

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the commissioners' conference room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those commissioners present were as follows: Chair Carolyn Faines, Vice-Chair Yolanda J. Feimster, Commissioners R. Dan Brummitt, Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Leo Kelly, Jr., and Valencia L. Perry.

Absent: None.

Also present were County Manager C. Renee Perry, Assistant County Manager Jeremy Jones, Finance Director Stephanie Williams, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

The purpose of the special meeting was to continue discussions on a plan of action for the detention center. Sheriff Curtis Brame and Major William Mitchell appeared before the board and reiterated the need to do something as soon as possible, whether it be renovating the existing facility or constructing a new facility. Major Mitchell again informed the board that the state has extended its deadline of February 8 to February 21 to hear which direction the board would like to go. He noted that regardless of which direction the board goes, the jail will need to be emptied, either for renovations or to house inmates elsewhere. He stated that he will be touring a facility in Edgecombe County later this week to possibly house inmates during renovations or construction. He also reiterated that he is in discussion with the district attorney to potentially depopulate the jail through adjudication by holding special court sessions. He noted that the state is willing to let the county use the current female dorm as a holding area during the interim. He informed the board that Franklin, Granville and Monroe Counties have verbally agreed to house some of our inmates.

It was again noted that a needs assessment study was completed in June 2023 by Moseley Architects. At that time, the estimated cost of repairs to the existing facility was \$5.3 million; expansion of the current facility was \$31.2 million; and new construction was \$42.5 million.

Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. stated that he has spent a lot of time talking with judges, attorneys, other counties, and Moseley Architects about this situation. He feels that the county should move forward with constructing a new facility at a new location.

Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr. stated that he is willing to do what needs to be done and recommended a new facility along I-85.

The board discussed the costs of housing inmates elsewhere as well as medical expenses. Major Mitchell recommended a MOU with each county that houses our inmates.

After discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. to move forward with modifying the existing RFQ with Moseley Architects for repairs to the existing facility and construction of a new facility. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr.

Commissioner R. Dan Brummitt stated that he has spoken with Granville County Commissioners who are receptive to discussing a regional facility. He recommended going in this direction because it could be a cost savings. County Manager C. Renee Perry noted that for regional facilities, the Sheriff's are no longer in charge of the facility and the employees would not be county employees. The facilities are under the supervision of an independent board. Commissioner Brummitt also expressed his displeasure that repairs are not being made at the facility when funds are allocated by the board.

Commissioner Valencia L. Perry asked if inmates would destroy a new facility. She stated that although she agrees that a new facility is needed, she will vote against whatever the board decides. She stated that repairing the current facility would be a waste of taxpayer money because it would just be destroyed again.

Following further discussion, vote on the motion to move forward with modifying the existing RFQ with Moseley Architects for repairs to the existing facility and construction of a new facility was ayes – four (4); noes – two (2), with the dissenting votes being cast by Commissioners R. Dan Brummitt and Valencia L. Perry.

County Attorney Jonathan S. Care asked for direction from the board concerning a contract for jail health if inmates are housed elsewhere. He asked if we should go out for bid or renegotiate with the current provider. During discussion, it was suggested that health care should be addressed in the MOUs we create with the counties housing our inmates.

Commissioner R. Dan Brummitt stated that he would like a detailed budget outlining all scenarios to include figures on costs for inmates being housed elsewhere, medical expenses, transportation, use of current facility, etc. He also asked Chair Faines to appoint a committee to

meet with Granville County representatives about regionalization. She stated that the Public Safety Committee would be appropriate for this purpose.

As there was no further business, at 5:20 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner R. Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Leo Kelly, Jr., vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

**Approved and signed March 10, 2025.**

**Carolyn Faines (signed)**  
**Carolyn Faines, Chair**