

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JULY 20, 2021**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Tom Stribling, Commissioner
Gayle Woody, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of June 08, 2021 and a Regular Meeting of June 15, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: None.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Woody reported that she and Commissioner Deitz attended the Seeds and Soil Community Networking Session at WCU, hosted by Chancellor Dr. Kelli Brown. It was a great opportunity for nonprofits in the community to come together. This was the start of a very good effort in the county to meet the needs in the community and to be proactive.

At the event, she announced that at some point in the near future, there would be a simple RFP process, through the County Manager's Office where people could apply for funds. Criteria included serving Jackson County residents and the board of directors had to reflect participation by Jackson County residents as well. The event was well attended and the next session was scheduled for October 21st.

Also, she attended the Board of Health meeting the evening before. It was an excellent meeting where they heard good news that the Health Clinic was fully staffed. They felt it was a direct result of the Board of Commissioners being willing to change some of the classifications of those positions that the County Manager had suggested.

It was also reported that the Delta Variant was in the county. They knew this because of the wastewater treatment. As they were aware, Former Commissioner Ron Mau, had encouraged them to participate through a grant opportunity to test the wastewater for Covid-19. The county had been involved with that and the CDC was looking at the data from the county. They could not pinpoint exactly where the variant came from in the county, but they did need to be concerned. The Health Department was taking steps to make sure providers were aware.

Also, they wanted to see more people get the vaccine, so they decided to look at where the influencers were in the county that could help change people's desire to have it. They identified one as primary care physicians and the second to be ministers in the county. The Health Department was offering the Summer Card Program, which was money from the Federal Government that came to the state. The person who got vaccinated and the person that drove them there would receive a \$25 gift card as an incentive.

She announced that on Tuesday, July 27th at 2:00 p.m. would be the Dr. Jerry Wolfe Highway dedication below the Lossiah Justice Center. On Monday, July 26th would be Southwest Commission's annual barbeque in Franklin at 5:30 p.m.

(b) Commissioner Deitz stated that Bogarts' Restaurant had a fire that past week. Firemen were able to extinguish the fire and they were working to get it cleaned up. There were 41 employees impacted. Anyway they could help them, he thought they should.

Also, his great nephew, Cal Raleigh got pulled up to the Seattle Mariners a week ago to the Major Leagues. He knew his parents, Todd and Stephane Raleigh were real proud of him and the county was too.

(5) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Adams reported:

(a) **June 2021 Zoning and Building Permits:** He provided a report that listed the zoning district (if applicable), the owner/business name, the work permitted and the location of the project where the permit was issued. The Planning Department issued three commercial zoning permits and one renovation/addition zoning permit in the month of June. Code enforcement issued five commercial permits and six renovation/addition permits in the month of June.

(b) **Law Enforcement Memorial at Justice Center:** Randy Cabe and the Landscaping Crew improved the aesthetics around the Law Enforcement Memorial outside of the Justice Center. Kevin Morgan and the maintenance crew also added additional flag poles. County Staff did a great job of improving this area dedicated to those who lost their lives in law enforcement.

Chairman McMahan noted that County Staff also include a stone that was at the back of the building in memory of other County Employees (non-Law Enforcement) that had passed away over the years. He was pleased they included that monument as well.

(c) **Energy Efficiency Validation Report:** He provided portions of a report validating that the energy efficient items were appropriately installed in the Community Service Center. This program resulted in receiving a grant from Duke Energy in the amount of \$16,791. The energy saving along with this grant would provide the county with a return on investment within two to three years.

(d) **Construction Projects:**

- Animal Rescue Center / Green Energy Park project was 19% complete through June 18th. Substantial completion was projected to be February, 2022. The exterior floor and footings were poured July 14th. He provided the latest field reports and pictures.
- Blue Ridge School Water and Sewer project was completed within budget and within the required time frame.
- The Fairview Concession Stand replacement project had started. Final construction documents were being completed and the project should be ready to send out to bid mid-August. It was anticipated that the contract would be awarded by the end of September.
- The Request for Qualifications for Architectural Services related to the Justice Administration Center would be released on July 29th.

(e) **American Recovery Plan Act:** At the August 10th work session, he would discuss the ARPA Funds with the Board of Commissioners. There would be a human services priority, along with discussions about nonprofits, broadband and business development. The human services component would focus on domestic violence, homelessness and AWAKE Child Services.

In the last couple of weeks, Dogwood Trust Foundation specifically came out with a program geared toward counties, municipalities and EBCI, as it related to housing. They were looking to match their dollars one-to-one with ARPA Funds targeting areas the county had already been moving towards. In the next couple of meetings, he would bring information to them as the deadline for some grants was August 16th.

(6) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: None.

(7) CONSENT AGENDA: Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Collector and Refund Reports for June, 2021, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) CLOSING NORTH CAROLINA’S HEALTH INSURANCE GAP: Casey Cooper, CEO Cherokee Indian Hospital and Steve Heatherly, CEO Harris Regional Hospital, were present for this item.

Mr. Cooper stated he had been the CEO of the Cherokee Indian Hospital for 18 years and had worked in the health system his entire career. He presented: The Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority and Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians requested the Board’s support and advocacy to close the coverage gap in North Carolina.

(a) Jackson County:

- Approximately 18.2% of working non-elderly adults were uninsured
- 3,299 individuals would gain access to coverage with Medicaid Expansion
- 263 jobs would be created
- \$445,200 in new County revenues
- \$37 million per year in New Business Activity

(b) EBCI:

- Approximately 1,000 uninsured would gain coverage
- \$7 million increase in annual revenue at no cost to the State of NC
- Increased regional investments in: Housing, Infrastructure, Broadband and Jobs creation
- CIHA could provide relief to the Counties for Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse treatment

(c) Uninsured Workers by County: Jackson County 18.2%.

(d) Counties where more than 20% of workers were uninsured:

- US 11.0%
- North Carolina 13.8%
- Avery County 27.2%
- Tyrrell County 26.6%
- Graham County 26.1%
- Hyde County 26%
- Cherokee County 25.1%
- Duplin County 23.9%
- Clay County 23.2%

(e) The counties with the highest uninsured rates for non-elderly workers were all rural:

- Swain County 22.9%
- Greene County 22.4%
- Sampson County 22.2%
- Yancey County 22.1%
- Macon County 21.7%

- Transylvania County 20.5%
 - Montgomery County 20.4%
- (f) Who's in the Coverage Gap?

Family Size	Medicaid	Coverage Gap	Marketplace Subsidy
One		No Assistance	Starting at \$12,760 per year
Two	Up to \$7,240 per year	No Assistance	Starting at \$17,240 per year
Three	Up to \$9,122 per year	No Assistance	Starting at \$21,720 per year
Four	Up to \$11,004 per year	No Assistance	Starting at \$26,200 per year

- The large majority of Medicaid adults were already working or report potential barriers to work.
 - 63% of adults eligible for Medicaid were working.
 - Many essential frontline workers would gain health coverage by closing the coverage gap.
- (g) Veterans in the Gap: 12,000 North Carolina Veterans were under the age of 65, had incomes less than \$16,753 for a family of one or \$29,676 for a family of three and were currently uninsured. North Carolina had one of the highest rates of uninsured veterans in the nation, with more than 7% of its veterans lacking health coverage.
- (h) Closing the coverage gap keeps health care affordable and accessible:
- When uninsured people need care, they often turn to the emergency room. An emergency room visit leads to high medical bills that patients cannot pay and the hospitals often have to absorb the cost. Hospitals then try to offset lost revenue by cost-shifting, meaning they charge higher premiums to everyone that uses health care.
 - Covering more uninsured people improves the provider's and hospitals' bottom lines and saves all patients money.
 - 82% of rural hospital closures nationwide in the last five years have been in non-expansion states.
 - Six rural hospitals in North Carolina have closed since 2010 and several others were at high risk of financial distress.
 - States that already closed their coverage gap had seen a 62% decrease in likelihood of rural hospitals closing.
 - North Carolina delaying the enactment of a solution to close the coverage gap would put many rural hospitals at risk and would deprive them of necessary resources.
- (i) Medicaid Expansion Financial Projections (gross):
- Total projected costs ramp up with enrollment over initial three years.
 - Ongoing costs tract with medical trends and population changes.
 - Total projected cost of \$5.1B in year three. \$4.6B federal share, \$500M non-federal share.
 - Net increase in federal expenditures would be less than \$4.6B due to elimination of Marketplace subsidies for individuals with incomes between 100%-138% FPL.
 - Potential welcome mat effect not included.
- (j) The federal government covered 90% of the cost of coverage for those that fell in the coverage gap. Federal law dictated this percentage, meaning it was not discretionary and could not fluctuate year to year without a change to federal law.
- Non-federal cost for first two years: \$700 million.
 - Additional federal funding from ARP: \$1.7 billion
 - Federal incentive funding could cover the non-federal share for up to six years.
 - There would be no general funds needed to cover the cost of closing the coverage gap.
- (k) Sec. 1905. [42 U.S.C. 1396d] for purposes of this title: (E) 90 percent for calendar quarters in 2020 and each year thereafter.

- (l) Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority:**
 - Title V Health System since 2002
 - Tribal sub-unit created by the EBCI
 - Annual Operating Budget roughly \$100 million
 - Approximately 700 employees: 100 credentialed members of the medical staff (two psychiatrist) and 100 dedicated Behavioral Health staff.
- (m) Crisis Stabilization Unit – Analenisgi Outpatient:**
 - Individual, family and group therapy
 - Supervised medication administration
 - Opioid replacement therapy
 - Targeted case management
 - Adult and Pediatric Behavioral Health
 - Psychiatry
 - Intensive Outpatient Treatment
 - Residential Services Care Management
- (n) Kanywotiyi:** A residential treatment center located in the Snowbird Community of Graham County. In 2015, the EBCI Tribal Council approved funding and directed Cherokee Indian Hospital to develop a comprehensive system of care, a recovery community for Cherokee people struggling with addiction and other challenges. The program could accommodate up to ten men and ten women.
- (o) Women and Children’s Home.**
- (p) 2015 IHS Expenditures Per Capita and Other Federal Health Care Expenditures Per Capita:**
 - 2014 Medicare spending per beneficiary: \$12,179
 - 2015 National health spending per capita \$8,517
 - 2015 Veterans medical spending per patient \$8,760
 - 2011 Medicaid spending per enrollee \$5,790
 - 2015 FDI benchmark per user (inflated) \$5,460
 - 2015 Actual HIS spending per user \$3,136
- (q) 2021 Budget:**
 - Net Patient Service Revenue 45%
 - Indian Health Service 30%
 - EBCI Annual Appropriation 15%
 - Grant Revenue 3%
 - Tsali Care Supplemental 5%
 - Other 2%
- (r) Indian Health Care:**
 - AI/ANsHave Unique political relationship with US founded in treaties predated the origin of the US.
 - AI/ANs were forced into treaties resulting in the loss of millions of acres of land.
 - In more than 22 of the treaties with the US from 1778 to 1871, the government obligated to provide health services as recompense for the forced surrender of land.
 - In the late 1880s AI/ANs lost even more land during the allotment error and by the early 1900s communicable disease and starvation were the leading causes of death among AI/ANs according to the Meriam Report in 1928.
 - The Snyder Act of 1921 was the founding authorization for provision of health services to Indians.
 - Indian reorganization Act of the 1934 allowed Tribes that had formally been terminated to reorganize and regain their sovereign status because the Removal and Allotment policies had decimated the social and economic structures of Tribes leaving them in horrific conditions.

- The Transfer Act of the 1950s formally transferred the responsibility from the Department of the Interior to the Public Health Service in the Department of Health Education and Welfare.
 - 1965 SSA was amended to create Medicare and Medicaid
 - Indian Self-determination Education and Assistance Act of 1973 which was later amended in the 1980s allowed tribes to take control of the federal programs that were being provided to them by the US in carrying out its trust responsibility.
 - The Indian Healthcare Improvement act of 1974 provided more authority for funding Services and Facilities and authorized the Indian Health Services to collect third party payments as a means to supplement the underfunded system.
 - Congress enacted Section 1911 of the social Security Act authorizing Indian Health Services to collect payments from the Medicaid program to the supplement funding to IHS
 - 1976 Congress amended 1905 (b) of the Social Security Act to allow for 100% FMAP to states.
 - 1997 Congress authorized IHS and Tribal services to collect payments from CHIP.
 - In the American Recovery Act of 2009 Congress authorized more Indian specific provisions to protect the ability to collect Medicaid Revenue recognized how vitally important it was to support the grossly underfunded Indian Health System.
 - Indian Health Service Funding was still significantly underfunded and was estimated to be funded at approximately 50% of the level of need.
- (s) Closing the Coverage Gap in NC:
- The EBCI estimated approximately 1,000 patients were below 138% of FPL and did not have coverage.
 - The EBCI estimates the opportunity cost for failing to close the coverage gap to be more than \$7 million annually.
 - Because of the 100% FMAP, the cost to expand would cost the state nothing yet failing to expand was extremely detrimental to the EBCI and was inconsistent with the US trust responsibility.
 - Barriers to enrollment do not decrease demand, utilization and cost.
 - Failing to expand adversely affected employment opportunities, economic development, housing development and competed with funding for education.
- (t) Misunderstanding about Medicaid Expansion:
- Tax payer dollars would be spent on “Childless, able bodied, adults who choose not to work”.
 - The state match was unaffordable and not sustainable.
 - The 90% federal match might go away and the state would be left with the liability.

Mr. Heatherly stated that he echoed Mr. Cooper’s sentiments. Their systems were different, but were complimentary and there was tremendous commonality. They served a common, overlapping population and they served people who were predisposed to not be healthy.

There was no doubt that Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital would benefit from Medicaid Expansion. The low range of the estimate for their hospitals was about \$2.4 million annually. Those were resources they could then deploy into expanding services, offering new programs and recruiting more doctors.

As they pursued their mission of making communities healthier, Medicaid Expansion was central to that. It would benefit their hospitals financial, but he would make a more fundamental argument. This was about helping people that needed help, which was, in his view, what Medicaid Expansion was all about.

In their primary service area, which consisted of Jackson, Macon, Swain and Graham Counties:

- Education levels were lower than the state average.
- The portion of people under 65 without health insurance was 44% higher than the state average.
- The median household income was 18% lower than the state average.
- People living in poverty was 24% higher than the state average.

The people they served needed access to health care and to be given the chance to live better and healthier lives. At Harris and Swain, they had over 6,000 people per year come to their emergency departments that did not have health insurance. That was more than double the rate of people with Medicaid that received other services. Medicaid Expansion would allow these folks to get plugged into the health care system at the right time to receive care, including preventative services long before there was a crisis.

He thought the question around Medicaid Expansion was really having the will to insist on better for their friends and neighbors. There needed to be a lot of political will around that. The hospitals and communities would benefit. He encouraged the Board to support the resolution.

Commissioner Jones thanked them for the education.

Commissioner Deitz thanked them for what they did. They were very important to them.

Commissioner Woody stated they deeply appreciated what they did to serve the community. As Commissioners, they were to serve the community for the health and well-being of the citizens. This whole health care issue was vital to being able to fulfill that responsibility.

Chairman McMahan stated that in the years he had been Commissioner, he did not know if an issue had been before the Board that had been explained and a case built more compelling to support a resolution than what had been presented. The resolution was not on the agenda for consideration, but he would suspend the rules to add this to the agenda.

Informational item.

(9) AGENDA: Chairman McMahan moved to approve the amended agenda to add one item: Resolution R21-25 In Support of Closing North Carolina's Health Insurance Gap. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(10) FIREWORKS DISPLAY REQUEST: Mr. Adams stated that Tony Elders, Director of Permitting and Code Enforcement, requested approval for the following application he received for fireworks displays: September 4th Western Carolina University – home opener football game.

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the request for fireworks display, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) FOOD SERVICE AND KITCHEN MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT: Mr. Adams stated this was an item that had been discussed in a couple of meetings. He presented the proposed requested contract between the county and Skillet Kitchen, to provide food service for the jail operations and the Department on Aging.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the contract with Skillet Kitchen, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) PUBLIC SCHOOLS SECURITY UPGRADES: Jake Buchanan, Public Schools Deputy Superintendent was in attendance for this item.

Mr. Adams stated that this item had been discussed with the Board regarding the proposed costs and contract with Buchanan and Sons to provide safety upgrades to the schools. The requested action would be to approve the utilization of Articles 40, 42 and 46 Sales Tax to fund the proposed contract with Buchanan and Sons. He would also request to authorize County Management, with the approval of the County Attorney, to follow through with any other necessary items to approve the contract. The Board of Education would still have to approve the contract and the utilization of Articles 40 and 42 Sales Tax.

Motion: *Chairman McMahan moved to accept the request and fund through Articles 40, 42 and 46 Sales Tax, the school capital safety enhancements, as requested and authorize staff to proceed forward with any additional requirements. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion.*

Discussion:

Commissioner Deitz stated that he discussed this a lot with himself and had not come to a conclusion. It was a lot of money for this project, but it was an important project. Any time they dealt with the kids, it was probably the most important thing they did, but they had to put things into perspective. He had been irritated about some of the costs.

He was very conscientious about the money they spent. The School Board asked for things they thought needed to be done and the Commissioners tried to come up with the money to help them with it. They needed to be prepared to answer questions about why this was so expensive.

He was going to vote for it, but he was not going to vote for it because he felt someone was going to lose their life if he did not. They had tried to help the school system be more secure over the last few years. They had added school resource officers to every school and counselors. He thought they should all be more conscientious of the money they were spending.

Chairman McMahan stated that he agreed with Commissioner Deitz, it was an exorbitant amount of money when they looked at what was being proposed in the contract. The nature of how government worked included the need to have architects, engineers and a bid process along with all the red tape that went with government. If there was a way to make it easier and cheaper, they would all vote for that. He appreciated all of the work that had went into this by staff. There had been an extreme amount of labor from a staff perspective to make sure all of the requirements had been met.

Commissioner Woody stated that she taught at Smoky Mountain High School when there was a public outcry of why the need to spend money on the new gym and auditorium? Being a teacher of fine arts, she did not have a problem with spending that money, but some people did. In thinking about the walls, she had thought a lot about it and she kept thinking about how the money could be spent for direct services and what that could mean to the children.

If they waited several months to when some of the crisis of supplies and workers was over, was there a chance they could do this for less? A large part of the cost was in labor, was that correct?

Mr. Buchanan stated that the first time they went out to bid, part of the problem was the number of projects that were going out at the same time and they could not secure enough labor.

Commissioner Woody asked if there was a sense that waiting may enable other people to bid and they would get a more reasonable price?

Chairman McMahan stated that he knew that Commissioner Jones offered that comment as well that there was some discussion it could potentially be a little cheaper if they held off. But, he also offered the comment that if the federal plan passed Congress, which it was on target to happen, they would have a major infrastructure bill. Then they would see cost of products and the labor shortage intensify. So, it could be that if they held off and waited, it could cost more.

Commissioner Jones stated that he recalled Mr. Buchanan making the statement that concrete may go down, possibly 5% in the future. 5% of \$7 million was \$300,000, which was a lot of money, but he changed his delay tactic to move forward and keep the children safe.

Commissioner Stribling asked what if they put it off and something happened? It was a lot of money.

Chairman McMahan stated that he knew it was a lot of money and they all struggled with it.

Commissioner Jones stated that the good news was that the citizens of the county put in a ¼ cent sales tax for future capital projects, so they did have a revenue stream.

Chairman McMahan stated that they were very fortunate to have that. If not for the ¼ cent sales tax, they would be talking about fund balance.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(13) FINAL BID FOR LOT BB WATERFALL COVE: Ms. Baker stated that on June 1st, the Board approved the initial bid from Agrevive, Inc. of \$5,038.16 for Lot BB, Waterfall Cove, containing 0.50 acres (PIN #7563-07-0359). The offer was upset for \$10,000.00 from the Naumann Family Irrevocable Trust and had been advertised for ten days with no further upset bids. She requested approval of the final bid, which was \$10,000.00.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the offer for the final bid of \$10,000.00 from the Naumann Family Irrevocable Trust, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY POLICY: Ms. Baker stated that the Board adopted this policy in 2017. She requested that the Board amend the policy to match the way they actually practiced the procedure. She conveyed to each purchaser that offers should contain a “non-warranty deed” instead of a “special warranty deed”.

With a special warranty deed, they were warranting the title since the county became the owner. With the tax foreclosure lots, they did not look at the title at all, so she always requested a non-warranty deed, which stated the county was not warranting anything about the title.

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to amend the Sale of Surplus Property Policy to reflect non-warranty deed instead of special warranty deed, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Chairman McMahan called for a five-minute recess.

Chairman McMahan called the meeting back to order.

(15) AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Chairman McMahan stated this was an item previously discussed. This was a request from the Agricultural Advisory Board to amend the ordinance to remove the term limits. A public hearing was held prior to the meeting with no public comment.

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to adopt the Amendment to the Agricultural District Ordinance, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(16) ORDER OF COLLECTION – RESOLUTION R21-23: Ms. Henson stated that the Order of Collection authorized, empowered and commanded the collection of taxes as set forth in the tax records filed in the office of Tax Administration.

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to adopt the Order of Collection Resolution R21-23, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) CONRAD G. BURRELL HIGHWAY – RESOLUTION R21-24: Commissioner Jones stated they had the necessary letters from three entities, Sylva Rotary Club, Southwestern Community College and Cashiers Chamber of Commerce. They had a letter of support from the family and a \$2,000 check for the fee. This would begin at the concrete bridge on Highway 107 in District Three, go into District Four and stop at the Moody Bridge. He proceeded to read Resolution R21-24 in its entirety for consideration.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to adopt Resolution R21-24, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion.

Discussions:

Commissioner Deitz stated that he did not like the way this came about, he thought it was very political. This was first brought about by a citizen of the community and was pushed by them continually. A former commissioner brought this up, but was not present when they voted on it previously.

In Robbinsville, there was a road named “Rodney Orr Highway”, who was a Nascar driver that was killed. He did not think they came to Jackson County to endorse or pay for that. There was a company in Graham County paying to have this sign installed.

Also, he did not think the County Commissioners had any involvement when they named the Burrell Building at SCC after Mr. Burrell. That was the Board of Trustees’ decision to do that, which was a good decision. They named one of the most prominent buildings in the county after Mr. Burrell. But for some reason, SCC believed they should be part of endorsing this and pushing for a highway to be named after Mr. Burrell also.

When his daughter died, Mr. Burrell and his wife were some of the first people to go see him and he would not forget that. He coached Mr. Burrell’s son-in-law, knew his daughter well and had been in church with them, but he thought this was out of place.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Deitz voting “nay”.

(18) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLOSING NORTH CAROLINA’S HEALTH INSURANCE GAP – RESOLUTION R21-25: Chairman McMahan proceeded to read Resolution R21-25 in its entirety for consideration.

Motion: Chairman McMahan moved to adopt Resolution R21-25, as presented, to be transmitted to the General Assembly and to Members of the Delegation that represented Jackson County. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion.

Discussions:

Commissioner Deitz stated that this was real important.

Commissioner Woody stated that there had been some positive, bipartisan support for this in their region and she was pleased to see that. She thought them doing this would hopefully help their representatives, who would be making this decision, to see that they supported this.

Chairman McMahan requested to include a cover letter with the resolution and Mr. Cooper’s presentation as supporting evidence of why the Board adopted the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(19) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Motion: Commissioner Stribling moved to reappoint John Brown to an At-Large Seat and Chet Stephens to an At-Large Seat for additional three-year terms, expiring June 01, 2024; to appoint Neil Dawson to the District Three seat serving the remainder of a three-year appointment expiring June 01, 2023; and to appoint Charles Fowler to an At-Large Seat for a three-year term, expiring June 01, 2024 on the Agricultural Advisory Board. Chairman McMahan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(20) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved to appoint Rich Price to serve an unexpired term on the Business and Industry Advisory Board, term expiring December 31, 2022. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(21) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Carry over.

(22) JURY COMMISSION:

Motion: Commissioner Deitz moved to reappoint Norma Clayton to serve an additional two-year term on the Jury Commission, expiring August 01, 2023. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(23) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(24) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property, G.S.143 318.11(a)(7) Criminal Investigations. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Deitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman