



**Executive Board Virtual Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2021**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Bobby Compton, Chairman Jay McCosh, Vice Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary William Morgan, Treasurer	Karen Alexander Peter Ascitutto Deloris Chambers Cathy Davis Larken Egleston Corinthia Lewis- Lemon Pedro Morey Christine Poinsette Elaine Powell Troy Selberg Lynn Shue Amelia Stinson- Wesley David Williams	Bill Feather Gene Houpe Bob Hovis	Katie Ballard Geraldine Gardner Debi Lee Sara Maloney Mike Manis Linda Miller Michelle Nance Sherika Rich Denise Strosser Natalie Tunney Jason Wager Kelly Weston  <b>Guests</b> Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting

**Call to Order**

Chairman Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the Executive Board’s two new At-Large Members, Mayor Karen Alexander, City of Salisbury, and Council Member Jennifer Stepp, City of Gastonia.

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

**Moment of Silence**

Chairman Compton called for a moment of silence.

**Amendments to the Agenda.**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of the March 10, 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Larken Egleston, City of Charlotte, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Treasurer William Morgan, City of Statesville, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2. Federal Relations Update**

Leslie Mazingo, Strategics Consulting, presented the performance report of Centralina’s federal relations activities for March through April 2021. She also provided updates on the American Rescue Plan act, noting that the federal government will distribute funds by May

10<sup>th</sup>. She also noted the announcement of the American Jobs Plan, adding that it broadly defines infrastructure to include not just capital projects such as transportation and water but also energy efficiency projects, broadband, and nursing homes. She further noted that the White House plans to present the American Families Plan that will address childcare, community college tuition, and affordable housing. She added that the President's budget has been released and is a good indication of where federal appropriations will go for FY22.

In response to questions from Treasurer Morgan, Ms. Mozingo estimated that the development of the American Jobs Plan will follow a process like that used for the American Rescue Plan Act where individual bills were combined to form a larger bill. She also forecasted that there may be other methods for funneling federal funds through the state to the local level.

Council Member Egleston made a motion to accept the Strategics Consulting performance report for March through April 2021. Mayor Alexander seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **3. FY22 Compensation Recommendations**

Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, presented a proposal for Centralina employee salary adjustments. She explained that the two-step approach consists of a 2% across-the-board increase and a merit increase between \$500 and \$1,500 based on FY21 employee performance evaluations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Elaine Powell, Mecklenburg County, Ms. Gardner noted that the Executive Board may vote on the two recommendations separately if it chooses.

Treasurer Morgan made a motion to approve the FY22 compensation approach which includes a 2% across-the-board increase with a minimum increase of \$1,000 for eligible employees and a merit increase of between \$500-\$1,500 for eligible employees based on their FY21 performance evaluation scores. Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Anson County, seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Chairman Compton, Ms. Gardner explained that staff has surveyed other COGs and the proposed approach is consistent with Centralina's peers. She noted that in the past, Centralina created a merit pool, but did not have enough resources for a large enough pool. She further noted that the fiscal impact of the 2% across-the-board increase is \$51,500.

Treasurer Morgan noted that based on his review of Centralina's financial information, the organization can absorb the cost without issue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Pedro Morey, Town of Waxhaw, Ms. Gardner noted the Executive Board has approved a recommended salary adjustment each year.

In response to a question from Chairman Compton, Ms. Gardner explained that the proposed 2% across-the-board increase is less than the amount of a cost-of-living adjustment.

The motion passed with Commissioner Powell voting in opposition.

### **4. Resolution Opposing Proposed Local Government Zoning Reform**

Ms. Gardner presented a draft resolution opposing House Bill 401/Senate Bill 349, the Increase Housing Opportunities Bill pending in the General Assembly. She noted that the Centralina Officers and Michelle Nance, Planning Director, have reviewed the draft resolution.

Council Member Egleston expressed support for the resolution, adding that he does not support a one-size-fits-all approach to zoning and is not in favor of taking away local governments' zoning authority. He suggested revising the resolution's language to advocate for additional local authority. He also suggested removing the reference to housing quality.

Commissioner Cathy Davis, Lincoln County, expressed support for the resolution, noting that the bill leaves local governments responsible for infrastructure improvements they may not be able to afford.

Chairman Compton noted that increasing housing choices was one of the regional priorities identified in the CONNECT Our Future regional growth framework, adding that the Town of Mooresville was a pilot program for a housing initiative.

Council Member Troy Selberg, Town of Harrisburg, suggested revising the resolution's language to acknowledge that Unified Development Ordinances are unique to every community.

In response to a question from Council Member Egleston, Chairman Compton explained that Ms. Gardner will distribute to the Executive Board a final version of the resolution that includes the Board Members' requested changes and then ask the Board to vote on the item via email.

Mayor Alexander suggested revising the resolution's language to be inclusive of the various names different communities use to refer to their development ordinances.

#### **5. Future Opportunities in Aging, Health, and Healthy Communities**

Linda Miller, Aging Director, explained that the Centralina Area Agency on Aging used new methods to respond to the health risk resulting from social isolation associated with COVID-19 quarantine. She added that virtual health education became a priority to minimize risk for older adults. She noted that evidence-based health programs were adapted to phone and online models. She highlighted two new tools the department is using: Get Set Up and Trualta.

Natalie Tunney, Aging Specialist, explained that Get Set Up is an interactive educational platform offering classes and social opportunities for seniors. She presented an overview of Get Set Up class offerings and demonstrated how to navigate the platform. She noted that Centralina is covering the cost of Get Set Up through Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act funds, so there is no cost to the organization's members or volunteers to use the platform.

Katie Ballard, Aging Specialist, explained that Trualta is an online, interactive platform that provides information, resources, and support for caregivers. She presented an overview of the topics in Trualta's modules.

Ms. Miller noted that through its membership in the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Centralina is working with consultants to ensure the organization is set up for success and implementing the right programs to meet the region's growing healthcare needs.

#### **6. CONNECT Beyond Briefing and Work Session**

Ms. Nance noted that transportation choice was a key priority identified in CONNECT Our Future, while the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy identified transportation infrastructure as the region's top economic weakness. She added that these findings led to the development of the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility initiative.

Jason Wager, Assistant Planning Director, presented a video that provided an overview of the CONNECT Beyond project. He explained that the project's guiding principles include

addressing growth and equity. He shared the advisory committee meeting schedule and structure and highlighted the funding and partnership working group.

Ms. Nance noted that because needs are different in urban and rural areas, Centralina is proposing a meeting series that would include a set of sessions focused on communities where high-capacity transit corridors have been proposed and another set of sessions focused on transit connections in rural and suburban communities. She added that suggested attendees would include Centralina Delegates, Mayors and County Commission Chairs, and transportation planning organization representatives. She presented the timeline for the project's next steps, noting that the Board of Delegates will be asked to endorse the plan recommendations later this year. She further noted that Delegates can help keep CONNECT Beyond at the forefront by sharing the project with their communities, adding that Centralina staff can give presentations on the project.

In response to questions from Mayor Alexander, Ms. Nance noted that CONNECT Beyond seeks to address challenges like identifying grants and other resources to support transit projects in communities that do not have their own transit system. She further noted that Centralina staff can meet with the communities in Rowan County to discuss their specific needs.

Secretary Woodburn requested a short presentation or talking points to share in Anson County to start the conversation around mobility, followed by a presentation to the community from Centralina staff.

Council Member Selberg requested a presentation to the Harrisburg Town Council. He also noted that educating the public and elected officials on CONNECT Beyond will be crucial. He added that partnerships with the business community are needed to move the project forward.

#### **Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff**

There were no comments.

#### **Comments from the Executive Director**

Ms. Gardner announced that Mike Manis, Director of Community Economic Development, will be retiring at the end of May.

Mr. Manis noted he will remain in the region and is interested in being involved in the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy five-year update.

#### **Comments from the Chair**

Chairman Compton reminded the Board Members to save the date for the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Delegates virtual meeting, noting that it will feature the Region of Excellence Awards ceremony. He asked the Board Members to encourage other Delegates in their counties to attend the meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Compton adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.