

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

January 16, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims
Kyle W. Puryear
Charlie Palmer
Jason Thomas

Katherine M. Cathey, County Manager
Michele Solomon, Clerk to the Board
T.C. Morphis, Jr., County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom 215 in the Person County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order. Reverend Clevie Brandon with Person County Ministerial Alliance offered an invocation and Commissioner Sims led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Puryear was absent until 9:12 a.m.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 4-0** to approve the agenda with the addition of Closed Session #4.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PETITION SUP-05-23 – A REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT AND PROPERTY OWNER, BRANDON PATRICK, OF PATRICK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC, FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT (SUP) APPROVAL TO ALLOW FOR OPEN STORAGE ON A ±2.0-ACRE LOT LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SEMORA RD. AND SKYLARK DR, INTERSECTION (TAX MAP NO. A3 158 & PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NO. 9959-00-96-8791.000), PER SECTION 155 OF THE PLANNING ORDINANCE

Planning & Zoning Director Chris Bowley shared the following presentation for the Petition for Special Use Permit SUP-05-23, to allow for open storage.

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Patrick Open Storage Lot

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

SUP – 05 – 23



Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23) Introduction

- ☐ The Subject Property is ±2.0-acres
 - ☐ Generally located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. & Skylark Dr. intersection
 - ☐ Adjacent to the NC Marine facility
 - ☐ Provides secure boat storage near Hyco Lake & economic development
 - ☐ Follows Planning Ordinance criteria for location in B-2 & is consistent with Comp Plan
 - ☐ Compatible land use to existing adjacent use
-

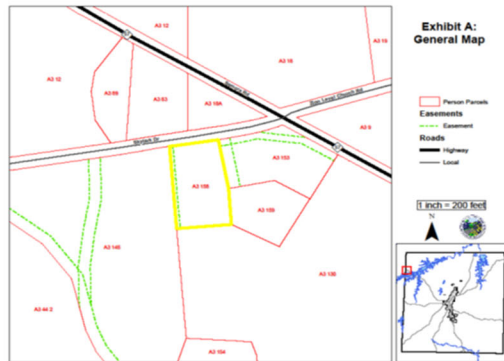
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Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Exhibit A: General Map



Click to add text



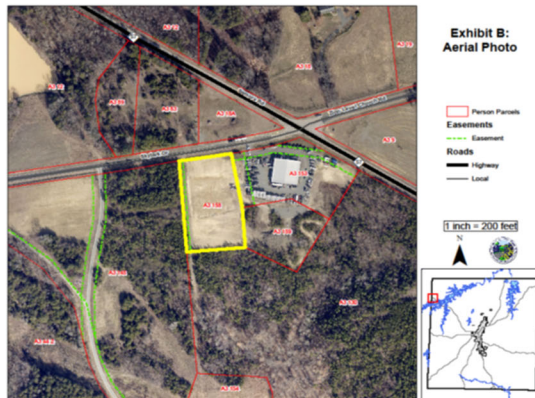
Mr. Bowley presented Exhibit A: General Map and stated that the General Map presented shows the location and the existing NC Marine site at the corner of the intersection.

Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Exhibit B: Aerial Photo



Click to add text



Mr. Bowley presented Exhibit B: Aerial Photo, and stated that the aerial photo shows the site is vacant and cleared. He stated along the left-hand side is an existing recorded easement 15 feet wide, which provides access to this tract. He stated that the tract also has frontage on Semora Rd.

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Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

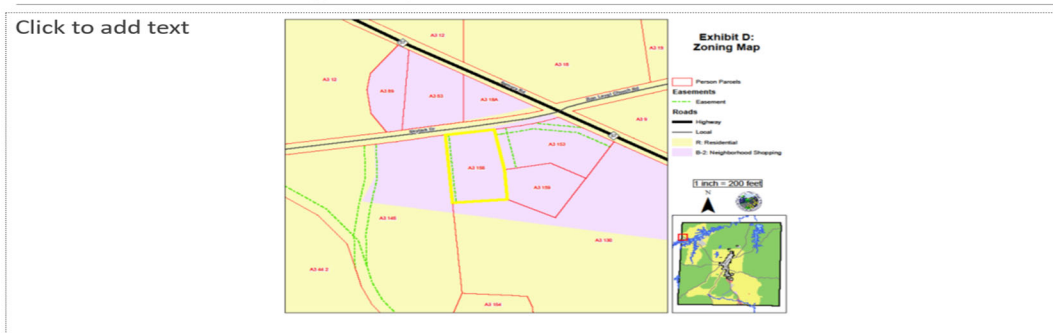
Exhibit C: Future Land Use Map



Mr. Bowley presented Exhibit C: Future Land Use Map, and stated that this is the Comprehensive Plan showing Hyco Lake Future Land Use Designation.

Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Exhibit D: Zoning Map



Mr. Bowley presented Exhibit D: Zoning Map and advised it is B-2 Zoning District, Neighborhood Shopping.

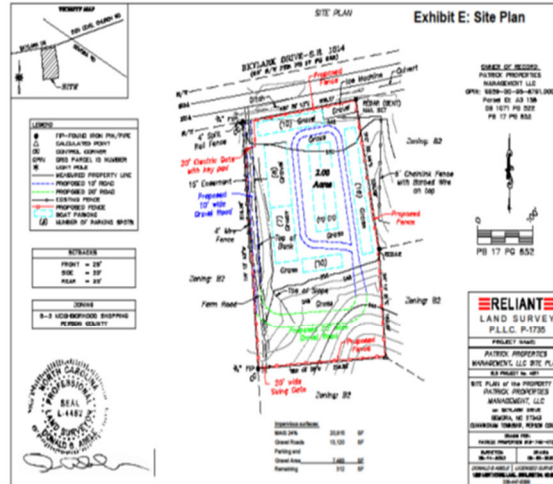
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Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Exhibit E: Site Plan



Click to add text



Mr. Bowley presented Exhibit E: Site Plan and advised it is required to be reviewed per Section 81 of the Planning Ordinance, as well as Section 155 for Special Use Permits. He stated that as you can see, it is a detailed site plan that shows the 15-foot wide easement on the southwest side. He pointed out the NC Marine site, a proposed internal driveway, the location of the boat storage area, chain link fence, and ice machine, which would be a retail component. He stated that the ice machine would be moved over to the other lot and access would be along Skylark Dr. He stated that access to the property to the south would be provided through the 15-foot wide easement through two gates. He stated that this property would be separate and detached from the NC Marine facility, even though they are the same ownership.

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Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Findings of Fact

Per the Person County Planning Ordinance, the Board of Commissioners shall also address a "Findings of Fact" as listed in Section 155, to determine if the proposed use supports the Comprehensive Plan. From the Findings of Fact criteria listed in Section 155-3(b), approval of Special Use Permit Application SUP-05-23 supports the four Findings of Fact listed below:

1. **That the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the plan as submitted and approved.** – as provided on the Site Plan, there are no materials or operations being proposed that will materially endanger public health or safety upon development.
2. **That the use meets all required conditions and specifications.** – the proposed use meets all of the requirements of the County and shall meet the proposed Conditions of Approval for this SUP application, prior to Zoning Permit issuance.
3. **That the use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the use is a public necessity.** – the proposed open storage use is typically a low-intensity passive use. However, as a passive use, frequent property maintenance is needed for daily upkeep and to ensure that the Subject Property does not negatively impact area property values. The proposed Conditions of Approval shall be provided in the Written Order for property management.
4. **That the location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan as submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the Comprehensive Plan.** – the proposed open storage use will be within an existing commercial zoning district of B-2. The proposed use is ancillary and supportive of the existing NC Marine business located directly adjacent to the Subject Property, as well as consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.



Patrick Open Storage Lot (SUP-05-23)

Staff Recommendation & Potential Motion

Based on the above, the Planning & Zoning Department staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve Special Use Permit SUP-05-23 for the Patrick Property Management, LLC, Open Storage Lot, with the following conditions:

1. The Applicant obtains all required permits from Person County Environmental Health Department, Planning & Zoning Department, and Inspections Department, as well as required permits from any other agency to achieve construction, operations, and maintenance of the Subject Property;
2. The Subject Property shall not be used for retail use and the proposed ice machine is removed from the Site Plan for Written Order approval;
3. The approval for SUP-05-23 only applies to the Subject Property located at Tax Map No. A3 158, with parcel identification number 9959-00-96-8791.000, and not expand onto adjacent properties with Tax Map No. A3 153 & A3 159, without following Section 155-4 of the Planning Ordinance;
4. The Applicant or tenant shall not park or store vehicles within public rights-of-way and maintain rights-of-way, due to use of the Subject Property;
5. The Applicant or tenant shall provide unrestricted access in perpetuity to the property directly to the south at Tax Map No. A3 130 and parcel identification number 9969-00-05-5488.000 through the existing 15-ft. wide access easement; and
6. The Applicant or tenant shall provide continual property maintenance that does not impact adjacent properties, to include maintenance of the perimeter security fence, electric gates, security key pads, fire safety access, and directional-downward security lighting.

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Thank You

The public hearing was for a request for a Special Use Permit Application, Petition SUP-05-23, by Brandon Patrick, of Patrick Property Management, LLC to allow for open storage on a ±2.0- acre lot located at the southwest corner of Semora Rd and Skylark Dr. Tax Map and Parcel No. A3 158, which required a quasi-judicial zoning decision whereby witnesses are to be sworn in, are subject to cross-examination, no ex parte communication, and requires findings of fact.

County Attorney T.C. Morphis, Jr. administered the Oath of Sworn Testimony to the following individuals who offered testimony during the public hearing:

Chris Bowley and Brandon Patrick.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to open the duly advertised public hearing for Special Use Permit SUP-05-23, a request by the Applicant, Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC, to allow for open storage on a ±2.0-acre lot located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection (Tax Map No. A3 158 & Parcel Identification No. 9959-00-96-8791.000), per section 155 of the Planning Ordinance.

Speaking in favor of the Special Use Permit Application, Petition SUP-05-23, by Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC. To allow for open storage on a ±2.0-acre lot located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection (Tax Map No. A3 158 & Parcel Identification No. 9959-00-96-8791.000), per section, 155 of the Planning Ordinance were the following:

Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC, the applicant, and owner and operator of NC Marine, located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection stated that he accepts the conditions as proposed. He stated that he is in agreement with the ice machine being moved to the adjacent lot as he and Mr. Bowley discussed.

Chairman Powell asked for clarification of use, and asked, would this be considered a salvage yard. Mr. Bowley advised that this would not be a salvage yard, and the open storage would be well maintained, and that the applicant would need to adhere to the conditions of approval.

Commissioner Palmer questioned the use of the storage and wanted clarification on what would be stored. Mr. Patrick stated that he is requesting approval for open storage at this location to be used for boat and RV storage.

There were no individuals speaking in opposition to the public hearing for Special Use Permit SUP-05-23, a request by the Applicant, Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC, to allow for open storage on a ±2.0-acre lot located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection (Tax Map No. A3 158 & Parcel Identification No. 9959-00-96-8791.000), per section 155 of the Planning Ordinance.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to close the duly advertised public hearing for Special Use Permit SUP-05-23, a request by the Applicant, Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC, to allow for open storage on a ±2.0-acre lot located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection (Tax Map No. A3 158 & Parcel Identification No. 9959-00-96-8791.000), per section 155 of the Planning Ordinance.

CONSIDERATION TO GRANT OR DENY REQUEST SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION, PETITION SUP-05-23 – A REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT AND PROPERTY OWNER, BRANDON PATRICK, OF PATRICK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC, FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT (SUP) APPROVAL TO ALLOW FOR OPEN STORAGE ON A ±2.0-ACRE LOT LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SEMORA RD. AND SKYLARK DR, INTERSECTION (TAX MAP NO. A3 158 & PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NO. 9959-00-96-8791.000), PER SECTION 155 OF THE PLANNING ORDINANCE:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to approve Special Use Permit SUP-05-23, a request by the Applicant, Brandon Patrick of Patrick Property Management, LLC, to allow for open storage on a ±2.0-acre lot located at the southwest corner of the Semora Rd. and Skylark Dr. intersection (Tax Map No. A3 158 & Parcel Identification No. 9959-00-96-8791.000), per section 155 of the Planning Ordinance with the following conditions:

1. That the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the plan as submitted and approved. – as provided on the Site Plan, there are no materials or operations being proposed that will materially endanger public health or safety upon development.
2. That the use meets all required conditions and specifications. – The proposed use meets all of the requirements of the County and shall meet the proposed Conditions of Approval for this SUP application, prior to Zoning Permit issuance.

3. That the use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the use is a public necessity. – The proposed open storage use is typically a low-intensity passive use. However, as a passive use, frequent property maintenance is needed for daily upkeep and to ensure that the Subject Property does not negatively impact area property values. The proposed Conditions of Approval shall be provided in the Written Order for property management.
4. That the location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan as submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed open storage use will be within an existing commercial zoning district of B-2. The proposed use is ancillary and supportive of the existing NC Marine business located directly adjacent to the Subject Property, as well as consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Don Narensky of 1 Summer Place Farm Road, Timberlake stated at the conclusion of the last Board meeting on January 2, 2024, comments were made by a commissioner referencing the December 4, 2023 meeting. He stated that false and ludicrous claims were made about the 350 + people who attended the December 4 rezoning hearing to include, not being residents of Person County, and being paid to be at the meeting. He stated that the vast majority of the 36 people who spoke that night identified themselves as resident Personians, which was documented on the speaker sign-up sheet. He stated that this commissioner made these false accusations about people in attendance with no evidence to support this claim. He stated that this commissioner was disrespectful to the public and was called out in print by the local newspaper. He stated that this is a common tactic employed by dishonest public officials, the world over, to try to discredit their citizens from legitimately questioning their actions to deflect and provide cover from corrupt decisions. He stated that it is unfortunate that this Board has brought such a practice to Person County. He stated that legally, this is what you call slander per se, according to NC Law. He stated that this commissioner had no proof, that the commissioner knew that no proof existed, yet disseminated this lie out to the public at that meeting, and anyone watching on the internet. He stated this is also called, bearing false witness against your neighbor, which is biblical law, Deuteronomy 5:20. He stated that he attended and spoke at the December 4 hearing, his name is Don Narensky and he could provide his driver's license showing his Person County address for the past twenty years. He asked the Board to show him proof where he was paid to speak, and by whom, and how much he was paid. He stated that the Board does not have it, because the proof does not exist. He stated that he is a 78- year old man with the utmost integrity, who has fought for, and participated in the democracy of citizens his entire adult life. He stated that he is here to give the Board their negative nasty slander, it is all theirs, he does not accept it, nor will it ever intimidate him or any of those fine Person County citizens who attended that hearing on December 4, citizens who will continue to fight against the Moriah LNG toxic disaster.

Andrea Childers of 270 Blackberry Lane, Rougemont stated that it was mentioned at the last Board meeting that residents who attended the December 4 Commissioner meeting, were called by a member of the Board not civil. She stated that she believes what the Board was seeing that night was frustration, not uncivil behavior. She stated that the frustration grew out of the fact that the Board showed much disrespect to their own constituents since the announcement in late August of the Moriah Energy Center (MEC). She stated disrespect, by not including them in the planning of MEC. She stated that instead, the Board, and the Board of Economic Development had clandestine meetings behind closed doors with Dominion Energy. She stated that who knows, maybe if they included residents of this area in on the planning, they might have gotten a better buy in. She stated that the Board showed disrespect by rarely responding to emails sent by their constituents, not answering the 260+ questions that were presented to them by residents on November 6 and December 4, and not even pretending to take one minute to consider the points that over 30 residents made. She stated that taking in all the disrespect endured by the Board, she believed the residents acted civil. She stated that if the Board feels that they were treated uncivilly, perhaps it was their constituents mirroring their own behavior. She stated that she would like the Board to reverse the rezoning of the southeast Person County area that they rezoned on December 4.

Frank Stoltmann of 131 Rose Wood Drive, Roxboro stated that approximately 14 months ago, he stood before the Board asking them to help establish a process to be able to develop Mayo Lake. He stated that at that time, the Board advised that the County Manager would look in to it. He stated that he followed up with the County Manager last summer, and nothing has been done. He stated that he is concerned that the Board and the County has the ability to do this in a very simple fashion. He stated the NC Utilities Commission has told Duke Power that they have to do whatever they can to replace the economic impact with closing plants or minimizing the plants to the community. He stated that Person County has two such plants, the only ones in NC, and the Board and the County have done nothing to try to get that economic impact reduced. He stated that the County hired a lobbyist firm to look out for Person County interest, and the lobbyist firm has done nothing to try to develop Mayo Lake. He stated that he is here today, unfortunately, to call the Board out on this. He stated that he is disappointed. He stated that he is the owner of three businesses in Person County, employs over 24 people on a regular basis, and has over 100 people that come in on contract work. He stated that in the 14 months that the Board passed on this, they have let \$1.5M in tax revenue go by the wayside. He stated that the Board has spent more time working on the budget, which is an embarrassment, than they have in developing anything for this county. He stated that if you want this county to grow, and grow properly, and be stewards of the county, then do not ignore the fact that Duke Power is going to minimize the plants. He urged the Board to do something productive for the county. He stated that is what they were elected for, they are five Republicans, and it is about time they start doing the right thing. He stated that he is sick and tired of having to carry the financial burden of the taxes in this county because the Board will not grow the county.

Holly Ann Rogers of 405 Younger Road, Roxboro stated that she is a Person County citizen, and that she owns property here and beyond her residence of 405 Younger Rd. She stated that this is the fourth time, since watching how the Board operates, that a certain commissioner has been asked to resign from the Board by Person County citizens. She stated that he callously shot an 11- year old dog in the street. Chairman Powell advised the speaker, that she needs to address the Board not individuals of the Board. She urged the Board to remove this commissioner. She stated that she is aware of four times, that he has been asked to resign from the Board, and the Board has ignored and has not discussed this. She stated that she feels the Board owes Person County citizens an apology for their callousness and heartlessness towards the citizens. She addressed County Attorney Morphis, and advised that per the NC Open Meetings Law, that the Board is required to say why they are going in to the additional closed session. Morphis stated that the additional closed session is for attorney-client privilege.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2023,**
- B. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2023,**
- C. Budget Amendment #16, and**
- D. Certificate of Clerk- Approval of Tax-Exempt Loan to Timberlake Fire and Rescue, Inc. from Roxboro Savings Bank**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION CREATING A CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL GOVERN AND REALTED ACTIONS

Presented by County Manager Katherine Cathey. She stated at the Board's January 2, 2024 meeting, a public hearing was held on Whether the Board of Commissioners Should Adopt a Resolution to Change the Organization and Governance of Some of the County's Human Services Functions. She stated that following the public hearing, the Board directed her to prepare a Resolution to be approved at today's meeting, which would incorporate several actions to include the following:

- The effective date would be April 15, 2024, which is 90 days from today. She stated that date is also a scheduled Commissioner Board meeting.
- Abolish the existing DSS Board, creating a consolidated human services agency, to include the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Veterans Services into a consolidated human services agency that the Board of Commissioners would oversee.
- The Board would direct the County Manager to appoint, with the advice and consent of the County Commissioners, a Consolidated Human Services Director to be supervised by the County Manager.
- Withdraw all affected employees of the Consolidated Human Services Agency from the State Human Resources Act (SHRA) and place them under County personnel policies.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to approve a Resolution creating a Consolidated Human Services Agency that the Board of Commissioners will govern and related actions effective April 15, 2024.



**RESOLUTION OF THE PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CREATING A
CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY THAT THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS WILL GOVERN AND RELATED ACTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Person County Department of Social Services and the Person County Veterans Services Office are both human services functions eligible for consolidation under the provisions of NCGS 153A-77 as amended during the 2012 legislative session of the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the amendments in 2012 was to give all counties in North Carolina the flexibility and authority to organize human services in such a way as to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of human services; and

WHEREAS, the Person County Board of Commissioners finds that consolidating the Person County Department of Social Services and the Person County Veterans Services Office into a Consolidated Human Services Agency is beneficial to the Person County Department of Social Services and its staff, the Person County Veterans Services Office and its staff, and most importantly the citizens of Person County; and

WHEREAS, the provision of N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-77 set forth specific rules and procedures for creating a consolidated human services agency and providing for the governance of that agency; and

WHEREAS, these provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-77 require that a public hearing be held by the Board after 30 days prior published notice as required by law. This Board duly voted to call for a public hearing at its November 6, 2023 regular meeting and set the public hearing for its January 2, 2024 regular meeting. The notice of the public hearing was duly published as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Person County Board of Commissioners pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 153A-77 finds that upon such consolidation it is in the best interest of the Person County Department of Social Services and its staff, the Person County Veterans Services Office and its staff, and the citizens of Person County that the Board of Commissioners serve as the policy making, rulemaking, and administrative board of the Consolidated Human Services Agency; and that the Consolidated Human Services Director and Consolidated Human Services Agency staff operate under the personnel policies of Person County, subject to the nine principles of the Federal Merit System, and work at the direction of and under the supervision of the County Manager in accordance with NCGS 153A-77(e).

WHEREAS, the Board combined input from the public at its January 2, 2024 regular meeting, reviewed the information from County staff and deliberated in open session concerning the relative merits of consolidation of the Social Services Department and Veterans Services Office.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Person County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 153A-77, effective April 15, 2024, does hereby:

1. Abolish the existing Person County Board of Social Services with thanks to the existing members of that board for their services; and
2. Create a Consolidated Human Services Agency, consisting of the employees of the existing Department of Social Services and Veterans Services Office, with consolidation of these human services functions; and
3. Create a consolidated human services board having the powers conferred by NCGS 153A-77(c) and further assume all powers, responsibilities and duties of said consolidated human services board pursuant to NCGS 153A-77(a); and
4. Direct the County Manager to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board of Commissioners, a Consolidated Human Services Director to be supervised by the County Manager under the provisions of NCGS 153A-77(e); and
5. Withdraw all affected employees of the Consolidated Human Services Agency from the State Human Resources Act and place them under the personnel policies of Person County.

Adopted by the Person County Board of Commissioners this 16th day of January, 2024.

PERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Gordon Powell, Chairman

ATTEST:


Michele Solomon, Clerk to the Board

(County Seal)



January 16, 2024

ADDITION OF VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICER POSITION

Presented by County Manager Katherine Cathey. She stated the Board provided direction at the January 2, 2024 meeting to move the part-time Veterans Service Officer (VSO) into a newly established full-time position. She stated that this would add approximately 17.5 hours worked per week, as well as employee benefits for the VSO. She stated for the remainder of FY24, this would be approximately \$11,703 in additional budget needed to fund this change. She stated that this change would be effective January 26, 2024. She stated that funding has been identified in the undesignated contingency line item that could cover this additional expense. She stated that the recommended action is to approve the addition of one full-time VSO position, and eliminate the part-time position effective January 26, 2024, using the remaining part-time salary and the undesignated contingency to fund the full-time position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Commissioner Sims asked if a location for the VSO has been identified. Cathey stated that there is a meeting scheduled for today with county and Freedom House staff to discuss spacing and possible expansion.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to approve the addition of one full-time VSO position, and eliminate the part-time position effective January 26, 2024, using the remaining part-time salary and the undesignated contingency to fund the full-time position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Powell stated that he attended the MLK breakfast celebration, and it was well attended. He stated that he attended the Airport Commission Meeting, and it was a very productive meeting. He stated that discussions during the meeting included taxiway rehab, new terminal, and environmental assessments. He commented on Mayo Lake development and indicated that there are several entities other than Duke Energy involved.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager Katherine Cathey stated that she attended the Strategic Planning training offered by the School of Government last week and it was informative. She advised that she would have a draft of Person County's Strategic Plan for the Boards review in February. She advised that the budget retreat is set for the second Board meeting in February.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Sims stated that he appreciated everyone for coming to the meeting and for public comments. He stated that one commissioner's beliefs or opinions do not represent the whole board and that each board member is an individual and has individual opinions. He commented on the Mayo Lake development and indicated he would like the development pursued to be able to move forward.

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Commissioner Puryear stated that he attended the Library Advisory Board meeting last week and at the meeting, the board indicated spacing needs for the library. He stated that the Library Director would be speaking with the Assistant County Manager in reference to this.

Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Thomas had no report.

CLOSED SESSION #1

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session #1 at 9:38 a.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose to discuss personnel with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Michele Solomon, County Attorney T.C. Morphis, Jr. , and Person County Sheriff Jason Wilborn.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session #1 to order at 9:39 a.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 10:25 a.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 4-1** to increase Sheriff Wilborn's salary by 5% to \$126,597 effective 2/1/2024. Commissioners Sims, Palmer, Puryear, and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Powell voted in opposition to the motion, stating it is not about the person or the position; it is about being a good steward of tax-payer money.

CLOSED SESSION #2

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session #2 at 10:26 a.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Michele Solomon, County Attorney T.C. Morphis, Jr., Finance Director Amy Wehrenberg, and General Services Director Ray Foushee.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session # 2 to order at 10:27 a.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 11:14 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION #3

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session #3 at 11:14 a.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose to discuss personnel with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Michele Solomon, and County Attorney T.C. Morphis, Jr.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session # 3 to order at 11:15 a.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 11:23 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION #4

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session #4 at 11:24 a.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose to consult with attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Michele Solomon, and County Attorney T.C. Morphis, Jr.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session # 4 to order at 11:24 a.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 11:35 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Michele Solomon
Clerk to the Board

Gordon Powell
Chairman

January 16, 2024