

**Minutes of the
Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates
January 16, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

Opening

Chairman Robert Kirby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

Commissioner Jordan Davis led the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Determination of Quorum

The presence of a quorum was determined by Clerk to the Board, Amber Morse, with ten members (10) present in person, and two (2) members present via Zoom.

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>
Tiffney White	Camden
Robert Kirby	Chowan
Troy Breathwaite - Alternate	Currituck
Connie Hedrick – At-Large	Currituck
Dave Forsythe	Gates
Brian Silvers – At-Large	Gates
Earl Pugh – At-Large	Hyde
Jan Moore	Hyde
Tim Corprew	Perquimans
Tommy Everett	Tyrrell
Jordan Davis - Alternate	Tyrrell
Tracey Johnson	Washington

Absent Members

Paul O’Neal	Currituck
Sissy Aydlett - Alternate	Camden
Bob Woodard Sr.	Dare
Lloyd Griffin	Pasquotank
Wallace Nelson- Alternate	Perquimans
Ann Keyes - Alternate	Washington

Partners, staff, and guests present:

Staff members:

David Whitmer, Executive Director
Amber Morse, Assistant Executive Director, Clerk to the Board
Trina Scippio, Finance Officer
Ethan Sommers, Transportation Planner
Laura Alvarico, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director
Rachel Clipston, Northeastern Workforce Development Board (NWDB) Director

Guests and Partners

Brock Mitchell, Attorney
Amy Conley, Senior Associate Regulatory Specialist, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

Amendments of Agenda:

None

Approval of Agenda (VOTE):

Commissioner Tim Corprew motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Dave Forsythe. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Selection of 2026 Officers

Secretary Commissioner Tiffney White presented the nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee. The committee nominated Commissioner Kirby for Chair, Commissioner Corprew for Vice-Chair, and Commissioner White for Secretary. Commissioner Tracey Johnson made a motion to accept the nomination committees selections, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Everett. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from November 2025

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the November 2025 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Corprew. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Success Stories

AAA Director Alvarico presented a success story on behalf of the AAA and NWDB Director Rachel Clipston presented a success story on behalf of the NWDB.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- A. NC Solar Property Tax Exclusion: Chairman Kirby presented a document provided by the NC Association of County Commissioners regarding county revenue loss under the NC Solar Property Tax Exclusion.
- B. Resolution Opposing Excessive Rate Increases for Dwelling Policies Requested by the NC Rate Bureau: Chairman Kirby Whitmer presented a draft resolution opposing excessive rate increases for dwelling policies requested by the NC Rate Bureau. A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Connie Hedrick. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Finance

- A. **Finance Report:** Finance Officer, Trina Scippio, presented the finance reports and provided an update on the audit, financial software training, and implementation of ACH processing.
- B. **Budget Amendment #3AB:** Mrs. Scippio presented budget amendment #3AB. A motion to approve the budget amendment as presented was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Troy Breathwaite. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Chairman Kirby reported the Executive Committee met on January 7, 2026 and reviewed items for the January board meeting agenda as well as discussed a personnel matter.

Staff Reports

AAA: For Community Development, Director Alvarico provided updates on recent community development monitoring and current in progress and completed projects for the Essential Single Family Rehab program. She also provided an update on hiring for the Weatherization Community Development Program Specialist.

For the AAA, Director Alvarico reported that the Medicare open enrollment counseling period has wrapped up and staff helped save over 300 older adults over \$310,000 in medication costs in Perquimans and Gates counties. As well as provided an update on the Albemarle Senior Games, upcoming Scam Jam events, and March for Meals.

ARPO (Albemarle Rural Planning Organization): Transportation Planner Ethan Sommers reported that two Federal Land Access Grant projects were award in our region. He also provided updates on the Ehringhaus Street road diet study and the Alligator River Bridge project.

NWDB: Director Rachel Clipston provided updates on new Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) policies easing restrictions on operating adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs in-house, the release of their annual accomplishments report, recent incumbent worker grant awards, careers in local government initiative, and upcoming events.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Whitmer reported on two recent meetings with congressional representatives and the Harmful Algal Bloom Toolkit meeting hosted at the Albemarle Commission. He also reiterated the significance of recent changes to the DWS policies. Additionally, he presented two "Meet Our Delegate" flyers and encouraged members to participate.

Chairman & Board Delegate Reports

Chairman Kirby presented Commissioner Jordan Davis with a appreciation plaque for his years of service to the Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates. He also provided an update on the opening on the new John A. Holmes High School.

Commissioner Johnson provided updates on the food bank in Washington and supports in place during the transition.

Commissioner White reported on the American Revolution Experience event hosted at the Camden County Library and provided an update on the new high school construction.

Commissioner Corprew provided and updates on the start of the new Perquimans County Manager, school construction, and recent planning board meeting.

Commissioner Forsythe provided updates on a recent meeting regarding data centers, updating the county personnel policy, and increased focus on the counties social media presence.

Mr. Silvers provided an update on the attendance of the Merchants Millpond Christmas light events.

Closed Session — Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss one or more confidential personnel matters

The board entered closed session at 7:19pm. All staff were excused from the room.

Adjournment

The board came back into open session and Chairman Kirby adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.


Chairman of the Board

Attested by:

Amber Morse

Clerk to the Board, Amber Morse

Date 3/19/26

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