

Regular Meeting
March 24, 2022
(Budget Work Session)

A regular meeting of the Nash County Board of Commissioners was held at 9:00 AM, March 23, 2022 at the Drake Community Center (5251 Drake Road) in Battleboro, NC.

Present were Chairman Robbie B. Davis and Commissioners Marvin C. Arrington, Fred Belfield, Jr., Dan Cone, J. Wayne Outlaw, and Gwen Wilkins.

Commissioner Sue Leggett was late with an excused absence. She arrived at 11:05 AM.

Others present were Stacie Shatzer, Donna Wood, Melanie Eason, Janice Evans, Vince Durham, Battle, Winslow, Scott & Wiley and other staff members and members of the public.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order and provided a brief explanation regarding prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance in Nash County. He stated it is customary that Nash County starts each meeting with a prayer by a Commissioner and Pledge of Allegiance and that anyone wishing to participate in the prayer, moment of silence, or a prayer of their own choice was welcomed.

Chairman Davis called on Ms. Gwen Wilkins for the invocation and Mr. J. Wayne Outlaw to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Keith Stone, Nash County Sheriff's Office made a presentation to the Board on Sheriff's Office Positions and Capital Requests.

Ms. Donna Wood, Finance Director provided the Board with the Outside Agency Funding Requests for FY 2023.

Ms. Wood and Mr. Scott Rogers, Emergency Services, provided information to the Board on the Fire District Tax Rates and informed the Board that for the fiscal year 2023, one fire district, Middlesex, is requesting a tax increase from \$.08 to \$.12.

Chairman Davis called for a ten (10) minute recess.

Upon reconvening, Chairman Davis called on Ms. Wood.

Ms. Wood provided information to the Board on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Allocations and Expenditures.

Mr. Jonathan Boone, Public Utilities and Facilities provided information to the Board on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Allocations and Expenditures related to Water & Sewer.

Ms. Stacie Shatzer, County Manager provided information and had discussion with the Board on the proposed use for FY21 Nash UNC Healthcare Lease Agreement Payment.

Mr. Boone provided information to the Board regarding proposed Nash County FY2022-2023 Fee Schedule changes for Public Utilities.

Mr. Boone made a presentation to the Board on position reclassification and a new position request.

Chairman Davis recessed the meeting for lunch.

Chairman Davis called the meeting back to order.

On motion of Fred Belfield, Jr. seconded by J. Wayne Outlaw and duly passed that the Board go into closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, and NCGS 143-318(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, fitness and conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of a prospective public officer or employee.

During closed session, the Board received information and had discussion on Nash County Convalescent Non-Emergency Transport Services.

On motion of Fred Belfield, Jr. seconded by J. Wayne Outlaw and Marvin C. Arrington and duly passed that the closed session adjourn.

Chairman Davis called the regular meeting back to order.

On motion of Dan Cone seconded by Sue Leggett and duly passed that the Nash County Board of Commissioners approve the recommendation to phase out and end the county-owned Convalescent Non-Emergency Transportation Service, with the process ending July 1, 2022.

Jonathan Edwards
Communications Director
Nash County, NC
252-459-1501



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2022

Nash Ends County-Owned Convalescent Transportation

Nash County, NC – The Nash County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to begin phasing out the County’s convalescent transportation service at their regularly scheduled meeting this past Thursday. Nash County added convalescent transportation to their EMS services in 1993 as a non-emergency transportation option for residents discharged from the hospital, going to appointments, or needing inter-facility transportation. Twenty-nine years ago, Nash County and local volunteer rescue squads were the only providers of this type of service for our residents. Today, the private sector offers several options to patients in need of non-emergency transportation. Changes in Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance plans have lowered the number of calls for transportation, reducing the need for the number of providers in our area.

Nash convalescent transportation will be phased out by allowing private providers to accept more transportation requests over the next three months, with Nash County ending the service by July 1, 2022. Emergency Services Director Scott Rogers presented this change to the Board, explaining that with quality services available from the private sector, this transition allows Nash County EMS to focus on emergency response. “Our main focus is providing superior emergency response to medical emergencies, and we are confident that our residents will continue to receive excellent service from private providers,” Rogers said. “Our citizens that utilize convalescent services should notice no difference except maybe the color of the truck.”

County employees assigned to convalescent transportation will be reassigned to regular EMS emergency units. Nash County will continue to work with private providers to ensure their services meet our high-quality standards. This includes regular inspections of private ambulances and reviewing training and performance records. For more information, please contact Scott Rogers at 252-459-1214.

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On motion of Sue Leggett seconded by Marvin C. Arrington and duly passed that the meeting adjourn.

Janice Evans, Clerk
Nash County Board of Commissioners