

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Letter of Resolution – NC Forest Service County Ranger

PRESENTER: Steve Wyatt

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Letter of Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On December 14, 2012, the NC Forest Service's Henderson County Ranger resigned to accept another job position. Since that time, the County has been without a county ranger. Due to the wide array of services provided by the Ranger, which are vital to the residents of Henderson County, the Board is requested to approve the attached letter requesting that the filling of this position be expedited and moved to the top of the priority list.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to authorize the attached letter of resolution in regard to hiring a N.C. Forest Service Ranger position for Henderson County.

Suggested Motion(s):

I move the Board authorize the attached letter of resolution in regard to hiring a N.C. Forest Service Ranger position for Henderson County.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 1, 2013

NC Division of Forest Resources
Attn: Greg Smith, D-1 District Forester
220 Sardis Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Dear Sir,

This letter of resolution is in regard to the hiring of a N.C. Forest Service County Ranger position for Henderson County. On December 14, 2012, our county ranger at the time, Michael Byrd, resigned to accept another job position. Since that time, we have been without a county ranger.

As you know, the Henderson County Ranger provides a wide array of services vital to the residents of Henderson County. One of the most important, which is of utmost concern to us, is the suppression and prevention of wildfire. The urban interface wildfire issues in Henderson County are very unique and much more critical than those in most N.C. counties, due primarily to our large number of high value homes being built in forested areas with limited access.

All of our fire departments in Henderson County do a great job of protecting their respective communities and all twelve have an excellent working relationship with the N.C. Forest Service. However, their number one priority is not wildfire suppression, but the protection of structures threatened by these fires. As manpower and resources will allow, they do assist the forest service with suppression activities as well, as is the case in most N.C. counties. The command structure for any wildfire in Henderson County involves a joint unified command system consisting of the local fire department and the N.C. Forest Service.

The Henderson County Ranger position is a critical component of these wildfire incidents in our county and is of utmost importance to a successful protection and suppression operation. We request that the filling of this position be expedited and moved to the top of the priority list in light of the above mentioned issues. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Charlie Messer, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners