

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

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 Chairman Rebecca McCall, Vice-Chair J. Michael Edney, Commissioner William Lapsley, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, Commissioner 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, Flood Administrator Toby Linville, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam, Engineer Marcus Jones, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Planner Liz Hansen, Planner Austin Parks, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, Deputy Tax Collector Luke Small, Tax Director Harry Rising, Capital Projects Manager Bryan Rhodes, DSS Director Jerrie McFalls, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping. Deputies Tracy Davis and Dakota Tittle provided security.

INVOCATION

Julie Gordon with the Christian Science Church provided the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bo Mohammed with IGNITE 4-H Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2024.15 Resolution in Memoriam – James Eugene “Jimmy” Stepp

The Board of Commissioners was requested to adopt a Resolution in Memoriam for Henderson County Rescue Squad Lifetime Member James Eugene “Jimmy” Stepp, who passed away on January 21, 2024. Jimmy Stepp was a native and lifelong resident of Henderson County. He served with the Henderson County Rescue Squad in many capacities and made significant and lasting impacts on our community and members during his 29 years of service.

Vice-Chair Edney read the resolution aloud.

**James Eugene “Jimmy” Stepp
February 5, 1954 – January 21, 2024**

WHEREAS, Henderson County celebrates the life and public service of Lifetime Member

Approved:

Jimmy Stepp of the Henderson County Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stepp was a Henderson County native and served for 29 years with the Henderson County Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Rescue Squad, Jimmy Stepp served in numerous leadership roles including Captain, Deputy Chief, Chief, and Board of Directors Member, and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stepp could always be counted on to be there when Henderson County was in need; whether it was a football game standby, Apple Festival, or working tirelessly during a hurricane or snowstorm. His commitment to helping others never wavered; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stepp was instrumental in building community relationships and partnerships and was a friend, mentor, sounding board, advisor, encourager, teacher, storyteller, and Rescue Squad historian to his fellow Rescue Squad members; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stepp helped guide the future of countless new EMT's and Rescue Technicians through his mentorship. His leadership had a ripple effect over thousands of lives of those in need from our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that James Eugene "Jimmy" Stepp will be remembered for his legacy of service and contributions to his community.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 5th day of February, 2024.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Jimmy Stepp's daughter, Pam Capell, was in attendance to accept the Resolution of Memorium.

Edney said as a member of the Hospital Board, he could share that the Board was contemplating establishing a scholarship fund to memorialize Jimmy Stepp.

Recognition – Hendersonville High School Ladies Tennis Team

The Board was requested to recognize the Hendersonville High School ladies' tennis team for their 5th consecutive State Championship.

Commissioner Andreotta invited team members to the front of the room for recognition. Those members included Eliza Perry, Ramsey Ross, Raleigh Prichard, Reese Redden, Anna Macdowell, Sopiha Gallian, Annalisa Wick, and Coach Jones. Other absent team members were Kruesi Graham, Canaan Scroggs, Avery Dhein, Hale Kindermann, Katherine Clemmer, Keily Crowe, and Charlotte Schmidt.

Approved:

2024.016 Service Badge and Sidearm Request – Lieutenant Jason Garren

The Henderson County Sheriff’s Office requested that Lieutenant Jason Garren's service badge and sidearm be given to him in recognition of his retirement from the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office.

Lieutenant Jason Garren began his career with the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office on July 12, 1994, and held the ranks of Telecommunicator, Jailer Deputy, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant for over 29 years in the Sheriff’s Office. To honor him and show our gratitude, the Sheriff’s Office intended to present his service badge and service sidearm to him.

Sheriff Griffin made this request on behalf of the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2(a).

Chairman McCall read the Resolution aloud.

**Resolution Honoring
Lieutenant Jason Garren**

**For 29 Years of Law Enforcement
Service and Awarding His Badge
and Sidearm**



WHEREAS, Lieutenant Jason Garren joined the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy on July 12, 1994 and held the ranks of Telecommunicator, Jailer, Deputy, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Garren’s service and dedication to the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office and service, dedication and accomplishments in the field of law enforcement during his 29 total years of service are hereby recognized and commended; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 20-187.2 provides that retiring officers of the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office may receive, at the time of their retirement, the badge worn or carried by them during their service with the Henderson County; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 20-187.2 further provides that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners may, in its discretion, award to a retiring officer the service sidearm of such retiring officer at a price determined by the Board of Commissioners, upon securing a permit as required by N.C.G.S. 14-402 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Garren has served as a member of the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office for a period of more than 29 years and is retiring from the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office on January 1, 2024, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners as follows:

Approved:

1. Sheriff Griffin is hereby authorized, in accordance with the provisions of N.C.G.S. 20-187.2 to transfer to Officer Garren the badge worn by him during his service with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office; and
2. Sheriff Griffin is hereby authorized, in accordance with the provisions of N.C.G.S. 20-187.2, to transfer to Lieutenant Garren his service sidearm at no cost to the officer and upon her securing a permit required by N.C.G.S. 14-402.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners recognizes and thanks Lieutenant Garren for his dedicated service to Henderson County and its citizens.

Adopted this the 5th day of February 2024.

Chairman McCall made the motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Sheriff Lowell Griffin accepted the Resolution on behalf of Lieutenant Jason Garren.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Don Ward spoke about the special called meeting on the future of agriculture held last week at BRCC. He suggested that members of the Board meet with farmers in smaller groups so farmers would feel more comfortable sharing their comments and ideas. He also mentioned the expense of crop insurance and the impact on local apple growers.
2. Lynn Gilpin spoke on behalf of the Community Tennis Association. She spoke of the need for additional tennis courts in the county.
3. Margaret L'Hammedieu spoke about the 2045 Land Use Plan. She was in support of keeping the rural character of Etowah.
4. Sharon Burlingame with the League of Women Voters spoke about resources the league offers for Henderson and Transylvania counties.
5. Chris Walters spoke regarding the government's role in regulating land use.
6. Lynne Williams spoke regarding the Special Called Meeting held last week to discuss the future of agriculture in Henderson County. She supported the meeting and the plans to continue those meetings. She has found it difficult to find affordable farmland in the county.
7. Alan Ward with Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards spoke regarding Farmland Preservation.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Chairman McCall made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval for the following meeting:
January 17, 2024 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

Approved:

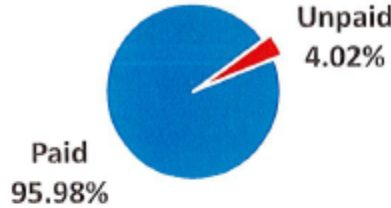
I move the Board approve the minutes of January 17, 2024.

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):

2023 Beginning Charge:	\$99,211,072.13
Discoveries & Imm.	\$210,289.80
Releases & Refunds:	(\$272,902.59)
Net Charge:	\$99,148,459.34
Unpaid Taxes:	\$3,984,220.37
Amount Collected:	\$95,164,238.97



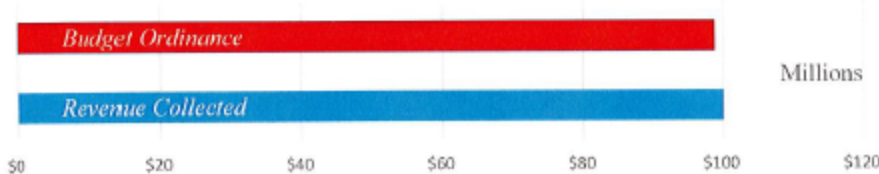
Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$4,291,546.76
Unpaid Taxes:	\$14,493.29
Amount Collected:	\$4,277,053.47

99.66%

Henderson County FY24 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$97,695,412.00	\$99,441,292.44
Prior Years:	\$1,041,250.00	\$547,911.19
Budget Total:	\$98,736,662.00	YTD Revenue: \$99,989,203.63



2024.017 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	\$ 4,984.52
Total Refunds as a result of the Above Releases	\$ 1,894.19

Motion:

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

County Financial Report – December 2023

The December 2023 County Financial and Cash Balance Reports were provided for the Board’s review and approval.

The following are explanations for departments/programs with higher budget to actual percentages for the month of December:

Approved:

- Administrative Services – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures
- Information Technology – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures
- Rescue Squad – payment of 2nd quarter Board appropriations and timing of reimbursable expenditures
- Public Education – payment of 6 of 10 annual appropriates made to the public school system
- Interfund transfers – the timing of payment of Board approved transfers

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Emergency Telephone System (911) Fund are due to utilizing fund balance appropriations for FY24.

HENDERSON COUNTY
FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND REVENUES						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
General Fund	202,765,239	31,363,898.22	114,900,574.73	56.7%	-	114,900,574.73
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
Governing Body	690,655.00	87,261.31	332,894.94	48.20%	10,401.47	343,296.41
Dues/Non-Profit Contributions	829,896.00	528.81	385,110.11	46.40%	-	385,110.11
County Manager	470,511.00	22,479.22	148,944.44	31.66%	-	148,944.44
Administrative Services	823,862.00	128,976.69	432,107.65	52.45%	-	432,107.65
Human Resources	1,444,007.00	123,227.66	709,319.76	49.12%	15,928.50	725,248.26
Elections	1,136,934.00	48,650.47	449,991.05	39.58%	67,178.10	517,169.15
Finance	1,344,653.00	102,248.29	659,140.62	49.02%	-	659,140.62
County Assessor	2,133,023.00	138,417.81	862,032.67	40.41%	3,719.85	865,752.52
Tax Collector	589,966.00	38,584.07	242,530.76	41.11%	-	242,530.76
Legal	1,086,063.00	74,543.82	530,967.15	48.89%	-	530,967.15
Register of Deeds	727,473.00	50,083.17	340,788.23	46.85%	-	340,788.23
Facilities Services	6,367,233.00	329,825.07	2,115,778.93	33.23%	657,920.12	2,773,699.05
Garage	553,002.00	22,410.62	217,411.91	39.31%	-	217,411.91
Court Facilities	153,000.00	12,573.93	58,192.41	38.03%	-	58,192.41
Information Technology	6,545,637.00	204,966.76	3,324,885.87	50.80%	366,495.63	3,691,381.50
Sheriff	23,800,871.00	1,732,573.59	11,036,377.19	46.37%	297,843.04	11,334,220.23
Detention Center	6,830,443.00	408,123.12	2,896,979.15	42.41%	358,773.54	3,255,752.69
Emergency Management	841,909.00	52,396.29	392,117.48	46.57%	14,643.00	406,760.48
Fire Services	1,202,938.00	67,177.63	249,765.33	20.76%	8,081.00	257,846.33
Building Services	1,655,748.00	131,322.50	768,561.34	46.42%	-	768,561.34
Wellness Clinic	1,460,986.00	111,553.73	710,631.23	48.64%	102,930.50	813,561.73
Emergency Medical Services	12,339,168.00	910,181.93	5,535,514.86	44.86%	127,434.22	5,662,949.08
Animal Services	963,795.00	63,795.20	381,498.75	39.58%	53,057.71	434,556.46
Rescue Squad	757,750.00	(6,130.33)	382,124.24	50.43%	-	382,124.24
Forestry Services	151,972.00	5,236.38	12,180.79	8.02%	-	12,180.79
Soil & Water Conservation	971,421.00	37,736.51	231,484.89	23.83%	253,688.50	485,173.39
Planning	1,026,955.00	69,192.57	429,803.95	41.85%	-	429,803.95
Code Enforcement Services	331,303.00	18,406.36	147,149.90	44.42%	-	147,149.90
Site Development	321,460.00	26,567.37	145,657.90	45.31%	-	145,657.90
Heritage Museum	100,000.00	8,333.33	49,999.98	50.00%	-	49,999.98
Cooperative Extension	682,639.00	48,269.37	305,609.99	44.77%	-	305,609.99
Projects Management	267,360.00	21,004.52	103,699.75	38.76%	-	103,699.75
Economic Development	945,777.00	-	242,000.00	25.59%	-	242,000.00
Agri-Business	220,084.00	15.82	90,110.50	40.94%	-	90,110.50
Public Health	12,419,072.00	850,035.80	5,221,687.83	42.05%	421,418.33	5,643,106.16
Environmental Health	1,876,787.00	132,618.40	842,272.44	44.89%	-	842,272.44
H&CC Block Grant	844,293.00	75,028.75	359,546.00	42.59%	-	359,546.00
Medical Services - Autopsies	90,000.00	7,100.00	34,400.00	38.22%	-	34,400.00
Strategic Behavioral Health	298,615.00	18,166.04	53,927.57	18.06%	-	53,927.57
Mental Health	528,612.00	-	264,306.00	50.00%	-	264,306.00
Rural Transportation Assist Program	201,384.00	16,699.14	81,698.45	40.57%	-	81,698.45
Social Services	22,706,834.00	1,590,138.19	9,652,651.87	42.51%	167,715.24	9,820,367.11
Juvenile Justice Programs	302,020.00	21,716.00	139,388.15	46.15%	-	139,388.15
Veteran Services	245,704.00	15,958.07	95,110.87	38.71%	-	95,110.87
Public Library	4,135,493.00	321,977.58	1,977,283.62	47.81%	182,550.34	2,159,833.96
Recreation	3,224,212.00	194,257.12	1,453,303.82	45.07%	90,810.23	1,544,114.05
Public Education	40,128,000.00	3,896,133.33	23,501,799.98	58.57%	-	23,501,799.98
Debt Service	19,178,617.00	-	8,606,434.09	44.88%	-	8,606,434.09
Non-Departmental	4,763,322.00	295,729.73	1,866,785.83	39.19%	-	1,866,785.83
Interfund Transfers	12,053,750.00	979,895.84	6,174,375.04	51.22%	-	6,174,375.04
TOTAL	202,765,239	13,506,007.58	95,246,335.28		3,200,589.32	98,446,924.60
Net Revenues over (under) Exp.	-	17,857,890.64	19,654,239.45		(3,200,589.32)	16,453,650.13

Approved:

APPROPRIATIONS DETAIL						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOCIAL SERVICES						
Staff Operations	18,512,686	1,339,983	8,233,364	44.5%	167,715	8,401,078.83
Federal & State Programs	4,004,148	246,891	1,395,237	34.1%	-	1,395,237.26
General Assistance	100,000	3,265	24,051	24.1%	-	24,051.02
TOTAL	22,706,834	1,590,138.19	9,652,651.87		167,715.24	9,820,367.11
EDUCATION						
Schools Current/Capital Expense	34,628,000	3,437,800	20,751,800	59.9%	-	20,751,800.00
Blue Ridge Community College	5,500,000	458,333	2,750,000	50.0%	-	2,749,999.98
TOTAL	40,128,000	3,896,133.33	23,501,799.98		-	23,501,799.98
DEBT SERVICE						
Public Schools	11,642,875	-	4,469,845	38.4%	-	4,469,845.00
Blue Ridge Community College	3,297,401	-	1,734,354	52.6%	-	1,734,354.15
Henderson County	4,238,341	-	2,402,235	56.7%	-	2,402,234.94
TOTAL	19,178,617	-	8,606,434.09		-	8,606,434.09
INTERFUND TRANSFERS						
Capital Projects Fund	250,000	20,833.34	125,000.04	50.0%	-	125,000.04
Capital Reserve Fund	4,603,500	383,625.00	2,301,750.00	50.0%	-	2,301,750.00
Fire Districts Fund	20,000	-	20,000.00	100.0%	-	20,000.00
HCPS MRTS	4,603,500	383,625.00	2,301,750.00	50.0%	-	2,301,750.00
BRCC MRTS	2,301,750	191,812.50	1,150,875.00	50.0%	-	1,150,875.00
Solid Waste	275,000	-	275,000.00	100.0%	-	275,000.00
TOTAL	12,053,750	979,895.84	6,174,375.04		-	6,174,375.04
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
FIRE DISTRICTS FUND						
Revenues:	15,915,648	3,533,239.77	13,230,038.71	83.1%	-	13,230,038.71
Expenditures:	15,915,648	5,235,799.22	9,700,315.12	60.9%	-	9,700,315.12
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(1,702,559.45)	3,529,723.59		-	3,529,723.59
REVALUATION RESERVE FUND						
Revenues:	1,510,021	133,555.34	817,824.83	54.2%	-	817,824.83
Expenditures:	1,510,021	81,725.16	748,592.92	49.6%	10,549.33	759,142.25
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	51,830.18	69,231.91		(10,549.33)	58,682.58
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (911) FUND						
Revenues:	271,349	3,434.85	24,637.96	9.1%	-	24,637.96
Expenditures:	271,349	1,707.08	173,483.00	63.0%	-	173,483.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	1,727.77	(148,845.04)		-	(148,845.04)
PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND						
Revenues:	1,240,801	654,117.56	961,701.52	77.5%	-	961,701.52
Expenditures:	1,240,801	68,904.52	334,010.05	26.9%	3,099.30	337,109.35
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	585,213.04	627,691.47		(3,099.30)	624,592.17
MISC. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES						
Revenues:	960,000	42,920.55	259,601.53	27.0%	-	259,601.53
Expenditures:	960,000	32,266.94	257,680.27	26.8%	-	257,680.27
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	10,653.61	1,941.26		-	1,941.26
ARPA FUND						
Revenues:	-	21,200,991.94	21,710,426.99		-	21,710,426.99
Expenditures:	-	50,000.00	50,000.00		-	50,000.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	21,150,991.94	21,660,426.99		-	21,660,426.99
OPIOID FUND						
Revenues:	658,882	1,173,329.71	1,875,735.91		-	1,875,735.91
Expenditures:	658,882	18,643.01	63,076.03		5,000.00	68,076.03
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	1,154,686.70	1,812,659.88		(5,000.00)	1,807,659.88

Approved:

CAPITAL PROJECTS						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	PROJECT TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
EDNEYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT (1702)						
Revenues:	26,854,136	9,396.46	27,891,962.18	103.9%	-	27,891,962.18
Expenditures:	26,854,136	-	25,331,294.76	94.3%	-	25,331,294.76
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	9,396.46	2,560,667.42		-	2,560,667.42
HENDERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT - 2019 (1903) - PROJECT COMPLETE						
Revenues:	60,442,694	-	61,181,021.22	101.2%	-	61,181,021.22
Expenditures:	60,442,694	342.00	60,940,000.37	100.8%	-	60,940,000.37
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(342.00)	241,020.85		-	241,020.85
BRCC PATTON BUILDING PROJECT (1904) - PROJECT COMPLETE						
Revenues:	24,800,016	-	25,490,375.25	102.8%	-	25,490,375.25
Expenditures:	24,800,016	212,548.25	25,083,221.60	101.1%	-	25,083,221.60
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(212,548.25)	407,153.65		-	407,153.65

ENTERPRISE FUNDS						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL FUND						
Revenues:	9,620,547	552,265.32	4,423,116.61	46.0%	-	4,423,116.61
Expenditures:	9,620,547	555,462.77	4,097,543.92	42.6%	3,618,495.61	7,716,039.53
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(3,197.45)	325,572.69		(3,618,495.61)	(3,292,922.92)
JUSTICE ACADEMY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	67,739	6,222.32	42,165.10	62.2%	-	42,165.10
Expenditures:	67,739	677.39	18,175.88	26.8%	-	18,175.88
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	5,544.93	23,989.22		-	23,989.22

HENDERSON COUNTY - CASH BALANCE REPORT – DECEMBER 2023

Fund(s)	11/30/23 Beg. Cash Balance	Debits Revenues	(Credits) Expenditures	12/31/23 Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 101,322,202.51	\$ 38,084,958.71	\$ (20,979,337.98)	\$ 118,427,823.24
Special Revenue	47,895,199.00	4,828,361.15	(5,481,867.90)	\$ 47,241,692.25
Capital Projects	3,536,404.85	1,224,966.70	(2,302,263.23)	\$ 2,459,108.32
Enterprise	2,195,340.81	554,964.69	(552,617.21)	\$ 2,197,688.29
HCPS - Maint. and Repair	10,043,074.28	383,625.00	-	\$ 10,426,699.28
BRCC - Maint. and Repair	2,649,844.79	191,812.50	-	\$ 2,841,657.29
Custodial	4,886,480.91	4,964,425.08	(4,607,121.27)	\$ 5,243,784.72
Total	\$ 172,528,547.15	\$ 50,233,113.83	\$ (33,923,207.59)	
Total cash available as of 12/31/2023				\$ 188,838,453.39

Motion:

I move the Board approve the December 2023 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.

Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report – December 2023

The Henderson County Public Schools December 2023 Local Current Expense Fund / Other Restricted Funds Report was provided for the Board’s information.

Approved:

**HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE/OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS
as of December 31, 2023**

	LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND		OTHER RESTRICTED FUND		Combined Total	Prior YTD
	Budget	YTD Activity	Budget	YTD Activity		
REVENUES:						
3200 State Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
3700 Federal Sources-Restricted	-	-	1,522,494	250,984	250,984	122,448
3800 Other Federal-ROTC	-	-	106,000	47,115	47,115	23,737
4100 County Appropriation	32,878,000	19,726,800	-	-	19,726,800	18,826,800
4200 Local -Tuition/Fees	-	-	55,000	20,270	20,270	23,840
4400 Local-Unrestricted	705,000	248,726	138,212	89,837	338,564	315,940
4800 Local-Restricted	-	-	1,451,645	539,905	539,905	174,285
4900 Fund Balance Appropriated/Transfer From school	2,001,317	-	122,511	21,099	21,099	-
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 35,584,317	\$ 19,975,526	\$ 3,403,862	\$ 977,210	\$ 20,952,737	\$ 19,495,050
EXPENDITURES:						
Instructional Services:						
5100 Regular Instructional Services	\$ 9,934,680	\$ 4,520,673	\$ 672,806	\$ 209,760	\$ 4,730,433	\$ 5,209,676
5200 Special Populations Services	1,378,356	645,013	935,525	236,563	881,575	792,432
5300 Alternative Programs and Services	183,243	87,370	375,649	132,924	220,294	222,599
5400 School Leadership Services	3,114,291	1,598,889	12,513	9,904	1,608,793	1,570,886
5500 Co-Curricular Services	890,423	406,589	164,179	11,876	418,465	402,574
5800 School-Based Support Services	1,911,109	1,135,118	9,500	67	1,135,185	740,502
Total Instructional Services	\$ 17,412,102	\$ 8,393,653	\$ 2,170,171	\$ 601,094	\$ 8,994,747	\$ 8,938,668
System-Wide Support Services:						
6100 Support and Development Services	\$ 312,404	\$ 151,377	\$ 6,500	\$ 11,133	\$ 162,510	\$ 152,407
6200 Special Population Support	183,034	131,183	116,579	55,611	186,794	122,488
6300 Alternative Programs	106,286	52,462	431	431	52,893	51,322
6400 Technology Support Services	1,287,752	722,643	88,055	58,986	781,629	649,371
6500 Operational Support Services	9,491,369	3,947,704	425,671	179,806	4,127,510	3,732,910
6600 Financial and Human Resource Services	2,346,702	1,751,068	173,292	39,324	1,790,392	1,756,096
6700 Accountability Services	120,174	81,913	1,200	1,200	83,113	103,262
6800 System-Wide Pupil Support Services	415,304	191,016	538	538	191,554	205,616
6900 Policy, Leadership and Public Relations	781,001	387,003	13,220	13,220	400,222	353,396
Total System-Wide Support Services	\$ 15,044,025	\$ 7,416,369	\$ 825,485	\$ 360,249	\$ 7,776,618	\$ 7,126,868
Ancillary Services:						
7100 Community Services	\$ 388	\$ 388	\$ 165,108	\$ 77,005	\$ 77,393	\$ 64,803
7200 Nutrition Services	265,803	96,365	23,725	23,725	120,090	83,563
Total Ancillary Services	\$ 266,190	\$ 96,752	\$ 188,833	\$ 100,730	\$ 197,482	\$ 148,366
Non-Programmed Charges:						
8100 Payments to Other Governments	\$ 2,362,000	\$ 940,655	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 940,655	\$ 813,243
8400 Interfund Transfers	500,000	-	33,374	27,674	27,674	40,494
8500 Contingency	-	-	150,000	-	-	-
8600 Educational Foundations	-	-	36,000	976	976	14,197
Total Non-Programmed Charges	\$ 2,862,000	\$ 940,655	\$ 219,374	\$ 28,650	\$ 969,305	\$ 867,934
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 35,584,317	\$ 16,847,429	\$ 3,403,862	\$ 1,090,723	\$ 17,938,152	\$ 17,081,835

Motion:

I move the Board approve the December 2023 Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report and Cash Balance Report 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. Animal Services Committee – 1 vac.
Position # 3 – At Large
2. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 6 vacs.
Positions # 1, 3, 4, 5 – Regular
Positions # 6, 8 - Alternate
3. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.
Position # 1 – Must live in Hendersonville ETJ

Approved:

Park Property Ordinance Exemption

The county received a request from the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club to hold their summer “Field Day” at Jackson Park from June 21 to 23, 2024. Field Day is described as an activity that “combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.” During this event, FCC-licensed amateur radio operators simulate emergency conditions and operate portable communications equipment using solar, battery, and/or generator with temporary antennas for 24 hours straight.

Conducting the event from June 21st through the 23rd would involve the use of park property overnight. To allow for this event, the Board is requested to grant a one-time exemption to Article 1, Chapter 19-4 of the Henderson County Code, which prohibits camping or sleeping overnight in any area of the park or setting up tents for temporary shelter. This exemption, if granted, would cover the date and time specified on the application and outlined above.

Motion:

I move that the Board grant an exemption to Article 1, Chapter 19-4 of the Henderson County Code, allowing for the use of Jackson Park overnight by the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club June 21-23, 2024

Nuisance Enforcement

Teresa A. Conner is the record owner of real estate located at 635 McMinn Road, Hendersonville (Henderson County PIN 9671716305, REID 9962441, hereafter the “Property”). The County is informed and believes that this property is security for a mortgage currently held or serviced by Nationstar Mortgage LLC.

The Property has been cited four (4) times since January 1, 2023, under the County’s Nuisances ordinance (Chapter 52 of the Henderson County Code). The citations were issued on January 10, 2023, April 3, 2023, July 25, 2023, and November 27, 2023. The total fines accrued under these citations are in excess of \$18,000. According to Henderson County Code Enforcement personnel, there has been no substantial improvement in the property since the first citation. (See attached photographs.)

Motion:

I move that the Board give notice that the owner of the property located at 635 McMinn Rd. is a chronic nuisance violator as that term is defined in §153A-140.2, and, if necessary, proceed with enforcement action.

Agreement with WGLA Engineering – Clear Creek Sewer Agreement

At the Board’s December 4, 2023 meeting, the Board authorized the County Engineer to execute an agreement with WGLA Engineering for engineering services for the Clear Creek Sewer System’s collection and wastewater treatment plant. The proposed agreement, as shown in the Request for Board Action’s Summary of Request and on the WGLA Proposal, was in the amount of \$1,430,000. However, the adopted motion incorrectly reflected \$1,420,000.

To clarify the amount approved, and to ensure compliance with all ARPA regulations, the Board is requested to adopt the suggested motion as presented.

Approved:

Motion:

I move that the Board authorize the County Engineer to execute the proposed agreement with WGLA Engineering for \$1,430,000 and allocate an additional \$300,000 for contingency and other preconstruction work.

Nomination – Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Board was requested to appoint Kenneth Gordon to position #6 on the Henderson County Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Motion:

I move the Board appoint Kenneth Gordon to position #6 on the Henderson County Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Baker-Barber Digitization Grant

The late Jody Barber donated the Baker-Barber Photograph Collection to the Community Foundation of Henderson County in 1995 and subsequently named the Henderson County Public Library as steward of the collection. The collection consists of 2,875 glass plate negatives, approximately 450 prints, and approximately 63,000 photographic negatives.

Over the past 19 years, the library has digitized a total of 46,542 images. Of those, 5,667 have been cataloged and made accessible to the public. The remaining 40,875 uncatalogued digitized images have been made available to the public for browsing.

Library staff requested approval to submit a grant proposal to the Community Foundation in the amount of \$29,428 to cover the cost of 2 temporary employees to each work 15 hours per week for 50 weeks to digitize the approximately 20,000 remaining images. Securing this funding will allow us to complete the collection preservation process.

No matching funds are required.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the submission of a Baker-Barber Digitization Grant in the amount of \$29,428 to the Community Foundation.

Purchase and Installation of BRCC TEDC Building Furniture Package

The Board was requested to approve the BRCC MRTS Unassigned line item of \$89,424.00 to purchase a furniture package for the TEDC Building Lobbies and Conference Hall.

Motion:

I move the Board accept Dr. R Chad Merrill's request to move the BRCC MRTS unassigned line item of \$89,424.00 to the TEDC Building Furniture Package for Lobbies and Conference Hall and direct staff to move forward with the project.

2024.018 Modification of Agreement

In February 2023, the County entered into an economic development incentives agreement with Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems, LLC. Since the execution of that agreement, the company has been acquired by a third party, Cummins, Inc. In addition, the company has been unable to acquire certain equipment (due to materials shortages worldwide outside its control) in time to have it installed as required by the agreement.

Approved:

The proposed modification would delay both parties' performance of their respective obligations under the agreement by one year.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the proposed Modification and authorize the Chair to execute the same on behalf of the Board.

Public Records Disposal Request

Staff requested approval from the Board of Commissioners to destroy the records listed on the provided Public Disposal Requests and Destruction Logs – 12 (twelve) total pages included in accordance with the County's Record Retention Policy and the provisions of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Records Retention and Disposition Schedule, as the period of these records has expired.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the Public Records Disposal Request and Destruction Log as presented.

2024.019 Purchase of Dodge Chargers – Office of the Sheriff

The Board was requested to authorize the purchase of ten (10) on the lot Dodge Police Pursuit-rated Chargers due to this type of vehicle no longer being in production. Operationally, these Chargers perform better during a vehicle pursuit and provide safety features that have proven to protect our deputies while performing their daily duties. The purchase of these Chargers will allow the Sheriff's Office to upfit these cars at a lower cost by utilizing equipment from vehicles that are due to come offline.

The lowest responsive bidder for the purchase of ten (10) sedans is Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram with a base bid amount of \$358,350. Included in the bid was an alternate for the vendor to hold these 10 vehicles until July 30, 2024, at a cost of \$14,000. With the deposit of \$14,000, we will have a \$110.00 price differential between bids. Bidding was conducted between January 10, 2024, and January 24, 2024.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the attached budget amendment and authorize Staff to proceed with the purchase of ten (10) Dodge Chargers from Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, including the base bid as well as the alternate to hold the vehicles until July 30, 2024.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2024.020 Rezoning Application #R-2023-10, Michael Hanson, Residential Two Rural (R2R) to Community Commercial (CC)

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

Planner Liz Hanson presented Rezoning Application R-2023-10, submitted on October 31, 2023,

Approved:

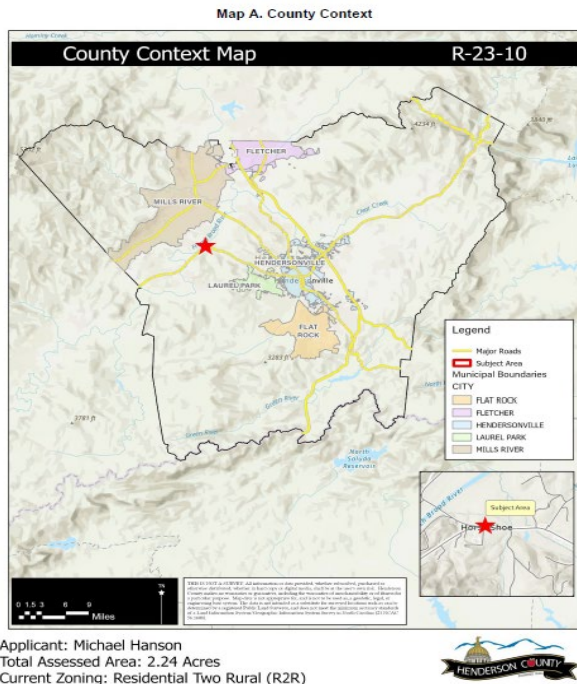
requesting that the County rezone approximately 2.24 assessed acres of land from the Residential Two Rural (R2R) zoning district to the Community Commercial (CC) zoning district. The zoning map amendment application was for all of PIN: 9539-98-6904 with access along Brevard Rd (US 64) and Banner Farm Rd (SR 1314). The property owner and applicant is Michael Hanson

The Technical Review Committee reviewed the application at its December 5, 2023, meeting, saw no administrative issues with the request, and voted unanimously to forward the application to the Planning Board. The Planning Board reviewed this request at its December 21, 2023, meeting and voted unanimously to send forth a favorable recommendation for approval.

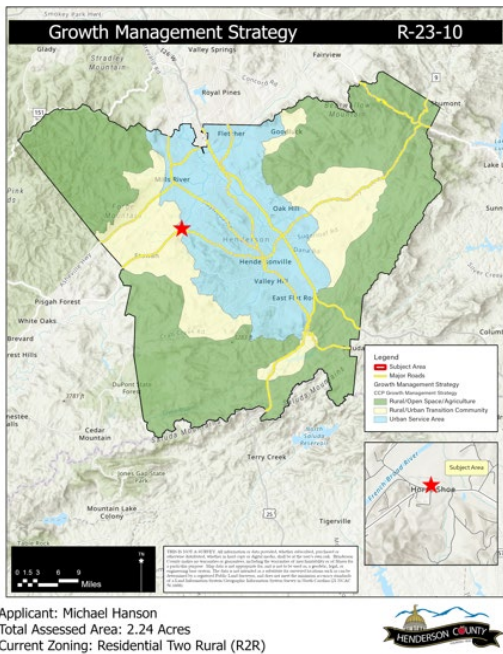
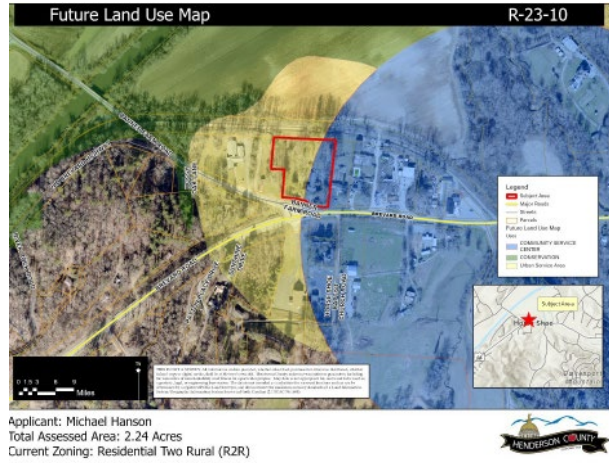
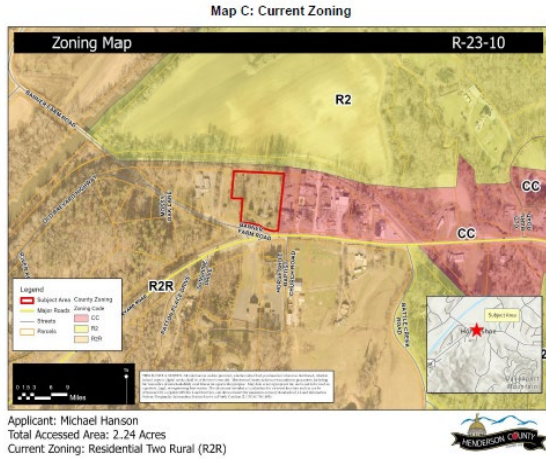
PUBLIC NOTICE:

Before taking action on the application, the Board of Commissioners must hold a public hearing. In accordance with §42-303 and §42-346 (C) of the Henderson County Land Development Code and State Law, notice of the February 5, 2024, public hearing regarding rezoning application #R-2023-10 was published in the Hendersonville Lightning on January 24th and January 31st. Notices of the hearing were sent via first-class mail to the owners of properties within 400’ of the Subject Area on January 22, 2024, and signs were posted advertising the hearing on the Subject Area on January 24, 2024.

For the record, Ms. Hanson stated she had no family relation to applicant Michael Hanson.



Approved:



Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to go out of the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Public Input: There was none.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion the Board approve rezoning application #R-2023-10 to rezone the Subject Area from a Residential Two Rural (RR2) zoning district to Community Commercial (CC) zoning district based on the recommendations of the Henderson County Comprehensive Plan and;

further moved that the Board approve the resolution regarding the consistency with the CCP. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.021 Proposed Right of Way Closure (Portion of 4th Ave in Mountain Home)

Chairman McCall made the motion to go into the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Approved:

Planner Austin Parks presented a petition to close a portion of 4th Ave, a 60-foot unopened right-of-way. Under North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 153A-241, counties have the power to close any public road or easement not within a city, except public roads or easements for public roads under the control of the Department of Transportation. To close any road, the Board must:

- Vote to adopt a resolution declaring its intent to close the public road or easement.
- Call and notice a public hearing on closing the road or easement, with notice “reasonably calculated to give full and fair disclosure of the proposed closing to be published once a week for three successive weeks before the hearing, a copy of the resolution to be sent by registered or certified mail to each owner as shown on the county tax records of property adjoining the public road or easement who did not join in the request to have the road or easement closed, and a notice of the closing and public hearing to be prominently posted in at least two places along the road or easement.”
- Hold the public hearing, where the Board must “hear all interested persons who appear with respect to whether the closing would be detrimental to the public interest or to any individual property rights.”
- Then, if the Board “is satisfied that closing the public road or easement is not contrary to the public interest and (in the case of a road) that no individual owning property in the vicinity of the road or in the subdivision in which it is located would thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property, the Board may adopt an order closing the road or easement.”
- File a copy of the Board’s order with the Register of Deeds.

The Board approved a Resolution of Intent to close the ROW and to hold a public hearing on this ROW closure at its January 02, 2024, meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The public hearing notice was advertised in the Hendersonville Lightning on January 17, 2024, January 24, 2024, and January 31, 2024. Notices of the hearing were mailed on January 3rd, 2024, to the adjacent property owners.



As a point of clarification, commissioner Lapsley stated that if the Board chooses to close the right-of-way, half of the right-of-way will be conveyed to the property owner on the north side of

Approved:

the right-of-way and the other half will go to the property owner on the south side of the right-of-way with no compensation to the county.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to go out of the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Public Input: There was none.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion the Board approve the right-of-way closure for a portion of 4th Ave and sign the Order for Closure. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.022 Proposed Right-of-Way Closure (20-foot right-of-way and right-of-way area road Centerline of Slick Rock Road to the Eastern line of the Heritage Farms & Orchards, LLC)

Commissioner Hill asked to be recused from this public hearing as he is the surveyor of record and has family ties regarding this action. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Andreotta made the motion to go into the public hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Planning and Property Addressing staff received a petition to close a 20-foot right-of-way and right-of-way area from the road centerline of Slick Rock Road to the Eastern line of the Heritage Farms & Orchards, LLC. Under North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 153A-241, counties have the power to close any public road or easement not within a city, except public roads or easements for public roads under the control of the Department of Transportation. To close any road, the Board must:

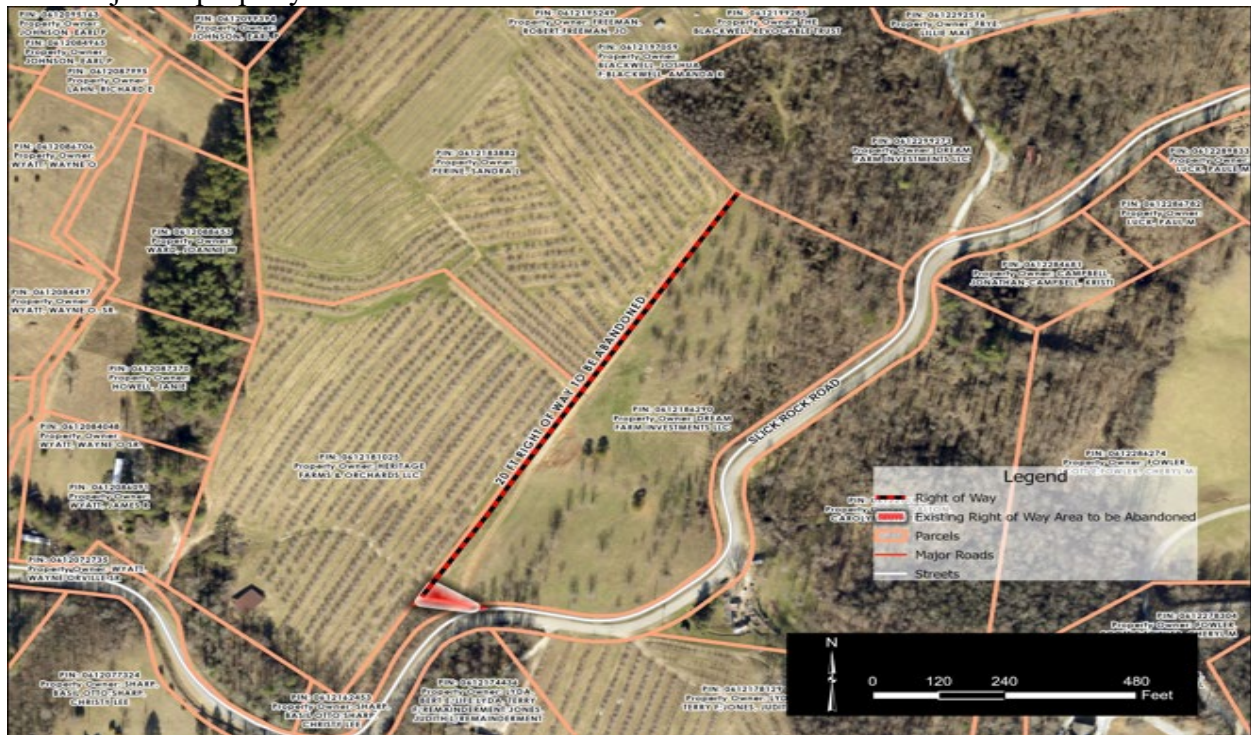
- Vote to adopt a resolution declaring its intent to close the public road or easement.
- Call and notice a public hearing on closing the road or easement, with notice “reasonably calculated to give full and fair disclosure of the proposed closing to be published once a week for three successive weeks before the hearing, a copy of the resolution to be sent by registered or certified mail to each owner as shown on the county tax records of property adjoining the public road or easement who did not join in the request to have the road or easement closed, and a notice of the closing and public hearing to be prominently posted in at least two places along the road or easement.”
- Hold the public hearing, where the Board must “hear all interested persons who appear with respect to whether the closing would be detrimental to the public interest or to any individual property rights.”
- Then, if the Board “is satisfied that closing the public road or easement is not contrary to the public interest and (in the case of a road) that no individual owning property in the vicinity of the road or in the subdivision in which it is located would thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property, the Board may adopt an order closing the road or easement.”
- File a copy of the Board’s order with the Register of Deeds.

The Board approved a Resolution of Intent to close the ROW and to hold a public hearing on this ROW closure at its January 02, 2024, meeting.

Approved:

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The public hearing notice was advertised in the Hendersonville Lightning on January 17, 2024, January 24, 2024, and January 31, 2024. Notices of the hearing were mailed on January 3rd, 2024, to the adjacent property owners.



Photos of the Portion of Right-Of-Way



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

Public Input: There was none.

Approved:

Vice-Chair Edney asked the applicant's attorney, Michaela Hill, if the right of way was currently being used as a road. Ms. Hill responded that it was being used as a farm road.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion for the Board to approve the right-of-way closure for the 20-foot right-of-way area and sign the Order of Closure. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION

Guaranteed Maximum Price #1 (GMP1) – Third Transfer Station Bay Project

As authorized by the Board within the FY24 Solid Waste budget, staff is proceeding with the construction of the Third Transfer Station Bay project. The project has developed to the stage where approval of the GMP1 is needed by the Board. Vannoy has presented, and staff has reviewed the proposal for GMP1. The scope of GMP1 is to replace the floor system in bay 1, pre-order long delivery items for bay 3, and the general site work for bay 3. The proposed guaranteed maximum price is \$4,024,536, and the details of the scope and price can be found in Vannoy's proposal. The project schedule estimates Vannoy's proposal for GMP2 in April of 2024 with an approximate price under \$4.5 million, which puts the construction under the construction budget of \$8.5 million.

Also presented for Board approval is the proposal from SCS Engineers for construction administration and materials testing for the entire construction phase (both GMP1 and GMP2). The proposal for \$204,100 was provided.

Staff requested Board approval to secure a loan to fund the project, currently estimated at \$10 million for the total project. The loan will be with the Solid Waste enterprise fund and presented to the Board at a future meeting for approval.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion the Board approve the following for the Third Transfer Station Bay project: Vannoy's Guaranteed Maximum Price number one for \$4,024,536, SCS Engineers proposal for \$204,100, and for staff to secure a loan for the total estimated project cost of \$10,000,000. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.023 Tax Collector's Report – Order Advertising Taxes

Tax Administrator Harry Rising and Deputy Tax Collector Luke Small presented the February 2024 Tax Collector's report (required by N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-369(a)) for the Board's information. Among the data presented was the amount of delinquencies for the 2023 tax year.

N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-369(a) requires the Board to order each February the publication of the tax lien notification to delinquent taxpayers for the previous tax year.

In February of each year, the tax collector must report to the governing body the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property. A county tax collector's report is due the first Monday in February, and a municipal tax collector's report is due the second Monday in February. Upon receipt of the report, the governing body must order the tax collector to advertise the tax liens.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion that the Board enter the proposed Order directing the Tax

Approved:

Collector to advertise the delinquent real property tax liens for 2023. He further directed the Tax Collector to publish such advertisement pursuant to the General Statutes. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.024 East Flat Rock Amenities Addition

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners acquired an additional 13.5-acre tract of land for East Flat Rock Park in the Spring of 2023. This effectively doubled the park property at the time. Staff was then directed to begin developing plans to utilize the property and provide additional park amenities. Staff is proposing a disc golf course and walking trail within the newly acquired property.

Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam explained that the disc golf course would include 9 holes to be constructed totally within the newly acquired property. The walking path would be designed to connect to existing park pathways, allowing for a path to be a length of just over one mile. The total estimated cost is \$40,000 to develop the two new assets. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has reviewed and unanimously supported this project.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to approve a Budget Amendment for \$40,000; funds are to be allocated from the Capital Reserve Fund. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Animal Services Committee – 4 vacs.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to reappoint Teri Bentcover to position # 4 and to reappoint John Lynn to position #7 on the Animal Services Committee. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2. Henderson County Rail Trail Advisory Committee -Appointment of Chair

Chairman McCall made the motion to appoint Chris Burns as Chairman of the Henderson County Rail Trail Advisory Committee. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

3. Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee – 1 vac.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to nominate Dawn Barr for position # 3 on the Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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

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

5. Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee – 3 vacs.

Chairman McCall nominated Elizabeth Tait for appointment to position # 7 on the Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

6. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac.

Commissioner Lapsley nominated Hall Waddell for reappointment to position # 2 on the Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

7. Laurel Park Planning Board – 1 vac.

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

Approved:

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

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

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

Chairman McCall nominated Dr. John Weldon for reappointment to position # 20 on the Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

10. Recreation Advisory Board – 2 vacs.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to reappoint Mary Beth Davis to position # 2 and to reappoint Stephanie Cantwell to position #9 on the Recreation Advisory Board. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Lapsley said he appreciated the interest and overwhelming attendance at last week's special meeting to discuss the future of Agriculture in Henderson County. He estimated that 250 people attended the meeting, many of whom could not fit into the auditorium where the meeting was held. He said the Board wants input from the farming community and proposed the Board schedule another meeting before the end of February to continue the discussion. He wants to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak and participate.

Commissioner Hill echoed Lapsley's comments and added that the Board wants to hear all thoughts, desires, concerns, and comments on agriculture, even those that are not members of the farming community.

Vice-Chair Edney proposed that members of the Board attend some of the meetings the farmers have invited them to. He also would like to hold smaller, more intimate gatherings with two Board members; he believes that farmers would be more likely to speak at a more informal meeting with fewer people than in front of a large crowd.

Commissioner Andreotta proposed that the meetings Edney described include rotating Board members so that all members may have a presence.

Chairman McCall wants to address some of the issues brought up at the meeting, including the cost of freight for the apples and crop insurance expenses. She wants to explore how the Board could help with those issues, if at all. She wants to open the dialog more on Farmland Preservation and agrees the next meeting needs to be scheduled before the end of February. She noted that the farmers would soon begin spring planting and may be unavailable to attend a later meeting. She said the next meeting would be held at a larger venue, accommodating more people than the previous meeting.

John Mitchell agreed and directed Chris Todd to secure a larger venue for the meeting to be scheduled before the end of the month.

Approved:

Chairman McCall offered her apologies for her absence at the January 17, 2024, Board meeting. Her father had fallen ill and had to be transported by Emergency Services to Pardee Hospital. She said that after six days in the hospital, he is now recovering at home. She commended the EMS staff on their professionalism throughout the event.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

John Mitchell thanked the Staff who had worked diligently to ensure the success of the meeting to discuss the future of Agriculture in the County held on January 30, 2024, at BRCC.

Commissioner Edney made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3), (a)(5), and (a)(6). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Edney made the motion to go out of closed session and adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

Rebecca McCall, Chairman

Approved: