

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville, NC.

Those present were: Commissioner Mike Edney, Chairman Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Charlie Messer, Vice-Chairman William Lapsley, County Manager Steve Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, Attorney Russ Burrell and Clerk to the Board Teresa Wilson.

Also present via the community room were: Director of Business and Community Development John Mitchell, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Construction Manager David Berry, Public Health Director Steve Smith, IT Director Mark Seelenbacher, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, DSS Director Jerrie McFalls, Public Health Interim Communications Manager Jodi Grabowski, PIO Kathy Finotti (AV Room) – videotaping, Deputies Mike Marsteller and Jeffrey Corn as security.

### **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

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

### **INVOCATION**

The invocation was provided by County Manager Steve Wyatt.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Chairman Grady Hawkins.

### **INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Letter submitted via email - My name is Lauren Wilkie and I am graduating from East Henderson High School this year. I have spent my entire school life in Henderson County Public Schools, and this school system is extremely important to me. One of the constants in my life was always school—whether it was East Henderson High, Flat Rock Middle, or Dana Elementary, it was a stable part of my life and I loved it from the very beginning. As a child, and now an adult, I always loved school—and I loved doing well in school. From a young age, putting effort into my education was my coping mechanism for managing everything that went on in my home life, and I always knew that I was working towards a finish line: "graduation." Like many other students, I was looking forward to enjoying my senior year. Most importantly, I was looking forward to graduation, to the Top Scholars luncheon, to my senior night, to my final season of competitive dance, and to many other memories. However, that optimism was shattered when my grandfather passed away the August before I started my senior year. My grandfather, who I called Pops, and I were extremely close. His death took a toll on me in an unimaginable way. My senior year was very difficult to get through; there were many times I wanted to stop, but I remembered the end goal of being able to walk across the stage in June. Unfortunately, the goal I had been working toward for thirteen years has suddenly been ripped from my hands by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that is just my story. In comparison to my peers, I would consider myself lucky. I have classmates who have dealt with the death of a parent. I have classmates who became parents. I have classmates who suffered through addiction. I have classmates who experienced homelessness. I have classmates who have been abused—whether it was sexually, verbally, mentally, or physically. I have classmates who have lived through poverty. I have classmates who have suffered from mental health conditions, and I have classmates who even attempted to take their own life. But we are all here today, and my fellow classmates and I did not allow adversity to stand in our way. For all students, walking across the stage marks a significant accomplishment, and is a moment that they will remember for the rest of their life. For some, graduating from high school may be one of the biggest accomplishments they hold. For some, it may be more than a high school diploma; it may be a

DATE APPROVED:

defeat of a personal obstacle that could have easily overtaken them. Each student has faced their own personal hardships throughout their life, and was able to overcome them knowing that there was an end in sight and a moment to be celebrated for everything they have worked for. Each found the strength to keep going when they were on the verge of giving up. I am reaching out to you, Henderson County, to reconsider graduation plans for the Class of 2020. For all students, this change of plans is understating their accomplishments that they have arrived to achieve for thirteen years, and to many, it feels that no one seems to care and that the county is failing to take into consideration that students do need recognition, because the recognition they deserve goes beyond a simple diploma. While I understand we cannot hold a formal graduation ceremony until the COVID-19 orders are lifted, the class of 2020 would prefer that Henderson County consider holding a postponed ceremony rather than forgoing graduation altogether. The North Carolina School of Science and Math, as well as several UNC System universities, have postponed their commencement ceremonies rather than canceling them; for example, UNC Asheville is holding a full commencement ceremony this August to honor their Spring 2020 graduates. If true “traditional” graduation cannot be held, we would rather adjust traditional graduation than have it taken away. Some ideal alternatives could be to limit the number of guests for each graduate. Rather than each graduate having ten guests, each graduate may only be permitted to have two guests. Another alternative, although not ideal, would be to have each high school divide their graduating class into groups and have smaller ceremonies. My fellow classmates and I have worked immensely hard in our public-school career. To not be honored with a formal graduation ceremony feels as if our accomplishments from the past thirteen years have no value. High school graduation is a huge milestone in every student’s life, and just like previous and future graduating classes, the Class of 2020 deserves nothing less.

*It was the consensus of the Board to share the letter with the Board of Education along with their concern and agreement.*

**Discussion/Adjustment of Consent Agenda**

*Chairman Hawkins made the motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

**Minutes**

Draft minutes were presented for board review and approval of the following meeting(s):

April 15, 2020 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

*I move the Board approves the minutes of April 15, 2020.*

**Tax Collector’s Report**

Collections Specialist Luke Small had presented the Tax Collector’s Report to the Commissioners dated April 24, 2020 for information only. No action was required.

**2020.38 Pending Releases and Refunds**

The pending releases and refunds have been reviewed by the Assessor. As a result of that review, it is the opinion of the Assessor that these findings are in order. Supporting documentation is on file in the County Assessor’s Office.

These pending release and refund requests are submitted for the approval by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners.

| <u>Type:</u>                                    | <u>Amount:</u> |
|---|----------------|
| Total Taxes Released from the Charge            | \$ 744.63      |
| Total Refunds as a Result of the Above Releases | \$ 740.53      |

Motion:

*I move the Board approves the Combined Release/Refund Report as presented.*

**County Financial Report/Cash Balance Report**

The March 2020 County Financial and Cash Balance Reports were provided for the Board’s review and approval.

The following are explanations for departments/programs with higher budget to actual percentages for the month of March:

- Heritage Museum – timing of distribution monthly appropriation
- Agri-Business – excess operating expenditures to be covered by membership fees
- Medical Services – Autopsies – higher than average billing for the year.
- Mental Health – payment of 4th quarter Board approved maintenance of effort (MOE)
- Juvenile Justice Programs – timing of disbursements to programs.
- Public Education – payment 9 of 10 of annual appropriation made to the public school system

The project to date deficit in the Hendersonville High School Project (2019) is due to the payment of architect fees and general construction for the project in the Capital Projects Fund, to be reimbursed from a future financing.

Year to Date Net Revenues over expenditures for the Solid Waste Landfill Fund is due to Board approved capital outlay and maintenance and repair of equipment.

Year to Date Net Revenues over expenditures for the Cane Creek Water and Sewer District Fund is due to expenditures related to the Mud Creek Interceptor Project.

Motion:

*I move that the Board of Commissioners approves the March 2020 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.*

**FY2021 Consolidated Agreement – NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)**

The Henderson County Department of Public Health is requesting approval of the master Consolidated Agreement with the NC Department of Health & Human Services for FY 2021. This agreement is presented to the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis and has historically been signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or the County Manager (as County Official), County Finance Officer and Health Director. There are no significant changes with the agreement requirements as compared to the FY 2020 Consolidated Agreement. The Changes Overview document summarizes the changes for FY 2021.

The Henderson County Board of Health reviewed and approved the document at their March 11, 2020 meeting with guidance to forward the agreement to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration and final approval. The document has also been shared with the County Finance Director.

Motion:

*I move the Board approves the FY 2021 Consolidated Agreement between the NC Department of Health & Human Services and the Henderson County Department of Public Health.*

**Lease Extension with Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development**

Proposed is an extension of the existing lease with the Partnership for Economic Development. It is in accord with the terms of the lease entered in 2010, extended in 2014, which would otherwise expire June 30. It covers all of the space in the current facility, located at 330 North King Street.

Motion:

*I move that the Board agrees to the lease extension proposed with Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, and authorizes the chair and staff to execute the same.*

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council County Plan FY 2020-2021**

The Henderson County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has approved funding for local juvenile crime prevention programs. These funds for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$266,020 are available for this purpose through the State of North Carolina. Each Program is required to provide a 30% match.

The programs approved by the J.C.P.C. are as follows:

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. J.C. P.C. Administrative Expenses | \$5,400   |
| 2. Blue Ridge Literacy Council       | \$25,000  |
| 3. Kids at Work                      | \$80,421  |
| 4. Youth Mediation                   | \$30,000  |
| 5. Hendersonville Boys & Girls Club  | \$39,600  |
| 6. Aspire Vocational Direction       | \$55,599  |
| 7. Trinity Place Temporary Shelter   | \$30,000  |
| Total                                | \$266,020 |

These Grant applications have been recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners by Henderson County JCPC.

The Henderson County JCPC has approved the 2020-2021 County Plan for Henderson County. This County Plan has been recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners by the JCPC.

Motion:

*I move that the Board approves the JCPC recommendations for both the FY 2020-2021 Annual Plan, and the distribution of the FY 2020-2021 Juvenile Crime Prevention Program funds.*

**Energy Management Update**

A report was provided giving the Board information about the County’s energy management use in the areas of electricity, natural gas, fuel and water for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

**Approval for various Boards and Committees of County government to hold remote meetings**

Given the continuing limits (as of the date of this meeting) on public gatherings, and the public’s and staff’s desire to move forward with various business, you are requested to allow boards and committees required of county governments and/or established by the Board of Commissioners to meet using the electronic meeting rules adopted by this Board for the duration of the current emergency.

Motion:

*I move the Board allows electronic and remote meetings by the boards and committees required of county governments in North Carolina, and the boards and committees established by this Board, during the duration of the current emergency.*

**2020.39 Budget Amendment – Asset Forfeiture Funds**

The Sheriff’s Department is requesting that the Board approve the BA to use excess funds in the amount of \$730.00 that were previously approved to purchase iPads from the NC DOR (114431-451006) and an additional \$200.00 to purchase a document scanner, Fujitsu FI-7160 for the Sheriff’s Administrative Assistant.

Motion:

*I move the Board of Commissioners approves the Budget Amendment to appropriate funding necessary to purchase this equipment.*

**2020.40 Public Transit – Budget Amendment**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires transit agencies to replace their buses at the end of their

useful life. Currently, the County has a fleet of six dedicated CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) buses which have exceeded their useful life and are due for replacement.

The Board of Commissioners at their April 1, 2019 meeting instructed staff to begin the process of procuring replacement CNG buses. Through working with NCDOT, staff found the requested type of bus on the NCDOT Public Transit Division state contract. Staff also received confirmation of their request for federal funds that will reimburse 60% of the total purchase cost. Staff is continuing to explore funding sources to reduce the County's overall costs.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, manufacturing delays are certain. Staff requests that the Board approve the FY 2020 Public Transit budget amendment so staff may order the buses in this fiscal year even though the buses will be delivered and invoiced in FY 2021. The expected manufacturing process and delivery timeframe is one year.

Motion:

*I move that the Board approves the Public Transit budget amendments for FY 2020.*

### **DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

*Commissioner Messer made the motion to adopt the discussion agenda with the addition of an update from Representative Jake Johnson. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

### **REPRESENTATIVE JAKE JOHNSON UPDATE**



From the Office of  
Representative Jake Johnson

Polk, Southern Henderson & Transylvania Counties

For Immediate Release: May 4, 2020

Contact: [Jake.Johnson@ncleg.net](mailto:Jake.Johnson@ncleg.net)

## **Pandemic Response Act Unanimously Passes House and Senate** *Local Representative Cosponsors This Historic Legislation*

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Saturday afternoon, after a long week of debate and multiple rounds of negotiations, Representative Jake Johnson, whose district includes Polk, Henderson, and Transylvania counties, joined his colleagues in unanimously approving two COVID-19 response packages. They included over \$1.5 billion in much-needed relief for families, students, workers, businesses, and hospitals to help deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Johnson, who cosponsored the house version of this legislation, said he was very happy to see the collaboration between both chambers and both parties result in a bill that will benefit so many North Carolinians during this difficult time.

The Pandemic Response Act (HB 1043) provides funding for North Carolina's medical providers,

education communities, and broadband connectivity. The COVID-19 Recovery Act (SB 704) provides tax relief, streamlines unemployment access, and makes policy reforms in education, healthcare, and government operations to assist North Carolinians through the pandemic and economic shutdown.

The package is a significant investment that lays the groundwork for moving the state forward and responding to the economic and human impacts of this pandemic. The commitment goes above and beyond previous requests and includes funding for testing, tracing, immediate recovery needs, and increasing access to broadband and electronic devices to access remote learning opportunities.

The bill also addresses both immediate needs, like purchasing personal protective equipment and expanding digital infrastructure needs, and long-term research and development to fight the virus. It supports testing for uninsured patients, rural and under-served communities, and behavioral health services.

“This is a monumental bill that will help countless North Carolinians as they are attempting to get their lives back to normal. I was extremely proud to cosponsor and be a part of putting this legislation together. With that being said, as elected leaders we must continue urging the Governor to do all he can to get the state back open for those areas and sectors who are able to conduct business in a safe and responsible way. There are ways to safely get people back to their normal lives while still protecting vulnerable populations and abiding by basic common-sense guidelines.”

**- Rep. Jake Johnson, Cosponsor of HB1043 Pandemic Response Act**

#### **Funding in Relief Package Includes:**

##### **Small Business**

\$125 million for small business loans

##### **K-12 Education**

\$75 million for school nutrition

\$70 million for summer learning programs

\$11 million to improve K-12 internet connectivity

\$30 million to K-12 schools for computers and other electronic devices

\$10 million for mental health and other student health services

\$5 million for computers and other devices for school personnel

\$4.5 million for cybersecurity at schools

\$3 million for non-digital instruction for students with limited internet access

\$1 million to improve internet access by installing WiFi routers in school buses

##### **Higher Education**

\$25 million for community colleges

\$44 million for UNC System schools

\$20 million for private colleges

##### **COVID-19 Supplies and Support**

\$50 million to enhance Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

\$25 million to expand testing and contact tracing

\$25 million for financial support for assisted living facilities

\$20 million for enhanced public health capacity

\$20 million for behavioral health

**Rural Broadband**

\$9 million to help expand rural broadband

**Social Services**

\$19 million for foster and childcare  
\$6 million for food banks  
\$5 million for community health centers  
\$5 million for free and charitable clinics  
\$1.5 million for prescriptions for uninsured

**COVID-19 Research**

\$29 million to UNC School of Public Health/NC Collaboratory  
\$20 million to Wake Forest University to expand the antibody study  
\$15 million to Duke University Human Vaccine Institute  
\$15 million to ECU Brody School of Medicine  
\$6 million to Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine

**Hospitals**

\$65 million to rural hospitals  
\$15 million for North Carolina teaching hospitals  
\$15 million for a general hospital relief fund

**State and Local Government**

\$300 million for local government coronavirus relief reserve  
\$50 million for rural and under served communities  
\$100 million for counties  
\$85 million for state government operations  
\$300 million for transportation operations  
\$5 million for tourism industry support

*"This recovery and relief bill is the product of bipartisan collaboration to help North Carolinians return to their daily lives. Our citizens have stepped up to support each other during this unprecedented time, and now we must look ahead to getting everyone healthy and back to work safely." said Sens. Berger, Blue, Speaker Moore, and Minority Leader Jackson in a joint statement regarding passage of the bill.*

- Unemployment is normally under 3000 individuals per week, and at this time is averaging 500,000 per week.
- There will be generic guidelines for spending.
- Another round of Federally allocated money is anticipated.
- Some of the County's money, which is calculated on a per capita basis, may go toward municipalities.
- A timeframe for Broadband is hard to calculate since there is no system for implementing it at this time. Counties need some say in the process and Mr. Johnson feels it will eventually be similar to a utility. Counties may take it on as a capital project or enterprise.
- The funds should be available really fast to Golden Leaf.

Commissioner Edney is concerned about hospitals like Pardee that are not considered rural, but still a small

hospital. His second concern is a loss of sales tax. Twenty-five million dollars of revenue in Henderson county is from sales tax, and our County will have to make cuts within the budget.

Chairman Hawkins stated the big buck stores like Walmart, Lowes and Home Depot have been allowed to remain open while the small businesses have been shut down. He feels this is backwards and was not approached correctly. Most smaller stores probably don't have more than 10 people in them at any given time while the larger stores are packed with people daily.

Steve Wyatt explained that Budget Manager Megan Powell is tracking and keeping records of all COVID 19 costs to Henderson County. Laurel Park and the City of Hendersonville will also have expenditures, and will apply to Henderson County for reimbursement. All reimbursement must meet the Department of Treasury's guidelines.

### **NOMINATIONS**

Chairman Hawkins opened the floor for nominations.

**1. Asheville Regional Housing Consortium – 1 vac.**

There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

**2. Historic Resources Commission – 1 vac.**

There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

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

There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

**4. Hospital Corporation Board of Directors – 2 vac.**

Commissioner Messer nominated Tommy Thompson for position #2 and Commissioner Edney for position #13. *Chairman Hawkins made the motion to accept the reappointments of Tommy Thompson to position #2 and Commissioner Edney to position #13 by acclamation. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

**5. Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Program – 1 vac.**

There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

**6. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 9 vac.**

There were no nominations at this time and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

### **UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION OF CANE CREEK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT WITH MUNICIPAL SEWERAGE DISTRICT OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

Russ Burrell shared the following information in order to update the Board on the consolidation of the Cane Creek Water and Sewer District (CCWDS) with the Municipal Sewage District of Buncombe (MSD):

1. Session Law 2019-127: NC law requiring the merger of the two Districts passed last year.
2. Henderson County Resolution: On August 5, 2019 the Board passed a resolution in support of the consolidation.
3. MSD Letter to NC Environmental Management Commission (EMC): On October 16, 2019, the MSD Board sent a letter to the EMC requesting their consideration of the consolidation.
4. EMC Meeting: On November 13, 2019, the EMC met to recommend continuing with the required public hearing for the consolidation.
5. Public Hearings: On March 27, 2020 a public hearing on the consolidation was held at West Henderson High School. Another public hearing was held via teleconference on April 27, 2020.

The pending items for the consolidation process are as follows:



1. EMC Meeting: On May 7, 2020 at 9:00am, the EMC will consider approval of the consolidation.
2. The two District's attorneys are developing a merger agreement for both Boards to approve.
3. The Board will need to appoint two members to the consolidated MSD Board.
4. The CCWSD's debt, assets, and permit to operate will transfer on the proposed effective date of July 1, 2020
5. Current CCWSD staff will be available after the consolidation to support MSD.

Mr. Burrell stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing was held last week. It opened and Marcus Jones provided an overview, followed by 28 minutes of waiting with no public comment. The public hearing was closed. A full report will be filed with the DEQ this week. The Hearing Officer strongly supports the merger. There is no reason to believe there will be opposition.

### **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT – BRCC**

John Mitchell stated at the August 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board approved a proposal for Clark Nexsen to design a new classroom building to be located on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College and renovate the existing Patton building. The construction budget for the proposed project is \$20,110,400.

Additionally, \$1,000,000 was allocated for a Police Officers Physical Abilities Test facility to be built as part of the project. Vannoy Construction was approved as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Project at the December meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Vannoy Construction is proposing a fee of .06%, totaling \$126,600, for Pre-Construction Services for the project. This proposal is within the approved budget and timeline. A letter outlining their proposal was provided for the Board's approval.

*Chairman Hawkins made the motion that the Board approves the Pre-Construction Services Proposal for the Blue Ridge Community College project. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Staff provided the Board with the most current information pertaining to COVID-19 in Henderson County.

Chairman Hawkins stated the questions are repetitive at this point, and the information is on the Public Health Dashboard on-line. He feels we no longer need to take questions.

County Manager Steve Wyatt stated staff will continue to review any questions submitted.

Public Health Director Steve Smith and Emergency Management Director Jimmy Brissie answered the following questions received through the County website.

#### **Topic #1 – Recovery Rates:**

1. How many people have recovered from Covid in Henderson County?

Steve Smith - There have been 33 cases in the general population with 18 recovered.

#### **Topic #2 – Testing:**

2. Would you please address why there is such a lack of available cv-19 testing being done in Henderson County?

Steve Smith - Diagnostic testing is increasing, mostly at the long-term care facilities. If a healthcare provider

or physician refers someone for testing, they will be tested. The turnaround time is 1-2 days now that there are twelve laboratories involved.

3. What, specifically, does your organization need to increase testing availability?

Steve Smith – Laboratories are better now. They supply for specialty swabs and vials are in national shortage.

4. When are you expecting more tests to be available in the county?

Steve Smith – Demands are large for the country and will improve overtime.

5. Will there also be antibody tests?

Steve Smith – Healthcare providers will determine if needed. (Some tests have not been FDA approved and must now have a disclaimer and be validated.)

6. Have you tested all residents and staff in all congregate facilities (care homes, independent/assisted living, skilled nursing facilities, and county jail)? If not, what are your plans for doing that?

Steve Smith – There was limited testing at first. Once testing started in facilities where there had been cases, many A-symptomatic people were tested and tested positive.

**Topic #3 – PPE:**

7. Can face covers (not N95 masks) like bandanas, a cloth or even a thick t-shirt be required, like we already require shirts and shoes in a restaurant. Cities and counties in our state are already doing that, so why aren't we?

Jimmy Brissie – masks or face coverings are recommended and encouraged to protect others, however, it is up to the individual.

**Topic #4 – Long Term Care Facilities:**

8. Are nursing home staff included in the nursing home statistics or are they in with the other 33 cases?

Jimmy Brissie – Staff are residents are included in testing, even including staff that live outside of Henderson County. He will get and provide the staff verses residents numbers.

**Topic #5 – Stay At Home Order:**

9. I've heard that some counties have lifted some of their restrictions, even though the state still has the stay at home order in place. Would Henderson County be able to do the same thing?

Jimmy Brissie – No, Henderson County can increase restrictions, but cannot do less than the Governor's proclamation. Every state is different, North Carolina requires counties to match the state or be more strenuous.

- 10. In March, the Governors orders stated that if there is a discrepancy between State and local orders the stricter will prevail. Is the same language in the new order? Henderson’s ran out at the end of April. Will a revised declaration be issued by the County?

Jimmy Brissie – Henderson County’s proclamation does not have an end date and has not ran out.

- 11. Based on the data it appears that younger people not in senior living environments should be freed up for normal living now (70% of cases and 100% of deaths). Do you agree? If not, why?

Jimmy Brissie – Even though the percentage for younger folks are low, we must be cautious as they can be carriers.

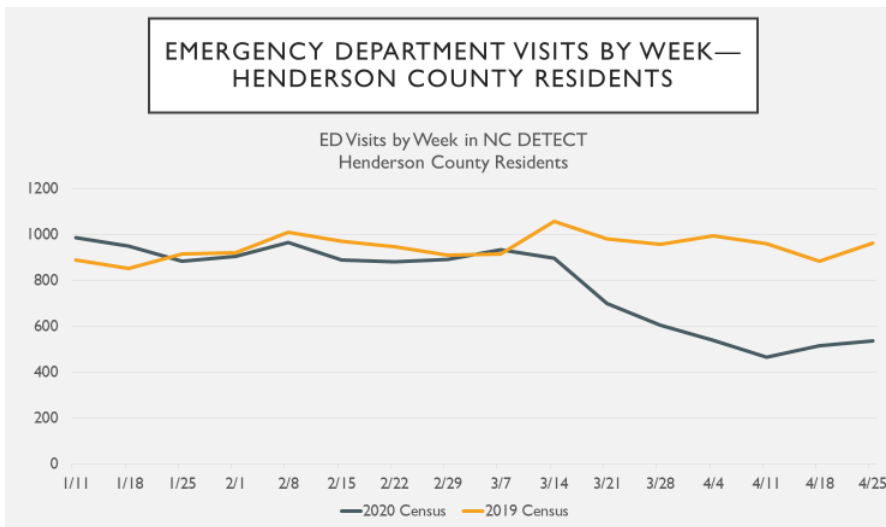
**Topic #6 – Other:**

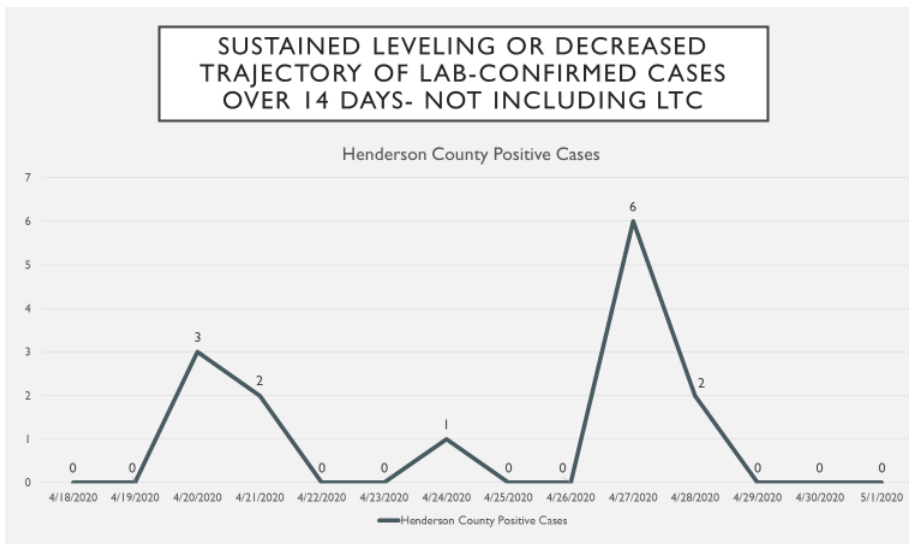
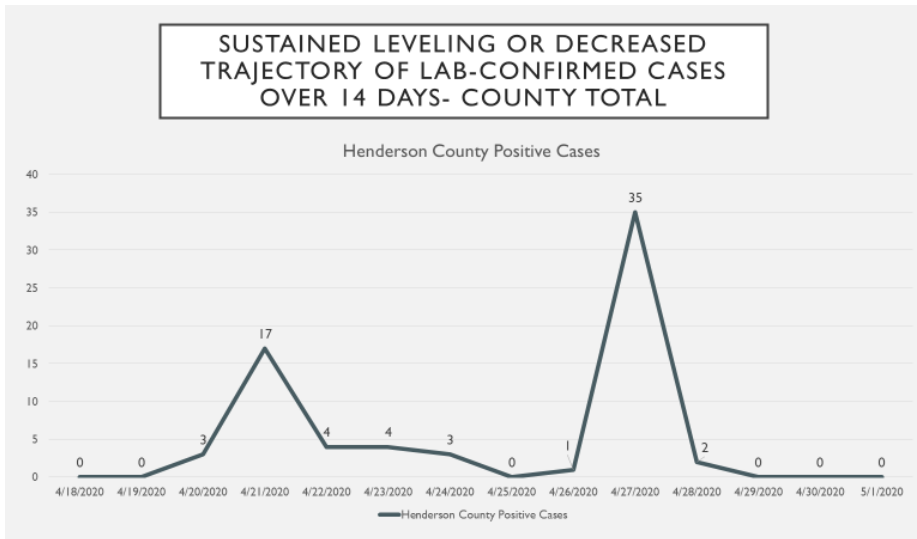
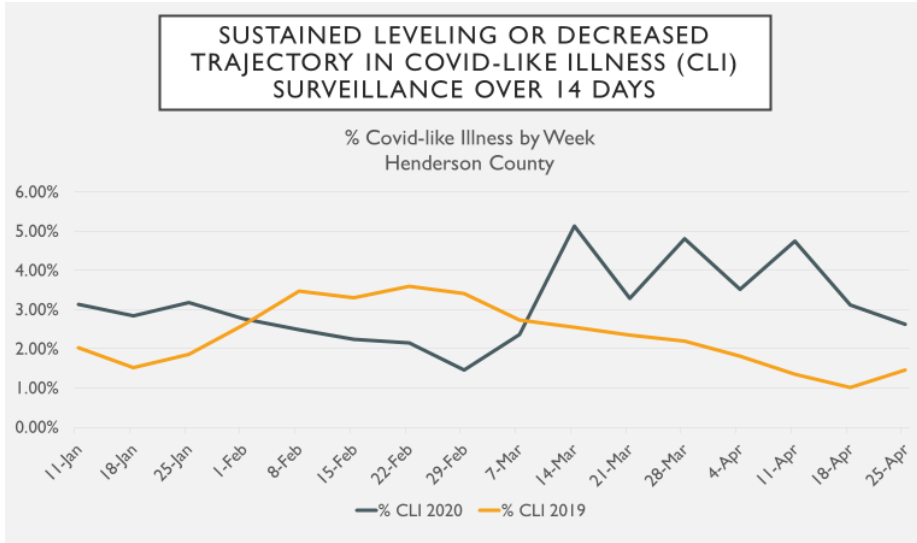
- 12. Can you compare the rate and number of positive cases of the flu and deaths from the flu to the rate and number of positive cases and deaths from COVID-19?

Steve Smith – Influenza is not a reportable disease. The mortality rate with COVID is 3-4%. The mortality rate with Influenza is 1% with any given season, and there are more cases than identified. Emergency visits with COVID is 3%. Average deaths with Influenza yearly are 60,000. There have been 68,000+ deaths with COVID.

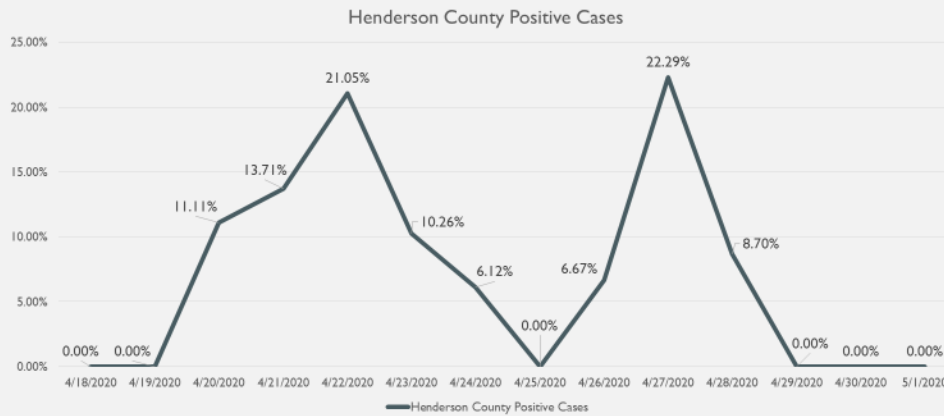
- 13. Why are Henderson County’s website statistics always lower than those for our county on the NC state and Johns Hopkins websites?

Steve Smith – Typically there is a delay as they are relying on information from data from counties. The data is reviewed and confirmed before putting on their websites. All offsets are investigated.

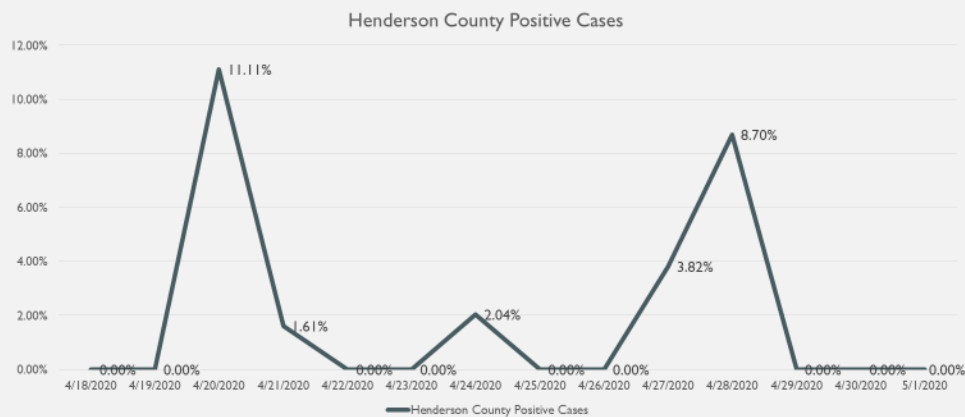




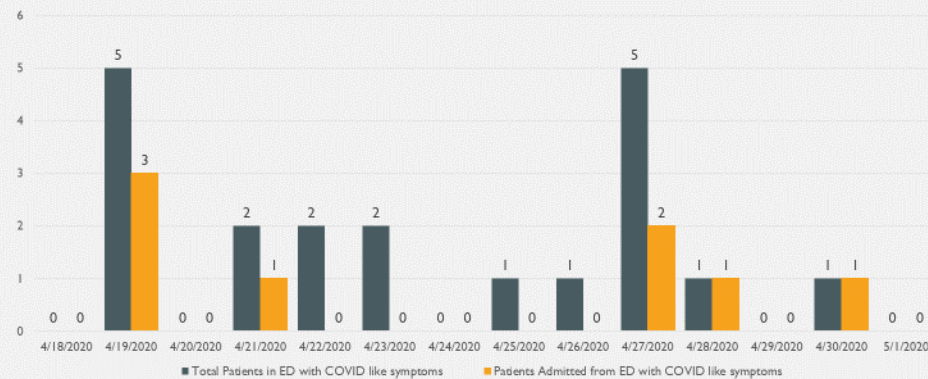
**SUSTAINED LEVELING OR DECREASED TRAJECTORY IN PERCENT OF TESTS RETURNING POSITIVE OVER 14 DAYS**

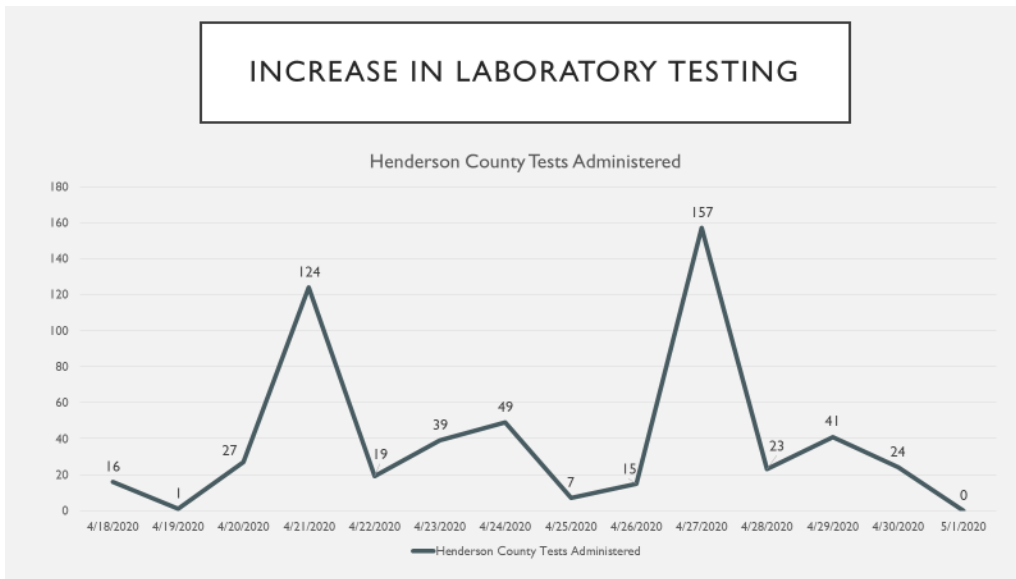


**SUSTAINED LEVELING OR DECREASED TRAJECTORY IN PERCENT OF TESTS RETURNING POSITIVE OVER 14 DAYS- NOT INCLUDING LTC FACILITIES**



**SUSTAINED LEVELING OR DECREASED TRAJECTORY IN HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR COVID-19 LIKE ILLNESS OVER 14 DAYS**





- ### INCREASE IN TRACING CAPABILITY
- Henderson County Department of Public Health currently has up to four staff assigned as contact tracers
  - Henderson County Department of Public health is beginning training next week for four (4) people to do contact tracing with a goal to get a total of eight (8) contact tracers. They have the ability to surge up to 35 tracers as needed
  - Henderson County is expected to conduct 80 tests per day (per the State of NC)

- ### AVAILABILITY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- EMS has a 30 day supply on hand
  - Pardee has a 30 day supply on hand
  - Advent has a 30 day supply on hand
  - Fire Departments have large orders coming that are estimated to be a 30 day supply. 50% of that has been filled from the State

**POST COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATE**

At the Board’s April 15, 2020 meeting, the Board approved a Task Force, to be headed up by Vice-Chairman Lapsley and Commissioner McCall, to start developing a cross section of businesses, health providers, restaurant owners, and others in our community to begin looking at how we move forward when given the

green light to do so. The Task Force has held three meetings as of this meeting date, and Commissioners Lapsley and McCall updated the Board on their progress.

Commissioner Lapsley stated at the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Chairman announced he had sent a letter to the Governor on how to reopen the business community. He asked the Governor to allow each County to set the guidelines as each County is unique. We are confident we can set our own guidelines. A Task Force was formed with the assistance of trades, organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, HC AgBiz, hospitals, and others. They have met three times and reviewed the Governor's schedule. With active participation, the Task Force came up with guidelines, not rules, as to how businesses could open, and a schedule. They are finished but on hold now pending a decision from the Governor. On April 29, the Governor extended the state proclamation to May 8, not allowing local communities to do anything before May 8. We should hear another update from the Governor in the next few days, and it doesn't look like he will grant local authority. There is no point in releasing the guidelines until the Governor's release. The Task Force drafted a Resolution to send to the Governor.

Grady Hawkins noted a new letter has been drafted to Governor Cooper and will be mailed tomorrow. The following Resolution will be included. The County is challenged with how to work with the Governor to get our people back to work. Part of the function of the Recovery Task Force committee was to work on phases of reopening, and the Resolution. Governor Cooper stated his reason for closing North Carolina was to keep people safe, however, he is in favor of abortion which does not fit the narrative. The seven benchmarks of the Governor have been met and by any measure we are ready for Phase II tomorrow.

Commissioner McCall read the Resolution aloud.

***RESOLUTION 2020.41***

- WHEREAS,** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners is the duly elected governing body for the entirety of the population of Henderson County North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** The duties of the Board of Commissioners include protecting and providing for the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Henderson County; and
- WHEREAS,** COVID 19 has presented a threat to that health, safety, and welfare, specifically to our vulnerable population residing in long term care facilities, and to the various businesses and industries who constitute the economic engine of our County; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Commissioners whole heartedly desires to protect the health of our citizens while preserving the economic vitality of Henderson County; and
- WHEREAS,** The Henderson County Board of Commissioners has determined that the current Governor's Executive Order does not achieve the balance between protecting public health and preserving the local economy for Henderson County; and
- WHEREAS,** The Governor of the State of North Carolina retains all constitutional and statutory power and authority in relation to these critical issues on a statewide basis; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina's one hundred counties range from small-rural to large-urban, clearly representing the vast diversity of our great State, and making it unlikely that one approach will be universally effective in meeting the needs of all of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** Recognizing this fact the logical approach is to allow for locally elected, and accountable, decision makers to design and implement plans unique to their communities and evolving situations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests of the Governor of the Great State of North Carolina, the authority and the ability to design and implement a plan to restore the people’s rights to pursue life, liberty and the fruits of their labor to the one hundred Boards of County Commissioners as they see fit, or allow Henderson County, deeming this the best course of action, to do so immediately .

*Commissioner McCall made the motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*The Board discussed when to lift the State of Emergency for Henderson County and it was consensus of the Board to continue along with the NC State of Emergency, as it is or may be modified by the Governor, for now, and review again after May 8, 2020.*

Russ Burrell noted the only change if Henderson County’s State of Emergency was lifted, would be lodging from hotspots.

**COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT**

The County Manager provided the Board of Commissioners with a brief update concerning any issues that should be brought to the attention of the Board.

Mr. Wyatt stated he is working to get the tennis courts opened and reviewing the USTA guidelines. The goal is to have them open by Friday.

The May 20, 2020 Board meeting will be heavily budget and COVID 19 discussion.

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER WILL CATHEY**

A Moment of Silence was given in recognition of the passing of Transylvania County Commissioners Will Cathey.

**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Messer made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

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Grady H. Hawkins, Chairman