



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020**

Officers Present	Delegates Present	Delegates Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman William Morgan, Treasurer	Larken Egleston Bill Feather Martha Sue Hall Darrell Hinnant Autumn Michael Pedro Morey Troy Selberg Lynn Shue	Zach Almond Deloris Chambers Trevor Fuller Gene Houpe Rich Permenter Jim Watson Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary Ronnie Worley	Geraldine Gardner Mike Manis Linda Miller Michelle Nance Sherika Rich Denise Strosser Kelly Weston Guests Dan Gougherty, Cherry Bekaert Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting

Call to Order

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

Kelly Weston, Clerk to the Board, called roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Compton noted that the agenda included a Moment of Silence in lieu of an Invocation. He explained that the change reflected a new diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative Centralina staff is currently undertaking. He added that the moment is intended to be inclusive of all and promote the culture of belonging Centralina strives to cultivate. He then called for a Moment of Silence.

Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the September 9, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. FY20 Audit Report Presentation

Chairman Compton introduced Dan Gougherty, Cherry Bekaert, LLP, noting that Mr. Gougherty has been working with Centralina’s audits for a few years now and was recently promoted.

Mr. Gougherty presented highlights from the audit report. He explained that his firm issued an unmodified, clean opinion on the financial statements. He further explained that his firm tested the Aging Cluster and the Workforce Cluster for the single audit and found no compliance issues, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. He noted that there were no issues with the internal controls used for financial reporting. He also noted that Centralina has the appropriate IT security policies and procedures in place to protect its accounting software and encouraged continued vigilance to ensure staff is aware of potential cybersecurity threats. He reported that Centralina's overall revenue increased by almost \$700,000 over the year, with the greatest increase in charges for services, specifically related to the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility initiative and Community Development Block Grant entitlement program administration for Mecklenburg County. He added that the increase was slightly offset by a small decrease in operating grant funds for Workforce and Mobility Management programs. He also reported that Centralina's fund balance is currently just over \$250,000, noting that it was around \$50,000 in 2016. He added that it is a good sign that the organization continues to move forward with positive fund balance changes. He thanked Denise Strosser, Finance Director, for her department's full cooperation, noting that the entire audit was completed remotely and on time.

Commissioner Lynn Shue, Cabarrus County, complimented Ms. Strosser, Executive Director Geraldine Gardner, and the rest of the Centralina staff on the organization's positive direction, noting that the audit report was one of the best received in recent years.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hall, Mr. Gougherty noted that this is the first year of Centralina's second three-year contract with Cherry Bekaert for auditing services.

Treasurer Morgan expressed his appreciation for Centralina's efforts that resulted in a clean audit, adding that Cherry Bekaert has also done an excellent job.

Mayor Darrell Hinnant, City of Kannapolis, made a motion to approve the Centralina Regional Council financial statements, compliance report, and audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Commissioner Shue seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Federal Relations Update

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, reported that all Centralina's August Advocacy meetings with members of the region's Congressional delegation were held virtually this year, which allowed the meetings to extend into later months. She presented highlights from the November election, noting that all the region's members of Congress were re-elected, and that Representative Virginia Foxx is joining the delegation. Ms. Mazingo encouraged the Board Members to take advantage of the current off-season to discuss their communities' federal grant applications with the funding agencies. She noted that the continuing resolution that will fund the federal government through December 11th is expected to be converted into an omnibus bill to avoid a government shutdown. She also noted that discussions about additional COVID-19 relief are still ongoing.

Treasurer Morgan made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for September through October 2020. Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Raleigh Relations Update

Ms. Weston presented an overview of the state legislative election results, noting that the region will not see much change in its delegation, but will have six new legislators, including five in the House and one in the Senate. She also noted that Centralina will begin implementing its post-election outreach strategy by mailing information packets to all the region's legislators in December. She added that the mailing will be followed with a request for meetings with legislators to discuss Centralina's work including key regional priorities such

as CONNECT Beyond. She explained that this outreach is part of the first phase of Centralina's Raleigh Relations strategy which will focus on building and strengthening relationships at the state level.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall requested a list of the region's new state legislators.

5. 2020 Year-End Updates

Ms. Gardner presented a progress report of Centralina's FY21 workplan. She reported that the Regional Planning Department has created a framework to assess the implementation of the CONNECT Our Future project. She noted that departments continue to deliver services and programs virtually, such as Workforce Development's virtual career fairs and Aging's webinars on chronic disease and pain management. She also noted that the Community and Economic Development Department completed an impact analysis for Cherryville to help the city forecast the economic impacts of a bond referendum. She added that internally, the organization is formalizing the recent name change and developing an IT governance process. She also noted that Centralina currently has 36 projects underway in local governments around the region.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall noted that Ms. Gardner and Emily Parker, Senior Planner, make a good strategic planning facilitation team. She encouraged Board Members to seek out Centralina for facilitation services.

6. 2021 Board Meeting Format Discussion

Ms. Weston noted that staff is planning for 2021 board meetings and could use the Executive Board's guidance on how to convene the meetings given the changing nature of COVID-19. She presented a proposal for a phased approach, explaining that in Phase 1, both boards would only meet virtually through the end of March. She further explained that Phase 2 would run from April 1st through the end of June and consist of a hybrid format where members of both boards would have the option of attending the meeting in-person or virtually. She added that for in-person meetings, the conference room would be set up for maximum physical distancing, food would be served in individual containers, and attendees would be asked to wear masks and complete a brief health assessment.

Vice Chairman Jay McCosh, Town of McAdenville, noted that the proposal sounded like a good plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall and Treasurer Morgan asked that in the outreach to member governments, staff emphasize that it is imperative for Delegates to take their appointments to heart.

7. Nominating Committee Forecast

Ms. Weston noted that the Executive Board must form a three-person Nominating Committee to identify the slate of nominees for 2021 Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. She asked Board Members to let her know if they were interested in serving on the Committee, noting that it must be formed before the January Executive Board meeting.

8. Resolutions for Outgoing Executive Board Members

Chairman Compton took a moment to recognize the contributions of Board Members whose time in public office would end at the end of 2020. He thanked Commissioner Trevor Fuller, Mecklenburg County, and Commissioner Rich Permenter, Lincoln County for their service, noting that they would each receive in the mail a resolution honoring their service.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

There were no comments from the Executive Board or Centralina staff.

Comments from the Executive Director

Ms. Gardner reported that the CONNECT Beyond project is currently focused on identifying high capacity transit corridors throughout the region. She noted that the next policy meeting will be in January. She further noted that the next crucial step in the public engagement aspect of the project will be to release an online survey in late November. She asked for the Board's assistance in disseminating the survey to members of their community to help gather public input about mobility needs and preferences.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Compton noted that the next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13th. He added that staff will distribute the full schedule of 2021 Executive Board and Board of Delegates meetings later in the month.

Linda Miller, Aging Director, noted that Shirley Wiggins, a long-time volunteer from Gaston County recently died. She added that Ms. Wiggins had served on several advisory boards and committees in support of aging services and senior issues.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:26p.m.