

**Minutes of the
Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates
August 15, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Opening

Chairperson Jordan Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

Commissioner Robert Kirby led the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Tim Corprew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Determination of Quorum

The presence of a quorum was determined by Clerk to the Board, Ashley Shepherd, with eleven (11) members present; ten (10) members present in person and one (1) members electronically.

Name

Tiffney White
Clayton Riggs
Robert Kirby
Harriet DeHart
Linda Hofler
Earl Pugh
Lloyd Griffin III
Tim Corprew
Jordan Davis
Melinda Porter
Ann Keyes- Alternate

County

Camden
Camden
Chowan
Chowan
Gates
Hyde
Pasquotank
Perquimans
Tyrrell
Washington
Washington

Absent Members

Sissy Aydlett- Alternate
Owen Etheridge
Robert "Bob" Woodard Sr.
Wallace Nelson- Alternate
Stephen Swain
Tracey Johnson

Camden
Currituck
Dare
Perquimans
Tyrrell
Washington

Partners, staff, and guests present:

Staff members:

Michael Ervin, Executive Director
David Whitmer, NWDB Director
Laura Alvarico, AAA Director
Angela Welsh, ARPO Transportation Planner
Ashley Shepherd, Clerk to the Board
Tanya Hurdle, Finance Officer

Guests and Partners

Johnny Hallow, Attorney

Amendments of Agenda:

Chairperson Davis asked to add Pasquotank Paddle boat project discussion under New Business as 11 A. Commissioner Linda Hofler motioned to approve the amendments, seconded by Commissioner Ann Keyes. With no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Agenda (VOTE):

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

June 20, 2024 Minutes (VOTE)

Commissioner Kirby mentioned amending the June 2024 minutes to mention the opposing parties during voting. Commissioner Kirby motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by At-Large Delegate Harriet Dehart. With no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Public Comment:

None.

Old Business

None.

Finance

A. Monthly Finance Report for June 2024

Executive Director Ervin presented the monthly finance report to the board.

B. Monthly Finance Report for July 2024

Executive Director Ervin presented the monthly finance report to the board.

New Business

RPO Planner Angela Welsh presented the Pasquotank Paddle Boat Project brought to her by Debbie Malenfant, Executive Director with ECDI. Planner Welsh asked the Board of Commissioner if this was a project that the Albemarle Commission wanted to participate in. Commissioner Griffin also gave a brief discussion on the project. Due to the short notice of the project the Board decided not to move forward with the project.

Staff Reports:

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director Laura Alvarico discussed ARPA funding almost completely spent. Director Alvarico also gave an update regarding housing funding, the digital navigator position, and the upcoming events including the Aging Conference hosted at Camp Cale.

ARPO Planner Angela Welsh gave an update on the FEMA grant about letters of interest from Pasquotank and Hyde County residents. Planner Welsh mentioned other news such as Dare County is in search of funds for Rodanthe and Town of Plymouth projects to develop a new ordinance.

Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) Director David Whitmer gave an update on the WIOA Act is up for reauthorization and the solution the House of Representatives has proposed. Director Whitmer discussed the concerns that these decisions could pose for the Workforce nationwide. Director Whitmer mentioned other updates such as Senators touring the NCWorks Career Center and the Director for DWS resigning and Andrea DeSantis taking over that position.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Michael Ervin gave his report for Special Projects including the EDA Broadband Grant to finalize next year and new funding including "BEAD" to ensure the continuation of broadband services in the area.

Executive Director Ervin discussed a meeting he had with Virginia Fox's office and Senator Budd & Senator Tillis regarding WIOA and other workforce funding concerns. Executive Director Ervin gave an update on the CrowdStrike hacking issue, stating we did not lose any data, and a professional was hired to unlock our files held under ransomware. Albemarle Commission is still under negotiations with the insurance company regarding the deductible to be paid. Executive Director Ervin asked the Board if they wanted to have a Christmas party and if so, we would need to start preparations and reserve a date and venue.

Board Member Comments:

At-Large Delegate Riggs discussed the flooding occurring from recent storms in Camden County. Delegate Riggs added that the Heritage Festival is coming up in September.

Commissioner White mentioned Camden County is moving forward with EMS.

Commissioner Earl Pugh discussed the internet, powerlines, and flooding in Hyde County.

At-Large Delegate Melinda Porter mentioned the Town of Plymouth Arts council trying to be reinstated.

Commissioner Griffin asked about the grant regarding duck weed and any updates on that. Commissioner Griffin discussed NCDOT and the conversations stating 15% of vehicles in NC are electric vehicles. Commissioner Griffin mentioned having questions regarding the budget and the Albemarle Commission's policy on leave and how it is recorded.

Commissioner Corprew discussed broadband grants of 3.4 million dollars and school funds that were received for Perquimans County Schools.

Commissioner Ann Keyes gave a update on the new school construction in Washington County, upcoming meetings regarding broadband, and construction of an Emergency Management building.


Commissioner Hofler mentioned Gates County having 97% broadband coverage and the flooding that occurred from recent storms.

Commissioner Kirby gave an update on the high school construction and tests for the water plant. The Commissioner discussed the first phase is underway for broadband in Chowan County and wind turbines being built in the county.

Chairperson mentioned new broadband and the concerns he has with the location of some of the poles throughout the county.

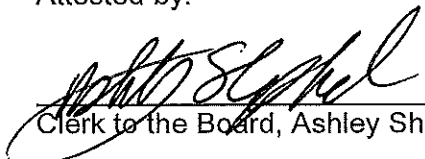
Adjournment

Commissioner Pugh motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm, seconded by At-Large Delegate Dehart. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairperson of the Board

Attested by:



Clerk to the Board, Ashley Shepherd

9/19/24

Date