

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 19 2023
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) met June 19, 2023, 7:00pm, at the Blue Ridge Energy Community Room in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Brenda Lyerly, Stoney Greene, Otis Church, Mike Inscore, Timmy Evans, Larry Turnbow, Bill Wheeler, Dennis Aldridge, Larry Fontaine, Steve Pitman, Jim Blevins, Rocky Buchanan, Wes Brinegar, and Todd McNeill. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Jeff Hedrick, Julie Wiggins, Julie Page, Cory Osborne, Stevie Welborn, and Victoria Oxentine. The following guests were present via Zoom: Chris Wall.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chairman McNeill welcomed everyone to the High Country Council of Governments June Executive Board meeting. Chairman McNeill called on to Stoney Greene to lead the invocation and Dennis Aldridge to lead the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Stoney Greene made a motion to approve the May 15, 2023 Executive Board minutes. Otis Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Financial Highlights as of May 31, 2023 (Attachment A) and reviewed year to date revenues versus expenditures and balances. Mrs. Page noted that the unassigned fund balance is at 19.25%.

Budget Amendment #6

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented Budget Amendment #6 (Attachment A1) which is an increase in revenue for building repairs from insurance and a \$50,000 interest income for the year (which will be used for the 2% one-time bonus for staff this fiscal year). The total increase of Budget Amendment #6 is \$292,000.00. Some of this will be deferred revenue for damaged expenses.

Amended Grant Project Ordinance

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the Amended Grant Project Ordinance (Attachment A2) for ARPA/NCARCOG. Mrs. Page explained that only line items have changed from the original ordinance, it is still the same amount of funding.

2023 Contract to Audit

Finance Officer, Julie Page presented the 2023 Contract to Audit with TPSA (Attachment A3). The total cost for the audit will be \$22,250.00.

Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights as of May 31, 2023, Budget Amendment #6, the Amended Grant Project Ordinance, and the 2023 Contract to Audit. Brenda Lyerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chris Wall, Principal for EQVStrategic joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss updates in the NC General Assembly. Mr. Wall noted that there has been tremendous action in the General Assembly this session and negotiations between the House and Senate over the budget are ongoing. Executive Board members asked Chris about different bills, and he said he would get the answers to them via Julie Wiggins.

OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT

Stevie Welborn, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman presented her FY2022 Annual Report (Attachment B). Mrs. Welborn serves as an advocate for Long Term Care residents in the region. Mrs. Welborn discussed complaint categories, program assistance/visitation, and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) volunteer vacancies in each county.

OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

Charles E. Vines made a motion to open the public hearing for FY2024 Budget Adoption. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

As there were no comments or movement, Stoney Greene made a motion to close the public hearing for FY2024 Budget Adoption. Otis Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

Julie Wiggins, Executive Director presented the FY2024 Budget Resolution (Attachment C) for adoption. Dennis Aldridge and Todd McNeill thanked Julie Wiggins and staff for their hard work on this year's budget. Charles E. Vines made a motion to adopt the FY2024 Budget Resolution. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

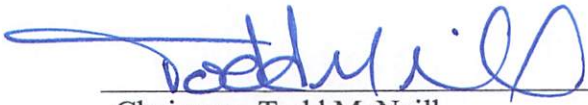
Julie Wiggins, Executive Director announced that the building remediation progress is moving along and that we should be back in the board room for the July 17th meeting. Ms. Wiggins also noted that we have received \$4,000.00 in Annual Banquet sponsorship so far and thanked Commissioner Greene for his help securing a gold level sponsor. Ms. Wiggins and Communications Manager, Victoria Oxentine will keep looking for sponsors in hopes to minimize general fund expenses for the banquet. Ms. Wiggins announced that the Advisory Committee has recommended a one-time, 2% bonus for HCCOG staff this fiscal year and that the \$50,000.00 interest income will well cover this without appropriating fund balance. Wes Brinegar made a motion to approve the one-time, 2% bonus for HCCOG staff in FY2023. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Stoney Greene noted that the NASCAR All-Star Race and festivities went extremely well in Wilkes county last month. Dennis Aldridge announced that the NCACC regional meeting (district 14) will be held in Wilkesboro Thursday, June 22nd. Wes Brinegar noted that the 1st Annual Fried Apple Pie Festival in Sparta was a huge success with over 11,000 attendees. Brenda Lyerly announced that the Highland Games will be the week of July 4th in Avery county.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Otis Church made a motion to adjourn. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.



Chairman, Todd McNeill



Clerk to the Board, Victoria Oxentine

Date 7/17/23