

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

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

Present for the meeting were Chairman Rebecca McCall, 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.

Vice-Chair Edney arrived and joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Also present were: Director of Business and Community Development Christopher Todd, Finance Director Samantha Reynolds, Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Director of Public Health Steve Smith, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam, Engineer Marcus Jones, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, Tax Director Harry Rising, Capital Projects Construction Manager Bryan Rhodes, Director of Facility Services Andrew Griffin, DSS Director Jerrie McFalls, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping. Deputy Tracy Davis provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

INVOCATION

Capital Projects Construction Manager Bryan Rhodes provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Commissioner of NCDMV Wayne Goodwin

Commissioner Wayne Goodwin addressed concerns raised by Sheriff Lowell Griffin during a previous Board meeting regarding the local DMV office. Following that meeting, Henderson County Board of Transportation member Chuck McGrady shared those concerns with Commissioner Goodwin. Goodwin read the remarks and, without fail, reached out to Chairman McCall to have a detailed discussion about the concerns and to highlight many changes that have been made statewide. He said when he heard about the lines and wait times at the local DMV office, he wanted to explore those issues and shared he would be making a surprise visit to the local DMV office later in the morning.

Goodwin stated that as Commissioner, the duties he and the DMV have are to ensure folks have access to driver's licenses, secure credentials to prevent identity theft, and fight fraud. The DMV wants to ensure people have access to those services as promptly as possible. He continued that changes were made last year, and the agency continues to work with communities to educate the public about those changes. One of the changes implemented was that people who have made

Approved:

appointments with the DMV office are seen in the morning hours, while walk-ins are seen in the afternoon. Goodwin said twenty-two services are available online at www.myncdmv.gov. He spoke in most instances, a person would only have to physically go to a DMV office once every sixteen years. Federal and State law require that the driver's license card be replaced every eight years, and the photographs can be no older than sixteen years old. People over the age of sixty-six are required to be seen in a DMV office every ten years. These changes were implemented to cut down the long lines and wait times. Many DMV offices now open at 7:00 a.m. and expect to offer Saturday and “after-five” hours at selected locations in the coming year. In closing, Goodwin said the NCDMV is hiring; available jobs are listed online at www.myncdmv.gov.

Chairman McCall said the county appreciates that the NCDMV recognizes the problem and is working to provide solutions.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2024.025 Resolution Honoring the Observance of “We Are Hope” Week

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners was requested to adopt a Resolution Honoring the Observance of “We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools Middle & High Schools from March 11 – March 15, 2024, including the display of “We Are Hope” week banners for each school on the front of the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman McCall read the Resolution aloud.

**Resolution Honoring the Observance of
“We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools
Middle & High Schools
March 11 – March 15, 2024**

WHEREAS, substance and alcohol abuse negatively affects many areas of the brain, the liver, the heart, and other body parts and can cause adverse behavioral, psychological, and social consequences; and

WHEREAS, there were 106,872 drug overdose deaths in the United States in twelve months ending April 2022, with opioids involved in 80,593 drug overdose deaths during the same period¹ and

WHEREAS, substance and alcohol abuse continues to occur among children and youth in our society: in 2019 (the last period for which there are statistics), 37.8 percent of high school students in North Carolina smoked cigarettes or used electronic vapor products, 24.2 percent drank alcohol, 22.1 percent used marijuana, 4.8 percent used cocaine, and 16.6 percent took prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s North Carolina, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019², and

WHEREAS, student leaders in Henderson County Public Schools’ six high schools and four middle

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

² <https://nccd.cdc.gov/YouthOnline/App/Results.aspx?LID=NC>

Approved:

schools have joined with local Henderson County coalition HopeRx in educating their peers on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drug use and abuse and

WHEREAS, students at Apple Valley Middle, Flat Rock Middle, Hendersonville Middle, Rugby Middle, East Henderson High, Henderson County Career Academy, Henderson County Early College, Hendersonville High, North Henderson High, and West Henderson High are pledging to be and remain substance-free;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, that March 11 – March 15, 2024, be observed in Henderson County Public Schools middle and high schools as “We Are Hope” substance abuse awareness week.

Adopted this the 21st day of February 2024.

Chairman McCall made the motion that the Board adopts the Resolution Honoring the Observance of “We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools’ Middle & High Schools from March 11 – March 15, 2024, including the display of “We Are Hope” week banners for each school on the front of the Historic Courthouse. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall presented the Resolution to Hope Coalition Executive Director Julie Huneycutt.

Chairman McCall recognized Commissioner William “Bill” Lapsley, who received the Distinguished Engineer Award for 2024, from his alma mater, the University of Wyoming College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. This award is reserved for alumni of the College who have at least ten years of professional experience in engineering and have distinguished themselves by their achievements and contributions to engineering practice and leadership.

Mr. Lapsley will be recognized at the College’s annual Awards Banquet on April 27 in Laramie, Wyoming.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

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 meetings:
January 30, 2024 – Special Called Meeting and
February 5, 2024 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

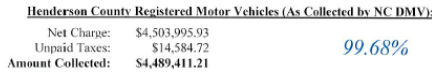
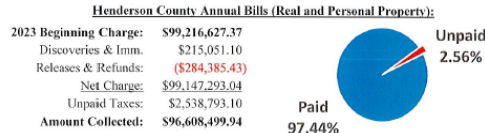
I move the Board approve the minutes of January 30, 2024, and February 5, 2024.

Tax Collector’s Report

Approved:

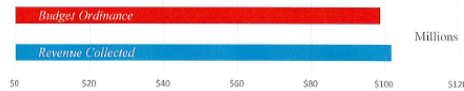
The report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board’s information.

Please find outlined below collections information through February 7, 2024 for 2023 real and personal property bills mailed on August 21, 2023. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.



Henderson County FY24 Budget Analysis:

Budget Ordinance		Revenue Collected	
Ad Valorem:	\$97,695,412.00	Ad Valorem:	\$101,097,911.15
Prior Years:	\$1,041,250.00	Prior Years:	\$602,173.66
Budget Total:	\$98,736,662.00	YTD Revenue:	\$101,700,084.81



2024.026 Budget Amendment – Library Fund Balance Appropriated

Staff requested the Board approve a budget amendment that appropriates Restricted Fund Balance for Library Donations to purchase a new service desk for the Fletcher Library and a new book drop for the Mills River Library.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the budget amendment to appropriate fund balance.

American Rescue Plan – Approved Projects Update

The American Rescue Plan approved projects update as of December 31, 2023, was provided for the Board’s review and approval. The update included all approved projects to be funded by American Rescue Plan funds with the amount of funds currently encumbered and expended. Amounts expended and encumbered have been reported to the US Department of the Treasury via a State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance Report for Quarter 4 2023.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Funding Plan - Approved Projects
\$22,806,876
DECEMBER 31, 2023

ARP Project #	Project Description	ARP Eligibility (Expenditure Category)	State Eligibility	PLAN		Encumbered (Contract in Place)	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	ACTUAL		Status	
				Standard Allowance	ARP Eligible					Expenses	Remaining Encumbrance		
9031	Infusion Therapy - Pardee (8.18.21)	1.6 - Medical Expenses	\$ 153A-449	10,000,000.00	12,806,876.00	33,391.17	33,391.17	-	-	33,391.17	22,806,876.00	COMPLETE	
9032	Infusion Therapy - Advent Health (9.15.21)	1.6 - Medical Expenses	\$ 153A-449			18,247.69	-	18,247.69	-	18,247.69	-	COMPLETE	
9070	Broadband GREAT Grant Funding (3.22.22)	5.17 - Broadband, Other Projects	\$ 153A-459			1,000,000.00	-	-	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	IN PROGRESS	
2059	Edneyville Sewer-Collection System (5.2.2022)	5.2 - Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection	\$ 153A-274(2)			9,300,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	IN PROGRESS	
9050	Self Insurance Reimbursement (5.2.2022)	1.6 - Medical Expenses	\$ 153A-92(a)(4)			607,237.14	-	559,822.00	-	559,822.00	-	IN PROGRESS	
9040	VFW Renovation and Repair (5.2.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$ 153A-169	4,200,000.00		4,200,000.00	44,319.24	88,042.64	1,923,997.73	2,056,359.61	2,143,640.39	IN PROGRESS	
9027	Fletcher EMS (5.2.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$143-514, \$153A-149(c)(5)	3,100,000.00		2,078,103.80	16.64	72,500.00	527,158.61	599,675.25	1,478,428.55	IN PROGRESS	
9052	Mills River Tower Upgrade (5.2.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$ 153A-149(c)(11)(17)	150,000.00		20,000.00	-	-	-	-	20,000.00	IN PROGRESS	
9043	Stryker Power Load Systems (5.2.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$143-514, \$153A-149(c)(5)	115,138.25		115,138.25	-	115,138.25	-	115,138.25	-	COMPLETE	
9047	Foster Care Services (7.20.2022)	3.8 - Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth	\$ 108A-49			348,000.00	-	348,000.00	-	348,000.00	-	COMPLETE	
2056	All Inclusive Playground (9.21.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$ 160A-353(4)	400,000.00		400,000.00	-	400,000.00	-	400,000.00	-	COMPLETE	
2067	Recreation Sports Complex (10.3.2022)	6.1 - Revenue Replacement	\$ 153A-149(c)(11)(17)	2,034,861.75			-	-	-	-	-	NOT STARTED	
9069	Apple Ridge Housing Complex (11.7.2022)	5.2 - Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection	\$ 153A-274(2)			1,500,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	IN PROGRESS	
TOTAL				10,000,000.00	12,806,876.00	7,872,702.91	77,727.05	1,601,750.58	2,501,156.34	4,180,633.97	3,692,068.94		
REMAINING BALANCE											-	-	
Unspent/Unencumbered:											14,934,173.09		

Total interest earned to date: \$ 1,139,905.94
Interest allocated to other projects: (20,000.00)
Available interest \$ 1,119,905.94

Motion:

Approved:

I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the December 31, 2023, American Rescue Plan approved projects as presented.

Project Position – Reappraisal Reserve

The Board was requested to approve the addition of a project position in Reappraisal Reserve, effective February 22, 2024. The addition of the position would allow the department to begin the process of recruiting for a Property Appraiser while a current position is temporarily frozen.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the project position in Reappraisal Reserve.

Public Health Project Position Request – Community Health Division

The Community Health Division has experienced limited staffing capacity in FY 24. This year was significant for the division given the required community health assessment, which occurs every three years, and the annual deliverables for Healthy Communities state funds. The department has identified an individual with experience in both realms who would be willing to work part-time (22.5 hours/week) for a limited period of time. This temporary capacity would allow the department to benefit from this individual's expertise and to maintain a critical timeline for the completion of required tasks.

The project position, which is a Human Services Planner II classification, would be paid for with lapsed salaries from an existing position within the Community Health Division. The project position would be terminated no later than August 30, 2024.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the addition of a part-time Human Services Planner II project position through August 30, 2024 to accomplish the community health assessment and Healthy Communities program.

2024.027 E911 – 2023 Portable Radio PSAP Grant

The Sheriff's Office and E911 requested the Board approve the North Carolina 911 Board Grant awarded to E911 in the amount of \$60,488.01. This grant will provide portable radios for Henderson County's primary PSAP.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the grant agreement and budget amendment as presented.

2024.028 Annual Audit Contract

Staff requested that the Board approve the annual audit contract as required by N.C. General Statute 159-34(a) with Cherry Bekaert LLP for the current Fiscal Year 2024. This will be the third year Cherry Bekaert LLP has audited the County. They have the qualifications, experience, and manpower to conduct an audit of our County's size.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the annual audit contract as required by N.C.G.S. 159-34(a) with Cherry Bekaert LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Approved:

Vaya Health – Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report (FMR) for the quarter ended December 31, 2023

N.C.G.S. 122C-117(c) requires the staff of the local area mental health authority to provide the County Finance Officer with the quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report (FMR) within 30 days of the end of the quarter. The County Finance Officer is then required to provide the FMR to the Board of Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The County Finance Officer received the FMR for Vaya Health on January 31, 2024.

Motion:

I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the Vaya Health Fiscal Monitoring Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2023.

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

DISCUSSION

Pardee Hospital Presentation

In conjunction with Pardee Hospital, Henderson County is currently soliciting architectural firms' services to provide design/consultant services for several potential medical office facilities. The Board was requested to hear the presentation on the proposed facilities and direct Staff accordingly.

Parde Hospital President and CEO Jay Kirby stated that the Pardee Health Sciences Building pictured below was the creation of a joint effort. He said the facility houses the Blue Ridge Community College Nursing Program and Wingate University. Such a facility allows Pardee to recruit the best and brightest and bring them to our community. He said the partnership between Pardee Hospital, Henderson County, the City of Hendersonville, Wingate, and Blue Ridge Community College that created the Health Sciences Center was money well spent.



Pardee Health Science Center – Pardee Campus

Mr. Kirby said that over the past several months, a strategic planning group has been put together that is made up of Pardee Board members, Chairman McCall, Vice-Chair Edney, Russ Burrell, and the President of UNC Heath’s statewide network – the CFO of UNC Health Care. They all came together and asked, who is Pardee? What is happening across our region? How do they prepare to meet the needs of not only the citizens of Henderson County but also the other communities that have been abandoned by their healthcare system? He said Pardee had been invited to Transylvania County, and other surrounding communities are asking Pardee to provide

Approved:

more. At the same time, Henderson County is the priority, with the hospital being the county’s largest asset. The strategic plan that was built came into three areas; one was they needed to be a regional provider to bring advanced care specialists to the community. This would prevent local citizens from traveling to Asheville, Greenville, Spartanburg, or Charlotte to receive care. He said the hospital’s infrastructure needs to be expanded; they are striving to put primary care facilities across the county. He said the more people who choose Pardee’s primary care, the more they will, in turn, use the specialists at Pardee Hospital.

Mr. Kirby shared that the county recently put out an RFP for architectural engineering services because they plan to build four new medical office buildings over the coming years. A 40,000-square-foot office building on Spartanburg Highway will serve the southern end of the county with primary care, retail pharmacy, physical therapy, and office space for specialists. He said the same type of facility would be built in Mills River on twenty-one acres the hospital owns across from the Ingles Supermarket. A facility will need to be built in Transylvania County to house ten primary care physicians currently operating in two 10,000-square-foot modular office buildings. As more primary care is made available, there will be more folks utilizing Pardee’s Insulator Services, which means there will need to be additional space at Pardee’s main campus in Hendersonville. A surgery center will be built to accommodate those needs.

Mr. Kirby said the hospital had two choices to build the four facilities: they could hire a developer or recreate the partnership that resulted in the creation of Pardee’s Health Science Center, where the county invests in the facility while Pardee invests in the land. Pardee would then pay the debt service coverage to the county, and at the end of that term, a developer doesn’t own the property; the county owns that property. Because the land the hospital acquires is put in the county’s name, that is how all hospital land is listed.

Strategic Initiative Development

Characterized by our strong *community-based footprint*, *high-quality advanced care* and valuable *partnerships*, UNC Health Pardee will evolve into a *regional health system* that solidifies itself as the provider and employer of *choice for Henderson County* while serving surrounding communities and the citizens of our region.

Strategic Initiatives			
	Build Regional Footprint & Expand Infrastructure	Invest Strategically in Specialty Service Development	Leverage existing and new relationships

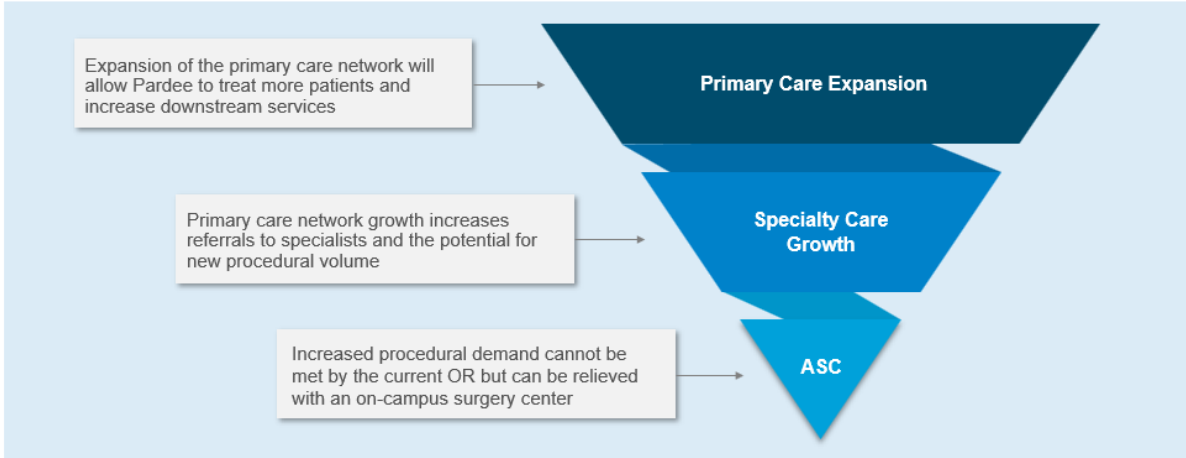
Medical Office Buildings



- Henderson County
- Mills River
- Hospital Campus
- Transylvania County

Ambulatory Surgery Center

Key Takeaway	As Pardee expands its primary care base, demand for downstream specialty services and surgeries will grow. Procedural capacity on the Pardee Hospital campus must increase to accommodate the additional demand.
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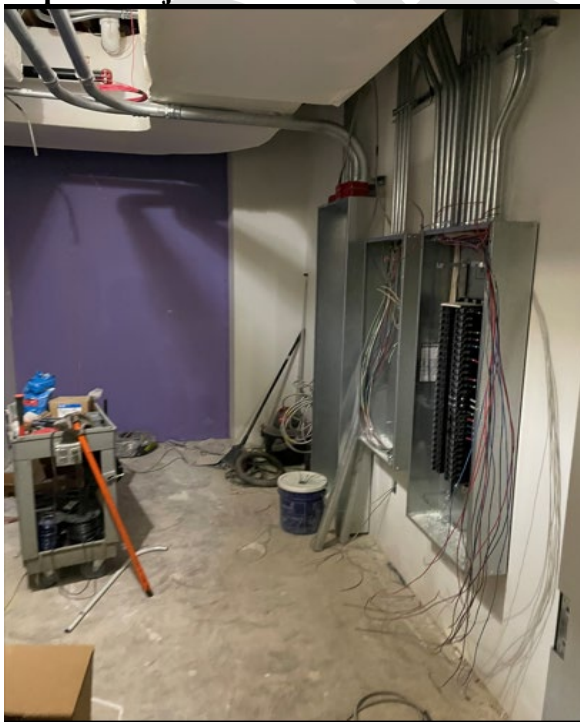
Vice-Chair Edney said this project would be the single biggest thing the county has done in healthcare since the hospital was built in 1953.

Construction Projects Update

Bryan Rhodes and Chris Todd updated the Board on the construction projects around Henderson County.

The monthly report reviewed the scope and statuses of assigned construction management responsibilities and included specific updates regarding county-funded construction activities.

Capital Projects - VFW



Approved:



Etowah Library Outdoor Venue

Enterprises G, Inc. was the selected contractor. The notice to proceed has been issued, and permits have been applied; the estimated groundbreaking is planned for March 15, 2024.

Jackson Park Lower Tennis Courts

A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on February 2, 2024, with seven contractors in attendance. The bid opening is scheduled for February 27, 2024.

BRCC MRTS Projects

BRCC MRTS projects from FY22-23 have all been completed. All fifty-four BRCC MRTS projects for FY23-24 have been 100% contracted. Forty-three of those projects have been completed and fully invoiced.



HCPS MRTS Projects

West Henderson High School Renovation and Addition – Carolina Specialties has mobilized and is starting in “area B,” which is in the new addition building between the back of the gym and X-Building.

Approved:

Upward Elementary Renovation and Addition – Vannoy Construction has completed the secure vestibule (GMP #1) and mobilized to begin cafeteria expansion construction (GMP #2).

FY23-24 HCPS MRTS

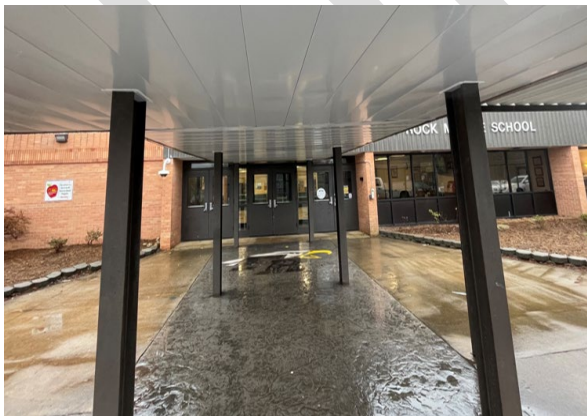
The West Henderson Air Handler replacement contract was awarded to Cooper Construction. The air handler has an expected ship date of June 25, 2024; installation will follow once the unit has been delivered.

The Elementary Schools HVAC Controls Upgrade contract was awarded to Daikin Applied. They have completed the electrical wiring at five schools and are currently working on installing wiring at Bruce Drysdale Elementary School.

Gutters and Downspouts Project - Bonitz Company of Carolina and TN has completed Fletcher Elementary and Hendersonville Middle School. East Henderson High School is scheduled to start on 2/19/2024.

Bonitz Company of Carolina and TN has multiple sections of the roofing at WHHS underway, and the canopy at Flat Rock Middle has been completed.

For the Atkinson Elementary School HVAC upgrade, Sims Group has delivered the 60% drawings and is due to reach 100% by today. The RFP will follow soon.



Completed Canopy at Flat Rock Middle School



HVAC Project at Atkinson Elementary School

Approved:



Henderson County JCAR Project

Chris Todd provided an update on the County’s JCAR project. Per the Board’s direction, the Detention Center continues to move forward with design. Todd expects to bring cost-saving options before the Board on the courthouse side of the project later.

Marcus Jones provided an update on the Ecusta Trail. He said a \$10M construction contract was signed in December, and it is scheduled to be completed in December of this year. The contractor has completed all of the clearing and erosion control measures have been installed. The contractor is 25-50% finished with replacing the cross drainage pipes in the corridor. All cross-drain pipes were re-engineered to ensure there was a functioning drainage system. He said bridges were due on site in August and are on schedule at this time.

Ecusta Trail (East Section)

- Construction contract: \$10,126,120
- Percent complete: 12.2%
- Completion: December 2024
- Tasks complete
 - Clearing
 - Erosion Control Measures
 - 25% of Cross Drainage Pipes
 - Small % of Bridge Replacement
- Budget and schedule on track



Approved:

Director of Facility Services Andrew Griffin provided an update on the EMS Base #6 project. He said the structural steel is in place, the roof is in, and most is insulated. He expects to be drying the structure soon. The project is on track to be completed in mid-May, hopefully.

EMS Base #6

- Construction contract: \$1,968,109
- Percent complete: 63%
- Completion: May 2024
- Tasks complete
 - Majority of site work (horizontal)
 - Structural framing
 - Portion of siding
 - Plumbing rough in
- Budget and schedule on track (well under budget of \$3.35M)



Broadband Task Force Update

Christopher Todd provided the Board with an update on the status of Broadband projects in Henderson County.

Broadband Taskforce Update

CAB Program Resources & Updates
2.21.2024

A Quick Refresher on CAB



- CAB is one of 3 programs using federal ARPA funds to connect 'last mile' broadband infrastructure to unserved/underserved households and businesses in NC.
- CAB is a partnership between NCDIT and NC county governments.
- Prequalified service providers have been selected and may participate in CAB with Convenience Contracts.
- Unlike GREAT grants, these are a procurement process with individual scopes of work for each county, so once award is made, project is contracted right away.
- Counties may submit "high priority areas" that help form the scope of work for service providers' proposals.
- CAB is currently requiring broadband to have download speeds of 100 mbps and upload speeds of 20 mbps at minimum, scalable to 100 mbps symmetrical.
- The Stop-Gap Program will be following CAB to continue completing access to widely spread unserved areas that are harder to reach.

Approved:



NCDIT & County Collaboration Process

- Will work with counties individually.
- NCDIT has sent the *County Commitment Form* with an “up to” amount of funding we plan to have available and the source of funds.
- County-level Scope of Work document & evaluation criteria for projects will be sent soon by NCDIT for county feedback. This will be like a procurement document.
- HC needs to submit eligible locations & prioritization areas to NCDIT (Counties may submit CSV file of broadband serviceable location IDs OR map hexagons of interest OR provide narrative describing priority areas).
- Selection of County Evaluation Team members (up to 2 members). Send names to NCDIT.
- CAB will be awarded on a rolling basis, but NCDIT hopes to get County Commitment Forms in as soon as possible.

Identifying Eligible Locations & Priority Areas

[Click to see the CAB Planning Tool](#)



Counties participating in CAB may have a defined eligible project area identified in partnership with NCDIT. May not include Protected Areas (already funded locations). Template available from NCDIT.



Online mapping tools are available to visualize eligibility and concentration of unserved homes and businesses.



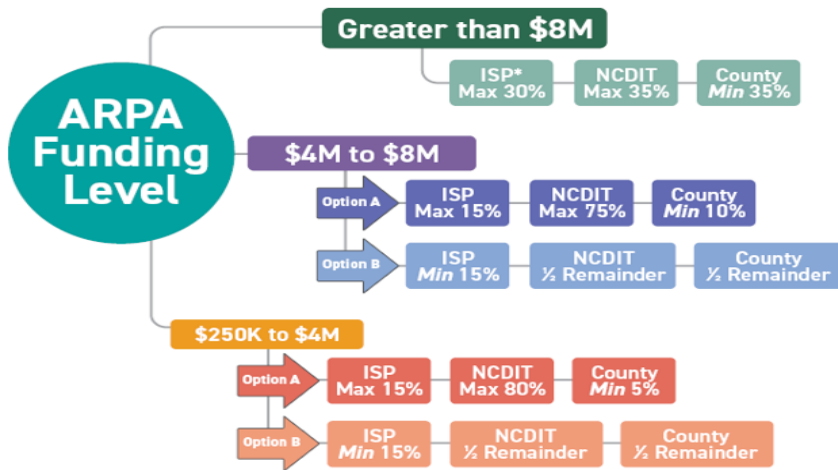
Unserved/underserved locations are shown in the CAB Planning Tool map as red, orange, or yellow dots representing *Broadband Serviceable Locations* (BSLs). These locations are eligible to be part of a county’s scope of work. If counties do not provide priority areas, all BSLs will be given equal weight.

CAB Program Timeline

December	January	February	Ongoing
<p>Funding map published.</p> <p>CAB Eligible Locations map layer published.</p> <p>Collaboration process & instructions emailed out to all counties.</p>	<p>CAB Guidance updated.</p> <p>Protected Areas data submission window: Jan 8 – 29.</p> <p>Service providers may protest any mapping data: Jan 8 – 29.</p> <p>Mapping needs to finish before bids process begins.</p>	<p>Counties submit priority areas (wait until protest period is done).</p> <p>Commitment Form for HC needs to be submitted with funding amount.</p> <p>NCDIT will begin to post the first bids for counties who have completed all steps.</p>	<p>Bids for each county will <u>continue on</u> a rolling basis as they become available.</p> <p>Each county will have their own funding round, so data needs frequent updates so that providers understand the BSL landscape before each bid.</p>

NCDIT is focused on how many CAB projects they can identify, what bids they can roll out, and how many awards they can make between January and May. Award timing is based on how quickly map can be finished, and how quickly counties can get Commitment Forms and Scopes of Work completed and returned.

Approved:



CAB Funding Algorithm

*ISP: Internet Service Provider
 County Contributions can be drawn from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds or from a county's General Fund

Henderson County has \$900,000 in ARPA Funds allocated to finance broadband

	\$900,000	Henderson County
+	\$900,000	State
	\$771,428	Service Provider
\$2,571,428		Total Project Cost

**5.5k
unserved
locations
in HC**

Project Examples

ERC Example:

	\$1,392,185.62	County Match 35%
	\$1,392,185.62	State Match 35%
+	\$1,193,301.96	Provider Match 30%
\$3,977,673.20		Total Project Cost

**Funds
able to
serve 766
locations**

Saluda Mountain Telephone Company Example:

	\$1,829,212.70	County Match 35%
	\$1,829,212.70	State Match 35%
+	\$1,567,896.60	Provider Match 30%
\$5,226,322.00		Total Project Cost

**Funds
able to
serve 1,176
locations**

Approved:

Broadband Taskforce



Broadband Taskforce voted to recommend myself and another staff at the County Managers choosing to be on the committee with the state employees to develop the CAB RFP's



The Broadband Taskforce is currently reviewing the information to recommend if the CAB should be geographically focused or the county as a whole



The next Broadband Taskforce meeting is March 6th at 6:00 located in the Board of Commissioners meeting room

Commissioner Lapsley said the Board of Commissioners had committed \$900,000 in ARP funds to support Broadband projects. The funds must be encumbered by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. Lapsley said the Board had been discussing the Broadband Project since the ARP funds were appropriated to the county three years ago. He stated that no one had benefited from those funds thus far, and he has concerns that the end of this year will be here, and we will not be any closer because the state bureaucracy in Raleigh cannot figure out how to spend the money.

Mr. Todd believes the county could meet the timeline to work with the ARP Funding. But, he acknowledges Commissioner Lapsley's concerns and will work quickly. He said that one thing he would ask from the Board to move forward is to consider the recommendation of the Broadband Task Force to appoint some staff so that they may continue to work through the process with the state. John Mitchell said this could be done without a motion.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Animal Services Committee – 3 vacs.

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

2. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 6 vacs.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to nominate Marty Allen for reappointment to position #1, Alicia Wallace for reappointment to position #4, and Angela Hunter for reappointment to position #6 on the Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review. 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. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.

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

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

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

Approved:

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 – 10 vacs.

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

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Chairman McCall shared a video about senior recreation opportunities available in Henderson County that Mike Morgan and Bruce Gilliam put together.

After the video, Chairman McCall congratulated area high school basketball teams. All four high school varsity teams in our area made it well into the running to win the regular-season conference championship. The last two in the running are West and East Henderson, and they will play for the title tomorrow night.

Commissioner Andreotta shared that Hendersonville's own Charlotte, the stingray, had made national news with her pregnancy that experts believe resulted through a rare form of asexual reproduction known as parthenogenesis. Charlotte lives at the Aquarium and Shark Lab by Team ECCO in downtown Hendersonville and is expected to give birth any day.

Commissioners Hill and Lapsley and Vice-Chair Edney did not have an update.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

John Mitchell said the federal government had been going through a long process of failing to pass a budget. They have been doing continuing resolutions for about twenty-five years. He said the next round is set to begin March 1 and March 8. He said the federal government had been extended in two pieces. That is important to the county because it impacts all citizens and businesses and impacts the County's budget in the future next year. Much of that comes from the federal government's intentions regarding spending and what that may or may not do to the national economy. There is also the matter of the debt limit and the continuation of inflation. He said staff is watching this and taking it into account as they prepare to continue through the budget season.

Mr. Mitchell said the short session of the General Assembly is scheduled to begin April 24. There are two parts to the legislative budget process: the long session, where the budget is produced, and the short session, where corrections are made. Henderson County has an interest in the technical corrections bill, which has already moved through the House, and anticipates it will be taken up in the Senate. He said there will be many opportunities during the short session for the General Assembly to address the Medicaid bonus money, which represents about \$1.2 billion worth of investment. He said that the county has been working diligently with Health and Human Services and Vaya to secure at least some of those funds for the western part of the state.

Approved:

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Mitchell said there was a great story in the press today about the partnership of the County’s EMS service with Pardee Hospital. He looks forward to providing an update in a couple of months about some of the training and new groundbreaking services being provided in partnership with Pardee.

Mitchell said games and practices generally held in Jackson Park will be moved out of the park due to a goose problem. The geese are eating the grass seed, so the field needs to be rehabilitated to a place where it may be used in the fall.

John Mitchell shared that the Board has scheduled a special called meeting for February 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College in the Bo Thomas Auditorium. This meeting continues the discussion of the future of agriculture in Henderson County.

Mitchell said the state had conducted its Clear Creek Sewer Permit hearing on Monday, February 5, at North Henderson High School. The state has until the end of March to make a determination.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Andreotta made the motion to go out of closed session and adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

Rebecca McCall, Chairman

Approved: