

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**AUGUST 15, 2022**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

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Gordon Powell  
C. Derrick Sims  
Kyle W. Puryear  
Charlie Palmer  
Patricia Gentry  
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Ralph Clark, Interim County Manager  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board  
S. Ellis Hankins, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 9:00am in the commissioners' boardroom in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order and offered an invocation. Vice Chairman Sims led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda.

**INFORMAL COMMENTS:**

There were no comments from the public.

**DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes of August 1, 2022,
- B. Budget Amendment #4,
- C. Health Department Fee Requests Associated with COVID-19 Vaccinations and Monkeypox Testing,
- D. Library Annual State Aid Non-Recurring Funds \$54,374 Contract Approval,
- E. Home & Community Care Block Grant Reports: FY2021-2022 Final and FY2022-2023 First Revision,
- F. Resolution Appointing Review Officers, and
- G. Opioid Settlement Fund Ordinance

Commissioner Gentry asked for the formula used to determine the County's funding plan for the Home and Community Block Grant for Older Adults. Ms. Maynell Harper, Aging Services Director for the Person County Senior Center stated the appropriations are based on the County's population, specifically, the estimated 20% of the population representing adults age 60 and over.

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **APPOINTMENT TO REGION K AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL & TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:**

Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves presented to the Board interested citizen applications received for current vacancies for nomination for appointment as deemed appropriate.

#### **Region K Aging Advisory Council**

3-Year Term: 2 positions available

- 1) Elizabeth Bradsher requested appointment
- 2) Wanda O'Neal requested appointment
- 3) Jennifer Morrow requested appointment

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear to appoint Wanda O'Neal and Jennifer Morrow to the Region K Aging Advisory Council, each for a 3-year term.

A **substitute motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry to appoint Elizabeth Bradsher and Jennifer Morrow to the Region K Aging Advisory Council, each for a 3-year term.

Chairman Powell called for a vote on the original **motion** made by Commissioner Puryear, which **carried 3-2** to appoint Wanda O'Neal and Jennifer Morrow to the Region K Aging Advisory Council, each for a 3-year term. Commissioner Puryear, Chairman Powell and Vice Chairman Sims voted in favor of the original motion. Commissioners Gentry and Palmer cast the dissenting votes.

#### **Social Services Board**

3-Year Term: 1 position available

- 1) Antoinetta Cash Royster requested appointment
- 2) Danny Johnson requested appointment
- 3) Dr. Alfred Faulkner requested appointment

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 4-1** to appoint Danny Johnson to the Social Services Board for a 3-year term. Commissioner Gentry cast the dissenting vote.

Ms. Reaves stated she wanted to make the Board aware that Laura Sharpe would be replacing Laquitia Cozart as the Vaya Health representative on the Person County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

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A **motion** was made by Chairman Powell and **carried 5-0** to appoint Laura Sharpe as the Vaya Health representative fulfilling the unexpired term of Laquitia Cozart on the Person County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman Powell reported a great turnout for the recent National Night Out event.

#### **INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Interim County Manager, Ralph Clark said since the tax bills were mailed out, there have been questions related to the increased Fire District Tax; he asked the Fire Marshal to provide an update to the group on the progress of the recruitment to fill positions at the Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD).

Fire Marshal, Adam Morris thanked the Board of its support and stated since the increased fire district tax, the Timberlake VFD have secured part-time individuals to cover Sunday – Thursday for both day time and night hours. Mr. Morris said the Allensville VFD has coverage during day hours. He added other VFDs are in the process of recruiting and making the needed modifications to their facility, i.e., bathroom/shower.

Mr. Morris stated on June 14, 2022, House Bill 2022-8 requires any new paid fire staff to have background checks with fingerprints through the State's SBI. He noted as the Fire Marshal, he was registered as Person County's liaison to monitor this process noting these rules are new and evolving. He further noted the expense of \$38 per person on top of the \$15 county fee to obtain the background check and fingerprints.

Mr. Morris said the Leasburg VFD has been approved by the state to provide fire services in a portion of Person County and the lower ISO fire ratings for some Person County residents are estimated to be effective January 1, 2023.

Mr. Morris said when he became the Fire Marshal, Person County was awarded a \$300,000 state grant that was used for equipment; he was recently informed of an additional state grant for \$300,000 to further aid fire departments in needed equipment.

Mr. Morris made the Board aware of the death of the Ceffo VFD chief, Blake Whitt noting a full firefighter funeral will be held on August 16, 2022 at Theresa Baptist Church; visitation will be from 12:30-2:00pm with the service starting at 2:00pm.

Vice Chairman Sims and Chairman Powell both stated appreciation of the work of the VFDs and the Fire Marshal.

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### **COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:**

Vice Chairman Sims asked the Interim County Manager about the Department of Social Services building issues to which Mr. Clark stated he and a leasing agent toured the Human Services Building and will start conversations with Brixmor to address issues, i.e., the mold in the FEMA room.

Commissioner Palmer promoted the Relay for Life event coming up this fall noting the Person Industries/Recycling Center held a fundraiser last Friday; he urged everyone to donate to such a worthy cause.

There were no report from Commissioners Gentry and Puryear.

### **CLOSED SESSION #1**

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session at 9:18am per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; with the following individuals permitted to attend: Interim County Manager, Ralph Clark, Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves, County Attorney, Ellis Hankins and Renee Narloch via video call.

A brief recess was called to transition to the Closed Session #1. Chairman Powell called the Closed Session to order at 9:29am.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 11:24am.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 11:24am.

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Brenda B. Reaves  
Clerk to the Board

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Gordon Powell  
Chairman

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