopefully, as

early as the end of this month. She stated that to the extent possible this will offset the fund balance appropriated and our expenses associated with this response and we are still evaluating how we will be able to use this money going forward not only in the direct responses that we are using but the broader effects on the community as well.

Chairman Ford thanked Ms. Lucas and said that Wake County was fortunate to be in a position to consider and offer this level of assistance. He asked the County Manager, David Ellis, if he would share the process involved with determining whether or not the county will extend or rescind the stay at home orders since the time limit the county placed is coming to an end soon.

County Manager Ellis, replied that the process will involve Ms. Regina Petteway, Human Services Director, Mr. Nick Campasano, Director of Fire and Emergency Services; and Dr. Jose Cabanas, Emergency Management Director; who are in the process of getting preliminary data now and will need to review that data to see what impact the order is having. He stated that from what they are seeing we are heading in the right direction to slow the spread of COVID 19.

Chairman Ford stated that when they set the order in place all of the county Mayors were in agreement and going forward the board will want to be sure that any changes to the order are once again approved by all of the elected officials and they will reach out again to all twelve of the Mayors.

County Manager Ellis responded saying that he felt the fact that Wake County came together and was able to have all municipalities in agreement said alot about how committed we are to protecting all of our citizens.

Commissioner West asked Ms. Lucas if the federal aid will be enough to "make us whole" in regard to the expenditures for this COVID-19. Ms. Lucas replied that it is too early to know what funds they will receive. She said that in a "typical" FEMA disaster such as a hurricane the reimbursement runs around 50 to 75 percent, but this is very different so it is difficult to know.

Commissioner Holmes commended County Manager Ellis and Lorena McDowell, Director of Housing and Community Revitalization Department, for their support when she requested assistance for hotel families.

**There was no action required by the board. The item was for**

**information only.****14. Appropriation of Emergency Funds Associated with COVID-19**

**Attachments:** [Agenda Item for Additional Special Budget Appropriation - Coronavirus Response 4-6-20.docx](#)  
[COVID-19 Appropriation Budget Memo 4-6-20.pdf](#)

Ms. Emily Lucas, Chief Financial Officer, shared an update on the appropriations in the amount of \$8.8 million of the fund balance for the costs associated with Wake County's COVID-19 response.

Ms. Lucas said that in follow up to the County Manager's comments this appropriation does bring Wake County's total appropriation to \$10.8 million dollars. She said that as the County Manager stated earlier, so far the county has spent approximately \$3.8 million dollars for salaries, PPE, and contracts to support our vulnerable populations as well as keeping our facilities clean and safe for those who are still needing to come into the office. Ms. Lucas added that the federal government approved a \$2 trillion dollar stimulus package last week to go toward COVID-19 efforts and response. She said that as a jurisdiction with a population of over 500,000 the county will be able to apply directly to the federal government for this aid, hopefully, as early as the end of this month. She stated that to the extent possible this will offset the fund balance appropriated and our expenses associated with this response and staff are still evaluating how we will be able to use this money going forward not only in the direct responses that we are using but the broader effects on the community as well.

Chairman Ford thanked Ms. Lucas and said that Wake County was fortunate to be in a position to consider and offer this level of assistance. He asked the County Manager, David Ellis, if he would share the process involved with determining whether or not the county will extend or rescind the stay at home orders since the time limit the county placed is coming to an end soon.

County Manager Ellis, replied that the process will involve Ms. Regina Petteway, Human Services Director; Mr. Nick Campasano, Director of Fire and Emergency Services; and Dr. Jose Cabanas, Emergency Management Director; who are in the process of getting preliminary data now and will need to review that data to see what impact the order is having. He stated that from what they are seeing we are heading in the right direction to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Chairman Ford stated that when the board implemented the order all of the

county Mayors were in agreement, and going forward the board will want to be sure that any changes to the order are once again approved by all of the elected officials. He said there would be communication again to all twelve of the Mayors.

County Manager Ellis said that he felt the fact that Wake County came together and was able to have all municipalities in agreement commended how committed the county is to protecting all of the citizens.

Commissioner West asked Ms. Lucas if the federal aid will be enough to "make us whole" in regard to the expenditures for this COVID-19. Ms. Lucas replied that it is too early to know what funds they will receive. She said that in a "typical" FEMA disaster such as a hurricane the reimbursement runs around 50 to 75 percent, but this is very different so it is difficult to know.

Commissioner Holmes commended the County Manager Ellis and Ms. Lorena McDowell, Director of Housing and Community Revitalization, for their support when she requested assistance for hotel families.

**Commissioner Evans moved, seconded by Commissioner West, that the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$8,800,000 million of fund balance for the costs associated with Wake County's COVID-19 response. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Appointments

### 15. Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees

**Attachments:**    [Wake Tech Item Summary.docx](#)  
[Wake Tech Member List 2020.doc](#)  
[Wake Tech Applicant Roster 2020.xlsx](#)  
[Wake Tech Applicants 2020.pdf](#)  
[Wake Tech Board Choices 2020.xlsx](#)

Vice-Chair Adamson nominated Dr. Sandra Williams for appointment.

**Commissioner Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the appointment. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Other Business

Vice Chair Adamson shared that Census Day was April 1st and how programs were cancelled due to COVID-19 but it still is important, and she encouraged everyone to be sure to complete it.

Commissioner West stated that he has worked with 80 non profits on the issue of coordination. He commended Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager, and Mr. David Mullins, Alliance of Behavioral Health, on their assistance with a website that will link several agencies in one place for citizens access. He said that he has spoken with Manager Ellis about being able to get the information to the vulnerable communities. He said that idea is that staff create a concept to do a survey for citizens in vulnerable communities. He said that funding would be needed and asked commissioners to consider the request.

Manager Ellis shared with Commissioner West that he has spoken with Ms. Katherine Williams, Cooperative Extension Director, and that she will follow up with him addressing the issues that he mentioned.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that the Emergency Operations Center has been open for three weeks, and he wanted to thank staff for their efforts in manning the center. He said that Wake County has been proactive and he wanted to highlight the efforts.

Vice Chair Adamson mentioned the religious organizations and people not being able to attend church. She said that the county needs to take the church to the community.

### **Closed Session**

Attorney Scott Warren indicated there was no need for a closed session.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Gilyard, NCCCC  
Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Wake County Board of Commissioners