

At 1604 Ocean Highway South, Hertford

Applicant: Tykisha Frierson
Landowner: Johnnie Howell, Jr.

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WORK SESSION
July 17, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular Work Session on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman Charles Woodard, Vice Chairman
Timothy J. Corprew Joseph W. Hoffer
James W. Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Kyle Jones

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Heath, County Manager Mary P. Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board

After Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order, Commissioner Hoffer gave the invocation and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The following matter was discussed.

DSS BOARD COMPOSITION

Chairman Nelson explained that, at the July 3, 2023 meeting, Commissioner Woodard requested and the Board approved to have the County Manager Heath and County Attorney High research the process to increase the Social Services Board membership from three members to five members. The basic reason for this request to increase the membership was due to the expansion of the Medicaid services, which will be implemented soon. During tonight's meeting, County Manager Heath will provide the results of their research. Mr. Nelson also informed the Board that Commissioner Jones would not be here tonight due to his being out of town. Mr. Nelson turned the meeting over to Mr. Heath who presented the information they found. Currently, our Social Services Board has three members: one appointed by Commissioners; one appointed by local Social Services Board; and one appointed by the Social Services Commission. The Governor appoints the Social Services Commission members. Mr. Heath did a comparison of the surrounding counties to determine the number of members on their DSS Board. All of them have five except Dare County who has sixteen. Dare County has sixteen because they have a consolidated Health & Human Services Board. He further stated that the larger counties have larger boards because of the consolidation of the Health & Human Services. Mr. Heath further explained that there are two NC General Statutes that address this issue. These General Statutes are as follows:

§ 108A-2. Size. The county board of social services of a county shall consist of three members, except that the board of commissioners of any county may increase such number to five members. The decision to increase the size to five members or to reduce a five-member board to three shall be reported immediately in writing by the chairman of the board of commissioners to the Department of Health and Human Services.

§ 108A-5(b). Order of appointment. (b) Five-Member Board: Whenever a board of commissioners of any county decides to expand a three-member board to a five-member board of social services, the Social Services Commission shall appoint an additional member for a term expiring at the same time as the term of the existing member appointed by the board of commissioners, and the board of commissioners shall appoint an additional member for a term expiring at the same time as the term of the existing member appointed by the Social Services Commission. The change to a five-member board shall become effective at the time when the additional members shall have been appointed by both the county board of commissioners and the Social Services Commission. Thereafter all appointments shall be for three-year terms.

According to these NC General Statutes, Mr. Heath said that Perquimans County could increase their DSS Board from three to five members by a simple vote of the Board of Commissioners. If the Commissioners approve the request, the new members will be appointed as follows: one will be appointed by the local Board of Commissioners and that individual's term will expire the same time that the current Commissioner appointee's term expires; one will be appointed by the Social Services Commission and that individual's term will expire the same time that the current Social Services Commission appointee's term expires. The County is only required to notify the NC Department of Health & Human Services and the local DSS Board. The Board of Commissioners would also need to notify the Social Services Director so that she could contact the members about their upcoming meetings.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the expansion of the Social Services Board and to add it to an upcoming meeting for action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned around 7:30 p.m. on motion made by Timothy J. Corprew, seconded by James W. Ward.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board
