

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JULY 09, 2019**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on July 09, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mickey Luker, Commissioner (via speakerphone)	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Ron Mau, Commissioner	
Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) VAYA HEALTH FUNDING ISSUES: Chairman McMahan stated that Shelley Foreman, Vaya Western Region Community Relations Representative, had planned to be at the work session, but she would not be attending. He served on the County Commissioner Advisory Board for Vaya Health and after discussions with Ms. Foreman, they decided it would be best to not have this conversation that day regarding the funding issues facing Vaya, since that was a topic that was evolving daily.

The Board would be asked to advocate on behalf of mental health. He thought it would be stronger for the Board to speak to the legislators if they knew what the impact of the cuts would be to the region. Vaya was working to put that information together so that they could have a discussion in the near future.

Mr. Adams stated that regarding the Involuntary Commitment Transportation Plan that counties were supposed to adopt, initially Ms. Baker started working on this and then Major Shannon Queen put together a rough draft. Jackson County was on the forefront of the conversation and was working with Vaya regarding the first assessment determination.

Ms. Baker stated that they did have a draft and the only question they were working through was if WCU and Cherokee needed to be included.

Informational item.

(2) WEBSTER ENTERPRISES PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES: Joe Rigdon, Webster Enterprises CEO; Mike Bowler, CFO; and Rich Price, Economic Director, were present for this item.

Mr. Rigdon stated that Webster Enterprises was a 5013c nonprofit and had been in existence in the county since 1976. Their mission was to provide job training skills and job opportunities for adults that faced barriers to employment. The service area included Jackson, Swain and Macon Counties and the Eastern Band.

They had seen the landscape of their services change over the last several years. Through a federal mandate, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, there was a new program Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS). This program was intended to expose students with disabilities to self-advocacy, postsecondary training and employment skills and options. Once the students complete the program, they were eligible to remain in vocational rehabilitation for continued services, if needed.

PETS activities were defined by direct services to students in the following areas:

- Job exploration counseling
- Workplace readiness training
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on postsecondary training options
- Instruction in self-advocacy

The first year, they provided services for 27 students in Jackson County. In the 2019-20 school year, the numbers projected were a minimum of 90 to an excess of 100. They were already at Smoky Mountain High School and the School of Alternatives. In the next school year, they were looking to add Blue Ridge School. The school system wanted them to house a full-time instructor in the schools, which would create 3.5 positions to include three instructors and an admin position.

Ideally, they were looking to start with students at the end of eighth grade and work with them through the twelfth grade. With the approval of Vocational Rehabilitation, they had identified 22 milestones for students during the course of the program. They were also looking at real work experience by going out into the community for training.

Mr. Bowler stated that this was a reimbursement grant, which meant they would get approval upfront and were required to fund all of the expenditures up front. As milestones were achieved and paperwork completed, they could submit a form for reimbursement for that particular student. Once they completed the paperwork, it could be one to three months before they received the reimbursement, so they had a timing issue for a small organization, which created a cash flow issue. For Jackson County, they needed to be able to fund up to seven month's expenditures. First Citizen's Bank had agreed to provide up to \$100,000 in a term loan if it was supported by a CD placed as collateral by the county.

Mr. Adams stated that initially, they tried to access revolving loan funds that the county had access to through Economic Development, but this project did not qualify. As they proceeded forward, they went back to the Letter of Credit concept. If the county backed the Letter of Credit through a Support Agreement, Webster Enterprises would need to come back to the Board annually as the Letter of Credit would renew every year with a report. What distinguished this from other nonprofits with cash flow issues was the economic development side. This was a workforce development issue that they were trying to proceed forward to work with Webster Enterprises.

Mr. Price stated that this went through his office and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee and this comes with their recommendation to provide the security for this note. Also, he was on the Regional WIOA Workforce Development Board, these programs were legitimate and with the current workforce situation, these and other types of unique programs would become paramount to be able to meet workforce needs across numerous sectors.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(3) JCTDA 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN: Ann Self, JCTDA Chair; Laura Bowers, JCTDA Vice Chair; and Darlene Fox, Finance Officer, were present for this item.

Ms. Self presented: JCTDA 2022 Strategic Plan:

(a) Organization and Board Structure:

- Strategic Vision and Direction JCTDA Structure: The Tourism Development Authority promoted the county as the premier mountain destination in the North Carolina Mountains. The JCTDA operated as a department of county government with oversight provided by the TDA Board. The JCTDA Board was appointed by and had representation from the County Commissioners. The Executive Director managed the work of the organization and reported to the Board Chair and the Board of Directors.
- Travel promotion was a unique approach to economic development because it had a dedicated funding source from traveler-paid lodging taxes and a measurable return on investment. JCTDA was committed to a program of work guided by smart, research-based strategy.

- Vision: To be the premier mountain destination providing an active lifestyle, spectacular natural assets and a friendly community for citizens and visitors alike.
- Mission: To promote the growth of year-round tourism opportunities that benefit the county economy. Their efforts put people to work, grow jobs, build community, and make the towns a vibrant place to live, play and work.
- The JCTDA Board would be engaged in two primary functions:
 - Providing proper oversight related to the ROI of the staff's research-based marketing of the destination;
 - Provide leadership and encourage elected officials and other economic development groups to fulfill the vision for Jackson County as a destination. The Board was comprised of representatives of travel industry businesses. The Board accomplishes its work through Committees (Executive/Finance, Audit) and Advisory Committees (Marketing, Governance, Destination Experience, etc.).

(b) Strategic Direction: Travel to the county was currently driven by leisure demand for scenic mountain beauty, Cherokee, and major WNC regional attractions. Western Carolina University and group travel were also drivers of visitation. The JCTDA would drive growth in visitation and visitor spending by promoting an active-lifestyle destination and focusing on longer weekend stays, weekdays, shoulder and off-seasons. A combination of leisure and group promotion would drive maximum ROI.

- Destination Marketing – Expand and promote the "play-on" brand to an active-Outdoors Mountain Brand:
 - Maintain and support the highest skilled and most dynamic sales and marketing team.
 - Promote and expand the active-lifestyle brand based on the market research.
 - Maintain/expand a comprehensive research/tracking program to guide all decisions.
 - All plans, marketing, activities, events must be on-brand.
- Destination Management – Enhance the Active Outdoors Lifestyle– a mountain destination unlike any other
 - Connect visitors with memorable experiences.
 - Support improved and expanded access to traveler experiences, with emphasis on year round outdoor experiences.
 - Encourage and support unique mountain dining, shopping and entertainment that set the county apart from other mountain destinations.

Ms. Self stated that the research revealed the significances of strengthening and expanding the relationship between JCTDA and county stakeholders. The goals and objectives in the strategic plan align with the mission at the JCTDA to work with local government, business and nonprofit organizations to identify and develop new facilities, attractions and services to improve tourism activities. Also, to contribute to the economic development and quality of life in the county.

The county resolution establishing the JCTDA included the provision to annually hold a travel planning goal setting session, which would be beneficial as the JCTDA would be seeking broad county involvement and collaboration in executing the strategic plan. JCTDA had grown significantly since its inception in 2011. Tourism spending in the county had grown \$20 mil in the last two years, which equates to nearly 2,000 jobs that were directly supported by tourism, \$9 mil of local county tax revenues and \$462.46 tax savings per resident.

The efforts put people to work, grew jobs, build community and made the towns and villages vibrant places to live, play and work. They were advancing tourism efforts and winning awards and accolades, including being named the Tourism Office of the Year by the Twelve State Southeastern Society. Their executive director had earned the highest level certification in the industry. They were making great achievements, but in order to take it to the next level, they had to make some changes.

They appreciated having the opportunity to have JCTDA employees under the county and they were grateful for the county providing HR services to JCTDA. During their discovery research for the newly approved sales and marketing position, they derived information that caused them to realize that in order to maintain and support the highest skilled and most dynamic staff, they must be able to be flexible to respond to industry opportunities and respond to change in an expedient manner. Also, to be competitive in compensation to retain and recruit the highest level of employees. Unfortunately, this could not be done within the current county employment framework that they were under. They requested that the role and responsibilities of Human Resources be returned to JCTDA. They proposed two staff positions, which they had previously approved: JCTDA Executive Director Position and Sales and Marketing Manager.

In addition, JCTDA prepared an entire framework for human resources framework for policies and procedures, insurance, benefits, payroll and accounts payable. The Board would have reports available monthly as well as the finance director. JCTDA was ready to assume responsibility for addressing these HR matters, subject to Commissioners' approval of the request. They were following every best practice in the industry, moving forward and growing, but need to make changes. She noted that Commissioner Mau served on the JCTDA Board and she welcomed his insight.

Commissioner Mau stated that he thought the TDA did a very good job going through the entire Strategic Planning process and had very important goals for the TDA to achieve over time. Tourism was a big deal in the county and he thought what they could do to help support them achieve their goals was an important thing to do.

Chairman McMahan stated it was impressive to see the growth in tourism.

Commissioner Woody stated that she appreciated the comments about retaining an employee. Mr. Breedlove had done so much to advance himself in his career path, but also serving the county while doing that. Also, Mr. Sullivan, who studied tourism at WCU – it was good to see these young, local people move into these positions and grow.

Mr. Adams provided the Jackson County Occupancy Tax Section 2.3:

“Tourism Development Authority. (a) Appointment and Membership. When the Jackson County Board of Commissioners adopts a resolution levying a room occupancy tax under this Part, it shall also adopt a resolution creating the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority, which shall be a public authority under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.”

When looking at that component, they were a legal different entity, but as this transitioned, the finances were through the county. They did have the capability to move their finances. Also, it was stated that the finance officer for the county shall be the ex officio finance officer of the authority, but technically, it was a separate position. Since the TDA was currently operating their finances and employees through the county, he believed it was reasonable for the county to expect they fall within the county's rules and pay plan. The TDA now felt it necessary to move outside of that pay plan in order for them to achieve their goals.

He stated a portion of the forming resolution R12-34, which went above and beyond the statute: Section 11:

“County Government and the TDA: B. At the request of the Authority, the County Attorney shall also serve as the Authority attorney and the Authority will be responsible for related costs.”

Currently, the County Attorney was also the Authority's attorney, which was at the request of the Authority. One caveat in the resolution was that if the TDA wanted to hire employees, they would have go through the Board for permission, which they already did. The second part would be the finance officer's time regarding duplicating a system.

In his opinion, it would be cleaner for the county to remit, on a quarterly basis, the occupancy tax to the TDA. It did get complicated since they were sharing a finance officer, which may require additional resources. At a minimum for the TDA to achieve their goals for personnel, they would have to separate out the personnel with their own benefits and health insurance. He deferred to finance and legal regarding separating out expenses. If they did that, they would need to do it contractually so that the TDA personnel would not have a claim to county benefits.

Ms. Fox stated that some would be a legal opinion about the difference in the benefits. She would still have to spend time because she was their finance director and the reports would still have to be filed. She did believe they would have a problem with cash flow because currently, they had access to their funds monthly. If they separated completely, they would only get the funds quarterly.

Mr. Adams stated that they were going to have the cash flow issue next year anyway. He thought that the TDA had always benefited from a fund balance. He thought they would have to deal with the cash flow issue either way, but this would make it quicker. Would the Board give permission to separate out for the two personnel to operate outside of the county's rules and procedures? Eventually, they would talk about evolving all of their finances out.

Chairman McMahan stated that it sounded like it may require additional research from a legal perspective.

Ms. Baker stated that it was up to the Board how they wanted to proceed. They could do the personnel separately. As an authority, they were a unit of local government and they had to comply with state laws regulated to local government units. They had to be pre-audited, which was why the finance officer was for the TDA as well. Ms. Fox would have some connection. She thought they could separate the personnel and still contract with the county, if that was the decision made, for some of the accounting services. Legally, it could happen.

Chairman McMahan stated that cash flow issues could be addressed and then a date set to be in a position to assume all of it, but they could work through a transition period.

Commissioner Mau inquired if it would be an option if the TDA decided they wanted to contract with someone else for accounting, but Ms. Fox would still do the legal minimum?

Ms. Baker stated they could do either way.

Commissioner Luker stated he thought they had to go back to originally how and why the TDA was created and why it was done in the perspective it was done and why they went about the process. Secondly, when he thought about separating it out, he thought back over the years at ABC and how they tried to do that and it always ended up coming back to the county and they ended up having to pick up all the broken pieces and rebuild it and remake it.

Currently, the TDA was functioning very adequately in the manner that they created as a county and the County Commissioners at that time created and approved. The finance officer had a lot of control and input into what happened and went on and the Board was kept abreast of moves and transfers and how it impacted the county.

Chairman McMahan stated that the initial request was for the employees to transfer and then potentially transfer the finances as well.

Ms. Self stated that they were more seeking to assume the HR role and the subsequent responsibilities, but they were amenable if the county deemed they needed to separate financially.

Chairman McMahan stated that with what they heard with the cash flow issue, it may take them more time to get to that point. It may be a goal to work towards.

Ms. Baker stated that the key was that they wanted the positions set up under the TDA with job descriptions. As soon as those positions were filled, it would dissolve the county positions.

Chairman McMahan inquired of the Commissioners if they were in favor of moving forward to transfer the employees?

Commissioner Deitz stated that all of the authority they could give to them, he thought it was good. If it gave them an opportunity to be more creative. If there were some things they could not do legally, they just could not do. He was for working with them to work this out.

Commissioner Woody stated yes.

Commissioner Mau stated yes.

Commissioner Luker stated no.

Chairman McMahan stated yes.

Mr. Adams stated that staff would move forward with working to transfer employees to develop the appropriate contracts. They would work to address the other aspects in the future.

Informational item.

(4) ANTI-OPIOID CAMPAIGN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: Shelley Carraway, Health Director; Melissa McKnight, Assistant Health Director; and Norman West of the Jackson County Community Foundation, were present for this item.

Ms. Carraway stated that recently, the Foundation came before the Board with a proposal for a comprehensive Opioid Awareness Campaign. Afterwards, Mr. Adams requested that she meet with the Foundation to see if this would fit in with what they did. Public Health did campaigns for all sorts of issues, usually on a smaller scale, but this did fit into their purview.

On June 24th, they did meet with the Foundation to look at the project and budget. They did not want to change the campaign, but did check their sources for quotes.

(a) Overview: If the project was approved, they would partner with the Foundation to implement the following:

- Comprehensive Opioid Awareness Campaign
- Community outreach through school assemblies, community meetings and/or community forums.

(b) Opioid Awareness Campaign:

- September to be designated as Opioid Awareness Month by the Board of Commissioners
- Campaign to include the following:
 - Billboards
 - Radio ads and interview
 - Newspaper ads
 - Featured newspaper article
 - Banners
 - Magazines
- Campaign to run September through October

(c) Community Outreach:

- October would also be devoted to school assemblies, community meetings and/or community forums that focus on opioid awareness.
- Potential partners included:
 - Public Schools
 - Nonprofits (i.e. MountainWise, Mountain Projects, etc.)
 - Churches
 - WCU and The Center for Study of Free Enterprise

(d) Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>JCCF Quote</u>	<u>JCDPH Quote</u>
Intern	16 hrs/wk for 8 weeks at \$15/hr \$1,920	10 hrs/wk for 12 weeks at \$15/hr \$1,800
Banners	4 at \$150 each \$600	3 at \$68.80 plus tax \$220
Trifold Pamphlets	5,000 at \$0.20 each \$1,000	1,000 magazines at \$2.50 each \$2,500
Radio ads	160 at \$9 each \$1,440	88 at \$5.68 each \$500
Morning talk shows	no charge	N/A
PSAs	\$200	No add'l charge 2 interviews/month Sept and Oct included in \$500 package
Newspaper ads	Sylva Herald, Smoky Mountain News, Crossroads Chronicle and One Feather \$2,180	3 1/4 page color ads in Sylva Herald, Smoky Mountain News, Crossroads Chronicle and One Feather \$2,020
Billboards	3 at \$513 each \$1,540	2 electronic in Sylva at \$350 /month (Sept/Oct) 1 paper billboard on Hwy 74 at \$390/month + \$110 poster fee (Sept/Oct) \$1,590
Artwork for trifold	\$300	N/A
Total	\$9,180	\$8,630

Mr. West stated that the Community Foundation was one of the greatest unknown organizations in the county. He was good with them going with the magazine instead of the pamphlets.

(e) Responsibilities:

- JCDPH:
 - Manage funds
 - Implement Opioid Awareness Campaign
 - Hire and manage intern
 - Coordinate assemblies and/or meetings with support of JCCF and other partners
- JCCF:
 - Provide logos, artwork and other content for Opioid Awareness Campaign
 - Provide content for assemblies and/or meetings as needed
 - Organize forum through the Center for Study of Free Enterprise

Consensus: Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.

(5) **INDOOR COMMUNITY POOL SURVEY RESULTS:** Michael Hopkins, Assistant Recreation Director, presented the Indoor Pool Community Survey results:

(a) What is your age?

- Under 18: 1.26% 21
- 18-24: 5.08% 85
- 25-34 16.69% 279
- 35-44 21.83% 365
- 45-54 17.88% 299
- 55-64 16.75% 280
- 65+ 20.51% 343
- Total 1,672

- (b) Enter the number of persons in your household by appropriate age groups?**
- Under 9: 33.92% 560
 - 10-15: 25.92% 428
 - 16-25 25.62% 423
 - 26-35 26.65% 440
 - 36-50 40.04% 661
 - 51-60 23.86% 394
 - 61 & up 33.07% 546
- (c) What Zip Code do you reside in?**
- 28707 1.18% 20
 - 28783 3.79% 64
 - 28717 7.93% 134
 - 28788 2.01% 34
 - 28723 19.89% 336
 - 28789 8.17% 138
 - 28725 1.07% 18
 - 28736 3.26% 55
 - 28779 49.32% 833
 - 28741 0.89% 15
 - 28774 2.49% 42
 - Total 1,689
- (d) Do you support building an Indoor Pool?**
- Yes 93.68% 1,587
 - No 6.32% 107
 - Total 1,694
- (e) Do you support a property tax increase to construct an Indoor Pool?**
- Yes 68.07% 1,151
 - No 31.93% 540
 - Total 1,691
- (f) Are you willing to pay a membership or daily fee to operate and maintain an Indoor Pool?**
- Yes 89.81% 1,524
 - No 10.19% 173
 - Total 1,697
- (g) Would you utilize an Indoor Pool?**
- Yes 90.86% 1,540
 - No 9.14% 155
 - Total 1,695
- (h) What pool features are important to you?**
- Swim lanes 64.31% 1,045
 - Party rooms 35.26% 573
 - Diving board 28.06% 456
 - Walking ramps 50.77% 825
 - Therapy pool 51.32% 834
 - Kiddie play area 55.38% 900
 - Total 1,625

- (i) How far would you travel to utilize an Indoor Pool?
- 0-3 miles 7.23% 122
 - 4-8 miles 28.81% 486
 - 8-12 miles 33.08% 558
 - 12+ miles 26.14% 441
 - Wouldn't travel 4.74% 80
 - Total 1,684
- (j) Where would Jackson County be best served to have an Indoor Pool?
- Balsam 0.54% 9
 - Sylva 35.10% 590
 - Cashiers 14.46% 243
 - Webster 3.39% 57
 - Cullowhee 36.82% 619
 - Whittier 2.74% 46
 - Dillsboro 4.10% 69
 - Glenville 1.01% 17
 - Qualla 0.42% 7
 - Other 1.43% 24
 - Total 1,681
- (k) How would you utilize an Indoor Pool?
- Lap swim 50.92% 861
 - Therapy 39.44% 667
 - Swim lessons 32.23% 545
 - Pool parties 37.32% 631
 - Swim comp. 12.12% 205
 - Water fitness 66.71% 1,128
 - Open swim 67.42% 1,140
 - N/A 4.55% 77
 - Total 1,691
- (l) Do you own real property in Jackson County?
- Yes 82.30% 1,390
 - No 17.70% 299
 - Total 1,689
- (m) Do you own real other taxable property in?
- Yes 52.57% 889
 - No 47.43% 802
 - Total 1,691
- (n) What is your current residency status?
- Full-time 94.33% 1,598
 - No 5.67% 96
 - Total 1,694

Commissioner Woody stated that she appreciated them doing the survey because she thought it addressed two questions that she had. It had a wider spread of ages and different parts of the county than the first survey.

Chairman McMahan stated that previously, when they discussed placing this on the ballot in 2018, they had preliminary work done and put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and had a company that was potentially interested in providing numbers, which would be the next step.

Mr. Adams stated that he went ahead and contacted that firm. When putting out an RFQ, the firm was picked based on the team and the qualifications. The team had not changed, so he did not feel like they needed to go through any additional process for selection. They also stated that they would honor the proposal from two years ago.

Details of the original budget:

- \$37,900 Clarknexsen
- \$6,000 GEO work
- \$5,000 Legal
- \$4,200 Marketing
- \$5,000 Newspaper ads
- \$58,100 Total

The timeline included a five month contract with the architect from the time signed. The deadline for the Board to adopt a Bond Order was May, 2020, which would give them approximately eight months.

Chairman McMahan stated that he was in favor of it. He voted against it before and requested the survey and the data pointed to it, so he was 100% to move forward to the next step.

Mr. Adams stated that this assumed they understood the location, which was the Cullowhee site.

Commissioner Woody stated that the caveat for her to approve moving ahead was that the location would be in Cullowhee. She did not want to have to hire more people to manage this when they had a rec center with employees and a site location that would not take as much preparation as buying a new piece of land.

Commissioner Mau stated that he agreed.

Chairman McMahan stated that he agreed that the focus would have to be the Cullowhee site on this. But, he did like the idea of Sylva and he was a strong believer of recreational opportunities and he thought he had demonstrated that and the Board had demonstrated that. They had supported recreation as they felt it was important for the communities. He would not be against, some point in the future, having other recreational facilities or other rec centers in other locations. The concern he had with Cullowhee was parking. He hoped that part of the study would look at parking for options.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(6) NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE: Mr. Adams stated that the Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners would be on August 22-24 in Guilford County. He presented a Designation of Voting Delegate for the Board to consider.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(7) EMERGENCY SPACE MOU WITH SCC: Ms. Baker stated that Southwestern Community College was going through emergency management training and preparedness working with the county. They realized that if they had a critical incident where they had to vacate campus, they needed a space for the administrative team to meet and function on a temporary basis.

The MOU would allow them to meet at the Department on Aging in an emergency situation to set up a temporary office. They did make one change to the MOU that stated this would be done as soon as the Department on Aging was reasonably able to put this together.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(8) NORTH CAROLINA SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION NOMINATION PROCESS: Mr. Adams stated that the North Carolina Social Services Commission prepared a public notice for a nomination period for the two nominations for the state for the Board of Social Services. They would receive nominations until August 30th.

Informational item.

(9) HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM: Mr. Adams stated that he met with HERE the day before with Destri Leger, Bob Cochran and Marilyn Chamberlin. They had worked out the management and how they would operate, but they were still awaiting their nonprofit status. They were getting quotes for them to manage finances and proceed forward to get the board active, but needed to have the appropriate insurance in place.

They had some donations and Ms. Leger was working part-time. The goal was to transition payroll for two full-time employees on September 1st, which would be Mr. Cochran and Ms. Leger. They also needed to apply for grants. They would have a grant due at the end of July and one due in August, September and October. They had to have their 5013c status before they could apply for the grants.

The situation they were in was that they needed to apply for the grants whether they had the 5013c designation or not. What was the Board's thoughts on the county being the primary sponsor of the grants? They would still work with Ms. Chamberlin to write the grants, but if they did not have their designation, they could authorize the County Manager to go ahead and apply under the county's name to meet the grant deadline.

The county had an amount budgeted for the fiscal year for the homeless program. He requested permission to access up to \$10,000 in the next couple of months to help them get things in place, such as board liability insurance and contracts for financial services.

He was pleased with the progress they were making as far as management. He was hopeful that they could get this in place to provide appropriate financial oversight. The county may still manage some programs in-house, but personnel wise, they needed to keep all of that under their newly formed entity.

Consensus: *Grant permission to the County Manager to expend a small amount of funds for the homelessness program, as requested.*

(10) OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Mr. Adams stated that Western Carolina University was applying for additional grants for studies on the jail system, which were not going through the county, they only needed a support letter.

Consensus: *Grant permission to send a letter of support for WCU on the Commissioners' letterhead.*

(b) Commissioner Woody stated that regarding the Litter Campaign, she spoke with Allison Outdoor Advertising to put up rotating signs for free with the logo and \$200 for a poster for two months and they would provide the space free in two locations. Mr. Smith in Bear Lake would be providing funds that would go through Public Works to fund the Litter Campaign.

Informational item.

(c) Commissioner Woody stated that she spoke with Ken Brown with WATR and she felt bad that they had not funded them. Mr. Brown explained to her about the new water monitoring they were doing and they had volunteers and interns. They had increased their water monitoring and were identifying sources. She had talked with Ms. Fox about any funds and she indicated that the Clean Water Fund had a balance of \$16,842.49. She requested that they consider those funds to go to WATR to continue their efforts. They had requested \$20,000, which the county did not fund.

Ms. Fox suggested they fund WATR \$15,000.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(d) Commissioner Deitz stated that Max Holland had two lots near the John Parris cabin that he wanted to sell. He requested that someone look at the properties.

Informational item.

(e) Commissioner Deitz stated that he would be out of town on July 16th for the regular meeting. He would try to call in to the meeting.

Informational item.

(f) Chairman McMahan stated that Cathy Stillwell Gibson came before the Board and requested to reserve the Heritage Room at Aging, which required a deposit and insurance.

Mr. Adams stated that Ms. Gibson filled out the application and Eddie Wells, Aging Director, had discussed with her about the deposit, etc. The request now was for the deposits to be waived. Mr. Wells mentioned to Ms. Gibson that he could only do that with a letter from the County Manager. He could not do that because it was a policy. This would need to be a Board discussion on whether or not to waive the policy.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(g) Chairman McMahan stated that there was going to be a celebration, which was done annually, for the Americans with Disabilities Act. The anniversary was July 26th and the Board would normally read a proclamation to honor the anniversary. It had been requested that the proclamation be read on July 11th at the celebration, which would be prior to the Board ratifying the proclamation on July 16th.

Informational item.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman