

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Those present were Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, Commissioner David Hill, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, Attorney Russ Burrell, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer.

Also present were: Director of Business and Community Development Christopher Todd, Finance Director Samantha Reynolds, Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Engineer Marcus Jones, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Construction Projects Manager David Berry, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, Tax Director Darlene Burgess, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Parks and Recreation Director Carleen Dixon, Assistant Engineer Deb Johnston, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping, Deputy Chris Stepp provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Andreotta provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Lapsley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognition – 2021 Main Street Champion, Barbara Hughes

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners was requested to recognize Barbara Hughes, a 2021 Main Street Champion as designated by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Recognition – Barbara Hughes 2021 Main Street Champion

- WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners is honored to recognize Barbara Hughes upon being named a 2021 Main Street Champion by the North Carolina Department of Commerce; and
- WHEREAS,** the award, established in 2000, recognizes its honorees for their commitment to downtown revitalization and strong communities; and
- WHEREAS,** As the independent shop owner of Narnia Studios, Barbara Hughes has made it her mission to forge strong partnerships within the community to make Downtown Hendersonville, the

heart of Henderson County, a destination for travelers and locals alike. Spearheading events like the Easter Bonnet Promenade, Lovers Lane On Main, Gingerbread Cookie Contest, and Tannenbaum Tea, all to encourage visitors to stop and stroll Main Street; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hughes created The Alliance, a merchant empowerment group that successfully raised a billboard on I-26 that promoted Hendersonville’s Main Street shops.

Barbara Hughes was instrumental in working to create the memorial park to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and then also led the charge to rename a portion of Four Seasons Boulevard after the Civil Rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Hughes created the “Friendliest City in America” title as a resource to capture the attention of tourists and residents alike, she is currently the administrator for the Shops of Downtown Hendersonville Facebook page, and she has played host to marketing seminars for the benefit of other small business owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, Barbara Hughes has long been a champion of using courage, creativity, and innovation to move our downtown forward, and the Henderson County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and congratulate Barbara Hughes on receiving this prestigious and much deserved, award.

This the 20th day of April 2022.

Vice-Chair McCall read the Recognition aloud and then presented the certificate to Barbara Hughes.

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to approve the recognition as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Stacy Marlowe expressed the need for suitable soccer fields in Henderson County.
2. Jane Bilello spoke regarding the Flat Rock Playhouse mask and vaccine mandates related to children.
3. Dennis Justice spoke about the conditions of Henderson County Football fields and the need to replace the natural grass with artificial turf. He also voiced his displeasure that there is not a Henderson County basketball park in the Town of Fletcher.
4. David Lemond expressed the need for suitable soccer fields in Henderson County for children and adults.
5. Virginia Tegel spoke regarding the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.
6. Fair Wagoneer Nabors spoke in support of additional soccer fields in Henderson County.
7. Mike Rottjakob spoke in support of additional soccer fields in Henderson County.
8. Phillip Ellis and Stephanie Cantwell spoke regarding the need for suitable soccer fields in Henderson County.
9. Eric Cloch spoke regarding the need for suitable soccer fields in Henderson County.
10. Tricia King spoke regarding the need for suitable soccer fields in Henderson County.

PUBLIC INPUT – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

1. Virginia Tegel spoke in support of allocating ARP Funds to local Non-Profits.

Approved:

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Commissioner Edney added Closed Session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3)(6). Commissioner Andreotta moved discussion item B – Ukrainian Refugee up the agenda to discussion item A.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the addition and revision discussed. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval of the following meeting(s):

April 4, 2022 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

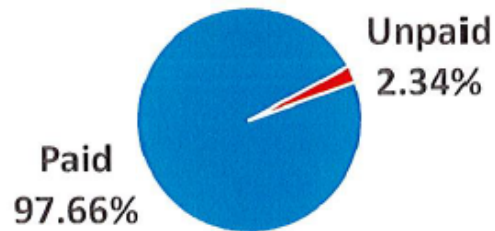
I move the Board approve the minutes of April 4, 2022.

Tax Collector’s Report

The report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board’s information.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):

2021 Beginning Charge:	\$88,218,513.92
Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:	\$1,251,683.00
Releases & Refunds:	(\$333,823.12)
<u>Net Charge:</u>	<u>\$89,136,373.80</u>
Unpaid Taxes:	\$2,085,970.71
Amount Collected:	\$87,050,403.09



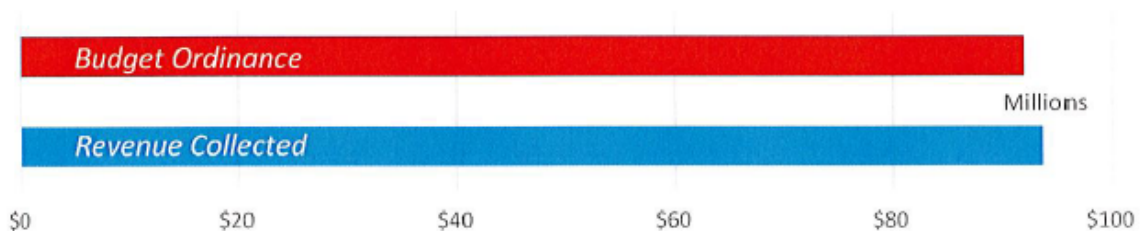
Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$5,952,832.10
Unpaid Taxes:	\$12,440.43
Amount Collected:	\$5,940,391.67

99.79%

Henderson County FY22 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$91,127,728.00	\$92,990,794.76
Prior Years:	\$980,000.00	\$785,155.93
Budget Total:	\$92,107,728.00	YTD Revenue: \$93,775,950.69



Approved:

2022.41 VFW Architectural Contract

On March 16th, 2022, a Request for Qualifications for architectural services for the VFW was posted. The overall project scope included designs that address all necessary repairs and replacements of all building systems components, including but not limited to HVAC, plumbing, electrical, structural, interior and exterior finishes, and parking, associated with a yet to be finalized design criteria and scope. Also included in the scope of the project was the necessary programming with Henderson County in order to provide a proposed design with cost estimates and schedules for approval, as well as the necessary Construction Administration once the project is bid and awarded to ensure project success. Proposals were due on March 30th, 2022, subsequently received and reviewed by Staff. At the April 4th meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board approved the selection of McMillan | Pazdan | Smith as the most qualified firm and directed Staff to negotiate an agreement. McMillan, Pazdan, Smith proposed a fee of 6%, based on the construction cost. This proposal was within the approved budget and timeline. A letter outlining their proposal was attached for the Board's approval.

Motion:

I move that the Board accept the proposal from McMillan, Pazdan, Smith and direct Staff to execute the necessary contracts.

2022.42 Tourism Development Authority Grant – Jackson Park

Staff requested the Board approve a budget amendment to recognize the receipt of grant funding provided by the Henderson County Tourism Development Authority. These grant funds, \$150,000, are to support the Jackson Park playground project.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the budget amendment for the Jackson Park playground project.

2022.43 Budget Amendment – FY2022 Vehicle Purchases

Due to extensive lead times, six vehicles approved for purchase from various departments in FY2022 will not be received by the County until FY2023. The anticipated purchase price of these vehicles was \$183,551. Budgeted amounts for these six vehicles were requested to be transferred from General Fund's respective departments into the Revolving Vehicle Fund in the Capital Projects Fund. Once the County receives and takes ownership of the vehicles, payments will be made from the Revolving Vehicle Fund accordingly.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the budget amendment as presented, transferring funds from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for the vehicle purchases.

Jackson Park Playground Consultant Selection

With consulting firm RVE, Inc., selected at the April 4, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting, staff have since met with RVE, Inc. to negotiate a proposed agreement. The scope of the agreement is to perform the design process, engineering, bidding, and construction management of the All-Inclusive Playground for the proposed amount of \$49,500.00

The estimated total cost of this project, including RVE, Inc.'s proposed services, is between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Motion:

I move that the Board authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to execute the proposed agreement with RVE, Inc.

Approved:

2022.44 Adoption of UG Policy for Conflicts

The statutory requirements for Board members set out in N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-44 does not align completely with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. §200.318 *et seq.*). This policy is to try to harmonize them to the extent possible.

In practice, this will require the members of the Board to do what they already do: announce to their fellow members at a meeting if they believe they have a conflict of interest that falls within §153A-44 or the Uniform Guidance, and, as to matters not directly prohibited by §153A-44, allow their fellow members to determine whether they are able to vote.

Motion:

I move that the Board adopt the proposed policy regarding conflicts in federal grant-funded transactions.

2022.45 Annual Audit Contract

Staff requested that the Board approve the annual audit contract as required by N.C. General Statute 159-34(a) with Cherry Bekaert LLP for the current fiscal year 2022. This will be the first year Cherry Bekaert LLP has audited the County. They have the qualifications, experience, and manpower to conduct an audit of our county's size. Their fee to conduct the audit is \$113,250, which is included in the annual budget.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the annual audit contract as required by N.C.G.S. 159-34(a) with Cherry Bekaert LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING**2022.46 Public Hearing - Project Independence**

Commissioner Edney made to motion to go into Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

Brittany Brady, President, and CEO of the Partnership for Economic Development shared the economic incentives proposed for Project Independence Company, a manufacturing concern located inside and outside the United States. Henderson County is one of four locations being considered for this project. If the incentives outlined are approved, the company will report back to its leadership to evaluate all four areas in consideration and make a decision based on relevant financial and operational considerations by the end of the Quarter. The total project investment is 185 million from 2023 to 2027.

Under the project as proposed, the public benefit to be derived from the capital project is a total taxable capital investment by Project Independence Company of at least \$80,000,000.00 in real property (not including any land acquisition costs) and \$105,000,000.00 in business personal property (equipment). The project would result in the creation of 117 new jobs at an average wage of at least \$52,437, which is more than the average wage in Henderson County for full-time employment, plus other benefits. The contemplated incentives would last for a period of seven years from each of four separate investments over 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. Based on the contemplated new investment, the number of new employees, and the Board's incentives guidelines, the maximum value of incentives to be considered in this grant over the seven years from each investment would be \$5,939,588.00.

Approved:

Henderson County was asked to consider granting assistance toward the investment of Project Independence Company. If approved, the request would be funded through the general property tax revenue.

Public Comment

1. Virginia Tegel commented that she was unable to find information regarding Project Independence on the County’s website. She noted that she was pleased to hear the wage for the project would be 120 percent of the county’s average wage with 117 new jobs.
2. Nathan Kennedy stated that he had proudly been a part of the Partnership for Economic Development in the county since 2007. The partnership officially began in 2006, and since that date, the capital investment in Henderson County exceeds a billion dollars and has created over three thousand jobs. He voiced his appreciation of the continued support from the Board of Commissioners, both past and present.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to close the Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Edney made the motion to approve the proposed incentives as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION

Ukrainian Refugee Update

Leo Ostapovich, who recently spent time in Poland and Ukraine caring for Ukrainian Refugees, provided the Board with a report of the conditions encountered.

Makeshift Refugee Centers



Medical Supplies



Approved:

AdventHealth Donated Medicine



Refugee Feeding Station



Mr. Ostapovichow shared that those who wish to offer support visit morningstarmission.info.



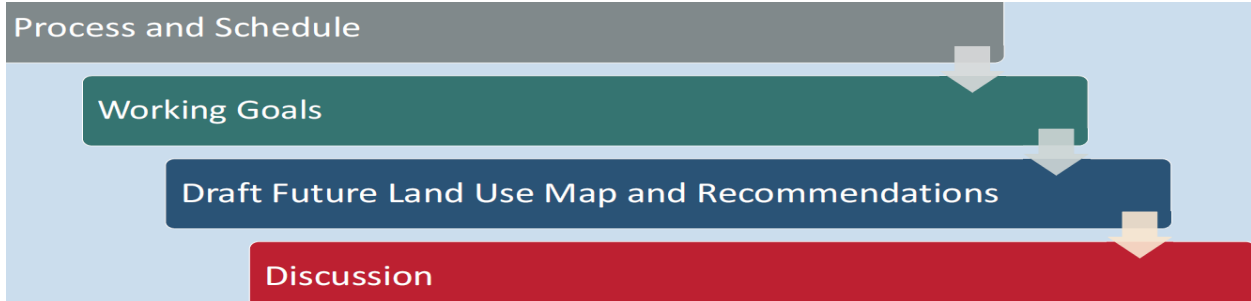
Approved:

Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

1. Stewart Consulting – 2045 Comprehensive Pan Update

Jake Petrosky with Stewart Consulting provided the Board with an update on the development of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Agenda



OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE



CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



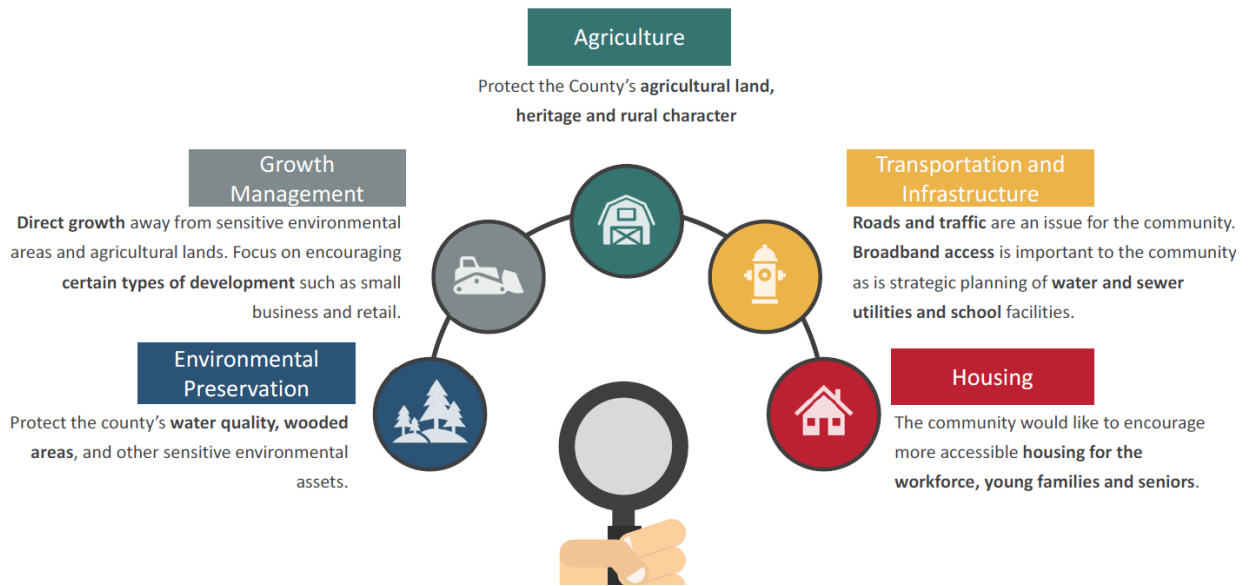
Approved:

EFFORTS SO FAR

- 10** Stakeholder Focus Groups
- 2** Public Workshops
- 6** Staff-Led Open Houses
- 6,800+** Completed Surveys
- 4** Planning Board Meetings

Public Input Themes

What are we hearing from the public?



Stakeholder / SC / Advisory Board Themes

Economic Development

Housing



Approved:

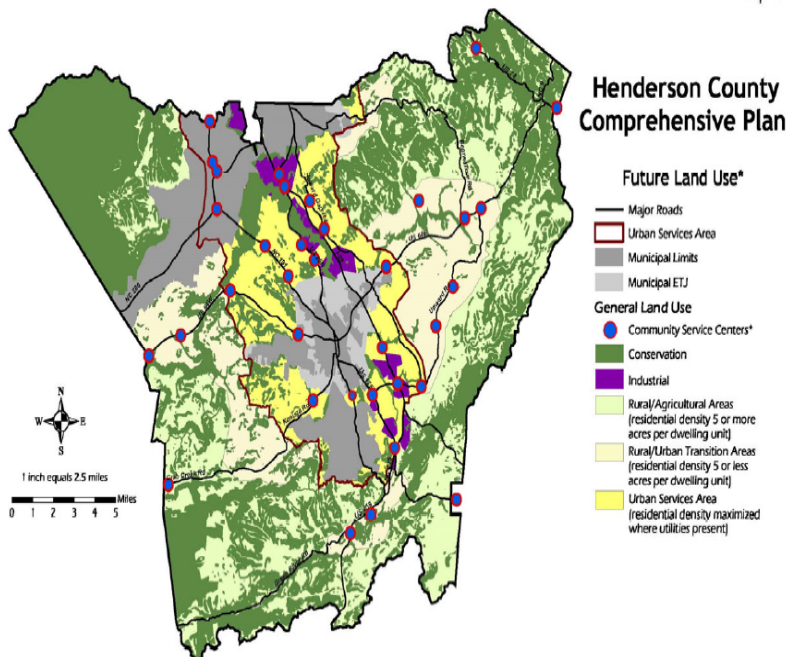
Concern over farmland loss

Draft Goals and Outcomes

OBJECTIVE / OUTCOME	GOALS
INTENTIONAL LAND USE	Coordinate development near existing community anchors and build on existing character.
INTENTIONAL LAND USE	Protect and conserve rural character and agriculture.
INTENTIONAL LAND USE	Improve resiliency of the natural and built environments.
CONNECTIVITY	Prioritize transportation options and connectivity.
CONNECTIVITY	Accessible infrastructure (e.g. sewer, water, and broadband).
OPPORTUNITY	Innovative and diverse economic development initiatives.
OPPORTUNITY	Increase housing choices.

Future Land Use Plan

From 2020 Comprehensive Plan



Note: Draft is in development.

Role of Future Land Use Map

- Key part of Comprehensive Plan and compliance with state law (160D)
- Provides guidance for development intensity, location, design, and more

Approved:

Draft Future Land Use Areas

As of 4/6/2022

NC
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Small concentrations of commercial, residential, and civic uses in areas centered around community anchors like a school, church or crossroads.

CC
COMMUNITY CENTER

Commercial / mixed-use areas that serve a broader geography than neighborhood centers. Typically include retail, services, lodging, offices and a mix of housing types.

EI
EMPLOYMENT AND
INDUSTRY

Areas with strategic access to highways and/or utilities with potential for job-generating land uses including office, industrial, agricultural production and processing, etc.

MDR
Medium Density

Residential focus area that includes a mix of housing types inside subdivisions and planned developments.

LDR
Low Density

This designation applies to residential areas that feature homes with overall density around 1-2 dwelling units per acre. Conservation design is encouraged for new subdivisions.

AR
Agriculture / Rural

This designation applies to areas that are important for their ability to support viable agricultural activities. Agriculture and accessory uses are the primary land use.

VLD
Very Low Density

This designation applies to areas that are significantly constrained due to slopes, a limited road network and limited access to utilities or services.

OSC
Open Space / Conservation

State and federal lands, parks, and conservation easements. Uses include outdoor recreation and silviculture.

Approved:

CONVENTIONAL VS. CONSERVATION DESIGN

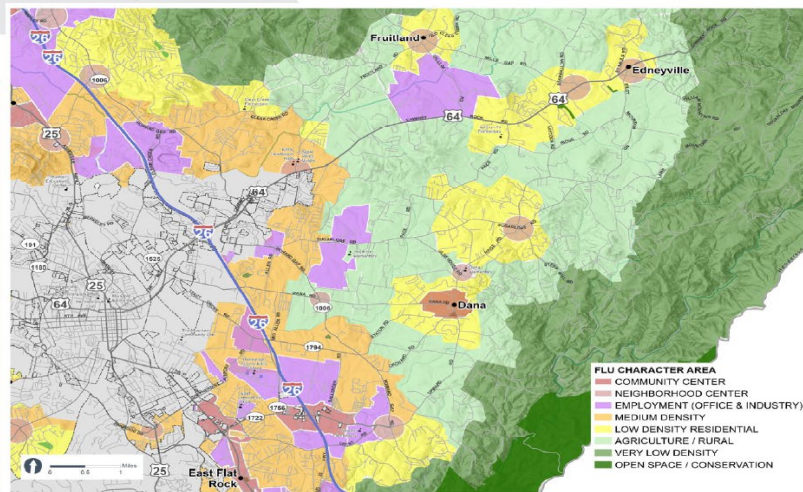
Conventional Design	Conservation Subdivision	Large Lot Subdivision	Farmhouse Cluster
Medium Density		Low Density	
Agriculture / Rural			

Draft Future Land Use Plan Sample

As of 3/16

Highlights

- Provides guidance on areas best suitable for residential, commercial, and employment growth
- Identifies key agricultural areas
- Acknowledges constrained areas (i.e. very steep slopes)



Draft Recommendations



Housing Strategy Options

Goal 7: Increase housing choice and availability



Action/Strategy Options

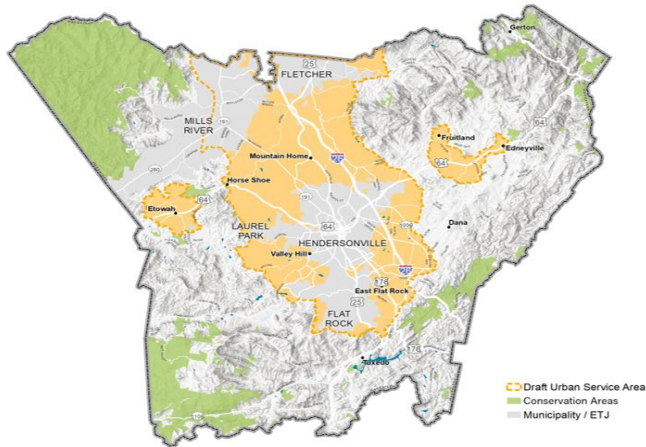
- Refine Urban Services Area (USA)
- Encourage more intense growth in the USA
- Allow for greater mix of residential types in MDR, NC, CC
- Remove barriers to some residential housing types
 - Adjust approval processes, especially for areas within the USA
 - Consider administrative approval for conservation subdivisions that meet design criteria

Approved:



Infrastructure Strategy Options

Goal 5: Create a connected, reliable infrastructure network



Action/Strategy Options

- Continue planning for water and sewer infrastructure.
- Support **targeted infrastructure extensions** that align with land use policies and community goals.
- Consider **reserving capacity in Edneyville sewer** for non-residential development.



Infrastructure Strategy Options

Goal 5: Create a connected, reliable infrastructure network



Action/Strategy Options

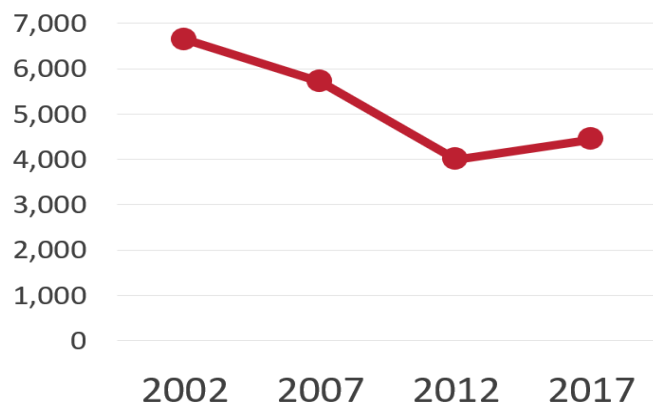
- Improve communications (cell and broadband) infrastructure.
- Locate utilities to maximize efficiency of services, minimize cost of service, and minimize impacts on the natural environment.

Farmland Loss

Click to add subtitle

- Overall trends show a significant decline in orchards since 2002.
- 1/3 of Orchards loss between 2002 and 2017
- 2012-2017 saw a slight increase in acres in orchards

Acres of Orchards In Henderson County



Source: Ag Census

Q: Will there be any orchards on Orchard Road in 2045?

Approved:



Agriculture Strategy Options

Goal 2: Protect and conserve rural character and agriculture

Farmland preservation ranked as the #2 top priority in the survey.



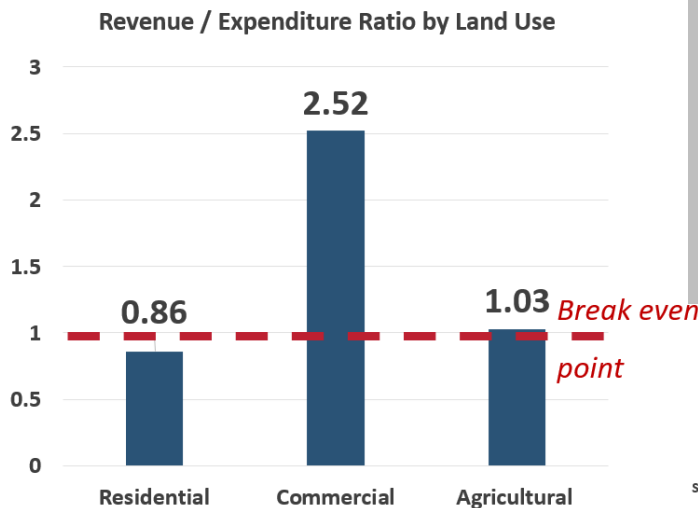
Action/Strategy Options

- **Support agriculture** as an economic development driver.
- Continue to allow for a **flexible approach to rural business**.
- Consider implementing a **voluntary purchase of development rights** program.
- **Discourage rezonings to more dense residential** subdivisions in the AR area
- **Consider zoning updates** to reduce development pressure in AR area



Economic Strategy Options

Goal 6: Encourage innovative economic development initiatives, entrepreneurs, and local businesses.



SOURCE: HENDERSON COUNTY COST OF SERVICES STUDY 2008

Action/Strategy Options

- Identify and **prepare key sites** for development in cooperation with HCEDP
- Recognize the **positive impacts of strategic industrial development**
- **Build upon past successes** and attraction strengths
- Advance **workforce development**

DISCUSSION / NEXT STEPS

- **April-May:** Coordinate with staff and the steering committee (planning board) on FLU Map and draft recommendations/options.
- **May/June:** Public Meeting(s)
- **June:** Steering Committee #5

Chairman Lapsley noted the significance of this plan for the future of Henderson County. He proposed the Board schedule a workshop or meeting to get the Board more engaged in the proposed drafts for the plan. Rather than waiting until the final product is out and the Board is asked to react and endorse the draft plan. Commissioner Edney added that the Board needs to participate in formulating the plan. He reiterated that

Approved:

the Board would like to have some input before the steering committee introduces its proposed draft.

Autumn Radcliff noted that the proposed draft would remain a draft document until the Board officially adopts the plan. Changes may be made to the plan along the way, but the final plan will not be adopted without Board approval.

John Mitchell advised the Board he will work with staff to arrange a meeting date as he believes the Board’s input is significant.

2. Partnership for Economic Development Presentation

Brittany Brady with the Partnership for Economic Development presented the Board with a report on the Impact of Manufacturing and the 2045 Plan.

Mission

The Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, Inc. is the professional economic development entity for Henderson County. It works to: attract and retain quality jobs; solicit new business compatible with the assets and values of Henderson County; promote Henderson County’s business image; assist expansion of existing companies; and enhance Henderson County’s overall quality of life.

Existing Industry

The Partnership works closely with existing industry in the county to facilitate retention and expansion of quality jobs. This program focuses on removing obstacles that could prevent businesses from growing or remaining in operation, as well as connecting industry with resources that can encourage their growth and success.

Marketing

HCPED actively promotes the assets of the area, often with like-minded organizations, to targeted sectors that value the strengths of our community. Approximately one-third of the annual budget goes towards activities focused on identifying and communicating with companies that might consider Henderson County as a prospective business location.

Product Development

The Partnership works to identify, preserve, prepare and advance sites and buildings for existing and prospective clients. These efforts include site certification, monitoring land use designations and permitted uses, supporting infrastructure extensions and improvements and connecting clients with solutions to site and building needs.

Advocacy

HCPED cannot be successful unless clients find the area to be a competitive place to do business and a rewarding place to call home. A close working relationship with local units of government and elected state leadership, ensures an influence on public policy issues that can threaten or benefit the economic development climate of Henderson County and the companies that call us home.

Industrial Growth

The Value of Focusing on Industrial Development



Henderson County:
Total Investment: \$947,065,000+
Total New Jobs: 3,172+
Annual Tax receipts: \$5,303,564+



30%+ of Tax Base
12% of expenses

Approved:

Industrial Opportunity

- Hudgens-62*
- Broadpointe-15
- Brown- 75
- Ferncliff- 33
- Garrison- 17
- Bunrootis- 50*
- Byers- 30
- Banner Farm- 12*

While the rest of the State is working on developing 200+ acre sites to attract the industry of today, we have less than 300 acres total in the entire county to market.



* Under contract

Leads

July 1, 2018- Present



Over 90% of projects eliminated are due to the lack of an available site or building.

ECONOMIC INVESTMENT FUND

The Economic investment fund of Henderson County lessens the burden of the government by protecting and advancing Henderson County’s quality employment and tax base capacity through product and workforce development. It will improve Henderson County’s competitive position for quality jobs, improving the lives of its citizens through poverty alleviation, stimulating activity in economically challenged areas, and providing the opportunity for unemployed and under-employed persons. The fund will employ a product development strategy focused on identifying, optioning, and preserving real property and improving the marketability of real property through due diligence, infrastructure improvements, and site development. The fund will support proactive engagement with schools and students, increasing awareness about careers in manufacturing, and encouraging workforce preparedness.

Approved:

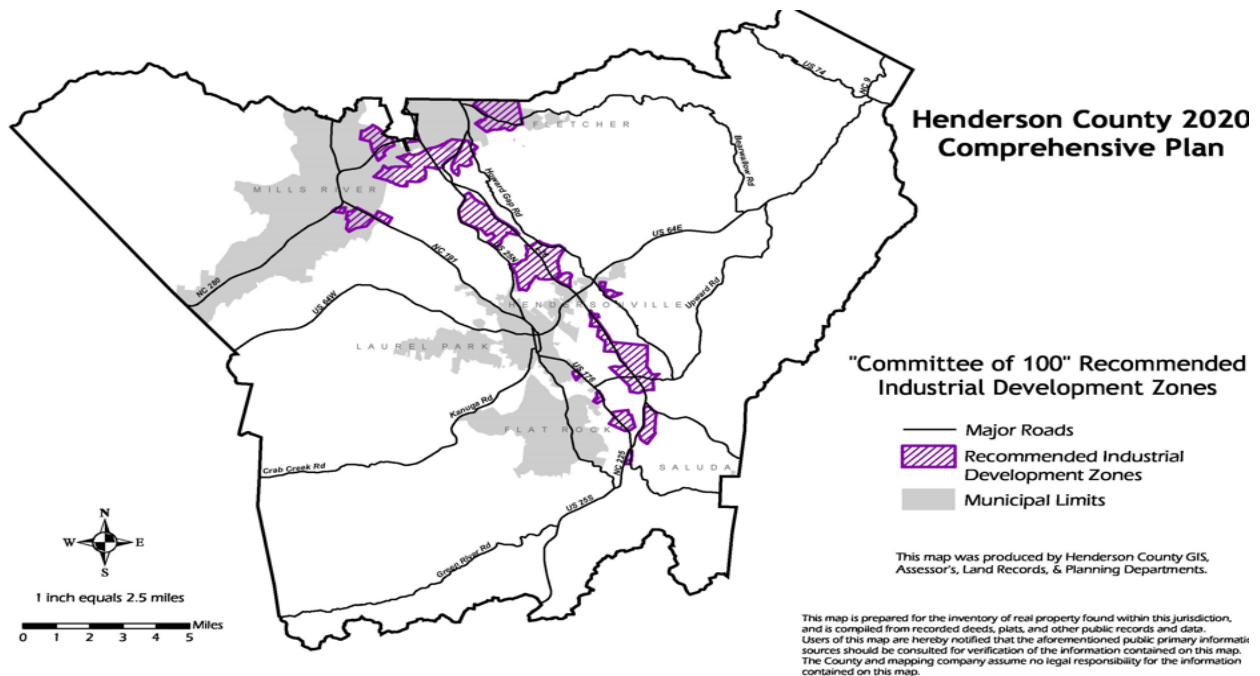
2020 Comp Plan Sites



Securing our Future through Industrial Site Development

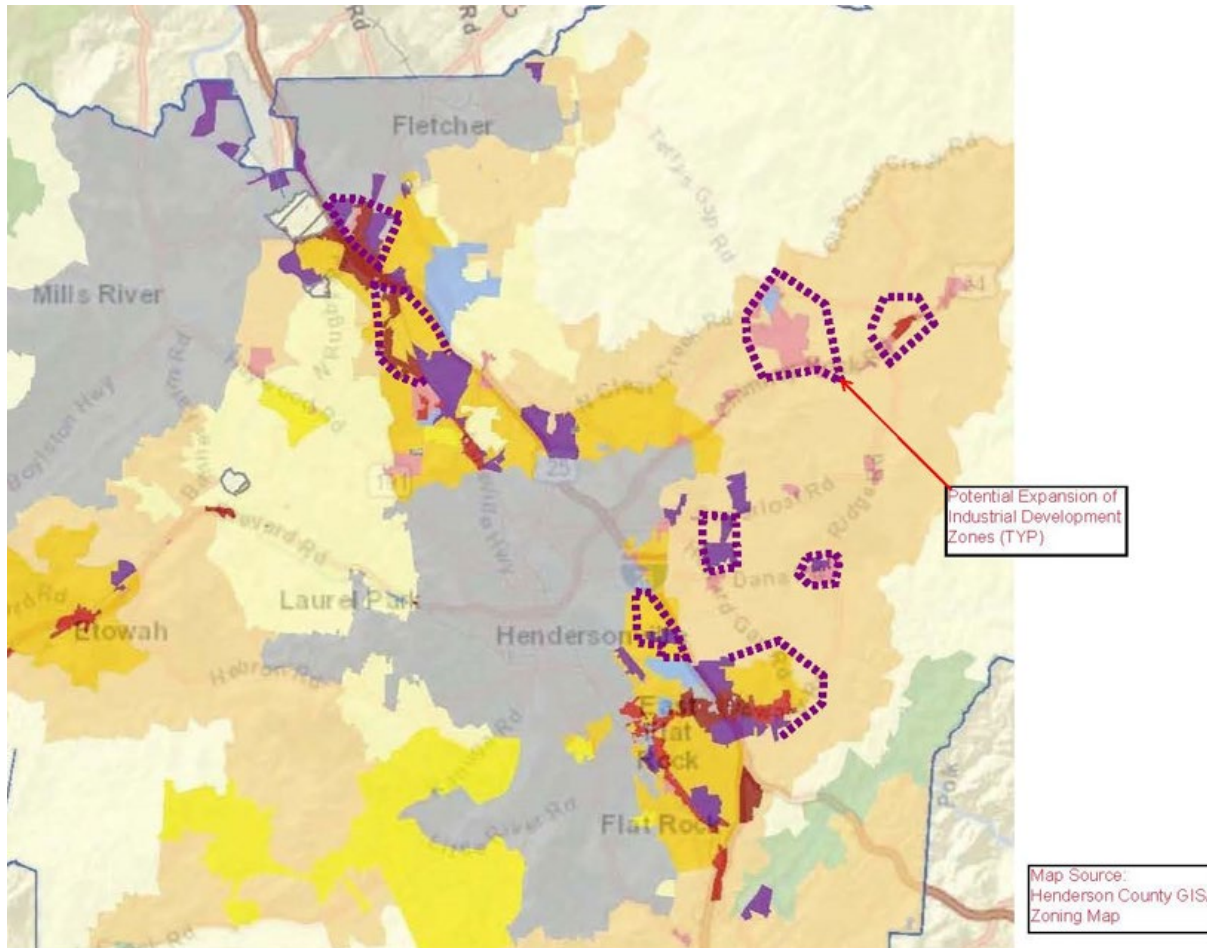
- Industrial Zoned Sites are limited
- Protect use
 - Industrial, distribution, commercial
- Site & Building Inventory update

2020 Comp Plan Sites



Approved:

2045 Areas for Consideration



Economic Development Element

- It should be reiterated that the preceding summary of public input indicates very little interest among the public in government involvement in economic development activities. However, the County recognizes that economic development is critical to the long-term success of Henderson County and that balanced, cost-effective attention to economic development issues is required.
- Communicate the importance of manufacturing to the future of the economic development of Henderson County.
- Key industrial sites should be identified and protected.
- Increase the supply of prepared industrial sites and buildings and make them available on a cost competitive basis.
- Identify key sites to be targeted for industrial.
- Establish general criteria to be used in siting industrial.
- Analyze existing industrial and commercial zoning districts for necessary modifications.
- Identify other appropriate industrial and commercial zoning sites not currently identified by the Partnership for Economic Development or the Official Zoning Map.
 - Result in modifications to, and re-adoption of, the Future Land Use Map of this Comprehensive Plan.
 - Result in modifications to, and re-adoption of, the Official Zoning Map.

Recommendations for 2045 Comprehensive Plan

- Establishment of new or improved infrastructure may result in additional areas suitable for industrial development not current identified
- Provide basis for industrial re-zonings that are the highest and best use for a particular site
- Consider HCPED 2020 Strategic Plan target markets and developing sites that fit

Approved:

Blue Ridge Literacy Council



Our Vision

A stronger community because literacy is highly valued

“I want to have the best opportunities for jobs so I will have a better life”



“Thanks to the support of the Literacy Council, I walk with my head high and my confidence strong.”

U.S. ADULT LITERACY FACTS

- More than 43 million adults in the US cannot read, write or do basic math above a third-grade level.
- Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.
- Workers who have less education than a high school diploma have the lowest median weekly earnings (\$592), three times less than the highest level of education.
- By 2065, immigrants and their descendants are projected to increase the US population by 103 million people.
- A mother’s reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children’s future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.
- 75% of state incarcerated individuals did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.

ProLiteracy.org - Every Adult has the right to literacy study.

The Blue Ridge Literacy Council is returning to pre-COVID activities. Current staffing includes three full-time and one part-time employee. The volunteers base includes seventy tutors, three office personnel, and four childcare helpers. Ten new tutors are waiting to be matched.



There are currently ninety-seven students

- 2,487 Instructional Hours
- 4,120 Total Volunteer Hours

Approved:

Tutoring Programs Include

- US Citizenship
- Adult Basic Education/GED
- English Language Acquisition
- Family Literacy (Teaching parents as the first-grade teacher)
- Senior Digital/Health Literacy
- Teens Academic Mentoring and Interactive Journaling



• 14 NEW CITIZENS in 2021!
 • 2 NEW CITIZENS YTD



Tutors are trained to facilitate one on one or small group tutoring. With a focus on Workforce Development to increase wages, seek promotions, career advancement, obtain certifications, and attend BRCC and higher education.



The NC Public School forum recommended increased state support for afterschool programs for 2022 and a laser focus on literacy development, arguing that literacy is essential to support the realization of student potential.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT FOR TEENS

A program of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the court system are functionally low literate.
- 35% of academically low-performing children become delinquent compared to about 20% of their high performing peers. High school dropouts are 63% more likely to be incarcerated.

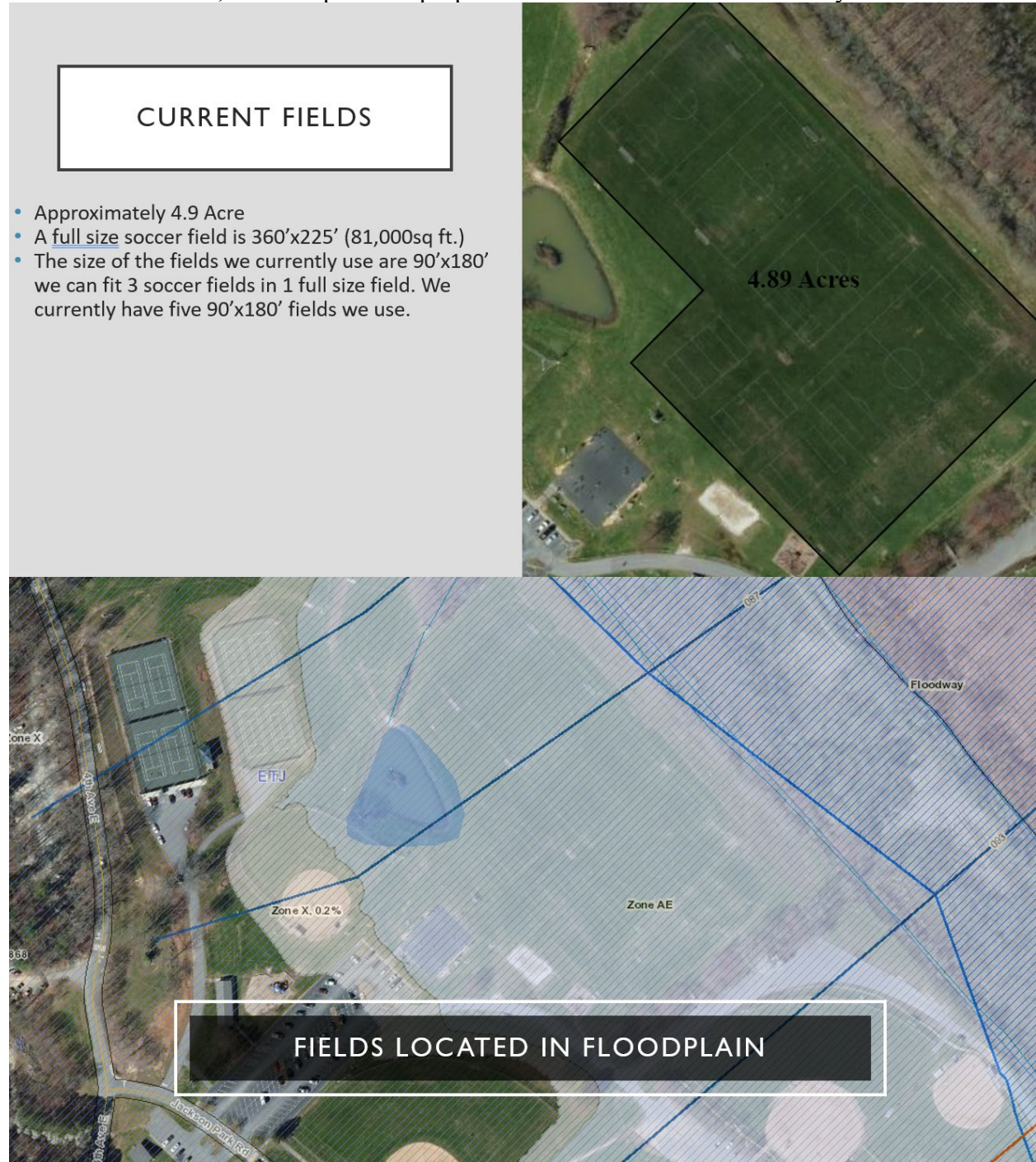
Project Read Study Results

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report of March 2022: 67% of North Carolina eighth graders in North Carolina start school not proficiently literate. 48% of Hispanic students start eighth grade without adequate literacy skills.

Approved:

Soccer Facilities Update

Christopher Todd provided the Board with an update on current soccer facilities within Jackson Park. Also included, was an update on proposed soccer facilities for the County.



Current Use Includes:

- Approximately 708 hours a year of field play
- Fields are used eight months and approximately thirty-five weeks of the year.

Approved:

Over eight hundred children currently play soccer in Henderson County. There are many requests for adult league teams as well.



Two full fields equal approximately five acres.

Facility Goals include:

- The ability to host all uses currently hosted in Henderson County
- Fields that are designed to be multi-use to accommodate multiple sports
- The capacity to host larger tournaments
- Capacity for growth in county recreation requests
- Synthetic Turf Material, which would increase the days of usage available by:
 - Reducing the days the fields are unable to be used due to rain
 - The ability to withstand more consistent use

Four full fields are approximately ten acres.



Approved:



Estimation of Cost
County Engineer

Project: Generic Multipurpose Field Complex					
Project Elements	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	SubTotal Cost	Total Cost
Phase One (Year 1)					
Land Acquisition	20	acres	\$75,000	\$1,500,000	
Surveying, Design, and Permitting	1	LS	\$500,000	\$500,000	
					\$2,000,000
Phase Two (Year 3)					
Site Development (Rough Grading, Paving, Drainage)	1	LS	\$ 1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
Artificial Turf Fields	2	LS	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	
Concession / Restrooms	1	LS	\$750,000	\$750,000	
Contingency (20%)				\$850,000	
Escalation (5% annual, 3 years)				\$803,888	
					\$5,903,888
					\$7,903,888
Phase Three (Year 10 plus)					
Site Development (Rough Grading, Paving, Drainage)	1	LS	\$500,000	\$500,000	
Artificial Turf Fields	2	LS	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	
Contingency (20%)				\$600,000	
Escalation (5% annual, 10 years)				\$2,264,021	
					\$5,864,021
Grand Total					\$13,767,908

Commissioner Edney stated that the presentation demonstrated the need for ten acres for the fields, but in fact, there are twenty acres needed to include both the fields, bathrooms, and parking areas. He also noted that all fields do not require that turf be installed immediately. Commissioner Edney proposed the need to develop a plan to locate a twenty-acre site and develop the soccer fields slowly. He noted that he had been an advocate for this project for some time. Henderson County has received federal funds that could be used for this project. He continued to share that he knew of one private investor who has promised \$250,000 for this type of project and believes there are other opportunities of this kind available.

Vice-Chair McCall said the School System received federal money and should be able to have funds to contribute. This project is mainly for school children, so they would have an interest in the investment.

After discussion, John Mitchell clarified that the consensus of the Board was to direct staff to locate a parcel of substantive size, or parcel(s), or options above twenty acres and report back to the Board with their findings within the next sixty days.

Commissioner Edney voiced his appreciation to the Board for moving forward with this project.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE

David Berry provided the Board of Commissioners with a brief update on construction projects around Henderson County. This monthly report was a review of the scope and statuses of assigned construction management responsibilities and includes specific updates regarding County funded construction activities.

The Patton Building renovation and addition at BRCC is continuing and remains on time and within budget, with the exception of the demolition of the old school facilities, which will not occur until the new building is occupied. This is scheduled to happen before the end of June 2022.

The Facilities Building project often referred to as the POPAT Building, has been completed. Equipment

Approved:

is currently being installed, preparations for the Ribbon cutting this Friday, April 22, 2022.

The Hendersonville High School project continues to be on time and within budget, with all trades reaching their final inspections in the Stillwell Building. Inside and outside work continue along with the work on the athletic field. This fall, the school and football field will be completed and ready for football.

Henderson County Public Schools MRTS and BRCC MRTS projects are already completed, or the work is continuing toward completion.

The proposal from Fentress Architects for the 95 Courthouse and Detention project is currently being reviewed by staff.

In closing, Mr. Berry introduced Bryan Rhodes as Capital Project Manager. Mr. Rhodes replaces Thad Ninnemann, who retired last month. Mr. Rhodes was a longtime Henderson County Public School employee before taking his position with the County. He offers extensive experience and knowledge working with school system personnel and ongoing MRTS projects.

Rail Trail – Main Street to Road

Chris Todd provided a brief update on the Rail Trail project. He said that the Rail Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC) held their regularly scheduled meeting the previous week. They also met with Vaughn and Melton Engineering Firm for the first time; that meeting went well. The RTAC will continue to advise the Engineering Firm throughout the design process. He shared that the City of Hendersonville has resolved to put forty-six thousand dollars in support of the project. The support is specifically for the engineering of the section located between Kanuga Road to just past Main Street. This section was not a part of the original STBG Grant because it was unknown at the time if the railroad was going to sell that portion of the railroad.

The Friends of the Ecusta Trail has also dedicated six hundred thousand dollars for this section of the trail. Due to this and in combination with the city's funds, it was the recommendation of the RTAC that the Board move forward on this section and develop a contract for the engineering and design. Hopefully, utilizing the funding from the City of Hendersonville and the Friends of the Ecusta Trail for the engineering development and eventually the construction of that portion of the trail. He believes that all construction documents may be put out to bid at one time, and the entirety of the trail could be funded from the Main Street section out to where the STBG grant funds currently end.

Chairman Lapsley clarified that all the work being discussed would be funneled back through the County. The city is not completing the work on the Main St to Kanuga Rd section, and all work will remain under the county's umbrella. Chris Todd stated that if the Board desired to use the money the City has resolved to support that section of the trail, the County would hold the engineering and design contract for that project.

Commissioner Edney wanted to ensure that Henderson County has the whole trail and is leasing the entire trail before any decisions are made.

John Mitchell added that the lease the County entertains with Conserving Carolina is for all their property in Henderson County. He reiterated all the land conveyed to Conserving Carolina is under lease with Henderson County, and the Rail Trail Project will remain solely a Henderson County project.

Edneyville Sewer Update

Marcus Jones provided an update on the Edneyville Sewer Project. Notification letters have been mailed to all adjacent property owners; there has been minimal feedback. Staff is working with WGLA

Approved:

Engineering to work through the NPDES permitting process. Critical factors in applying for the permit include completing an Option Analysis and an Environmental Assessment, both in process. The statutory deadline for the NPDES permit is December 31, 2023, for consideration of the twelve point seven million allocation from the State.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. EMS Peer Review Committee – 2 vac.
Chairman Lapsley nominated Dr. Jason Barter for position #6. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
2. Henderson County Planning Board – 3 vacs.
Commissioner Edney nominated Bruce Hatfield for position #3 and Hunter Marks for position #9. Chairman Lapsley nominated Robert Griffin for position #1. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
3. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
4. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
5. Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee – 2 vacs.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
6. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
7. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 10 vacs.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
8. Recreation Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
Vice-Chair McCall nominated Doug Moon for position #7. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Andreotta shared the Broadband Taskforce had met recently. He also noted that the deadline to apply for the GREAT Grant had been extended until May 4, 2022.

Vice-Chair McCall urged everyone to participate in the litter sweep event on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Mills River Park.

Chairman Lapsley said he and John Mitchell had recently met with Representatives Johnson, Moffit, and Senator Edwards to relay concerns regarding the proposed changes Vaya Health has put forward for the Child and Family Specialty Plan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

County Manager John Mitchell shared that the General Assembly would reconvene for the short session on May 18, 2022. On March 11, the US Government passed a one point five trillion-dollar Budget to cover this fiscal year, which ends October 1, 2022.

Approved:

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

The ribbon-cutting for the Public Safety Training Facility at BRCC will be held this Friday, April 22, 2022. Work continues on the Board’s budget for the next fiscal year. The first look at the draft budget will occur during the first Board meeting in May, followed by a budget workshop at the mid-month meeting. With hopes of a hearing at the first meeting in June.

Commissioner Edney made the motion that the Board go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3)(6).

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to go out of the closed session and adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

IMPORTANT DATES

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

William Lapsley, Chairman

Approved: