

**Surry County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting of April 28, 2017**

The Surry County Board of Commissioners met on April 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting. The meeting was held in the County Commissioners' Meeting Room, Surry County Government Center, Dobson, North Carolina.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive a recommendation from the Democratic Executive Committee for filling the vacancy of the Office of Sheriff and to elect the person recommended by the Democratic Executive Committee to serve as Sheriff for the unexpired term of Graham Atkinson.

Board members present for the meeting were Chairman Eddie Harris, Vice-Chairman Van Tucker, Commissioner R.F. "Buck" Golding and Commissioner Larry Johnson.

Commissioner Larry Phillips was unable to attend due to business.

Others present for the meeting, at various times, were:  
Chris Knopf, County Manager  
Conchita Atkins, Clerk to the Board  
Edwin Woltz, County Attorney  
Sandy Snow, Assistant County Manager for Human Resources and Operations  
Sarah Bowen, Finance Officer  
Sheriff Graham Atkinson  
Chief Deputy Jimmy Combs  
Carolyn Comer, Register of Deeds  
News Media

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Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Tucker delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Chairman Harris stated the meeting was called to receive a recommendation from the Democratic Executive Committee for filling the vacancy of the Office of Sheriff and to elect the person recommended by the Democratic Executive Committee to serve as Sheriff for the unexpired term of Graham Atkinson.

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Sheriff Graham Atkinson stated that he wanted to revise the timing of his resignation. Sheriff Atkinson presented the Board with a revised resignation letter which is effective immediately upon receipt by the Chairman and approval by the Board.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to accept Sheriff Atkinson's revised resignation letter.

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Commissioner Johnson thanked Sheriff Atkinson for his service to Surry County and wished him good luck in his new position. Commissioner Johnson stated that Sheriff Atkinson has keep the commandments to love God and his neighbors. Commissioner Johnson praised Sheriff Atkinson for being an advocate for the youth and his contributions to the Boy Scouts.

Commissioner Johnson stated that Graham Atkinson is a testament to the Boy Scout laws.

Commissioner Tucker stated that he appreciated the time that he has worked with Sheriff Atkinson. Commissioner Tucker stated that he had known Sheriff Atkinson for a long time and he had been a friend that he was proud to have in his life. Commissioner Tucker stated that Sheriff Atkinson has performed a just job and he has had great respect for the County Commissioners. Commissioner Tucker stated he looks forward to always being friends with Sheriff Atkinson and wished him God speed in his next career move.

Commissioner Golding stated Sheriff Atkinson has done an exemplary job and that he has had a good working relationship with the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Golding stated he respected Sheriff Atkinson. Commissioner Golding stated that Sheriff Atkinson had laid a good track down for the ones who will follow him. Commissioner Golding wished Sheriff Atkinson the best in the future.

Chairman Harris stated it has been a privilege to work with Sheriff Atkinson. Chairman Harris stated that Sheriff Atkinson and the Board have never let politics enter their work, they do what is best for the County.

Commissioner Phillips wrote a letter which was read at Salem Baptist Church to former Sheriff Atkinson, Sheriff Combs, Sworn Law Enforcement Officers, Administrative Team and Detention Officers.

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Roy Thomasson, Surry County Democratic Chairman, stated that the Surry County Democratic Executive Committee selected Jimmy D. Combs to fill Graham Atkinson's unexpired term.

Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Democratic Executive Committees' recommendation of Jimmy D. Combs and to elect Jimmy D. Combs as the Sheriff to the unexpired term.

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Chairman Harris stated that the appropriate bond had been received for Jimmy D. Combs.

Upon motion of Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bond for Jimmy D. Combs.

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Chairman Harris then turned the meeting over to the Honorable Judge Marion Boone for the swearing in ceremony.

Honorable Judge Boone administered the Oath of Office to Jimmy D. Combs.

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Sheriff Combs stated he was blessed to be there today and thanked everyone for their confidence in him. Sheriff Combs thanked the Board for being considerate and thoughtful in tough situations. The Sheriff considers it to be an honor to work with the Board of Commissioners. The badge he will wear

represents all citizens. The Sheriff stated he is honored and blessed to be able to wear the badge.

Sheriff Combs stated that he wants former Sheriff Atkinson to be his first Deputy Sheriff as a part-time auxiliary member.

Honorable Judge Boone administered the Oath of Office to former Sheriff Graham Atkinson.

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Chairman Harris recognized Carolyn Comer, Register of Deeds, Shirley Brinkley, Mount Airy City Commissioner, former Commissioner Bill Hamlin and former Clerk of Court Pam Marion.

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Honorable Judge Boone administered the Oath of Office to the Detention Officers.

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Honorable Judge Boone administered the Oath of Office to the Sworn Law Enforcement Officers.

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There was no additional business to come before the Board.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Golding, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Conchita Atkins  
Clerk to the Board