

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on December 12, 2017, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Charles Elders, Vice Chair
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner
Mickey Luker, Commissioner
Ron Mau, Commissioner

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

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) HARRIS REGIONAL HOSPITAL EMS QUARTERLY REPORT: Present for discussions: Steve Heatherly, President and CEO of Harris Regional Hospital; Matthew Burrell, EMS Operations Manager; and Toby Moore, EMS Service Supervisor.

Mr. Heatherly stated that from a hospital perspective, they were about a month into being in the new emergency department. The transition into the new department had been smooth and they had seen the volume increase, which was typical. They believed that within the next two months they would be in the new birthing center. They had seen a dramatic increase in births of about 80% since all that happened in Macon County. The new birthing center would serve all of Western North Carolina. Also, they were at the time for the first “true up” and they had a check to give back to the county for over \$200,000, which was part of the new contract they entered into.

Mr. Burrell reported:

(a) Call volume January 1st to September 30th:

- 2016 total calls: 4,116
- 2017 total calls: 4,219
- 2.5% increase

(b) Calls by fire district January 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017:

- Sylva total calls: 2,558
- Cullowhee total calls: 693
- Qualla total calls: 447
- Balsam total calls: 134
- Savannah total calls: 238
- Canada total calls: 49
- OOT total calls: 100

(c) Harris EMS provided services for a number of community events and mutual aid calls.

(d) Harris EMS provided continuing education to the county fire departments within the service area. They provided a wide range of topics. Some of which included: pediatrics, trauma, opiate abuse and naloxone administration. EMS assisted some of the fire department with acquiring equipment so that they were able to obtain their Medical Responder recognition through the North Carolina Association of Rescue and EMS.

(e) Medic 6 Qualla update:

- Average 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarter response times (Qualla District only):
 - 11.13 minutes for emergent calls
 - 13.54 minutes for non-emergent calls.
- The reason that they were not meeting the ten minute average response time for emergent calls was because the unit was only operational from 1000 to 2200. They still increased response times between the hours of 2200-1000 in that area.
- There was a 9.8% increase in call volume from last year.
- There was still a large need to take the unit 24 hours.

(f) The new schedule and been an easy transition and was a good tool to recruit and retain employees.

Informational item.

(2) OPERATIONS UPDATE AND NEW FACILITY DISCUSSIONS: Present for discussions: Jeremy Stewart, Glenville-Cashiers EMS Director; Jeff Stewart, Captain Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad; and Brandi Sullivan, Chairman of Board Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad.

Mr. Stewart reported the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue/EMS progress since July, 2016:

- Added eight full-time employees for a total of 17 full-time employees.
- Changed the schedule from DuPont to a 24/72 schedule with two ALS units in house and one QRV Monday through Thursday.
- Upgrade of pay scale from \$14.50 per hour to \$16.00 per hour and max pay of \$18.00 per hour.
- Replaced 2009 Dodge ambulance with a 2017 F-450 remount.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the general idea of what they were planning to do was build a new building in the middle of town in Cashiers to cut down on response time to several areas. The call volume went up over the last several years and this would help tremendously. The building would have four bays with two ambulances and a crash truck. They had approval from the Cashiers Planning Board and were meeting all the necessary criteria.

An estimate of cost would be \$1.8 million, which allowed for an increase in price for lumber due to a shortage. He had been communicating with United Community Bank regarding what loan programs and terms they could offer. He felt they could have the building completed in 12-14 months after they began construction.

Mr. Adams inquired about what the bank would require from the county?

Mr. Sullivan stated the bank was looking for a letter from the Commissioners backing the loan. The Board had done this for other departments and they needed the Board's support to move forward.

Mr. Adams inquired if the Board was willing to support the project itself and if so, to what amount? If the Board gave a support letter, they would need to be more involved and gain a better understanding about the financing of the project.

Chairman McMahan stated that he was personally in favor of providing funding to make the payments. They had a history of helping all of the fire departments and it made sense to help fund this building as well.

Consensus: *The Board was in favor of moving forward to provide funding to make the full payment for the new proposed building. Staff to work with the Rescue Squad on the next necessary steps and work to obtain the best financing options available.*

(3) NURSE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: Present for discussions: Shelia Hoyle, Executive Director, Southwestern Child Development Commission and Vicki Lewis, Nurse Supervisor, SW Child Development Commission.

Ms. Hoyle stated that Southwestern Child Development Commission had been a non-profit agency in the county for 45 years and they had a long and strong relationship with the county and over those years they had done a multitude of good projects together. The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) was located within their facility in the old Webster school building.

Ms. Lewis stated that the NFP was an evidence based, community health program that serves low-income women pregnant with their first child. Each vulnerable new mom was partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visit. It was a life-transforming partnership, for the mom and her child. NFP helps families and the communities they live in become stronger while saving money for the state, local and federal government. The program was founded by Dr. David Olds, after extensive research in different areas of the country and was based in Denver, Colorado.

The Southwestern NFP program served Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties. The program employed four Bachelor prepared nurses, a Nursing Supervisor/Administrator and one part-time administrative assistant. Each nurse could serve a caseload of up to 25 clients and may serve young families in all of the four counties served by the program. The Nurse Home Visitors often travel over 100 miles in a single day to visit their clients. At present, they were serving 92 clients with 29 of them located in Jackson County.

Eligible clients must be first time mothers before 28 weeks in their pregnancy and must meet current Medicaid or WIC guidelines. Clients may be referred to the NFP program by any source and some choose to refer themselves. The program was voluntary and a client may withdraw at any time.

Each client was assigned to an RN to follow her throughout her pregnancy, birth of the infant and until the child was two years of age. The nurses visit their clients in the home or in a place of the client's choice. They follow a visit schedule throughout the program that meets the needs of the client. Ideally, the nurse would visit once a week for the first four weeks the client was in the program and then every two weeks until delivery. The nurse then visits weekly for the first six weeks after the mother and infant return from the hospital and then revert back to visiting every two weeks. The schedule was adapted often times to accommodate school and work needs. The visiting nurse provided education and support to the mother and to the new family. Teaching on health care for the mother and infant, child development and healthy habits was provided. Program participants were encouraged to continue or further their education as well as to seek employment. The Southwestern program currently had a graduation rate of 82.9%, while the state completion average was 57% and the national average was 53%.

They came before the Board today because their funding sources needed the counties to "buy in" to the program. They had applied for funding for the 2018 fiscal year, but funders were hesitant if there were no local dollars going into the program. If one county took the lead, the other counties would follow.

Ms. Hoyle stated that one of the questions the funders asked was did the local government support them and were they willing to put in cash money to help support the program. Their request would be to ask each of the four counties for \$25,000, which would be part of a nurse's salary in each of the counties. This would also allow them to show they had \$100,000 in local money for the program. Since Jackson was their home county, the other counties would look to Jackson County to lead the way and they felt the other counties would follow.

Mr. Adams stated there were two requests. One was for support with funding and the other was for the county to take a leadership role to help garner support regionally.

Commissioner Deitz stated he was in favor of supporting the program and taking a leadership role.

Chairman McMahan stated that as far as funding, they had secure funding through June 30, 2018. As the Board got into their budget process, this would be a conversation they could have through the budget process.

Informational item.

(4) CASHIERS SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated they may or may not see this come back before them as it was a small enough contract that Mr. Adams would be able to sign off on it. In the Comprehensive Plan, they had some recommendations for short term goals, including a small area plan for Cashiers. They released an RFP in late October and received four responses that they were currently working through. This would be an approximately six month process and the Cashiers Planning Council would act as a steering committee for the process. It would then make its way through the Planning Board and on to the Board of Commissioners.

He presented the Scope of Services Deliverables:

(a) Facilitation and preparation of a Small Area Plan for the Cashiers Planning Area.

(b) Attendance of steering committee meetings as well as Planning Board and Board of Commissioner meetings as needed.

(c) The Plan would contain the following elements:

- Analysis of current development conditions and demographics
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Utilities/Infrastructure
- Natural Resources/Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Implementation

They hoped to begin the process at the end of January to go through July. There would be a community engagement component and they believed that schedule would capture the year round residents and the seasonal residents as well.

Mr. Adams stated he highly recommended all individuals and groups in that area to participate in the process as this would be the county's plan for the future.

Informational item.

(5) MUNICIPAL GRANTS – SYLVA AND DILLSBORO: Mr. Adams stated they had received two applications for municipal grants, which both fell within the rules and regulations required:

(a) The Town of Sylva requested \$5,000 to place three additional wayfinding signs directing visitors into downtown from the commercial corridors. If awarded, the signs would be placed:

- At the intersection of NC 107 North and Jones Street.
- Immediately before the intersection of Mill Street and Grindstaff Cove Road.
- At the intersection of Municipal Drive and Allen Street.

The cost of the three signs was \$5,908.

(b) The Town of Dillsboro was beginning a three phased renovation project to the Town Hall building. In addition to housing the town offices and meeting room for the Board of Aldermen, the building was used as a meeting space for several groups in the community. The estimated cost was \$5,421.

Chairman McMahan stated that he felt the municipal grants were a great opportunity for the county to help the municipalities to work on projects that benefit not only their residents but also county residents that utilize those facilities. Also, it helped the county to continue having a good working relationship with municipal partners.

Mr. Adams stated that they budgeted \$20,000 for this program and there had been \$10,000 requested. They did have the Mainstreet Grant funds that came from the state and a portion of those funds were for sidewalks in the Cashiers area. The number was derived for the sidewalk cost was the money left over from the other projects from the municipalities. He asked permission from the Board that instead of cutting off a sidewalk that did not necessarily make sense when the Planning Department looked at sidewalks, he requested that he be able to utilize the remainder if these funds. They would come back before the Board for final approval before the sidewalk was installed.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration. Also, allow remaining funds to be used for the sidewalk project in Cashiers, as needed.*

(6) RESOLUTION FOR NATURAL PARKS SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: Nick Breedlove, Executive Director, Tourism Development Authority was present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated he had been contacted by the Pew Charitable Trust and they were leading an effort to get Congress to appropriately fund ongoing maintenance issues with the National Parks System. They were requesting support from local governments through resolution to support the National Park Service Legacy Act.

Mr. Breedlove stated he met with Mr. Miller of the Pew Charitable Trust. He came from D.C. just to tour portions of the Carolinas and garner support for this. The primary goal was to improve assets that had fallen off of the infrastructure map. Essentially, in the Great Smoky Mountain Park, if something was not funded within the first year on their capital needs list, it fell into deferred maintenance. Once it was placed in deferred maintenance, usually it did not get out. The deferred maintenance list was at \$11.3 billion at the time.

At a certain point it did impact the visitor experience and they did have the most visited National Park in the country. It supported about 21,000 jobs in the communities surrounding National Park land in North Carolina. Essentially what they were asking Congress to do was to create a dedicated funding stream from offshore drilling revenues, which at that time, those revenues were unallocated. The request would be for \$50 million the first three years, then increase to \$150 million the next three and gradually increasing to \$500 million after that to meet the \$11.3 billion in deferred maintenance. Specifically speaking of North Carolina, a preliminary study showed this would create approximately 4,200 jobs in the communities surrounding the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains Park by funding the deferred maintenance.

Mr. Adams stated that the request would be a proposed Jackson County Resolution encouraging Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance and needs in the National Parks system.

Mr. Breedlove stated that the TDA and The Town Webster both passed a resolution and the Town of Sylva had it on their agenda for consideration. Most of the towns and counties that Mr. Miller visited had passed a resolution and he did indicate that Senator Burr and Congressman Meadows seemed supportive although they had not signed on as a cosponsor yet. Also, on a national level, the Administration was supportive of finding a revenue stream for deferred maintenance.

Commissioner Deitz stated it would be hard to believe they would pay attention to this as they were cutting back on some of the parks and monuments, but this was very important.

Chairman McMahan stated that the topic of offshore drilling had not always gained a lot of support from some states. Had there been any boards or commissions not approve this because of offshore drilling.

Mr. Breedlove stated he was not aware of any.

Mr. Adams stated that he thought it was important to mention that the proposed resolution urges Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System and to ensure that federal infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance. So the proposed resolution did not go directly to the offshore drilling proposal.

Chairman McMahan stated that for him personally, he thought it would be much easier to support if it did not speak to offshore drilling.

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

(7) NO WAKE ZONE REQUEST DENIAL AND POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS: Mr. Adams presented:

(a) Officer Wilkins rendered a decision for the denial:

“It is his recommendation to deny the request for a no wake zone in the proposed area. At the current low water mark and very light traffic, there is no safety concern. I have observed the general area with more congestion at peak traffic density during weekends and holidays. However, with the proposed area being larger than similar areas on the lake with relatively the same traffic, I do not feel it is necessary to limit motorboat operations to no wake speed.

Manual powered vessels and swimmers should proceed in this area with due regard to safety of themselves and others just as a motor vessel should during peak traffic times. While this area is popular for swimming along the shoreline of the islands from beached vessels, it would never be recommended to swim the open water between the islands and the main shoreline. I feel that adding a no wake zone would only encourage this activity with a perception of safety that would not necessarily exist. It is also my understanding that the islands are owned by Duke Energy. The creation of a no wake zone may also create more traffic for this area and a perception that the beaches on the island are public areas.”

(b) The property owners, Margaret McRae and Joyce Waterbury sent a letter addressed to Chairman McMahan:

“We ask that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners formally apply to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to establish a No Wake Zone on Glenville Lake for the area designated. As noted in our letter to this Board on July 20, 2017, the safety of this area has been negatively impacted by the significant increase in boat traffic in the past three years, which has arisen due to the public enhancements made to the Powerhouse Boating Access Area, the Pine Creek Boating Access Area and the Pines Recreation Area.

We understand that a NCWRC officer preliminarily recommended not to establish a No Wake Zone. That recommendation, however, is flawed. Additionally, the NCWRC No Wake Zone Coordinator emphatically noted in her correspondence with Jackson County Manager’s office that despite the officer’s preliminary recommendation, however, the final decision whether to approve rests with the Wildlife Resources Commission in an official meeting. The County Manager’s office has also already received confirmation from NCWRC that there will be the opportunity to provide written and verbal information to the NCRWC and to make a presentation to the NCWRC at its meeting.

When the county’s formal application is made, the NCWRC has said that they will need to know how the initial installation will be funded. Based upon an approximation of the cost of the buoys (\$250 each) provided by the NCWRC, we estimate the installation cost would be less than \$3,000. Because of our concern for safety of this area, we are offering to pay for half of the cost of the installation up to \$1,500.”

(c) Glenville Lake No Wake Zone request response to the preliminary recommendation by Officer Wilkins:

- In his opinion, there were similar areas on the lake with relatively the same traffic. It was not possible to verify the accuracy of this, since the officer did not provide any specifics.
- Officer Wilkins suggests that swimmers and manual powered vessels were sufficiently safe by proceeding with normal due regard for personal safety. Ideally, this would be true. However, it was precisely because motorboats were not currently proceeding with due regard to safety for themselves and others that this petition was being made.
- The officer feels that adding a No Wake Zone would encourage swimmers between the island and mainland. It was not logical to contend that the county or state should not make an area safer because then people might believe it to be so. They strongly disagree with the idea that an area should not be made safer because it might not be 100% safe.
- The officer felt that by establishing a No Wake Zone might create more traffic by the perception that the island beaches were public areas. That ignores the fact that the islands were open and used by the public and that the shores of the island were already frequently full. Although the islands were private property, Duke Energy makes them open during the day to the public. On the company’s “Island Use Guidelines” website, they state “Duke Energy welcomes and encourages the public to use the lakes for recreational purposes”. For practical purposes, these are not private islands.

Mr. Adams stated that the residents were requesting that the Board of Commissioners to apply directly to the NCWRC for this No Wake Zone.

Commissioner Luker stated that he did not think Officer Wilkins’ remarks were flawed, but he respectfully disagreed with him. He agreed with the homeowners that, no doubt, it was a hazard.

Mr. Adams stated the final decision whether to approve the No Wake Zone rested with the NCWRC in an official meeting. If the Commissioners decided to apply for a final decision by the NCWRC, they must:

- Advertise and hold a public hearing to gauge the public's interest in a No Wake Zone.
- Submit a certified resolution asking NCWRC to proceed
- Submit D-1 application form and map.
- Memo stating whether the county or an individual will be responsible for the purchase and placement of the No Wake Zone markers. If a government unit incurred the expense, they were required to submit a fiscal note to review by the Office of State Budget and Management.
- No Wake Zone chain and anchor cost approximately \$300
- Ms. Waterbury was willing to split the cost with the county, she could not speak for the neighbors.

Mr. Adams stated that the NCWRC meeting was scheduled for February 22nd. If the Commissioners wished to proceed with an application, it could be placed on NCWRC's agenda for February 22nd. The agenda would be finalized the week of February 5th. The Commissioners would need to schedule a public hearing in January to proceed forward to be heard at the February 22nd meeting. The residents would be willing to attend the February 22nd meeting in Raleigh and speak in support of the No Wake Zone.

Chairman McMahan stated that the preliminary answer from Officer Wilkins was "no" and he did not feel a No Wake Zone was warranted. If the Board disagreed with the decision and appealed, NCWRC would review the information and determine a final decision.

Ms. Baker stated they would need to check to see if there was a special notice requirement for the public hearing, such as a 30 day notice as opposed to a 10 day notice.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda to consider calling for a public hearing in January.*

(8) SPEED LIMIT STUDY OLD CULLOWHEE ROAD: Mr. Adams stated that the Board requested that he make a request to NCDOT to lower the speed limit to 45 MPH on a portion of Old Cullowhee road. He received a response that they did not recommend lowering the speed limit at that time because it would not be effective or warranted, however, they did identify two curves that needed additional curve warning treatments. It would take four weeks for the work to install the warning signs on the curves. Also, the traffic count study they provided could be shared with law enforcement.

NCDOT could recommend a change in speed limit within 5 MPH of the 85th percentile when it was determined that the density necessitates a reduction. Their 24 hour traffic speed study performed on October 2nd showed that the annual average daily traffic count was 652 vehicles using Old Cullowhee Road with the 85th percentile speed of 53.33 MPH. The speed study showed that the average speed for all classified vehicles was 42 MPH with 24.57%, exceeding the posted speed of 45 MPH.

They did point out that they recently reduced the limit to 35 MPH from Tuck's restaurant to Dick's Gap Bridge. There did appear to be a speeding problem and they could share the speed study information with the NC Highway Patrol.

Informational item.

(9) PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING FORUM: Mr. Adams stated that Dr. Kim Elliott, Interim Superintendent for Jackson County Public Schools, requested a joint meeting with the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners for a public education forum. The forum would consist of going through an educational process on how the schools were funded and break down all of the schools' funding sources.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda to consider calling for a joint meeting with the Board of Education in January.*

(10) POOL ARCHITECT: Present for discussions: Rusty Ellis, Recreation and Parks Director and Michael Hopkins, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Adams stated that the Board gave charge to select an architect for the referendum. On October 2nd, the county sent out an RFQ for qualified architectural firms for the planning and design of an indoor competition short course pool and a therapeutic pool facility. Three Statements of Qualifications were received from Cope Architecture, McMillan/Pazdan/Smith and ClarkNexsen. The review committee was comprised of Ms. Baker, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Adams. The committee met on November 1st to review the SOQs and decided to conduct research prior to making a recommendation. The committee met again on November 7th but could not come to a conclusion on a recommendation. The committee decided to conduct additional research and to interview two firms. The interviews were conducted on November 30th. After the interviews, the committee decided to recommend ClarkNexsen as the selected firm.

In accordance with North Carolina law, he began negotiating the contract for services during the week of December 4th. The proposed contract with ClarkNexsen was in the amount of \$37,900, which represented the base architectural costs that did not include all costs associated with the process. The following provided potential additional costs associated with this portion of the project:

- \$37,900 Base Architectural fee (actual)
- \$6,000 Geotechnical engineering and surveying (estimate)
- \$5,000 Legal (actual)
- \$4,200 Marketing/educational video rendering (actual)
- \$5,000 Marketing/educational program (estimate for newspaper ads, printed materials)
- \$58,100 Total potential budget if all elements were chosen

Commissioner Deitz stated that before the citizens of the county would have a chance to vote on this issue, they could potentially have \$58,000 in the project already. He assumed it was cut and dry that this would be at Cullowhee.

Commissioner Mau stated that was what was proposed.

Commissioner Elders inquired if any other location had been considered besides Cullowhee?

Mr. Ellis stated they talked about it at the last work session that it made sense to have it in Cullowhee as the infrastructure and support staff were already there. Nothing else had been considered as they would have to purchase land and look at water and sewer.

Chairman McMahan stated that the base architectural fee was for a building that could probably be built anywhere.

Mr. Adams stated that the proposal was specific to the Cullowhee location and that was based on the previous conversation of the Board. He could not say that the \$37,900 would be applicable to another site.

Chairman McMahan stated that they may have to shift a few things, but at the end of the day, it could be built on another piece of property somewhere else, it may cost a little more or cost a little less, but ultimately they were getting a ballpark figure.

Mr. Adams stated that the pool could be considered anywhere, but when they start talking about operational cost and pulling together a study for building it out and putting an operation cost behind it - it was important if it was attaching to the existing building or not because then they would be sharing administrative cost and staff.

Commissioner Deitz stated would it be best to put it in Cullowhee based on administration or were they putting it somewhere that it would be best for the people in the county. If they were going to build a pool that seemed to be what should be more important.

Mr. Ellis stated that Cullowhee was the center of the county.

Commissioner Mau stated that as they had discussed in a work session, Cullowhee was consistent with the master plan.

Commissioner Deitz stated citizens were concerned about the location.

Chairman McMahan stated that was the number one complaint he got was that they had a Cashiers Recreation Center and a Cullowhee Recreation Center and then they talk about what did Northern Jackson citizens have.

Commissioner Elders stated he heard the same complaints from citizens that did not believe they ever got anything.

Mr. Adams stated that from his standpoint, the debate about the location was extremely important. If the task was to determine the most appropriate location, this was not the method to go about that. If that was where the Board was, they had to stop this process as it was predicated upon understanding the location. If they did not know the location or that was up for discussion, then there had to be a process to determine that and he could not say that it could be done in time for a referendum discussion. He thought it would be a waste of money to go through with this contract with the idea that they would move the facility. He would not recommend this contract if the location would change.

Commissioner Elders stated that he was not objecting to the location, he was objecting to why they did not ever consider the northern end of the county. What was wrong with Barkers Creek, Scotts Creek or Qualla.

Chairman McMahan stated that everyone he talked to was in favor of a pool he did not think that was debatable, the question was why it had to be in Cullowhee.

Commissioner Luker stated that Cullowhee was not his district, but based on the recreational management plan and what made the best sense by being centrally located in the county and operational costs, then he would lean on county staff's recommendation on where they suggest.

Commissioner Mau stated he had people from all over the county not complain about the location, they just did not want to drive to Waynesville anymore. If they drove to Waynesville, they ended up eating out. He would just as soon keep that money in Jackson County.

Chairman McMahan stated he thought the safe thing to do was to go ahead and put it on the agenda for Monday with the understanding that if they voted in favor of this, they were voting in favor of it going to Cullowhee.

Commissioner Mau stated the vote would be in favor for the architect to move ahead with the preliminary design process for it to be at Cullowhee and then it would go on the ballot.

Mr. Ellis stated that the only reason they were requesting for it to be in Cullowhee was because it made sense. He agreed with Commissioner Elders that there needed to be recreational components in other areas of the county.

Commissioner Luker stated that he did agree that Balsam, Savannah and Qualla were past due for some type of recreational opportunity. He did not know that the pool was the answer, but he definitely thought it was needed.

Chairman McMahan stated that he understood that the concept made it easier because of the rec center was designed so that it could possibly accommodate a pool. If the goal was to try and get this on the ballot next year, that was the only viable option. But he thought they were rushing into it. He believed there were opportunities to partner with the hospital and the medical community. He thought there were other opportunities that they should take time to explore and other areas to explore, but a rush to judgment to get this on the ballot was not helping them.

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

(11) COMMISSIONER GOALS: Mr. Adams provided an update on the Commissioner Goals:

(a) Complete:

- Performance evaluation for the County Manager.
- Referendum or resolution on when to put sales tax issues on a ballot.

(b) Ongoing:

- Administration and departmental goals.
- Land Use Plan - follow up with the plan and support departments.

(c) In Progress:

- Off-site meetings in different communities from time to time.
 - Tuckasegee VFW Post Meeting September 18, 2017.
 - Will schedule a public hearing on “Brunch Bill” in spring, 2018.
- Re-focus on the “one-stop” issue - create and develop a plan to cross-train and where to house everyone.
 - Contract was signed with McMillan/Pazdan/Smith Architecture for updating the Health Department programming to include Code Enforcement and Planning.
- Indoor pool at the Cullowhee Recreation Center - bond referendum for the public to decide.
 - Architect recommendation on December 12, 2017.
- Capital projects and where they would be located.
- Combining social services and the health department:
 - Board of Commissioners’ Meeting on November 16, 2017.
 - Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2018.
- Affordable housing.
 - Initial planning meeting held on December 11, 2017.

Informational item.

(12) COUNTY INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS: Commissioner Luker stated that local elderly had expressed frustration with finding phone numbers for county offices. He requested that they put an ad in the newspaper giving a list of numbers and departments that citizens could clip out for reference. Many of them do not have internet and it was very difficult to find the numbers.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he thought there was a number that someone could call that would direct people to the correct place for help with whatever it may be.

Mr. Adams stated he thought there was also a website and he would research the issue.

Informational item.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman