

**Minutes of the  
Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates  
May 18, 2023 6:00 P.M.**

**Opening**

Chairperson Jordan Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairperson Davis asked for a Motion for a ten (10) minute recess.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin motioned for a recess for ten (10) minutes, seconded by Commissioner Tim Corprew. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Invocation**

Commissioner Robert Kirby led the Invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Determination of Quorum**

The presence of a quorum was determined by Clerk to the Board, Ashley Stallings, with twelve (12) member present; ten (10) members present in person and two (2) member electronically.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Tiffney White	Camden
Clayton Riggs	Camden
Robert Kirby	Chowan
Harriet DeHart	Chowan
Rob Ross	Dare
Linda Hofler	Gates
Lloyd Griffin III	Pasquotank
Tim Corprew	Perquimans
Jordan Davis	Tyrrell
Stephen Swain	Tyrrell
Tracey A. Johnson	Washington
Melinda Porter	Washington

**Absent Members**

Owen Etheridge	Currituck
Earl Pugh	Hyde

**Partners, staff, and guests present:**

Attorney Brock Mitchell of Hornthal, Riley, Ellis and Maland

**Staff members:**

Michael Ervin, Executive Director  
David Whitmer, NWDB Director  
Laura Alvarico, AAA Director  
Angela Welsh, RPO Director  
Robin Sass, Finance Officer  
Sharon Smith, Special Projects Administrator  
Ashley Stallings, Clerk to the Board

**Guests and Partners**

Joe Freddoso, Mighty River LLC

Michael Kelly, Director of Collaborative Broadband and innovation, NC Rural Center

**Amendments of Agenda (VOTE)**

Executive Director Michael Ervin requested to amend the agenda by adding our broadband consultant Joe Freddoso, Mighty River LLC, under Old Business Item 10-A.

Commissioner Linda Holfer motioned accept the amendment to the agenda with adding presenter Joe Freddoso under Old Business Item 10-A, seconded by Commissioner Kirby. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Agenda (VOTE):**

Commissioner Griffin motioned to accept the agenda with the amendment as presented, seconded by At-Large Delegate Harriet DeHart. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**April 2023 Minutes (VOTE)**

Commissioner Tracey Johnson motioned to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by At-Large Delegate Clayton Riggs. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Public Hearing: Proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget**

Chairperson Davis opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm. With no public present, Chairperson Davis asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Griffin motioned to close the public hearing at 6:18 pm, seconded by At-Large Delegate Dehart. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Chairperson Davis read the budget message to the board. Commissioner Griffin discussed his concerns of moving accounting services in house and concerns of the current indirect percentage amount.

Commissioner Kirby motioned to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tiffney White. With no further discussion, the motion carried with eleven (11) members in favor, and one (1) member opposed.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Old Business**

**A. Joe Freddoso, Mighty River LLC Presentation**

The Albemarle Commission broadband consultant Joe Freddoso, Mighty River LLC, introduced himself to the board. Mr. Freddoso gave a brief presentation to the board providing a broadband update for our region.

**B. Commercial Kitchen Discussion**

The commercial kitchen discussion was tabled until June 15, 2023 meeting.

**Finance**

**A. Monthly Finance Report Ending April 30th, 2023**

Finance Officer Robin Sass presented the monthly finance report to the board.

### **Staff Reports:**

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director Laura Alvarico discussed upcoming World Elder Abuse Awareness month in June and the annual walk the AAA host each year. AAA Director Alvarico discussed on May 2, 2023 Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 280, NC's Commitment to Building an Age-Friendly State.

Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) Director David Whitmer discussed the opportunity to participate in a re-entry pilot program. NWDB Director Whitmer stated this program is a course intended to help individuals that have been involved in the justice system to re-enter the workforce. NWDB Director Whitmer provided an update on the Good Jobs Challenge Grant.

ARPO Director Angela Welsh announced the Town of Plymouth approved the contract for the Albemarle Commission to move forward with the planning services.

Special Projects Administrator Sharon Smith discussed a meeting she attended for the Scuppernon Water Management Project in Town of Plymouth.

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Ervin discussed attending Legislative Days in Raleigh. Executive Director Ervin mentioned the budget submitted by the house during the Legislative Day which included the possibility of housing two (2) accountants in the COGS around the state who would work with the towns and counties in the regions that were in distress. Executive Director Ervin mentioned in that budget was included nine (9) Ombudsman positions that could be placed in the COGs across the state. Executive Director Ervin also discussed the North Carolina Office of Resilience and Recovery (NCORR).

Executive Director Ervin announced we received the Audit Contract from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co. Executive Director Ervin discussed there was a cost increase from last year.

Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the contract for Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & CO PA, seconded by Commissioner Hofler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **Board Member Comments:**

Commissioner Rob Ross mentioned Dare County approved the removal of cluster housing authorization in several zoning districts. Commissioner Ross stated the county is moving forward with a cluster home development of about sixty (60) homes that was already preapproved. Commissioner Ross also stated Dare was in the budget process.

Commissioner Johnson announced North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is hosting their county assembly day the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Johnson discussed building and funding for new elementary school Washington County would like to build.

Commissioner Griffin announced the upcoming Potato Festival in Elizabeth City. Commissioner Griffin spoke about the budget for Pasquotank County. Commissioner Griffin discussed NCDOT attending a Pasquotank County meeting.

Commissioner Corprew discussed budget meetings in Perquimans County. Commissioner Corprew expressed his concerns with the Medicaid expansion.

Commissioner Hofler discussed budget for Gates County. Commissioner Hofler spoke about broadband in Gates.

Commissioner Kirby discussed Chowan County gathering high school bids. Commissioner Kirby

discussed finishing up the budget process in Chowan County.

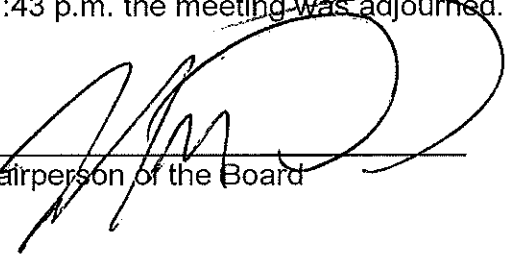
Commissioner White discussed the new high school build in Camden County. Commissioner White announced South Mills Water Association voted to sale. Commissioner White discussed Camden County's budget.

Chairperson Davis discussed the budget in Tyrrell County.

Chairperson Davis announced the need for the delegates to complete an evaluation for Executive Director Ervin. Chairperson Davis requested for all delegates to complete the evaluation form and return to him no later than the first week of June by email. Chairperson stated this would be discussed in the June 15, 2023 meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 7:43 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.



---

Chairperson of the Board

Attested by:



---

Clerk to the Board, Ashley ~~Stallings~~ Shepherd

8/17/23  
Date