



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary	Donte Anderson Patricia Crump Cathy Davis Martha Sue Hall Brian Helms Corinthia Lewis-Lemon Tony Long Jerry Oxsher Elaine Powell Shawn Rush David Scholl Jennifer Stepp Jennifer Teague	Kevin Demeny Cathy Davis Gene Houpe Bob Hovis Lynn Shue	Narissa Claiborne Geraldine Gardner Venecia Rock Denise Strosser Kelly Weston Guests None.

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order.

Narissa Claiborne, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted a quorum present.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Compton called for a moment of silence.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of January 11, 2023, Executive Board Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Approval of the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award**
- 3. Approval of NC Department of Transportation FY24 Public Transportation Program**
- 4. Centralina Economic Development District Board Appointments**
- 5. . Approval of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Amendments to the Agenda.

Centralina Board Chair notes that there was an update to the Centralina Board Consent Agenda. Item 4. Centralina Economic Development District (CEDD) Board Appointees. 1 name has been added to the CEDD Board Appointees list, Centralina Workforce Development Board Director, David Hollars.

Chairman Bobby Compton called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Brian Helms of Union County called Consent Agenda Items 2 (two)- USAging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration-Vaccine Grant Award for discussion. Commissioner Bobby Compton stated the discussion surrounding item 2(two), **Approval of the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award** would be tabled until after the last regular agenda item.

Martha Sue Hall made a motion to Approve the Agenda with correct items 1,3, and 4. Jay McCosh seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Regular Agenda Items

6. Swearing in of the Centralina Executive Board Secretary

Chairman Compton advised the Board that due to the absence of Secretary Jarvis Woodburn; he would know to be sworn in. Commissioner Woodburn read off the Oath of Office aloud. Chairman Compton thanked Commissioner Woodburn for his continued service.

7. Executive Board Orientation & FY23-24 Forecast

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner shared with the Board a presentation surrounding the Executive Board Role and responsibilities. Ms. Gardner also shared with the Board the FY23-24 Workplan and Board Meeting forecast. Ms. Gardner highlighted Key Initiatives and Implementation. Lastly, Ms. Gardner gave a high-level overview of both the Executive Board and Board of Delegates meeting forecast detailing topics based on Board member interests and feedback. In closing, Ms. Gardner informed the board that we have invited Senator Tom Tillis to attend the August Centralina Board of Delegates meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall asked Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner to give a background on the invitation of Senator Tom Tillis and Ted Budd. Geraldine asked the Board if there were any other items, they would like to see moving forward they she may not have mentioned.

Mayor Pro Tem also made a comment regarding the Request for proposals for fiscal years 2023-2025.

8. Raleigh Relations

Kelly Weston, Government Affairs & Member Engagement Coordinator shared with the Board the history and the initiatives of the Raleigh Relations Engagement Strategy. Ms. Weston emphasized the importance of expanding the engagement at the State level including relationship building, Statewide Advocacy, and Regional Advocacy. Ms. Weston shared with the Board the formal advocacy priorities, including Funding for Centralina, Monitoring, and lastly Alignment with other organizations. Ms. Weston shared with the Board areas where Board members can support the Advocacy Agenda priorities. Finally, Kelly Weston shared with the Board the 2023 Advocacy Agenda. Ms. Weston petitioned the Board to give feedback regarding areas of the agenda.

Martha Sue Hall commented on the need to collaborate with other organizations that have already taken the lead regarding advocacy.

Kelly summarized the discussion reifying that the Board wished to add Medicaid Expansion as an initiative to add to "Alignment With Others". Councilman Brian Helms responded by stating that he wishes to leave Medicaid expansion in the Advocacy Category, "Monitoring." Commissioner Patty Crump agreed and stated that she wished to keep the Advocacy Category in the Monitoring phase. Chairman Bobby Compton asked Ms. Weston if this topic could be reviewed later. Executive Director Gardner added that since the session just started, we could do an update at the April Executive Board meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Marth Sue Hall proposed a motion that both the Priority Issue Area, 4. Aging Infrastructure and 5. Taxing Authority for Local Municipalities both moved to be placed in the Advocacy Category "Alignment with Other Organizations". Commissioner Helms posed the question to Geraldine Gardner, What are we trying to accomplish - approving existing facilities or expansion to water and wastewater utilities? Ms. Gardner answered by stating that in the initial conversation, the BOD priorities lay in the condition of existing infrastructure. Ms. Hall repeated her previously stated motion. Council member Jennifer step seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Weston closed by highlighting Legislative Engagement and shared with the Board how Centralina Regional Council can assist. Councilman Oxsher asked if there was a way to expedite that process. Chairman Compton, stated he could reach out to Kelly Weston with any questions or concerns.

9. Advancing the Plan Committee Update

Centralina Planning Director, Michelle Nance shared with the Board the CONNECT Beyond progress and background on the step taken thus far including the committee members, upcoming meeting schedule, first-year Committee goals, highlights from the Advancing the Plan Kick-off, major successes, and lastly upcoming steps. Jason Wager, Senior Planner engaged the Board in an interactive activity surrounding the Centralina CONNECT Beyond Plan by polling them to answer questions that ask- "Which audiences including State Lawmakers, Local Elected Officials, Stakeholders, Business Community, and the General Public best resonate- Specially, 1. For which audiences does the message "Working together as a region makes us more competitive for federal transportation grants best resonate? 2. For which audiences does the message "We need better mobility to increase economic competitiveness for industries and business best resonate? 3. Which audience does the message, "Help employers access more employees", best resonate with? 4. For which audience does the message "Residence need seamless travel to get to work/educational opportunities/medical appointments "improving access for all" best resonate? Ms. Hall asked for clarification on who exactly are the "stakeholders" Michelle Nance responded funders and transit providers. 5. For which audiences does the message "quality of life"-creating places where people want to live and have mobility options, "best resonate? 6. For which audience does the message "Making the region future ready planning for growth in a way that maintains the quality of life," best resonate? 7. For which audience does the message "Environmental benefits," best resonate? 8. For which audience does the message "Supports the preservation of rural communities and agriculture, "best resonate? 9. For which audience does the message "increasing the efficiency of current infrastructure (all modes, including roads)," best resonate? 10. For which audience does the message "Mobility choices offer alternative to congestion", best resonate? Ms. Nance closed by sharing that the results will be incorporated into a FAQ sheet that the ATP committee will use for collateral when making their determination.

10. Aging Programs Update

Centralina Aging Programs Director provided an Aging Program Update on the progress, including funding/grants. Ms. Miller also shared that those mentioned funding has now run out. Ms. Miller shared that as a result, of less funding, the aging community will receive fewer services. She shared that because of the special need surrounding COVID-19, restrictions to receive services were lessened and resulted in easier access for people and organizations that

utilized those services, which was great for non-profits that were previously unable to access services. Ms. Miller shared though, that those services were set to end in September of 2024- and the result would be serviced resuming normal practices making the services again restrictive to organizations and programs including Medicaid and Medicare. She added that inflation would also make it harder and more expensive for individuals to receive services. Ms. Miller continued by sharing ways the Aging Program will promote sustainability moving forward including working to improve nutrition services, alternative funding sources, and increasing purchasing power for meals and nutrition in a regional way instead of each county working individually. Finally, Ms. Miller shared ways and resources that the Board can assist with. She offered Centralina Regional Council's services to the Board as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall confirmed that the funding that is provided to the Aging Department came directly from the Federal Government. Ms. Miller confirmed.

Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn commented on Meals on Wheels regarding who delivers food to residents.

Chairman Compton followed up with consent agenda item 2. *Approval of the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award* raised by Commissioner Brian Helms for more discussion.

Brian Helms shared that he had severe concerns with what he read in the March 8- agenda packet. Mr. Helms started on Page 11 and read the language regarding vaccinations for adults. He continued by stating that he believes that we are instead of treating patients we are shooting for numbers. He shared that instead of caring for patients, we are setting numbers and working, instead to reach that goal. He added that he also had severe concerns with information being disseminated regarding vaccinations as propaganda and not fully informative on the dangers of vaccinations. Commissioner Helms expressed that he is not pulling the above-mentioned agenda item to be a "troublemaker" but because he cares about the elderly people in our region. Mr. Helms especially pointed out "in-home vaccination" and the dangers that could come from that practice. He continues by saying he is not an "anti-vaccination". But he wants it to be recognized that all vaccinations may not be safe for all that are targeted with the "propaganda campaigns". Commissioner Helms questioned the Board by asking, "How do we define "credible information?". Mr. Helms added that there is "very real data" that supports vaccine injury from the COVID-19 vaccination. He added that for too long our region, counties and municipalities, and our state and federal government have been chorused into taking the vaccination. He mentioned his Board supported the resolution of House Bill 98- Medical Freedom Act. Mr. Helms asserted that he cannot support the motion to support the funding/grant award with the limited information that has been brought forth in the Agenda Packet.

Commissioner Helms made a motion to deny consent item 2. *Approval of the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award*. Commissioner Patty Crump seconded the motion adding that her Board also approved House Bill 98.

Commissioner Crump added that she spoke with House bill representative Wayne Sasser. She stated that he felt strongly that the House Bill will pass. She added that this would give our students K- collegiate wouldn't have to choose between playing sports and being vaccinated. She added that House Bill 98 would be eliminating unfair quarantine rules. She shared that the passing of House Bill 98 would be a victory. Commissioner Crump shared with the Board that this topic has touched her family and that she feels very strongly about the vaccination process. Commissioner Crump stated that she fully supports rejecting the grant funding to protect older Americans that may not have a voice themselves.

Brian Helms shared that his Board also had a professional pediatrician speak at his Board meeting who stated that the COVID-19 vaccination does not prevent the transmission of Covid-19. Lastly, Commissioner Helms shared that in conversation with an elderly woman in his community, she had received at least 5 vaccinations that she knows of.

Ms. Linda Miller shared that the funding would come from the Federal Government and pointed out that this grant money would not only be specific for COVID-19 vaccination but also included influenza and shingles vaccination. Ms. Miller also shared that people are free to make their own choices without being forced. Ms. Miller shared that individuals are not required to get a vaccination to receive other medical services. Ms. Miller added that information is given by doctors and other medical facilities sharing risks regarding vaccinations.

Commissioner Crump shared that information handed out and Atrium is not informed consent and is in fact a "lie".

Council Member Jennifer Stepp shared that she has personal feelings regarding the vaccination. She added that her mother died because of the vaccine because of what her family thought was true. She shared that she was the only person to vote against the incentive program within her city. She stated that only 35% had chosen to be vaccinated. She stated the incentive was a horrible thing to incentivize vaccinations.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall added that she appreciated all her constituent's comments. She also shared that she also knows people that died from both receiving the vaccination and not receiving the vaccination. She directed the Board to "get back to the agenda". She emphasized that "this money is not solely for Covid-19 but includes the above-mentioned vaccination- vaccinations that no one until Covid-19 was questioned. Mayor Pro Tem Hall confirmed when this money would be available through Spring 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall shared that she would be in support of passing the motion to approve the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award because it is inclusive of other vaccinations.

The Board went on to discuss the language in the agenda packet regarding the inclusion of not only the Covid 19 vaccination but other vaccinations including shingles, influenza, etc.

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner shared that what was in the agenda packet is limited to the general scope of work at a national level. She asked if Commissioner Helms and Commissioner Crump would be in favor of the Centralina Regional Council and the Area Agency on Aging presenting at the next Centralina Executive Board meeting a more comprehensive and specific scope of work to what we will do in the Centralina Region. Adding that they will need to speak with the USAging Partners about only focusing on vaccinations, not including the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Commissioner Crump and Commissioner Helms responded, stating they would not be in favor of the grant under even those circumstances.

Chairman Bobby Compton added to the discussion and stated that if it weren't for the vaccination, he wouldn't be here. He added that he has asthma. He shared with the Board they he stopped breathing twice and shared other complications that he has experienced from Covid-19.

Commissioner Helms restated the motion. to deny consent item 2. *Approval of the USAging Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaboration Vaccine grant award.*

The motion passed by 8/7.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall proposed a motion that would authorize staff to contact the USAging about modifying the grant perimeters.

Commissioner Elaine Powell asked if the grant could move forward in coordination with the Board's concerns by limiting the scope.

Executive Director Geraldine Gardner confirmed that they will reach out to USAging to confirm perimeters.

Commissioner Powell seconded the motion brought forth by Mayor Pro Tem Hall to authorize staff to contact the USAging about modifying the grant perimeters.

Council Member Oxsher stated one of the main reasons he supported the motion to deny the grant is because of the language surrounding specific Covid 19 vaccination training. He also stated that he would be in favor of the grant if it focused more on collaborative efforts, development, training, and peer-to-peer engagement as opposed to numbers, and vaccination hesitancy training.

Jennifer Teague asked if there were benchmarks tied to the amount of money received with the grant.

Ms. Miller responded the number isn't only tied to how many people get vaccinated, but how many individuals are reached through outreach efforts.

Chairman Compton restated the motion that would authorize staff to contact the USAging about modifying the grant perimeters that was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

The motion passed.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

Geraldine Gardner reiterated that Centralina will revisit the Grant Award after Centralina staff contacts USAging about modifying the grant perimeters.

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall shared that at the last Board of Delegates, meeting delegates were called to share information. Ms. Hall asked if Board of Delegate Handbooks were available to share.

Centralina Executive Director shared that Board of Delegates Handbooks were sent to all delegates and are also available upon request.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked about the Mecklenburg County stormwater meeting. Commissioner Elaine Powell shared the meeting location and virtual meeting information.

Council Member Dante' Anderson stated that if at the upcoming meeting, we could state names before speaking

Chairman Compton agreed and stated that we would remind Board members.

Commissioner shared that what happened tonight- regarding different viewpoints allows for Board members to make better decisions and better meetings.

Comments from the Executive Director

Geraldine shared that tonight's meeting was an example of regionalism in action.

She also shared with the Board that with ARPA reporting approaching Centralina is making personal phone calls are being made to support communities in meeting deadlines and guidelines.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton encouraged the Board, if they haven't already, to complete the Centralina Board of Delegate interest survey form. He also reminded the Board of the upcoming grant writing workshop, held on May 18.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.