

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Those present were Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Mike Edney, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, Commissioner David Hill, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, Attorney Russ Burrell, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer.

Also present were: Director of Business and Community Development Christopher Todd, Finance Director Samantha Reynolds, Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Engineer Marcus Jones, Tax Director Darlene Burgess, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Chief Deputy Vanessa Gilbert, Senior Planner Janna Bianculli, Construction Project Manager David Berry, Site Development Technician Deb Johnston, and PIO Kathryn Finotti videotaping. Deputy Jeff Corn provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Richard Merck with Naples Baptist Church provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Lapsley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2022.21 Resolution – We are Hope Week In Henderson County Public Schools

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners was requested to adopt the below Resolution Honoring the Observance of “We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools’ Middle and High Schools, March 7-11, 2022.

Vice-Chair McCall said she was honored to read this Resolution that the Board adopts annually, recognizing “We Are Hope Week” in Henderson County. She said the Board was in the throes of deciding how to use Opioid Settlement Funds that the county will be receiving from the Opioid Settlement lawsuit. This money is meant to help battle addiction. The best way to battle addiction is not to become addicted. And the best way to not become addicted is to share, thru education, with our young people what addiction can do to you and its effects on your lives. Before she read the Resolution aloud, she said she would like to recognize the individuals from local schools who were present at the meeting. The principals from all Area High Schools were present, along with school administration staff, and representatives from Hope RX. Vice-Chair McCall asked each of the students present to stand as she read their names. The following students were in attendance: from East Henderson High School: Nathan Rhodes, Nick Knox, Ivy Juares, Destiny Summodix, and Jordan Brown; Hendersonville High School: Ryan Seeward, Jackson Cannon, and Ben Geiser; West Henderson High School: Carson Andres, and Lauren Young; North Henderson High School: Madison White, and Jonathon Torres-Thomas; Early College: Fatine Monterres, and Ella Neve; Mountain

Community School: Bella Geiser; and representing the homeschoolers was Taleb Harris.

Vice-Chair McCall explained that the students present, along with other Middle and High school students, would be signing “We are Hope” banners that will hang on the balcony of the Historic Courthouse in March. As a grandmother to High School and Middle School students, she said this is very special to her.

Vice-Chair McCall read the Resolution aloud.

**Resolution Honoring the Observance of
“We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools’
Middle & High Schools
March 7-11, 2022**

WHEREAS, Substance and alcohol abuse negatively affects many areas of the brain, the liver, the heart, and other body parts and can cause adverse behavioral, psychological, and social consequences; and

WHEREAS, there were 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States in twelve months ending April 2021, with opioids involved in 75,673 drug overdose deaths during the same period;¹ and

WHEREAS, substance and alcohol abuse continues to occur among children and youth in our society: in 2019 (the last period for which there are statistics), 37.8 percent of high school students in North Carolina smoked cigarettes or used electronic vapor products, 24.2 percent drank alcohol, 22.1 percent used marijuana, 4.8 percent used cocaine, and 16.6 percent took prescription drugs without a doctor’s prescription, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s North Carolina, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019², and

WHEREAS, student leaders in Henderson County Public Schools’ six high schools and four middle schools have joined with local Henderson County coalition HopeRx in educating their peers on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drug use and abuse; and

WHEREAS, students at Apple Valley Middle, Flat Rock Middle, Hendersonville Middle, Rugby Middle, East Henderson High, Henderson County Career Academy, Henderson County Early College, Hendersonville High, North Henderson High, and West Henderson High are pledging to be and remain substance-free;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, that March 7-11, 2022, be observed in Henderson County Public Schools’ middle and high schools as “We Are Hope” substance abuse awareness week.

Adopted this sixteenth day of February 2022.

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to adopt the Resolution Honoring the Observance of “We Are Hope” Week in Henderson County Public Schools’ Middle and High Schools from March 7th through March 11th, 2022. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

Vice-Chair McCall thanked the students for taking on this responsibility and then presented the Resolution

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm

² <https://nccd.cdc.gov/YouthOnline/App/Results.aspx?LID=NC>

Approved:

to Julie Honeycutt with Hope RX.

Commissioner Andreotta requested the personal privilege to add his Commissioner Update at this point in the meeting instead of the end of the meeting as stated on the agenda.

Commissioner Andreotta shared some very impressive information he had learned earlier in the week. He said for the last fifteen years, Henderson County Public School teachers have had a one hundred percent pass rate on their National Board Recertifications. It takes four to six hundred hours of commitment along with additional requirements to become certified. One in seventy-nine school districts nationwide has twenty percent of their teaching staff National Board Certified. Henderson County Public Schools has one hundred and eighty-three National Board-Certified Teachers. The national average first-time pass rate is forty percent, while Henderson County Public School teachers have a seventy percent first-time pass rate. He stated how impressive those numbers are especially being the third year into the COVID pandemic. Education has been one of the hardest-hit areas. In closing, Commissioner Andreotta wanted to give “props” to Henderson County teachers, students, educators, and administration for those kinds of numbers.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Dennis Justus spoke in support of the “Heartbeat Bill” Resolution that the Board adopted last month. He also commented on the need for wider Broadband coverage in the county and asked for the Board’s support of a Gaming Bill Forum.

PUBLIC INPUT – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

1. Al Denn, with the WNC Air Museum, stated that the major fundraising events usually held by the museum had to be canceled due to the ongoing pandemic. He asked for the Board’s support in the allocation of ARP Funds.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

Minutes

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

February 7, 2022 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

I move the Board approve the minutes of February 7, 2022.

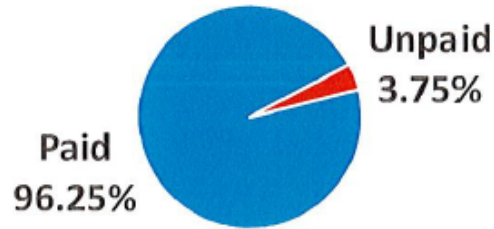
Tax Collector’s Report

The report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board’s information.

Approved:

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):

2021 Beginning Charge:	\$88,218,513.92
Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:	\$1,251,534.68
Releases & Refunds:	(\$222,663.40)
<u>Net Charge:</u>	<u>\$89,247,385.20</u>
Unpaid Taxes:	\$3,349,511.72
Amount Collected:	\$85,897,873.48



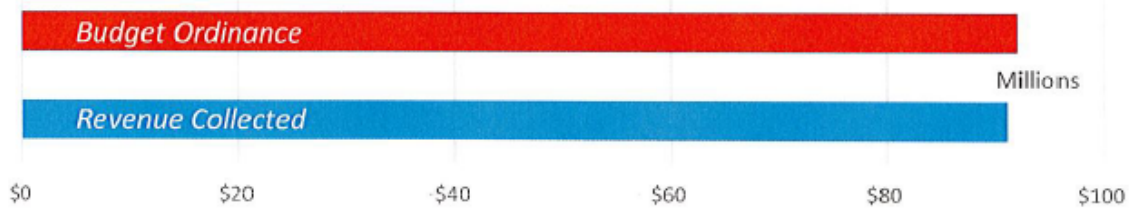
Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$4,686,571.92
Unpaid Taxes:	\$9,200.70
Amount Collected:	\$4,677,371.22

99.80%

Henderson County FY22 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>		<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$91,127,728.00	Ad Valorem:	\$90,575,244.70
Prior Years:	\$980,000.00	Prior Years:	\$624,357.06
Budget Total:	\$92,107,728.00	YTD Revenue:	\$91,199,601.76



Notification of Vacancies

- Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac**
Position #5 (At Large Position)

2022.22 Reimbursement Resolution for Edneyville Sewer System

The proposed reimbursement resolution was presented for the Board’s consideration. The purpose of a reimbursement resolution is to allow construction project and planning costs for the system incurred prior to the closing of any (tax-free) financing to be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

NOTE: The “not to exceed” figures in the resolution are *not* intended to accurately state the project costs, but rather to act as a safe harbor number for the purpose of these resolutions only and to allow any project to go forward when needed rather than awaiting the closing of the financing.

Extract of Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Henderson, North Carolina, was duly held on February 16, 2022, at 9.30 a.m. in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Henderson County Historic Courthouse, 1 Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, North Carolina. Chairman William Lapsley presiding.

Approved:

* * *

The following members were present: Chairman William Lapsley, Vice Chairman Rebecca McCall, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, and Commission David Hill.

The following members were absent: None.

* * *

Commissioner Lapsley moved that the following resolution (the “Resolution”), a copy of which was available with the Board and which was read by title:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY OF HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER SYSTEM SERVING THE EDNEYVILLE SCHOOL, THE NORTH CAROLINA JUSTUS JUSTICE ACADEMY, AND CERTAIN OF THE SURROUNDING AREA FROM THE PROCEEDS OF CERTAIN TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Henderson, North Carolina (“County”) has determined that it is in the best interests of County to finance the construction of a sewer system serving the Edneyville School, the North Carolina Justus Justice Academy, and certain of the surrounding area (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, the County presently intends, at one time or from time to time, to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project with proceeds of tax-exempt obligations and reasonably expects to execute and deliver its tax-exempt obligations (the “Obligations”) to finance, or to reimburse itself for, all or a portion of the costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to proceed with the Project and will incur and pay certain expenditures in connection with the Project prior to the date of execution and delivery of the Obligations (the “Original Expenditures”), such Original Expenditures to be paid for originally from a source other than the proceeds of the Obligations, and the County intends, and reasonably expects, to be reimbursed for such Original Expenditures from a portion of the proceeds of the Obligations to be executed and delivered at a date occurring after the dates of such Original Expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Henderson, North Carolina as follows:

Section 1. *Official Declaration of Intent.* The County presently intends, and reasonably expects, to reimburse itself for the Original Expenditures incurred and paid by the County on or after the date occurring 60 days prior to the date of adoption of this Resolution from a portion of the proceeds of the Obligations. The County reasonably expects to execute and deliver the Obligations to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project, and the principal amount of Obligations is currently expected to be executed and delivered by County to pay for the costs of the Project is approximately \$35,000,000.

Section 2. *Compliance with Regulations.* The County adopts this Resolution as a declaration of official intent under Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations promulgated under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to evidence the County’s intent to reimburse itself for the Original Expenditures from proceeds of the Obligations.

Approved:

Section 3. ***Itemization of Capital Expenditures.*** The Finance Officer of the County, with advice from special counsel, is hereby authorized, directed, and designated to act on behalf of the County in determining and itemizing all of the Original Expenditures incurred and paid by the County in connection with the Project during the period commencing on the date occurring 60 days prior to the date of adoption of this Resolution and ending on the date of execution and delivery of the Obligations.

Section 4. ***Effective Date.*** This Resolution is effective immediately on the date of its adoption.

On motion of Commissioner Lapsley, the foregoing “**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY OF HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER SYSTEM SERVING THE EDNEYVILLE SCHOOL, THE NORTH CAROLINA JUSTUS JUSTICE ACADEMY, AND CERTAIN OF THE SURROUNDING AREA FROM THE PROCEEDS OF CERTAIN TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS.**” was duly adopted by the following vote:

AYES: ALL COMMISSIONERS

NAYS: NONE

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the reimbursement resolution attached to this agenda item for the Edneyville sewer system.

2022.23 Proposed Utility Easement with City of Henderson on Blue Ridge Community College Property

The City of Hendersonville submitted the Deed of Dedication for Board approval on Blue Ridge Community College property adjacent to the Patton Building. The City was also seeking permission from Blue Ridge Community College. (Deed of Dedication is attached to these minutes).

As reported by the City of Hendersonville, the purpose of the easement is to allow for the operation and maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure which serves the Blue Ridge Community College facilities.

Staff has reviewed the proposed easement, visited the site, and recommended approval.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the proposed utility easement with the City of Hendersonville for the maintenance and operation of water and sewer infrastructure on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College.

Transit Service Contract Negotiation

Henderson County receives federal funding to provide fixed-route and paratransit transportation. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires grant recipients to re-contract their management and operations every 3 to 6 years. In 2016, the County contracted with WCCA (now DBA WNCSource) for three years with a three, one-year extension. This contract will expire on June 30th of this year, and a new contract must be in place at the beginning of the 2023 fiscal year.

Staff released a Request for Proposals on December 1st and advertised the listing in The Lightning and four online transit websites. Two proposals were received on January 21st. An evaluation committee consisting of Planning staff, AECOM consultants, and the City of Asheville Transit Manager scored the proposals.

Approved:

Both contractors displayed the ability to provide management and operations of the system at a reasonable cost. WNCSource scored higher and was selected by the committee to present to the board for approval. The evaluation is attached to these minutes. Proposals may be requested for view.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve WNCSource for the Apple Country Public Transit contract and direct staff to begin contract negotiations.

Rail Trail Encroachment Policy

Engineering has developed the following policy to review, approve and manage encroachments by others onto the right of way of the Rail Trail. The County Attorney and Risk Manager have reviewed the policy and license agreement.

Encroachment Policy for the Rail Trail within Henderson County

All publicly owned or publicly regulated utilities and agriculture operations with the need to encroach on the Trail right of way shall submit an executed Rail Trail License Agreement for review by the County Engineer. Upon satisfactory review by the County Engineer, he/she is authorized to approve the agreement and sign on behalf of the County. All other encroachments will be reviewed by the County Engineer and individually presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Engineering will maintain a master list of all encroachments within the right of way and inspect them annually.

Staff did not recommend a fee for the process currently due to the public nature of the applicant's operations. Engineering anticipates having adequate resources to manage the encroachment process. Also, the staff did not recommend applicants submit surety for the encroachments; the license agreement details compensation and reimbursement processes if necessary.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the encroachment policy for the Rail Trail and authorize the County Engineer to manage the encroachments process.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION

2022.24 Budget Amendment – EMS 4WD Ambulance Purchase

During the February 7th meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board authorized staff to negotiate the purchase of a 4WD ambulance from Skyland Fire and Rescue. Staff working with the leadership of the Fire Department have negotiated a purchase price of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000). This price includes the ambulance, power stretcher, and power load system for the stretcher. The board of Directors of Skyland Fire & Rescue has accepted this offer.

Staff has also compiled the necessary costs of upfitting the ambulance to place it in service. These costs include striping, radios, modems, and computer mounts. It was requested the Board also approve these expenditures to allow the ambulance to be placed in service before retiring another ambulance from the fleet.

Jimmy Brissie addressed the Board and thanked them for their commitment to public safety. Henderson County has a tremendous fleet of ambulances. Every year the Board commits to replacing ambulances, and as a result, the fleet is kept with ambulances that are relatively low in miles. Brissie has spoken to colleagues

Approved:

across the state that are driving trucks with a quarter of a million miles on them. This Board’s commitment to public safety has certainly had an impact on the level of service Henderson County is able to provide.

Wheeled Coach 4WD Ambulance

During the February 7th meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board authorized Staff to negotiate the purchase of a 4WD ambulance from Skyland Fire and Rescue.

Make: Ford / Wheeled Coach
Model: F-550
Date In-Service: June 2021
Mileage: 6,423



Wheeled Coach 4WD Ambulance

Staff worked with the leadership of Skyland Fire & Rescue to negotiate a purchase price of \$200,000. This offer was accepted by the Board of Directors of the Fire Department.
(includes power stretcher system)

For FY23 HCEMS is budgeting \$180,336 for 2WD ambulances (plus the cost of power stretcher system)

Preliminary FY23 estimates for a 4WD ambulance are \$235,713 on a F-450 chassis (plus the cost of power stretcher system)



Motion:

Chairman Lapsley made the motion the Board approve the purchase of the 2021 Wheeled Coach ambulance and accessories from Skyland Fire & Rescue for the price of \$200,000, the Budget Amendment appropriating fund balance for the purchase, and authorize staff to execute the

Approved:

necessary signatures to purchase and outfit the vehicle.

Construction Projects Update

David Berry provided the Board of Commissioners with an update on the following construction projects around Henderson County. This monthly report reviewed the scope and statuses of assigned construction management responsibilities and includes specific updates regarding County funded construction activities.

BRCC Patton Building Renovation and Addition



County staff continues to work with BRCC staff to procure the facility’s FFE components, including furniture and IT cabling, access controls, and cameras. Most all roofing component installations are complete. This project remains on schedule and within budget.



The BRCC Facilities Building (POPAT) is almost complete. The HVAC unit that was on backorder has now been installed. The switchgear is still on backorder, and the delivery date from the supplier is February 2, 2022. All other work, except for punch list items, has been completed. Once the switchgear is received and installed, the power will be energized to the building. The project will then be complete, and the facility can be turned over to BRCC. This project remains within budget.

Hendersonville High School

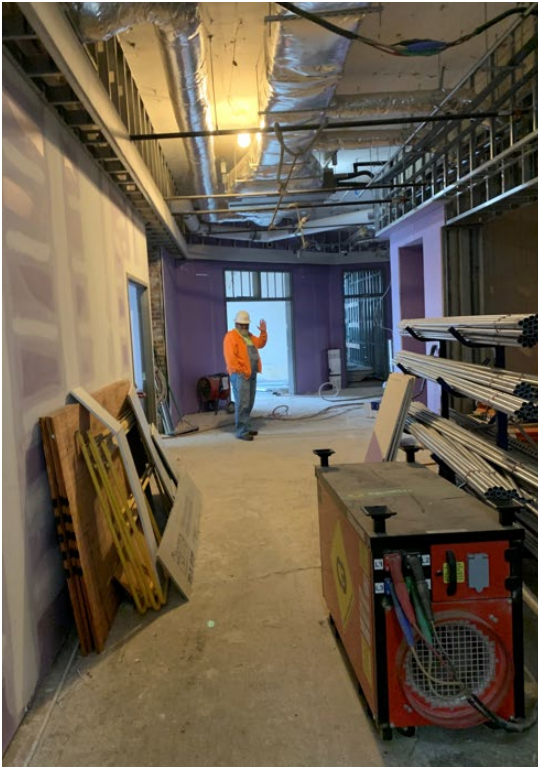
Most of the brick veneer has been completed on the exterior of the Stillwell Building. While the interior work of the Stillwell building continues. Elevator work is ongoing, along with millwork and cabinetry. The front stage extension and concrete floor overlay have been completed in the auditorium. Most of the work in the auditorium is scheduled to be completed by March 1, 2022, allowing the school the use of the auditorium to rehearse for the spring play. Installation of the seats is scheduled to begin on March 2; this work can be completed when the school is not using the auditorium. The auditorium is scheduled to be

Approved:

completely finished in time for the performances of the spring play, which are scheduled to take place on April 28, 29, and 30, 2022. Work in the basement area, and the old boiler room, has resumed with perimeter floor drains, trenches, and sump pump cavity, container, and pump being installed. Work in the courtyard continues, including the footings for the portico and the emergency stair towers, where masonry work has begun. Installation of the press box is complete. Removal of the subgrade from the athletic field has already started on the north end of the field.



Approved:



All work is complete for the Animal Shelter Roof project except for punch list components. The contractor, Allcon of Greenville, is being retained until all punch list items are complete.

Henderson County Public Schools MRTS

The roofing projects for West and East Henderson High School have been awarded to Bonitz of Carolina,

Approved:

and the work is scheduled to be done between March and June of 2022. The total value of this project is \$397,417, which exceeds the budgeted amount of \$375,000. The overage is being offset savings on the warehouse and paving projects.

The maintenance warehouse building has been awarded to Cooper Construction. The original bid of \$376,130 has been value engineered to \$335,550, coming in under the budgeted amount of \$350,000.

Paving projects at Hendersonville Elementary, Apple Valley, North Henderson, Etowah, and West Henderson were awarded to local contractor Tarheel Paving. The budget for these paving projects was \$385,000, and the combined contract price came in at \$350,956. Project completion is expected by June 2022.

The Henderson County Public Schools Video Management System (security cameras for middle and high schools) project was awarded to the low bid contractor Haynes Electric for the contract price of \$541,681. The budgeted amount for this project was \$750,000. The savings gained from this project being budget will be applied to a scope increase for additional camera installations. Scope and change order pricing has been requested.

The MRTS projects at BRCC are ongoing, and all are within or under budget except for the Spearman Building Power Upgrade and Welding Storage projects. The power upgrade budget was \$75,000. However, low bid contractor Haynes Electric's price was \$90,110. The overage was covered by savings on other MRTS projects. The Spearman Building Welding Storage budget was \$98,500; the project was awarded to Patton Construction for \$115,830.

Architectural firm McMillian, Pazdan, & Smith were working on preliminary designs for the VFW Project when staff became aware the RFQ would need to be reposted for the architectural design work. This is to be documented to comply with the requirements of the ARP funds that are planned to be allocated for this project. The RFQ will be posted on the Henderson County website, and upon review of the RFQ, submittals will be brought back before the Board.

Per Statute, The RFQ for the architectural work for the 95 Courthouse and Detention Center projects was posted on January 26, 2022. Submittals have been received from Fentriss, Moseley Architects, and ADW Architects on February 10, 2022. Staff is currently waiting to select a panel to review the submittals and make a recommendation.

Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

In May of this year, the Board of Commissioners approved the contracting of Stewart Consultants to facilitate the new Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan. This plan, required by NC General Statutes, will provide a guideline for growth and development in the County.

The plan requires extensive public input and involvement, which equates to a long planning process. The consultants have divided the estimated 18-month process into three phases. We have completed Phase 1 and are currently in Phase 2 of the plan process. The Board will receive regular monthly updates throughout the process.

Janna Bianculli provided survey results the county has received. The following slides were presented.

Approved:

OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE

Phase 1: Project Initiation and Analysis
July – December 2021

Phase 2: Visioning and Plan Development
January – July 2022

Phase 3: Implementation and Adoption
July – October 2022

Phase 1 – Overview

PUBLIC INPUT

- 6** Stakeholder Focus Groups
- 2** Public Workshops
- 10** Staff-Led Open Houses
- 12** Group Presentations
- 3** Planning Board Meetings

STEERING COMMITTEE

- 3 Steering Committee meetings conducted thus far
- Members attended the stakeholder meetings and various open house events
- At their January meeting, the committee began their visioning and goals exercise
- Tomorrow, they continue their discussion
- The public are encouraged to attend the steering committee meetings

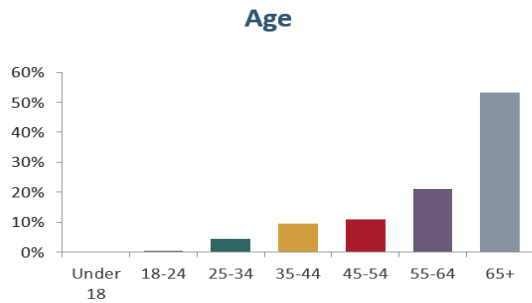
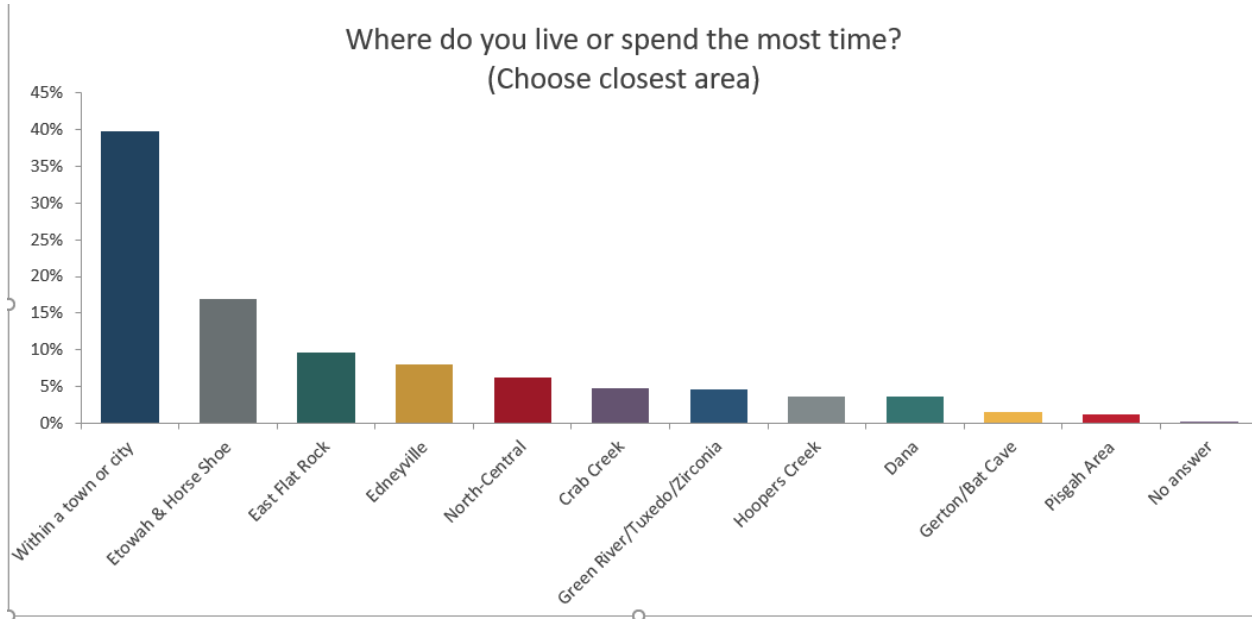
Survey Results



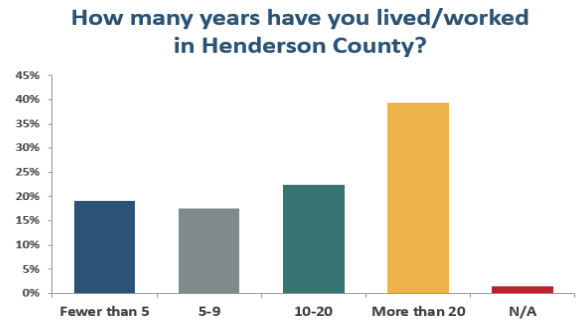
6,500+ responses? Wow!

- 7% of people over 18
- 13% of households
- Previous Comprehensive Plan received 596 responses to survey
- 5,600 ballots cast in County for November 2021 local elections
- Wake County's most recent efforts received 9,000 surveys for over 1 million residents

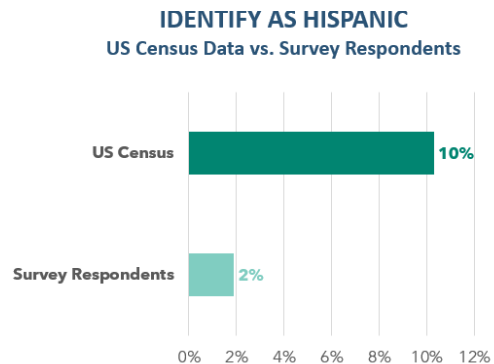
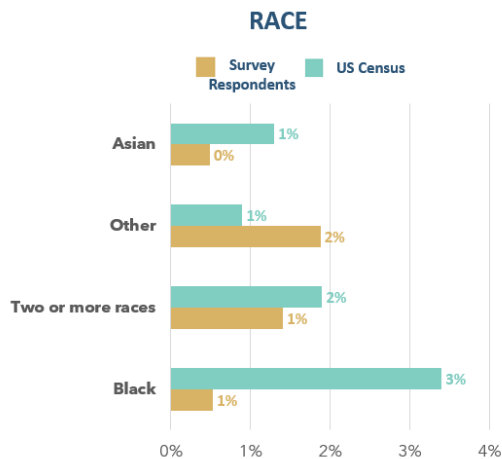
Approved:



53% of respondents are over 65, but only 26.4% of population is in that age range



62% of respondents have lived and/or worked here at least 10 years



The difference in percentage of respondent race & ethnicity compared to the County demographics are statistically significant.

Approved:

SURVEY

Top Growth-Related Concern (Countywide Q2)

1. Traffic congestion and road maintenance (73%)



2. Loss of Farmland and/or impacts to natural resources (49%)



3. Changes in community character (35%)



SURVEY

Top Priorities for 2045 Plan-Question 3 (All respondents)

1. Protect open space / forests (55%)



2. Conservation of unique natural areas and farmland (45%)



3. Improve access to internet broadband (35%)



SURVEY

Top Priorities for 2045 Plan-Question 3 (Edneville)

1. Farmland preservation (60%)



2. Improve Access to Internet (53%)



3. Protect open spaces/forests (52%)

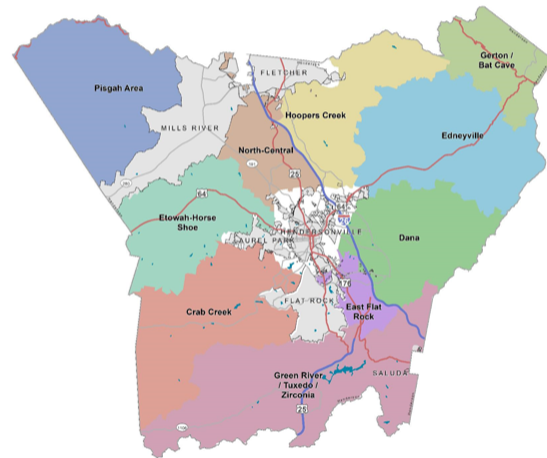


Approved:

Geographic Area Themes

Priorities varied by geographic area

- **Road traffic and maintenance** were strong in the top spots across all jurisdictions
- **In Crab Creek, environmental preservation was #1**
- East Flat Rock, Crab Creek, and Pisgah were only areas with variation in the top 2.
 - East Flat Rock and Crab Creek favored environmental preservation
 - Pisgah favored parks and recreation
- Edneyville and Dana were only ones with farmland in the top 5 priorities



SURVEY

Development preference

Which of the following development types do you feel are missing from the County?

(Top five answers)

Small shops and restaurants



#1

Parks and Rec



#2

Single Family Homes



#3

Agriculture and Agri-Tourism



#4

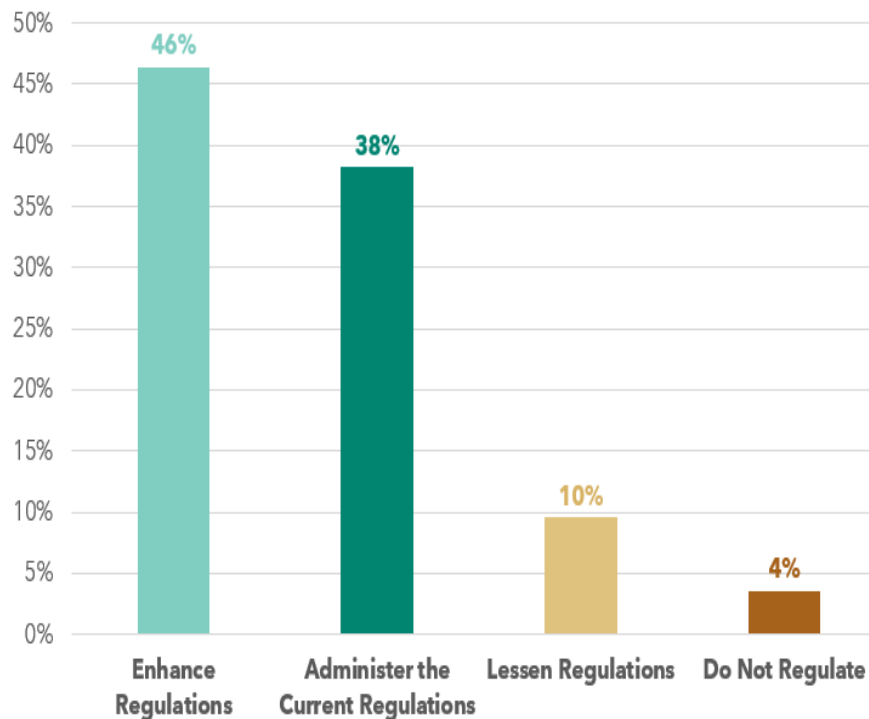
Other:
 "Senior homes and retirement centers"
 "Affordable housing"
 "Arts centers"
 "Nothing"

Approved:

SURVEY

BOC Requested Question

Q6. Which is the single most important role for Henderson County government in the land use and zoning process, if any? (Would not apply to incorporated town, cities, or villages)

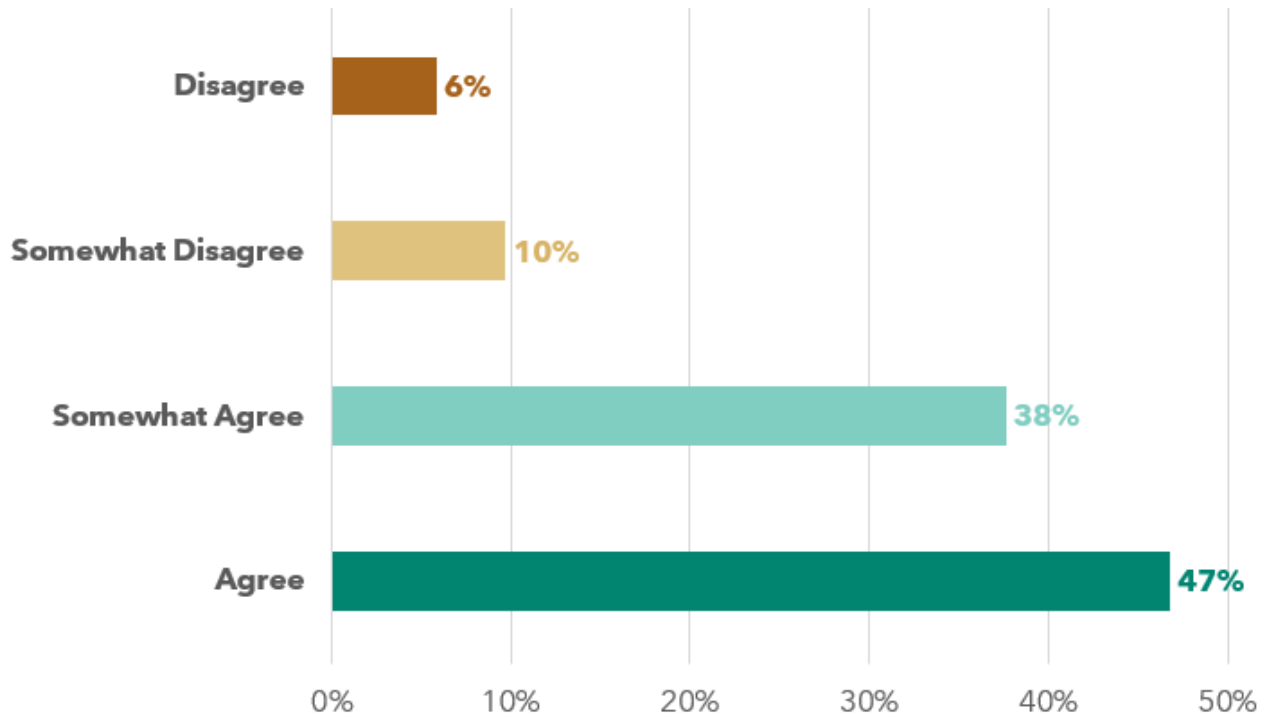


SURVEY

BOC Requested Question

Q7. When making decisions related to land use, should the County Board of Commissioners weight the impact to the property owners closest to the proposed project more so than the overall benefit to the County as a whole?

Approved:

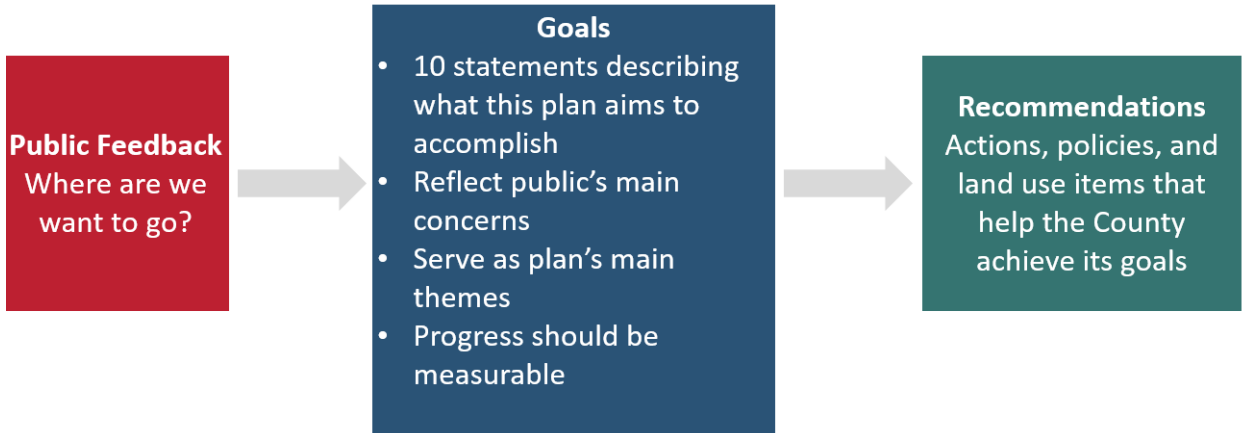


Data Interpretation

- The data can be disaggregated in multiple ways
 - Connecting the data spatially may help ensure all priorities are addressed
 - Certain topics may make more sense to analyze at the County level versus specific geographic areas
- The survey is only one component of public input
- Some information is missing from public input, but it doesn't mean it's not important
- It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee, and ultimately the BOC, to balance the received input with professional expertise and experience

Approved:

What's Next?



- **March:** Steering Committee #4 to discuss draft Future Land Use Map and recommendations
- **April:** BOC meeting to discuss plan goals and layout
- **May:** Public Meeting(s)
- **June:** Steering Committee #5

Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Steering Committee Thoughts on the Process



- ← Looking for responses from all interested citizens
- ← Looking for responses from various Groups within Henderson County. *ie:* Fire & Safety, Industrial groups, Small Business Owners
- ← Looking for responses from various governmental entries
- ← Review with Small Area Communities
- ← Review with Stewart Inc
- ← Looking for responses from all interested citizens
- ← Formulate a plan that well represents Henderson County for years to come. Will there be adjustments to it through the coming years, yes, there will have to be modifications as we go through the first few years. It will be a living, breathing document for years to come.

Approved:

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Animal Services Committee – 2 vac.
Vice-Chair McCall nominated Jack Walsh for reappointment position #2, John Mitchell, for position #5 by acclamation. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
2. EMS Peer Review Committee – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
3. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
4. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
5. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
6. Home and Community care Block Grant Committee – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
7. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 3 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
8. Laurel Park Planning Board – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
9. Laurel Park Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
10. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 10 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

Vice-Chair McCall asked that county staff reach out to the community and encourage citizens to apply for the vacant positions on Henderson County’s Boards and Committees. Amy Brantley said we will push volunteer information out to the community on the county’s social media platforms.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Hill would like for the Board to think about Henderson County’s Volunteer Fire Departments when deciding how ARP funds will be allocated. The fire departments continue to incur extra expenses during the pandemic. He would like for members of the Board to meet with area Fire Chiefs and see what needs the fire departments have that should be addressed. Chairman Lapsley said he would be willing to meet with fire chiefs along with Commissioner Hill.

Commissioner Edney mentioned the recent newspaper article stating that Henderson County Public School Superintendent Dr. John Bryant had recently accepted a position with Pardee Hospital. Commissioner Edney said Dr. Bryant currently serves on the Pardee Hospital Board as a UNC nominee. He stated that Dr. Bryant’s current position will need to be filled once his employment with Pardee begins in July 2022. He added that the positions held by Brittany Brady and Dr. Eisenhower would also expire later this year.

Commissioner Edney shared that in his “day job,” he is an attorney and had been working with the Shepherds as their lawyer but also as a member of the community to ensure people are taken care of. The cemetery is meeting the needs, and there have been 5 to 10 burials this past month. Things are progressing, and a receiver will be appointed at some point. With the weather getting warmer, the grass will again

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become an issue. Commissioner Edney said he wanted to reassure the public that nobody is being forgotten. The Shepherds have been a part of this community and have been in business since 1903, and the people will be taken care of one way or the other.

Vice-Chair McCall noted there will be two vacancies on the DSS Board coming up in June. In the past, there was a commissioner included on the DSS board, and at some point, that changed. She would like the Board to consider having a commissioner appointed to this board. After discussion with Social Services Director Jerrie McFalls and County Attorney Russ Burrell, it was determined that the Board *does* have the power to appoint a member of the Board as a full voting member on the DSS board. Vice-chair McCall believes it is important that the Commissioners have a presence on the DSS Board. This is an important Board that is very involved and does a lot of important work. Chairman Lapsley added that there is also a lot of money that funnels through the DSS Board. Not necessarily all county money, but it is all spent in the County. For the people of the County. Vice-chair McCall said 26% of the County's population is reached thru the Department of Social Services.

Vice-Chair McCall commended the Board of Education for their unanimous decision on Monday to allow Henderson County students to have masks optional in schools. This change took place due to a change in quarantine rules through the school tool kit. On December 14, 2021, This Board adopted a Resolution to the state asking that the quarantine rules be changed. While not knowing if it was indeed that Resolution that prompted the change, she is pleased that the rules were changed. With the change, the only people that will be quarantined in schools are those who are symptomatic. Vaccination status and masks are no longer a consideration. It was a long process to get here, and she has hope the COVID numbers will continue to drop and we will see a "light at the end of the tunnel."

Chairman Lapsley asked Russ Burrell about the change Vice-Chair McCall proposed for the DSS Board. Mr. Burrell said there are considerations the Board will want to make that came about when this Board first decided to stop having a presence on the DSS Board. He was the DSS attorney at that time and had knowledge as to why the change was initially made. Chairman Lapsley said the Board would table the issue at this time, and in 30 days, the Board will receive a summary from Mr. Burrell on the intricacies of why the decision was made.

Chairman Lapsley informed the Board that the Substance Abuse Task Force will hold its second meeting tomorrow, February 17, 2022. The Health Department has provided a lot of help in gathering information, and Amy Brantley has provided information on the impending Opioid Settlement Funds.

In closing, Chairman Lapsley gave the Board an update on his previous suggestion of forming a Broadband Taskforce. The Chairman has worked with Business and Community Development Director Chris Todd to assemble a group of people with expertise, experience, and an interest in this topic. They have contacted all providers operating in the County, and those providers have shown an interest in participating. Emergency Services Director Jimmy Brissie will participate, a representative from the public school system, and two citizens who reached out to Chairman Lapsley and were subsequently interviewed and proved to be a good fit. Chairman Lapsley asked his fellow Board members to weigh in with how they would like to proceed.

Commissioner Andreotta said he is interested in helping. He suggested that the Board start with the companies that provide the services to learn who has intent, desire, or interest in looking at any or all the county's rural areas as feasible to expand their business.

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Vice-Chair McCall believes the task force is a good idea because we know that AT&T is out there running fiber right now, and Vyve is currently coming through the county. Optimum has a plan of where they are going to expand. We need to bring together all the companies that are already involved and working in Henderson County to compile information. We need to find out where they are all going, find gaps and holes in coverage, and encourage those companies to expand in those areas. She is in favor of moving forward with forming the task force. In closing, she said, just because an area is remote does not mean that coverage is not available in this day and time.

Commissioner Hill is also in favor of the task force but believes the issue of coverage will not be resolved solely by cable. Some of the expanded services are going to have to be cellular. He would like to reach out to local representatives such as Sprint and ATT to gain their input. He has been informed that for cellular companies to provide 5G, there must be fiber cable run to their towers. Commissioner Hill would like for the task force to include cellular providers.

Commissioner Andreotta said an excellent representation of the lack of coverage in rural areas is Fire Department personnel of the departments located in those rural areas. Commissioner Andreotta offered to play a role in the task force and asked Commissioner Hill to join him in this effort. Commissioner Hill said he would be more than happy to participate.

John Mitchell directed Chris Todd to reach out to Commissioner Andreotta and Commissioner Hill and schedule a time to move forward.

Amy Brantley clarified that ARP funds could be used to incentivize and assist companies expanding into rural areas.

Vice-Chair McCall stated that the number one focus ARP Committee, which includes leaders from all the municipalities, is to, as a joint project, find ways to expand Broadband. All of the municipalities in the County are open to working together on this.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to proceed with forming a Broadband Taskforce with Commissioner Andreotta serving as the Board's liaison along with Commissioner Hill, and Christopher Todd will serve as staff liaison. They will have the flexibility to add members to the Board as they see fit. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Andreotta added that Grant Applications are due April 4, 2022.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager John Mitchell informed the Board he had received the Ecusta Trail proposal for phase one. Engineering work from Vaughn Melton and staff is currently vetting the proposal along with NCDOT. He expects this to be back before the Board at their March 7 meeting for the Board's consideration. Chairman Lapsley asked that the proposal be sent to members of the Board so they will have ample time to vet the proposal.

The Audit RFQ closes this Friday, February 18, 2022, and there have already been two submissions. This will be back before the Board after Friday's deadline for the Board to make a selection so we may begin working on the audit.

Approved:

John Mitchell said a list had been prepared that contains appropriate ARP-related projects. He anticipates briefing the Board at the March 7 meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

John Mitchell said the General Assembly will take up the Continuing Resolution in the Senate, where it will be until March 11, 2022, where it is anticipated that they will have a budget for the rest of the year. The Federal Government has a special fiscal year, which will be through October 1.

John Mitchell stated it has been indicated that the General Assembly will be back in Raleigh on Monday to vote on the revision to the maps. They must have the maps to the judges who will judge this matter by February 23, 2022.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

William Lapsley, Chairman

Approved: