

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Present for the meeting were County Commissioners William Lapsley, Rebecca McCall, J. Michael Edney, Daniel Andreotta, David Hill, 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, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, Engineer Marcus Jones, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Senior Planner Janna Bianculi, Planner Liz Hansen, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Capital Projects Manager Bryan Rhodes, DSS Director Jerrie McFalls, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jason Kilgore, Assistant Engineer Deb Johnston, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping. Deputies Travis Pierce and Matthew Covill provided security.

INVOCATION

Pastor Marc Reynolds with Little River Baptist Church provided the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

County Attorney Russ Burrell called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Austin Dellinger with IGNITE 4-H Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Russ Burrell stated, pursuant to Chapter 153A-39 of the NC General Statute, that at the first regular meeting in December of each even-numbered year, the Board of Commissioners shall choose one of its members to act as Chairman for the ensuing year, followed by the selection of a Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Burrell opened the floor for nominations for the Chair.

Commissioner Lapsley said it was his honor and privilege to nominate Commissioner Rebecca McCall to serve as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Russ Burrell asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Commissioner Edney made the motion that nominations be closed and Commissioner McCall be elected Chair by acclamation. All voted in favor, and Commissioner McCall was elected as Chairman.

Mr. Burrell turned the meeting over to Chairman McCall.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman McCall opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Hill nominated Commissioner J. Michael Edney for appointment as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Hill made the motion that nominations be closed and Commissioner Edney be elected Vice-Chair by acclamation. All voted in favor, and Commissioner Edney was elected Vice-Chair.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Chris Walters spoke about the power of one voice regarding the Board of Commissioners.
2. Joe Elliott spoke regarding climate change and the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.
3. Travis Merrell opposed the rezoning application for Ronnie Gray that was to be voted on later in the meeting.
4. Lynne Williams asked the Board to consider a MOU with the City of Hendersonville regarding the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Edney added an item to the Consent Agenda, creating Item Q – FY2024 Christmas Bonus.

Commissioner Lapsley pulled consent agenda Item M – Agreement with WGLA Engineering Clear Creek Sewer Design and moved to Discussion as Item A.

Chairman McCall made the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

2023.149 Review of Public Officials' Bonds

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §58-72-20 (and the Board's Rules of Procedure), the Board was presented with the annual review of the size and issuer of the bonds for county public officials for the coming year.

Under §58-72-20:

The bonds of the officers named in G.S. 58-72-10 shall be carefully examined on the first Monday of December of every year. If it appears that the security has been impaired, or for any cause, become

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insufficient to cover the amount of money or property or to secure the faithful performance of the duties of the office, then the bond shall be renewed or strengthened, the insufficient security increased within the limits prescribed by law, and the impaired security shall be made good, but no renewal, or strengthening, or additional security shall increase the penalty of said bond beyond the limits prescribed for the term of office.

The following are the current bond amounts, all of which meet the requirements of the General Statutes:

PUBLIC OFFICIAL	BOND AMOUNT	BOND COMPANY
Lowell Griffin, Sheriff	\$25,000.00	Fidelity and Deposit Co.
Lee King, Register of Deeds	\$50,000.00	Fidelity and Deposit Co.
Harry Rising, Tax Collector	\$1,000,000.00	Fidelity and Deposit Co.
Deputy Tax Collectors	\$250,000.00	Fidelity and Deposit Co.
Samantha Reynolds, Finance Director	\$1,000,000.00	Fidelity and Deposit Co.

The Sheriff's bond may not exceed \$25,000, pursuant to N.C. Gen Stat. §162-8. The other bonds have been set by previous Boards of Commissioners, and are at the discretion of the sitting Board.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the public officials' bonds as proposed.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval for the following meeting:
November 15, 2023 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting


Motion:

I move the Board approve the minutes of November 15, 2023.

Tax Collector's Report

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

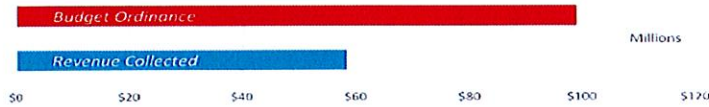
Please find outlined below collections information through November 26, 2023 for 2023 real and personal property bills mailed on August 21, 2023. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):		
2023 Beginning Charge:	\$99,203,345.19	Paid 54.95%
Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:	\$197,508.62	
Releases & Refunds:	(\$222,025.69)	
Net Charge:	\$99,178,828.12	
Unpaid Taxes:	\$44,677,642.46	
Amount Collected:	\$54,501,185.66	

Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):	
Net Charge:	\$3,230,687.59
Unpaid Taxes:	\$10,781.06
Amount Collected:	\$3,219,906.53

99.67%

Henderson County FY24 Budget Analysis:			
	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>		<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$97,695,412.00	Ad Valorem:	\$57,721,092.19
Prior Years:	\$1,041,250.00	Prior Years:	\$402,916.56
Budget Total:	\$98,736,662.00	YTD Revenue:	\$58,124,008.75



2023.150 Pending Releases & Refunds

The Assessor reviewed the pending releases and refunds. As a result of that review, the Assessor’s opinion is that these findings are in order. Supporting documentation is on file in the County Assessor’s Office.

The pending release and refund requests were submitted for approval by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners.

Type:	Amount:
Total Taxes Released from the Charge	\$ 20,075.13
Total Refunds as a result of the Above Releases	\$ 1,106.25

Motion:

I move the Board approve the Combined Release/Refund Report as presented.

2024 Proposed Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates

The proposed 2024 Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for the Henderson County Board of Commissioners was presented for the Board’s review and approval.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024
(Budget Retreat) Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Monday, March 4, 2024
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Monday, April 1, 2024
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Monday, May 6, 2024

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(Budget Workshop) Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Monday, June 3, 2024

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

NO FIRST MONDAY MEETING IN JULY

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Monday, August 5, 2024

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Monday, October 7, 2024

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Monday, November 4, 2024

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Monday, December 2, 2024

NO THIRD WEDNESDAY MEETING IN DECEMBER

Motion:

I move the Board approve the 2024 Proposed Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates as presented.

Notification of Vacancies

The Notification of Vacancies was provided for the Board's information. They will appear on the next agenda under "Nominations."

1. Fire Commission – 1 vac.
Position # 1 – Position Requirement – Communications
2. Henderson County Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 vacs.
Position # 2 - Regular
Position # 6 - Alternate
Position # 8 – Alternate
3. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.
Position # 3 – Must reside in the Hendersonville ETJ
4. Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
Position # 3 – At Large

Non-Profit Funding Agreement

Subsequent to the approval of funding for the Henderson County Education Foundation on November 6, 2023, to start the Success Coaching program, the Board of Commissioners was requested to approve the necessary Not-For-Profit funding agreement.

Motion:

I move the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the provided funding

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agreement thereby authorizing the release of funds in accordance with the funding agreement to the named agency.

2023.151 Resolution – Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditure Authorization

At the Board's August 16, 2023, meeting, the Board was presented with the Henderson County Strategic Plan for the Opioid Settlement Funds. The presenters explained that the county may proceed with strategies from the MOA's Option A and that work is underway toward unlocking the MOA's Option B. The Board accepted the Strategic Plan on September 5, 2023. The necessary steps have been completed by submitting the Exhibit C Worksheet to the NCACC. This request addresses the strategies identified in that Worksheet for the Opioid Settlement and related efforts through the fiscal year. These strategies include Recovery Support Services, Prevention and Intervention, Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment, Criminal Justice Diversion, and Recovery Housing Support.

This request included two new Peer Support Specialist positions for Recovery Support Services, one to be embedded at EMS and one at DSS. This request includes the salary and benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year, in addition to estimated costs for the additional expenses needed to fund these positions.

In addition to the Budget Amendment, the Board must also adopt a Resolution per the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation, which dictates the process for drawing from the Special Revenue Fund.

Motion:

I move the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds for the strategies determined by Substance Use Task Force and through the Strategic Plan and authorize the addition of two new positions in the Department of Strategic Behavioral Health, the addition of a new vehicle to the fleet, and approve the associated Budget Amendment.

Henderson County Title VI Program

Henderson County operates Apple Country Public Transit to provide transportation services to the community. This service receives federal funding. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), under the US Department of Transportation, requires all recipients of FTA financial assistance to adopt and implement a Title VI Program.

Title VI is a Federal statute and provides that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI falls under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1987 and applies to the operations of covered entities without regard to whether specific portions of the covered program or activity are Federally funded.

Henderson County has complied with the Title VI requirement since the transit system was taken over, and the Board of Commissioners last approved the program in 2021. The FTA requires this

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program to be re-certified every three years to remain in compliance, so certification of the 2024 version was required at this time.

Motion:

I move the Board certify the Henderson County 2024 Title VI Program and authorize the County Manager to sign all applicable documents.

Vendor Selection for Engineering Services for Jackson Park Feasibility and Engineering Study

The Board was requested to approve the selection of the qualified engineering firm chosen to provide engineering services for the Jackson Park Feasibility and Engineering Study. A request for qualifications was issued between November 6, 2023, and November 17, 2023. Three qualifying submissions were received. Based on the review by SWCD and PR staff and a SWCD Board Member, the most qualified firm was Robinson Design Engineers. The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District Board approved the selection on November 30, 2023.

Motion:

I move the Board accept the selection of Robinson Design Engineers to provide engineering services for the Jackson Park Feasibility and Engineering Study and to authorize Staff to enter into negotiations with the selected firm.

2023.152 US Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund Expenditure

The Sheriff's Department requested that the Board approve an appropriation from the Sheriff's Office Restricted US DOJ funds (114431-451005-9066) in the amount of \$114,967 to purchase needed equipment and upgrade a 14-year-old motorcycle unit. The appropriation would be used to upgrade equipment to be used in investigations and allow reallocation of the current equipment to Patrol to help in their investigations.

Motion:

I move the Board of Commissioners approve the Budget Amendment presented to allow appropriation from Restricted US DOJ funds.

Bid Award: Purchase of Motorcycles

The Board was requested to approve the lowest responsive, responsible bid in the amount of \$71,542.12 and authorize the Sheriff to proceed with the purchase of two 2024 Harley Davidson Electra Glide Police Fleet Motorcycles. Bidding was concluded on September 8, 2023.

Due to the federal nature of the funds involved in this purchase, equivalent language was included in the specifications of the bid document for the purchase of these motorcycles. As a result, staff recommends the award be made to G&G Motorcycles, the only responsible bidder who complied with the equipment specifications and compliance requirements. Bids were sent out twice per policy, and only one bid was received each time.

Motion:

I move the Board accept the lowest responsive, responsible bid from G&G Motorcycles, Inc. in the amount of \$71,542.12 for the purchase of two 2024 Harley

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Davidson Electra Glides as specified and to authorize the Sheriff to proceed with the purchase.

2023.153 Modification of Agreement with Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems LLC

Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems has been acquired by Cummins, Inc. While carrying out its requirements under the agreement Meritor signed with the County earlier this year, it has met delays in the installation of (already ordered) equipment. As a result, they were seeking a delay in the deadlines and effectiveness of the February agreement.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the proposed Modification of Agreement with Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems LLC.

FY2024 Christmas Bonus (Add-on)

The FY23 Audit results were presented to the Board, with a positive net change in fund balance of \$7.1 M. Having expressed a desire to thank employees for their dedication and hard work throughout the fiscal year, the Board considered the following motion.

Motion:

I move the Board authorize a one-time bonus of \$500 to each permanent employee Henderson County employed as of November 20, 2023, including Cooperative Extension employees, and to each auxiliary employee who has worked more than 50 hours since July 1, 2023.

Chairman McCall made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as amended. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to go into public hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2023.154 LDC Text Amendment – TX-2023-05, Communication Facilities

Planning staff received an application for a text amendment (#TX-2023-05) to add language that would allow engineers to submit specific letters detailing fall zones, reducing the separation and easement acquisition requirements. The Land Development Code (LDC) permits Communication Facilities in Category One (1) and Category Two (2) by right in all zoning districts.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) reviewed the proposed text amendments during their November 7, 2023 meeting. The TRC moved to forward the proposed amendment to the Planning Board.

The Planning Board discussed the draft amendment at its November 16, 2023, meeting and voted unanimously to send forward a favorable recommendation on the draft text amendment.

Public Input – There was none.

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Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to go out of the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion that the Board approve the proposed text amendment TX-2023-05, Communication Facilities, with any changes as discussed (there were none), and find that these changes are consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Lapsley further moved that the Board approve the provided resolution regarding the consistency with the CCP. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Vice-Chair Edney was the nay vote.

DISCUSSION

Agreement with WGLA Engineering Clear Creek Sewer Design (Pulled from Consent Agenda)

During the Board's November 16, 2023 meeting, WGLA Engineering (WGLA) was selected as the most qualified responding engineering firm for the subject project. Subsequently, staff negotiated a proposed agreement with WGLA for \$1,430,000. The scope of the agreements for engineering services to design, acquire easements, and permitting for Clear Creek Sewer System's collection system and wastewater treatment plant. Of course, the portion of the proposed agreement for the wastewater treatment plant is contingent on receiving a discharge permit from NCDEQ. The Board has allocated \$22,000,000 from American Rescue Plan funds, with a funding deadline for expending funds by 12/31/2026.

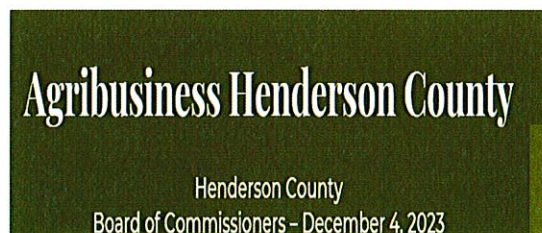
Staff recommended an additional allocation of \$300,000, which will provide a contingency and funds for related pre-construction work by other firms, as listed in WGLA's proposal letter. Due to the ARP funds allocated to the project, staff will work closely with WGLA to develop an American Rescue Plan Act-compliant contract.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion that he be recused from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Lapsley's son is an employee of CDM Smith, one of the sub-contractors for WGLA Engineering. All voted in favor, and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Hill made the motion that the Board authorize the County Engineer to execute the proposed agreement with WGLA Engineering for \$1,420,000 and allocate an additional \$300,000 for contingency and other pre-construction work. All voted in favor, and the motion carried 4-0.

Agribusiness Henderson County

Planner Liz Hansen presented the following to the Board.



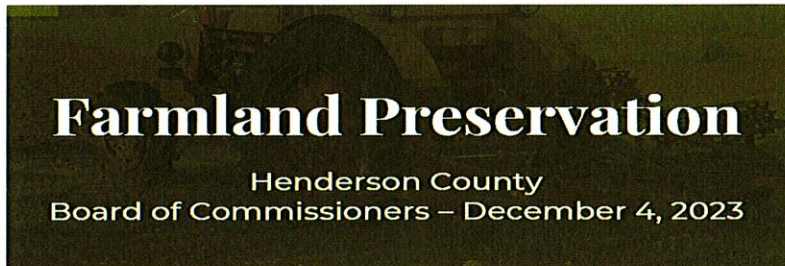
AgHC Overview

- Originally conceived as part of the Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan
- Designed to promote the economic development of agriculture and agribusiness in Henderson County
- Originally a county department in 2007
- Established a 501(c)(6) in 2013 to form a true public-private partnership
- Currently undergoing discussions to transition to next phase of AgHC's Development



Financial Overview

- Two Funding Sources
 - Henderson County Budget
 - Fiscal Year 2024 Budget - \$190,000
 - Current Balance -\$99,905.32
 - Donations
 - Held in a fiduciary trust by Henderson County on behalf of AgHC
 - Donations are used to fund expenditures over and above the annual County contribution
 - Current Balance - \$23,509.05

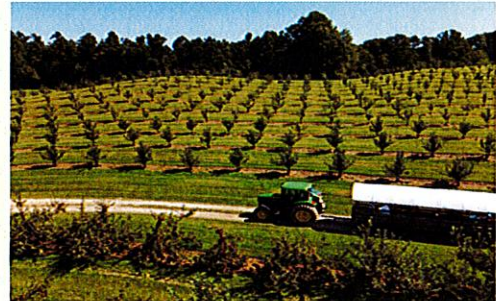


Farmland Loss in NC

- North Carolina is the second-most threatened state for farmland loss
 - 732,000 acres of agricultural land converted between 2001 and 2016
 - 78% of agricultural land was converted to low-density residential uses
- North Carolina is projected to lose over 1 million acres of agricultural land by 2040
 - Loss of nearly 20,000 jobs
 - Loss of 9,000 farms
 - Loss of \$1.25 billion in farming output

Agriculture in Henderson County

- Agriculture (including managed forests) covers 26% of land in the County (60,000 acres)
 - Nearly a \$1 billion industry
 - Approximately 4,000 jobs

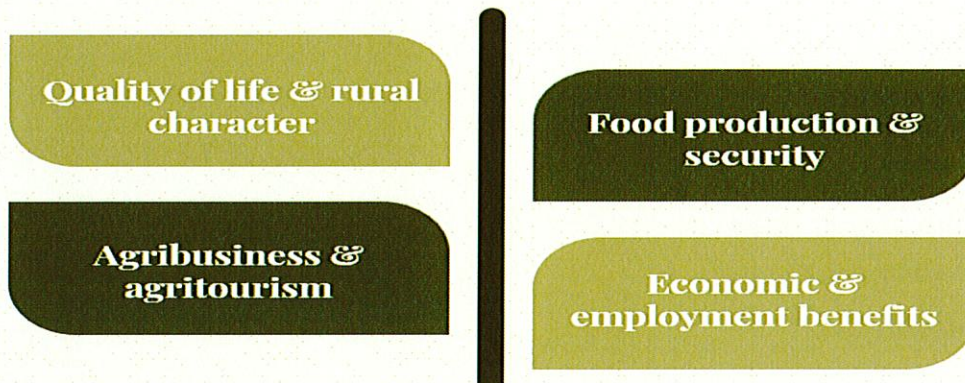


Farmland Loss in Henderson County

- Henderson County lost 2,058 acres of agricultural land between 2020 and 2023
 - The County lost 1/3 of orchard land between 2002 and 2017
- Example causes of farmland loss include low-density residential and commercial development, growth of utility services



Why Preserve Farmland in Henderson County



Agricultural Conservation Easements

- Purchase of Agricultural Easements programs (PACE) permanently preserves agricultural lands from future residential, commercial, or industrial development.
 - Voluntary, incentive-based program
 - Binding agreement recorded at Register of Deeds
 - Provides an alternative to restrictive land use
 - Property remains in private ownership
 - Reduces conflict between agricultural uses and other uses
 - Preserves agricultural land for future generations
 - Allows land to remain in Present-Use Value

Haywood County, NC Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

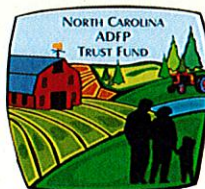
Haywood County utilizes the **Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF)** to create **Agricultural Conservation Easements** on farmland, horticultural land, and forestland. There are currently **over 20** ADFP Agricultural Conservation Easements within the County.

The County also uses **Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)** and **Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD)** under their Farmland Preservation Ordinance.

The Haywood **County Soil and Water Conservation District** is responsible for the general Farmland Preservation duties. The County **Agricultural Advisory Committee** approves and disapproves applications for the VAD and EVAD programs.

- Haywood County has over **64,000 acres** of farmland
- Over **700 farms**
- Produces over **\$17 million** from livestock, dairy, and crops

- Farms Enrolled in VAD: **88** (5,896,30 acres)
- Farms Enrolled in EVAD: **24** (1,720,70 acres)



Approved: April 17, 2024

Agribusiness of Henderson County Chairman Kenny Barnwell addressed the Board. He said as a result of the recent retirement of AgHC Director Mark Williams, the organization was looking to restructure and discussed the proposed plans for the organization.

The key changes proposed for AgHC included:

- Shifting operations to function as a traditional non-profit
- At the discretion of the Commissioners, increase emphasis on farmland preservation and establishment of a local program
- Increase efficiency by utilizing contracted labor/services with Board management; any labor/services would be paid directly by the nonprofit rather than being a paid county employee.
- AgHC will be responsible for accounting for the organization instead of the county finance department.

Mr. Barnwell noted the successes of AgHC in its 13-year existence, including \$193m in capital projects that have generated a return of over \$800,000 in annual tax revenue. He said AgHC would continue as a 501 (c) (6) corporation but operate fully as a non-profit rather than the current hybrid form of acting partially as a county department. Barwell requested that the balance of funds allocated for the non-profit in the current budget (\$190,000) be released directly to AgHC so they may continue in their efforts to bring in new business and improve the profitability of agriculture.

AgHC supports a local program to preserve farmland and should the Board request it, put increased focus on farmland preservation, including the development of a new entity to hold funds in a trust for a local Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) program. The county will continue to be involved in the final decision-making process and provide legal assistance.

Chairman McCall asked that a commissioner sit on the AgHC Board. Mr. Barnwell agreed and then appointed Chairman McCall as a non-voting board member on the AgHC Board.

Chairman McCall also requested that AgHC set a public information session and invite all farmers who would like to attend so the organization could share what is happening and explain the upcoming changes. She wants the community to know that the organization is for all farmers who wish to participate and that the work the AgHC does is for the entire farming community.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion that the Board direct the County Attorney to create a non-profit agreement with AgHC, and upon completion, the Board releases the funds. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lapsley agrees that a public meeting should be scheduled as this is a significant change in how the Board of Commissioners supports agriculture in the county. He agrees that with this change, a public meeting should be held to get all folks involved in agriculture, such as apple growers, truck farmers, vineyards, greenhouses, and all types of agribusinesses. Manager Mitchell then directed Chris Todd to work with AgHC to put the meeting together sometime after the beginning of the year.

Henderson County Audit Results for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023

Daniel Gougherty, Director of the county’s external audit firm Cherry Bekaert, provided a brief executive summary presentation of the audit results and financial statements for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023.

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Compliance Letters have been submitted to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for final approval as required.

The final report will be placed on the County’s website for the public to view and in the public library's main branch.

**Henderson County, North Carolina
Audit Executive Summary**

December 4, 2023

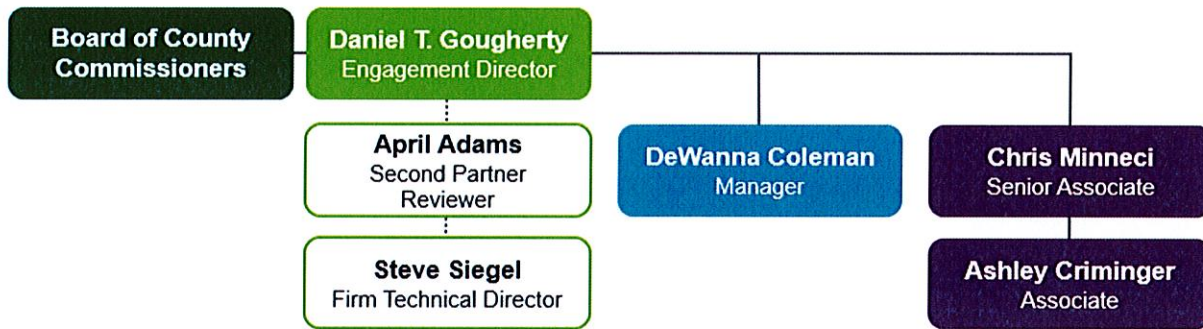


Agenda

- ▶ Client Service Team
- ▶ Results of the Audit
- ▶ Internal Control Communication
- ▶ Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements
- ▶ Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices
- ▶ Independence Considerations
- ▶ Other Required Communications
- ▶ Other Matters
- ▶ Upcoming Financial Reporting Changes

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of County Commissioners charged with governance and management of Henderson County and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Client Service Team

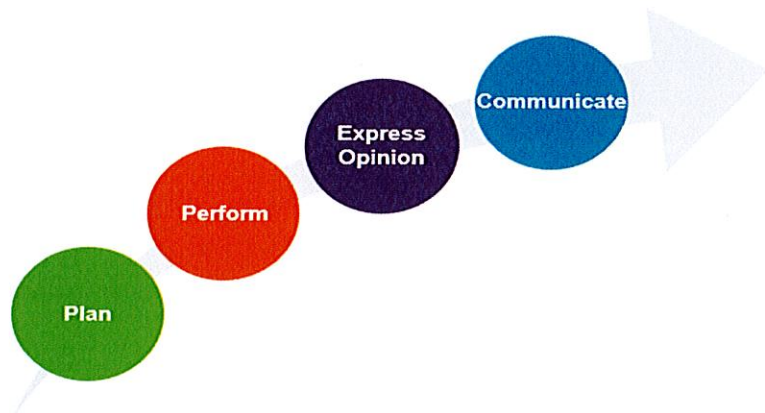


Results of the Audit

We have audited the financial statements of Henderson County, North Carolina ("County") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and have issued our report dated October 31, 2023.

We have also audited the County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB Compliance Supplement and the Audit Manual for Governmental Auditors in North Carolina that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major federal and state programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. We have issued our report October 31, 2023.

We have issued unmodified opinions on the financial statements and on compliance related to the single audits performed in accordance with Uniform Grant Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.



Internal Control Communication

In planning and performing our audit, we considered internal control over financial reporting (“internal control”) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, and compliance with Uniform Grant Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County’s internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis.

Internal Control Communication

Material Weakness

- ▶ A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Significant Deficiency

- ▶ A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

We noted no material weaknesses and there were no reported significant deficiencies.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

Corrected Misstatements

- ▶ None noted.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Uncorrected Misstatements

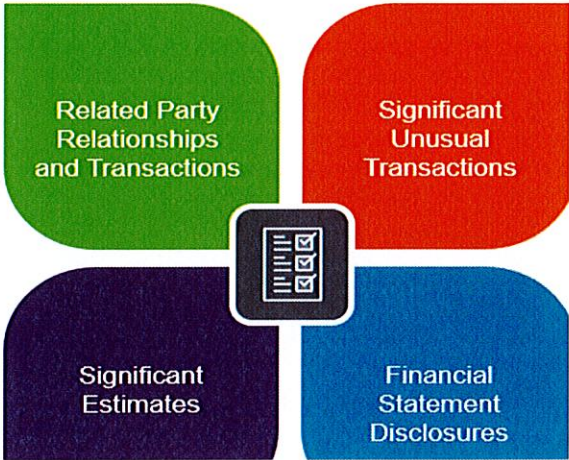
- ▶ The following summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit.
- ▶ Overstatement of current year beginning fund balance and understatement of current year revenue in General capital projects and Governmental activities of \$500,000 related to funding recognized as revenue in the prior year that should have been recognized in fiscal year 2023.
- ▶ Overstatement of current year expenditures and payables by approximately \$300,000 related to an over accrual in the Governmental activities related to incurred but not reported claims.
- ▶ Understatement of construction in progress and revenue of approximately \$180,000 related to amounts paid on behalf of the County by the TDA for capital improvements.
- ▶ Overstatement of beginning fund balance of approximately \$494,000, revenues of approximately \$53,000, expenditures of approximately \$459,000 and an understatement of liabilities of approximately \$88,000. This is related to improvement guarantees that should be recorded as a liability rather than income on the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

As described in Note 1, the County changed accounting policies related to Subscription Based Information Technology Agreements ("SBITA's") by adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Accounting Standards Update No. 96, *Subscription-Based IT Arrangements*.

We noted no inappropriate accounting policies or practices.



As part of our audit, we evaluated the County's identification of, accounting for, and disclosure of the County's relationships and transactions with related parties as required by professional standards.

We noted none of the following:

- Related parties or related party relationships or transactions that were previously undisclosed to us;
- Significant related party transactions that have not been approved in accordance with the County's policies or procedures or for which exceptions to the County's policies or procedures were granted;
- Significant related party transactions that appeared to lack a business purpose;
- Noncompliance with applicable laws or regulations prohibiting or restricting specific types of related party transactions; and
- Difficulties in identifying the party that ultimately controls the County.

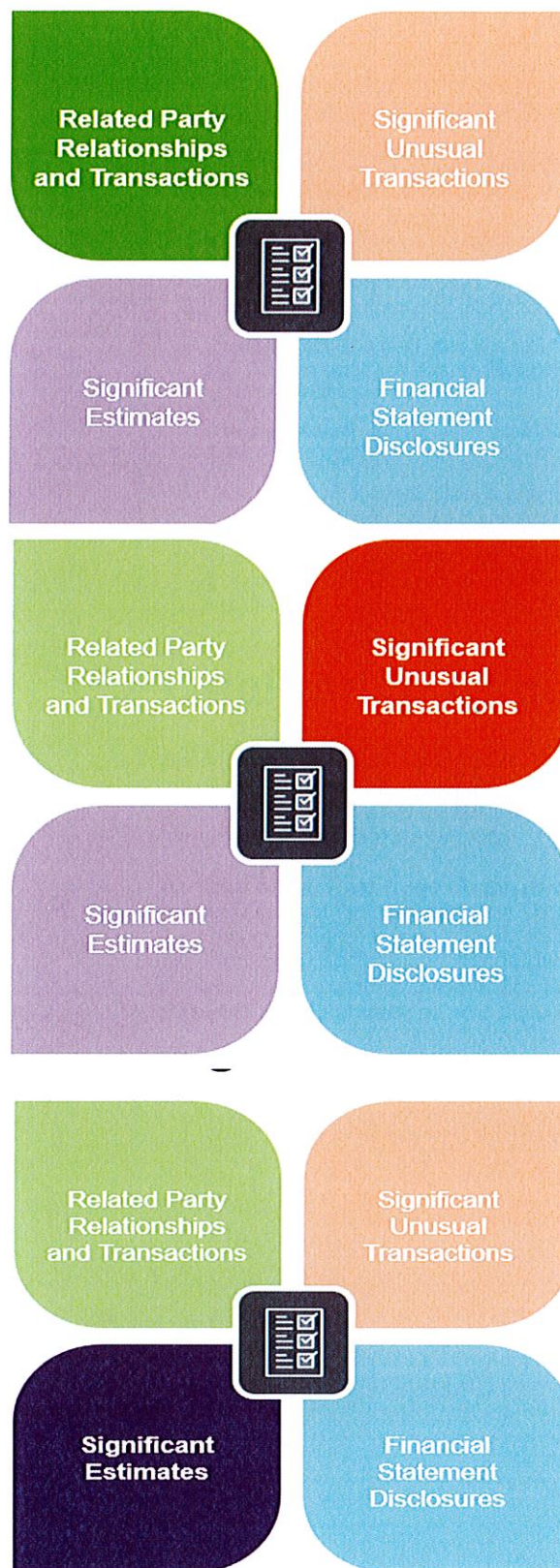
We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

For purposes of this presentation, professional standards define significant, unusual transactions as transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the County or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size, or nature. We noted no significant, unusual transactions during our audit.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- Allowance for doubtful accounts
- Depreciation expense (estimated useful lives of assets)
- Pensions, OPEB, and IBNR liabilities and related deferred outflows and inflows
- Landfill liability
- Lease and SBITA liabilities, receivables and related right to use assets and deferred inflows.

Management's estimate of the identified above estimates are based on the analysis of historical collection trends, estimated useful life of the asset, actuarial valuations, engineers estimates for closure and post-closure costs, and the County's incremental borrowing rate and SBITA or lease terms. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Independence Considerations

Nonattest Services

- ▶ Preparation of the Data Collection Form.
- ▶ For all nonattest services we perform, you are responsible for designating a competent employee to oversee the services, make any management decisions, perform any management functions related to the services, evaluate the adequacy of the services, and accept overall responsibility for the results of the services.

Independence Conclusion

- ▶ We are not aware of any other circumstances or relationships that create threats to auditor independence.
- ▶ We are independent of the County and have met our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit.

Other Required Communications

Difficulties Encountered

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Disagreements with Management

Includes disagreements on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report.

We are pleased to report no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Auditor Consultations

We noted no matters that are difficult or contentious for which the auditor consulted outside the engagement team.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 31, 2023

<p>Management Consultations</p> <p>In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations.</p> <p>To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.</p>	<p>Other Findings or Issues</p> <p>We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year.</p> <p>These discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.</p>	<p>Fraud and Illegal Acts</p> <p>As of the date of this presentation, no fraud, illegal acts, or violations of laws and regulations noted.</p>	<p>Going Concern</p> <p>No events or conditions noted that indicate substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern.</p>
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Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis and required supplemental information ("RSI"), as listed in the table of contents, which supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.



Supplementary Information

We were engaged to report on the accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, budgetary schedules, additional financial data, and schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.



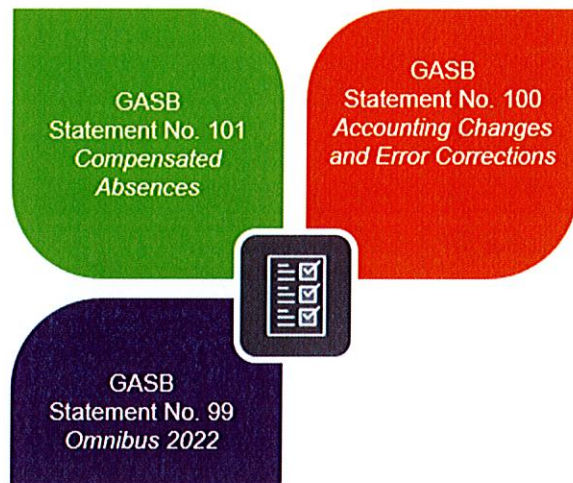
Other Information

We were not engaged to report on the introductory and statistical section, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements themselves and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Upcoming Financial Reporting Changes

These standards will be effective for the County in the upcoming years and may have a significant impact on the County's financial reporting.

We would be happy to discuss with management the potential impacts on the County's financial statements and how we may be able to assist in the implementation efforts.



LGC Performance Indicators – Water and Sewer

Performance Indicator	2023	Minimum Threshold
Operating net income (loss) excluding depreciation+ debt service principal	(\$7,086)	Greater than \$-0-
Water and Sewer Capital Assets Condition Ratio	0.36	Remaining useful life of asset greater than or equal to .50

Local Government Commission Performance Indicators

Audit Report –

- ✓ No other financial performance indicators of concern noted.
- ✓ Budgeted tax levy for the General Fund did not have more than 3% uncollected
- ✓ Positive General Fund total fund balance
- ✓ Effective pre-audit process to avoid pervasive budget violations
- ✓ No late debt service payments or debt covenant compliance issues
- ✓ No statutory violation within Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
- ✓ Response to the Local Government Commission due 60 days from the date of this meeting.

Approved: April 17, 2024

General Fund Expenditures July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Budgeted expenditures	\$	197,360,989
Actual expenditures	\$	<u>184,103,728</u>
Net expenditures under budget	\$	13,257,261

(Expenditures include transfers out)

General Fund Revenues - Budget July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Annual revenues	\$	169,483,659
Other financing sources:		
Subscription liabilities issued	\$	719,020
Transfers in	\$	3,321,310
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	<u>23,837,000</u>
Total budgeted revenues	\$	197,360,989

Approved: April 17, 2024

**General Fund Revenues
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

Total budgeted revenues \$ 197,360,989
(Includes Fund Balance)

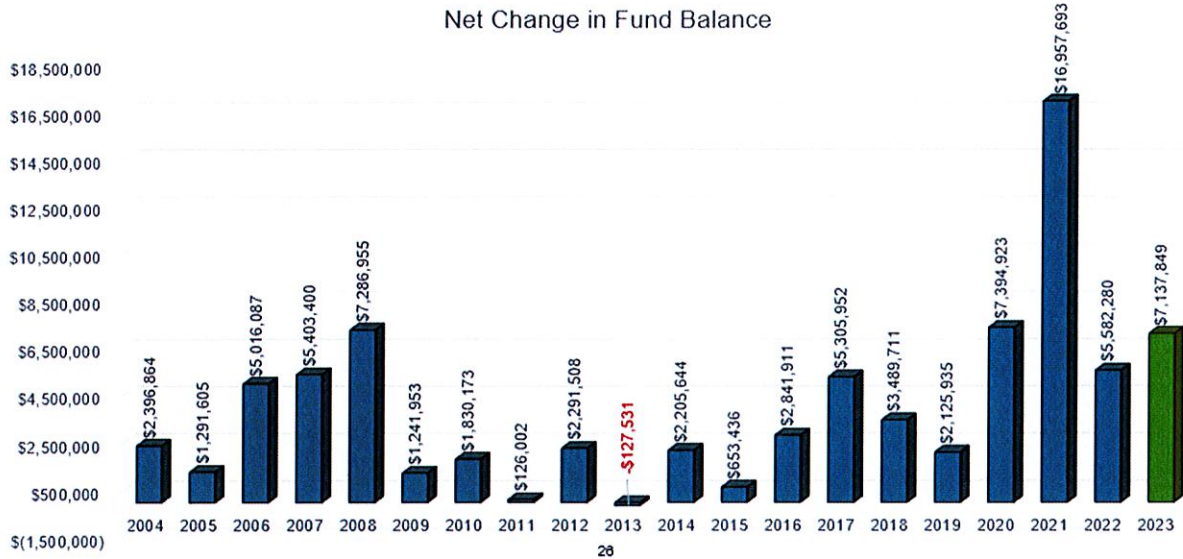
Actual revenues \$ 191,241,577

Net revenues under budget \$ -6,119,412

**General Fund Summary Report
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

	Actual
Total revenues	\$ 191,241,577
Total expenditures	\$ 184,103,728
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 7,137,849

Fund Balance History



Fund Balance Position General Fund

Unassigned Fund Balance	\$	45,022,724
BOC Policy Level (12% of actual FY 22 expenditures)	\$	22,092,447
Amount over BOC Policy (as of July 1, 2022)	\$	22,930,277

The Board and County Manager commended the Finance Department for a job well done.

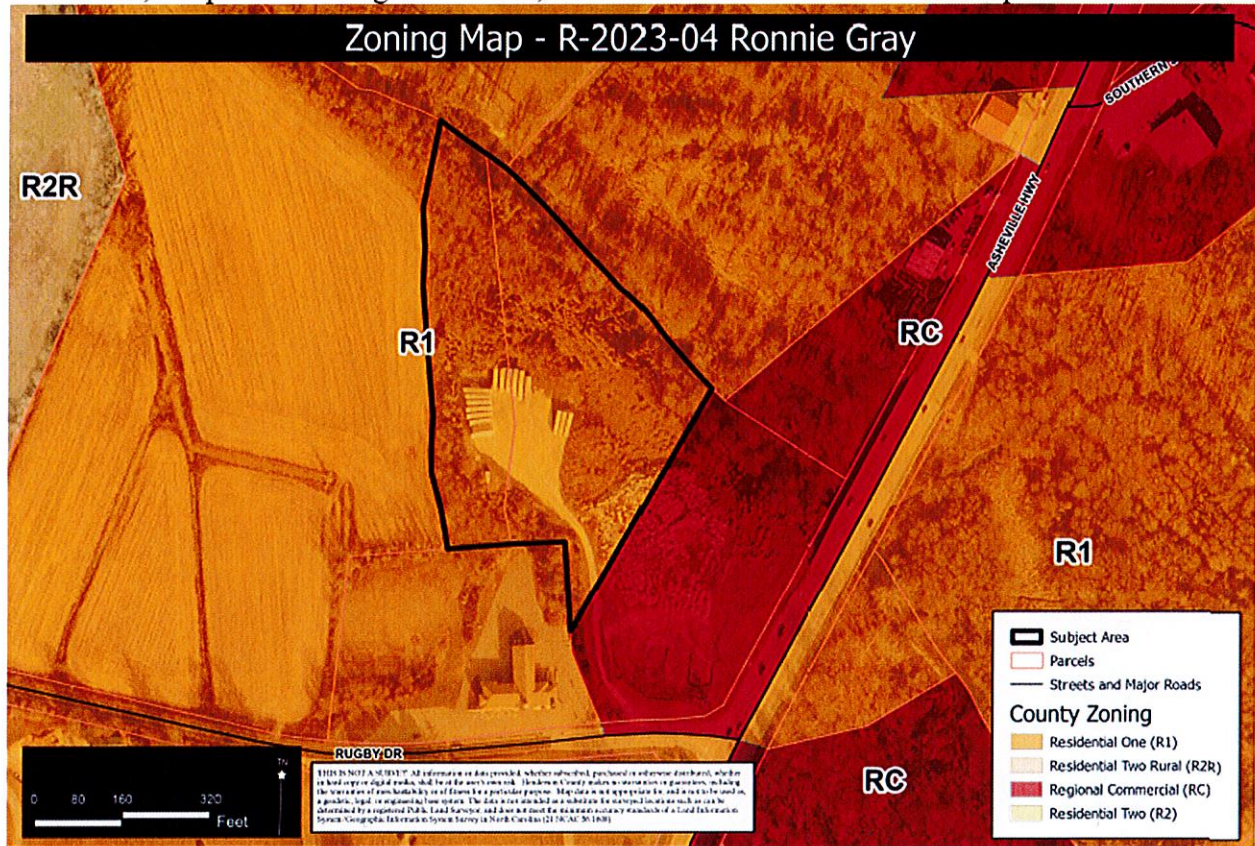
2023.155 Rezoning Application R-2023-04 Ronnie Gray, Residential One (R1) to Regional Commercial (RC)

Rezoning Application R-2023-04, submitted on March 1, 2023, and amended on May 8, 2023, requests that the County rezone approximately 6.10 acres of land from the Residential One (R1) zoning district to the Regional Commercial (RC) zoning district. The zoning map amendment application is for a portion of PINs: 9651-54-5337 and PIN: 9651-44-8562 located off US 25 N. The property owner is Ronnie Pete Gray, and the agent is Shane Laughter.

The Planning Board reviewed this original application during their April 20th meeting and recommended that only the portion of the front parcel along US 25 N be rezoned. The Board of

Approved: April 17, 2024

Commissioners held a public hearing on the application on June 28th, 2023. After hearing public comments, the public hearing was closed, and the Board voted to table the request.



Property Owner: Ronnie Gray Agent: Shane Laughter
 Approximate Acreage: 6.10 Acres PINs: 9651-54-5337 & 9651-44-8562
 Current Zoning: Residential One (R1) & Regional Commercial (RC)



Commissioner Hill made the motion to approve Rezoning Application R-2023-04 from Residential One (R1) to Regional Commercial (RC) as presented.

After additional discussion, Commissioner Lapsley called the question and asked for a vote.

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote; Vice-Chair Edney was the nay vote.

Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan

After receipt of the draft 2045 Comprehensive Plan from the Planning Board on December 5th, 2022, the Board has been conducting a thorough review of the draft plan. The Board wished to review the Future Land Use Map as part of that process.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to break down the current draft map into smaller geographic areas for review. The Board discussed each county region specifically as part of their review.

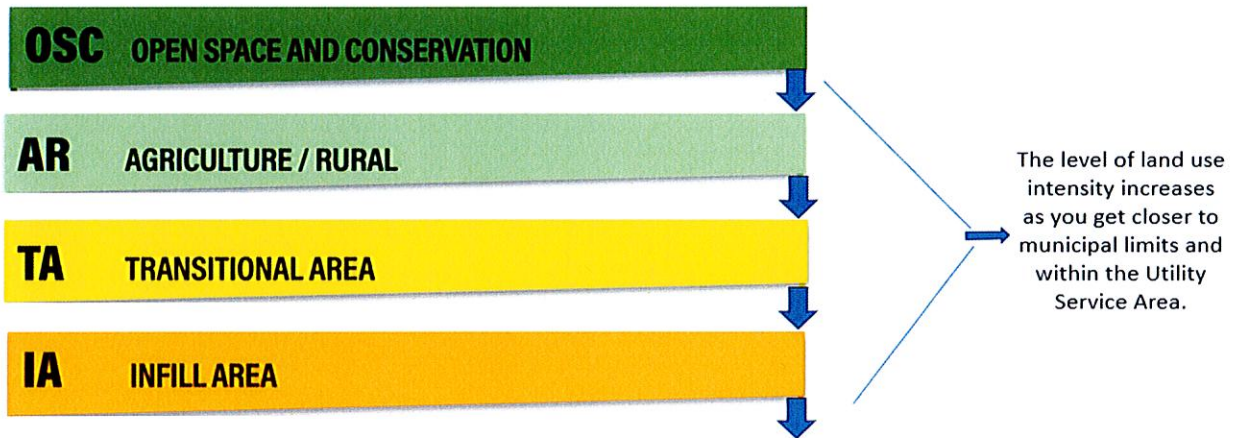
The current comprehensive plan is set to expire at the end of the 2023 calendar year.

2045 Comprehensive Plan

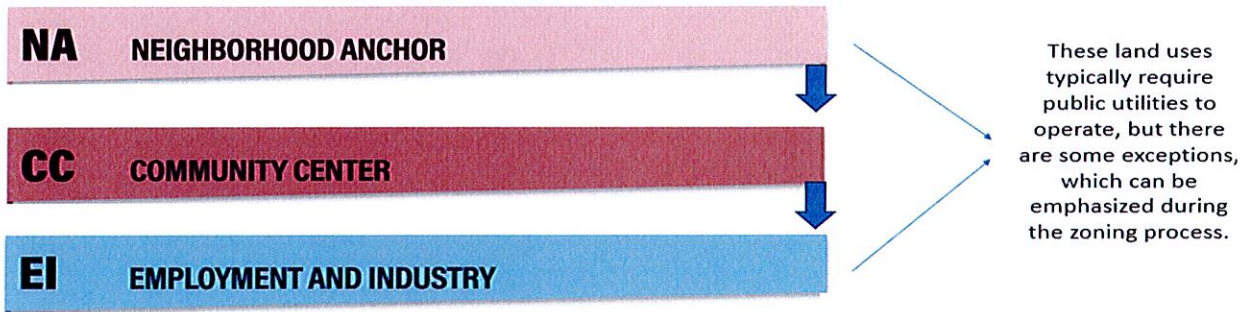
Future Land Use Map Exercise

- The Board previously completed its review of the Etowah-Horseshoe, Edneyville, and Dana areas
- Last week staff received input from the commissioners on the remaining map insets which include:
 - East Flat Rock/GRTZ, Crab Creek, Mills River, & Mountain Home/Fletcher
- The majority showed no changes, but there are a handful of suggested revisions
- Staff will provide an overview of these suggested revisions, and this will conclude the FLUM review

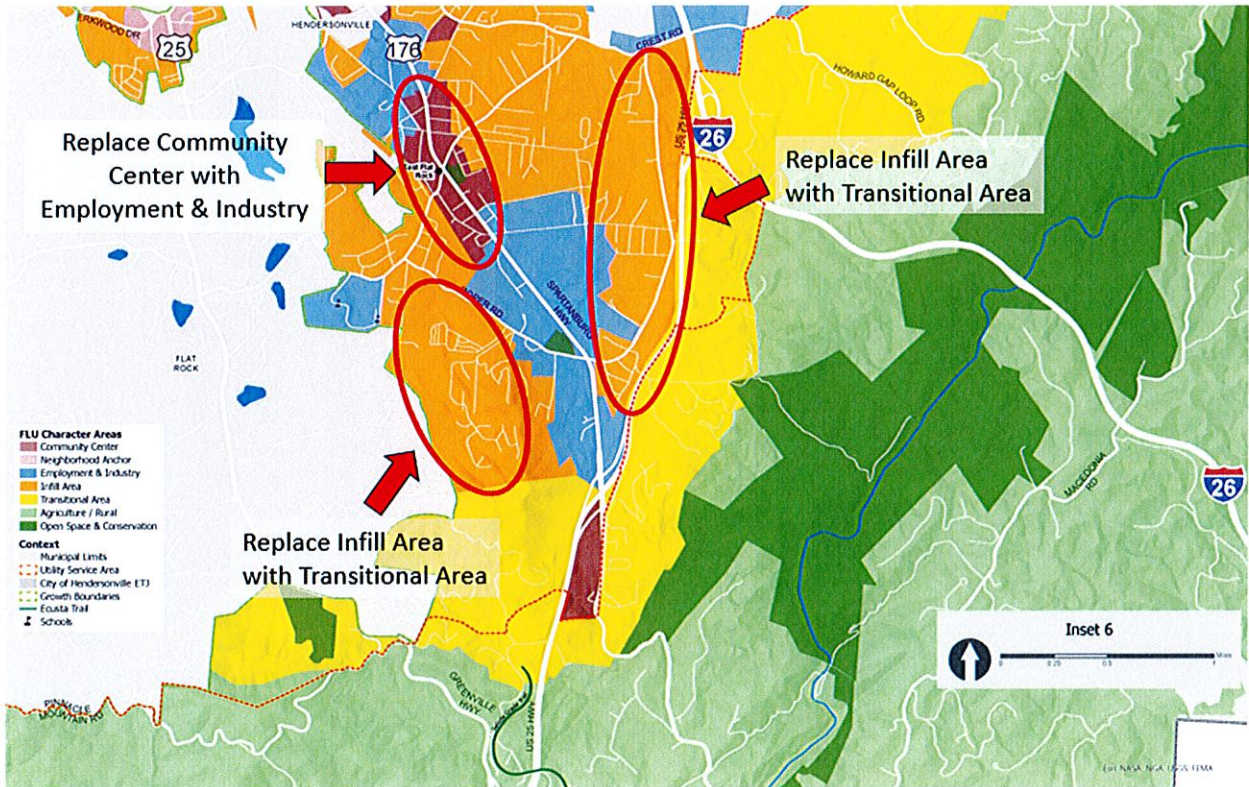
Character Areas

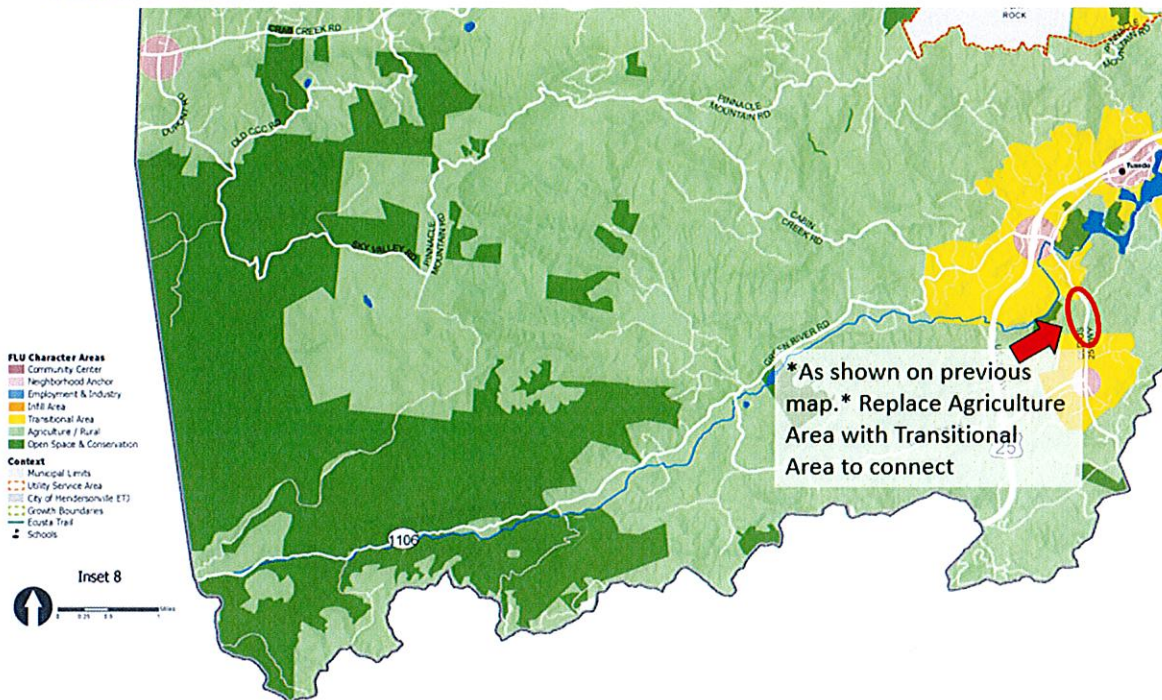
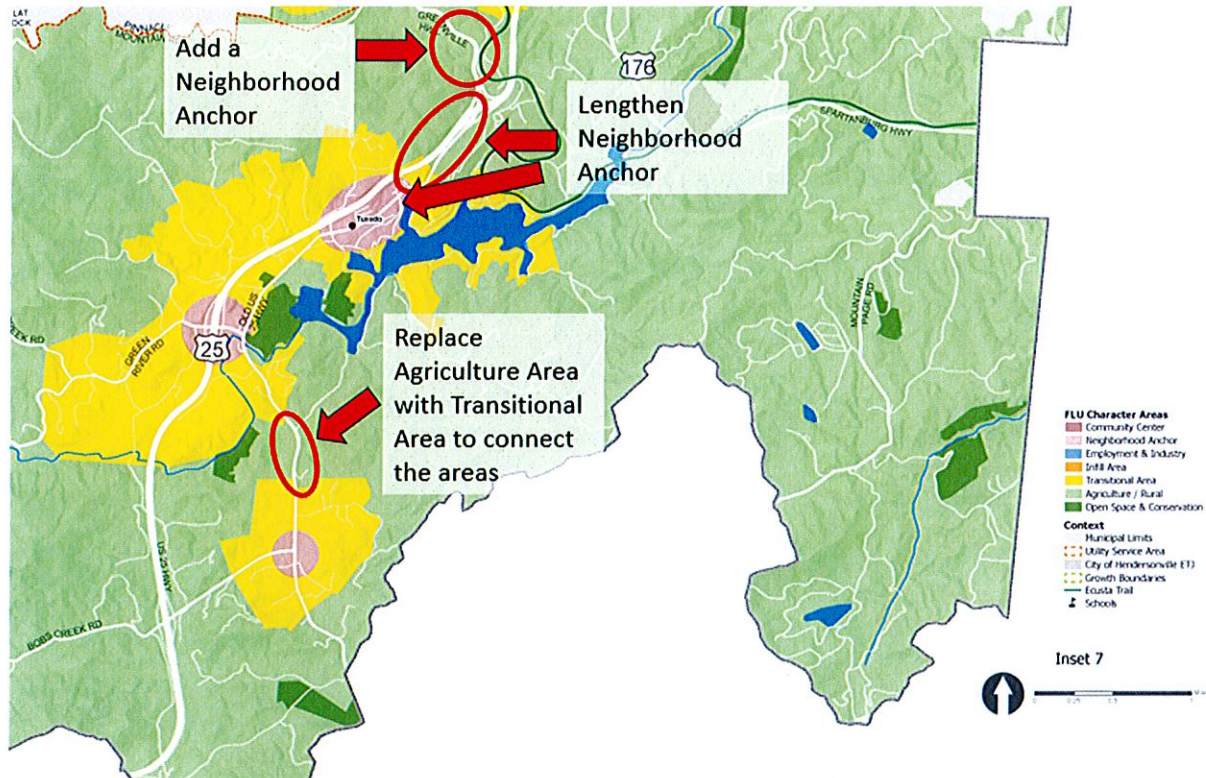


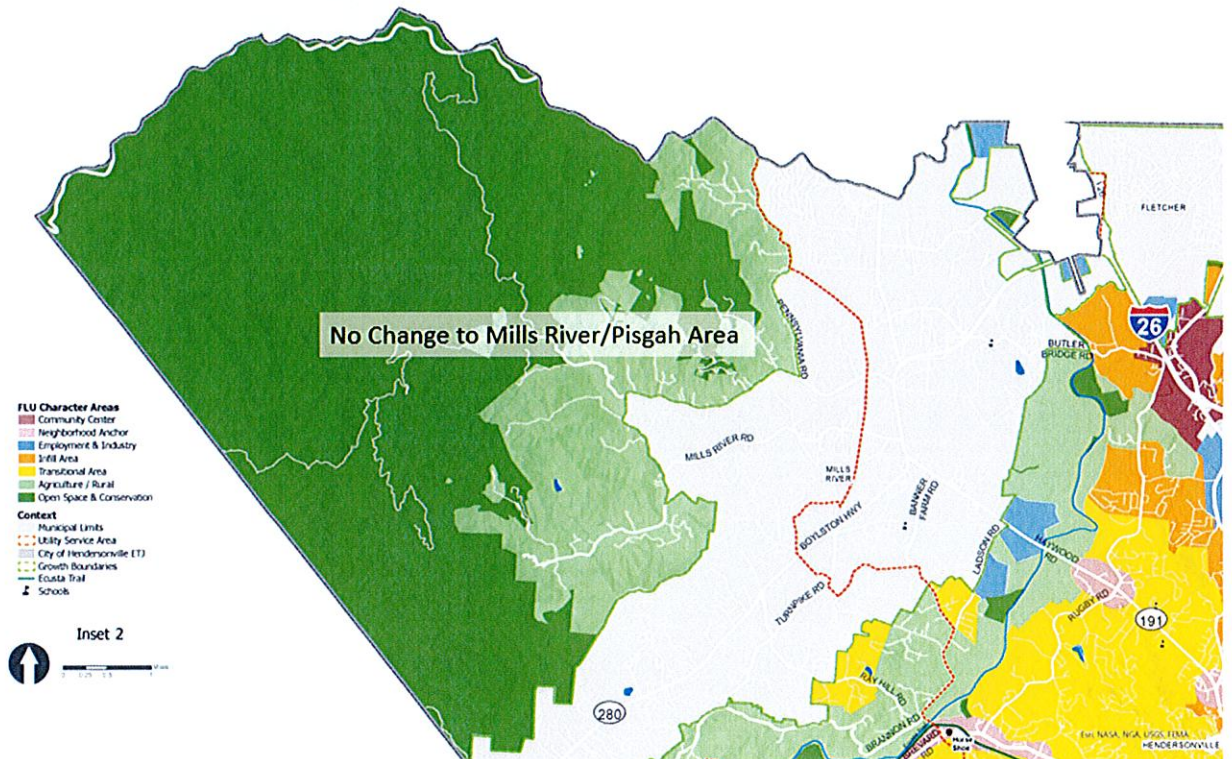
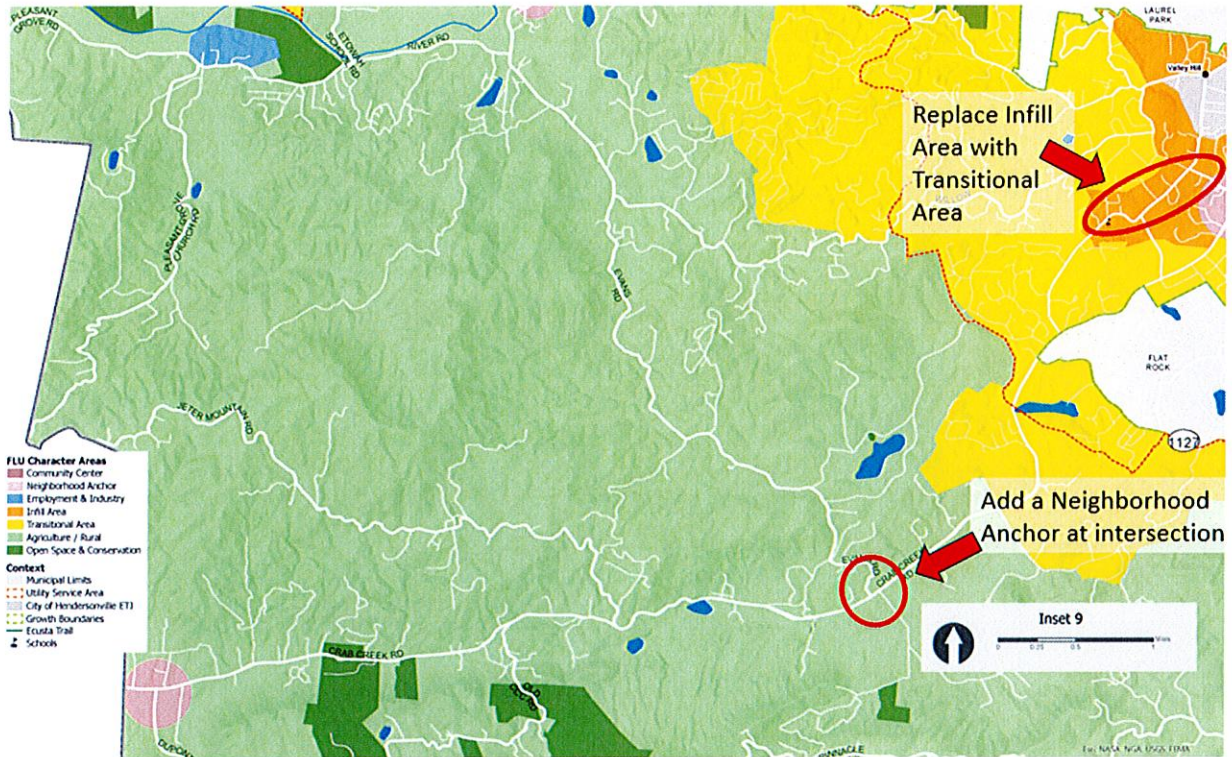
Character Areas

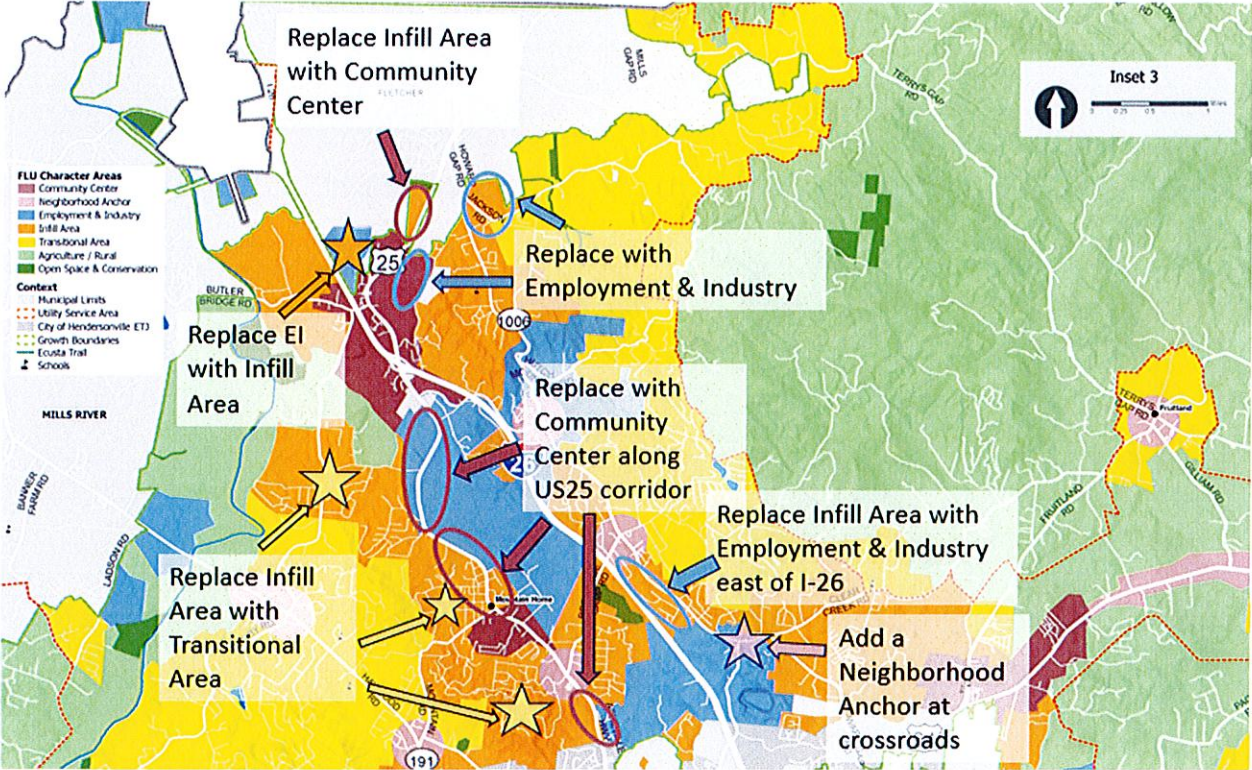


*Agricultural land use is allowed by right anywhere in the County without a zoning permit regardless of zoning or character area.



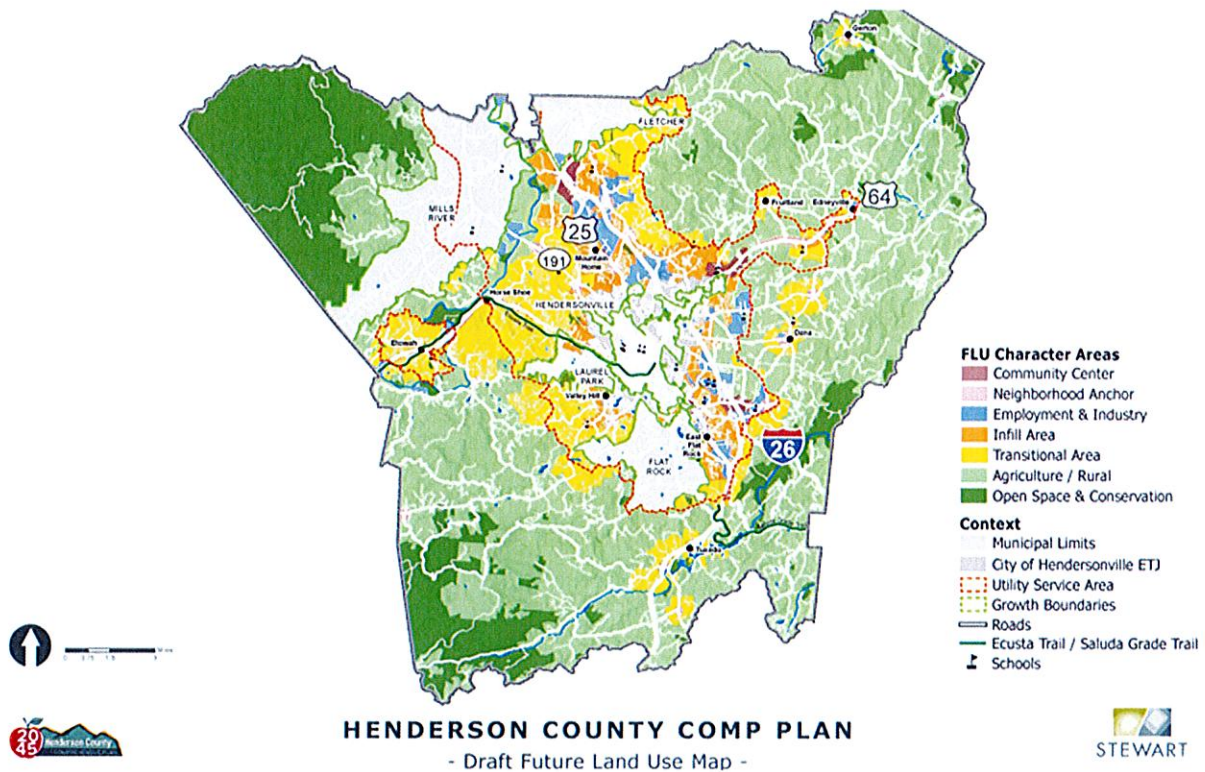






Next Steps

- The changes the Board previously approved are being incorporated into the current draft Future Land Use Map.
- Staff request Board consensus on changes presented today for incorporation into the current draft map.
- Staff will incorporate all changes and provide the Board with an updated, physical map for approval and then can move forward with updating and adopting the draft 2045 comprehensive plan.



After discussion, *Commissioner Lapsley made the motion that the Board retain the "2020 Comprehensive Plan" document as the County's Comprehensive Plan for a period of three months. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.*

Chairman McCall directed staff to remove the current map on the county's website and add verbiage to inform citizens that the proposed map is being revised.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Cemetery Advisory Committee – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

2. Henderson County Board of Health – 1 vac.

Commissioner Lapsley nominated Dr. Haley Perry for appointment to position # 3. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

3. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

4. Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

5. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 2 vacs.

Chairman McCall nominated Angela Johnson-Wesson for appointment to position # 15. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall nominated Rachel Poller for appointment to position # 25. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

6. Laurel Park Planning Board – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

7. Laurel Park Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

8. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 11 vacs.

Chairman McCall nominated David Leslie Smith for appointment to position # 10. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Vice-Chair Edney and Commissioner Lapsley did not have any updates.

Commissioner Andreotta thanked everyone involved in putting together the Christmas parade on Saturday; the event was fun and largely attended, given the rainy conditions. He offered congratulations to the Henderson County Recreation Department for winning the “Best Float” category in the parade.

Commissioner Hill offered kudos to the Green River Volunteer Fire Department for their recent response to his residence. He was impressed with their professionalism and thorough inspection of his home, looking for hot spots.

Vice-Chair McCall noted that December 7 marks the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

John Mitchell recognized Cooperative Extension Director Dr. Terry Kelley for receiving an award naming him a “Friend of Agriculture” in 2023.

Mitchell thanked Samantha Reynolds and Finance Department staff for all their work in helping with a successful audit. He went on to say that on Thursday, December 7, for Pearl Harbor Day, the message from President Roosevelt will be played in the courtyard of the Historic Courthouse. In closing, he thanked Jason Kilgore and Recreation Department staff for setting up in the rain so Santa Claus could visit with children in the courtyard of the Historic Courthouse last Friday.

CLOSED SESSION

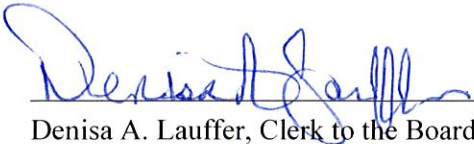
Commissioner Edney made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-

Approved: April 17, 2024

318.11(a)(3)(4)(5). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Edney made the motion to go out of closed session and adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN


Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board


Rebecca McCall, Chairman