



Foothills Regional Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
February 22nd, 2024
Minutes

Committee Members Present

- **Vice-Chair**, Max Hopper, Cleveland County
- Jack Shytle, Town of Polkville
- Jimmy Dancy, Town of Rutherfordton

Committee Members Absent

- **Chairman**, Fred Baisden, Polk County
- Ashley Wooten, McDowell County
- **Secretary**, Bryan King, Rutherford County
- Dean Buff, McDowell County

Guest Present

- Steve Garrison, Rutherford County

FRC Staff Present

- Danna Stansbury
- Charlotte Sullivan
- Laura Lynch
- Pam Hall
- Annette Staley
- Jordan Barnes
- Amanda Scott

Call to order

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Foothills Regional Commission was held at Foothills Regional Commission in the conference room on February 22nd, 2024. Vice-Chairman Max Hopper called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and welcomed everyone. Hopper gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and State Salute to the North Carolina Flag.

Approval of minutes

Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested approval of the November 16th, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Jack Shytle, with a second by Jimmy Dancy. All were in favor.



Reports

1. Audit Presentation

Shannon Dennison:

- Provided an overview of the FY2023 Audit, discussed challenges faced by the team, and congratulated the finance team and the department for their achievements and proposed potential solutions.
- During FY2023, the Commission appropriated \$127,000 of fund balance in the General Fund, violating State law because the Commission did not have any fund balance available for appropriation.
- Audited financial information for the period ending June 30, 2022, was not submitted to HUD through the REAC website within the required time frame.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested approval of the 22/23 audit. The motion was made by Jimmy Dancy, with a second by Jack Shytle. All were in favor.

2. Finance Update

Charlotte Sullivan:

- Requested Budget amendment for \$50,000 for the following:
 - i. City of Shelby Zoning Technical Assistance for \$10,000.
 - ii. Chimney Rock ARC Grant Administration for \$5,000.
 - iii. Town of Spindale EDA Grant administration for \$30,000.
 - iv. Town of Polkville Future Land Use Plan for \$5000.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested a motion to approve the budget amendment. The motion was made by Jimmy Dancy, with a second from Jack Shytle. All were in favor.

- Presented and confirmed how the following bank balances are managed:
 - i. \$1.9 million in North Carolina Capital Management Trust.
 - ii. \$444,458 in Section 8 Housing Account.
 - iii. \$75,100 in General Fund Account.
 - iv. \$8675 in Payroll Account.

3. Aging Department Update

Laura Lynch:

- Informed the Board that Foothills Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging develops an Aging Plan every four years.
- Highlighted that the plan aims to address the needs and challenges of the aging population.
- Briefed the board about the outreach methods for survey input this year which include:
 - i. Paper surveys distributed to all senior center clients.
 - ii. Paper surveys sent to all home-bound clients.
 - iii. A digital survey link on all senior center websites.
 - iv. A digital survey link on the Commission's website and newsletter.
 - v. QR code option placed in entities throughout the county.

- Informed the Board that the American Rescue Plan has allocated \$5.4 billion to North Carolina in state fiscal recovery funds.
- Announced that \$15 million from this plan is earmarked for home repairs for seniors.
- Highlighted that this funding allows for more spending on Housing & Home repairs for senior adults than the normal Block Grant funding.
- Stated that the funding is relatively unrestricted regarding its usage.
- Informed the board that the final award for the region is yet to be determined, but approximately \$142,000 has been discussed as a potential award.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested approval of the Aging Report. The motion was made by Jack Shytle with a second by Jimmy Dancy. All were in favor.

4. Housing Department Update

Pam Hall:

- Introduced a new employee, Kieran Nelson.
- Informed the Board that Section 8 is near the end of the waiting list, and hopes to open before the middle of the year.
- Briefed the Board on how they plan on getting the news out regarding the reopening waiting list.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested approval of the Housing Report. The motion was made by Jack Shytle, with a second by Jimmy Dancy. All were in favor.

5. Workforce Development Update

Annette Staley

- Thanked the support staff and mentioned Diane Hodge, Linda Sprouse, Bill Robertson, and Sarah Crank.
- Briefed about the grant to Pioneer Motor Bearing and the purchase of \$7- \$8 million for aerospace equipment in collaboration with Cleveland Community College and Foothills Workforce Board.
- Informed the Board about the Policy and Procedure updates for the Workforce Board, which will be submitted for approval at their May 2nd Board Meeting.
- Briefed about the N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions (DSW) Workforce WIOA Comprehensive Four-Year Plan for Program Years 2024 through 2028.
- Briefed about their joint operation with NC Works Career Center in Cleveland County to locate a smaller building to cut costs.
- Asked for anyone who knows about a building, 3,500 to 4,000 sq ft, to please let her know.

6. Community and Economic Development Update

Jordan Barnes

- Informed the Board of the disbursement of over \$100,000 to the local nonprofit organizations for operating, capacity building, and training.
- Briefed about the development of a tech hub in the region.

7. Executive Director's Report

Steve Garrison, Rutherford County Manager Presentation:

- Briefed the Board on the funds Rutherford County secured last year in the amount of \$94 million.
- Informed the Board that Rutherford County has included Foothills Regional Commission in the General Assembly's asks for a new building.
- Requested support from the Board for their asks for a new building.
- Pointed out challenges they face as a county, especially on outlay projects during the great recession.
- Informed the Board that Tim Moore is vying for a federal seat.

Danna Stansbury:

- Informed the Board of the need for Foothills Regional Commission to repair the roof and install a new HVAC system.
- Briefed about some quotes FRC has received for the installation of new carpet.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested approval of the roof repair, carpet installation, and HVAC system expenditure. The motion was made by Jimmy Dancy with a second by Jack Shylte. All were in favor.

- Requested the Board for tentative approval for FRC to work with LGC for Kingstown from March 19th on an open-ended contract basis.

Decision: Vice-Chairman Max Hopper requested a motion to support FRC in working with LGC for Kingstown. The motion was made by Jack Shylte with a second by Jimmy Dancy. All were in favor.

Announcements

- Jimmy Dancy: Announced that Town Hall in Rutherford County will be turned into the new police station.

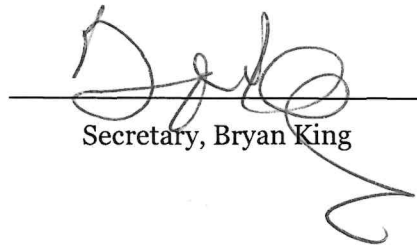
Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Max Hopper adjourned the meeting at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman, Fred Baisden



Secretary, Bryan King