

## MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022**

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.

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, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, Building Services Director Crystal Lyda, Flood Administrator Toby Linville, Grayson Taylor Planner III, Parks and Recreation Director Carleen Dixon, Assistant Engineer Deb Johnston, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping, Deputies Robert Mertz and Michelle Hensley provided security.

### CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

### INVOCATION

David Lewkowicz, Lead Pastor at the Bridge Church provided the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Emma Wilkie, Young Naturalist 4-H Club.

### RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

#### **2022.25 Athletic Trainers Appreciation**

#### **PROCLAMATION - PROCLAIMING MARCH AS**

#### **NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINING MONTH IN HENDERSON COUNTY**

**WHEREAS,** athletic trainers have a long history of providing quality health care for athletes and those engaged in physical activity based on specific tasks, knowledge and skills acquired through their nationally regulated educational processes; and

**WHEREAS,** athletic trainers provide prevention of injuries, recognition, evaluation and aggressive treatment, rehabilitation, health care administration, education and guidance; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 43,000 members of the athletic training profession employed in the following settings: professional sports, colleges and universities, high schools, clinics and hospitals, corporate and industrial settings and military branches; and

**WHEREAS,** leading organizations concerned with athletic training and health care have joined together in a common desire to raise public awareness of the importance of the athletic training

profession and to emphasize the importance of quality health care within the aforementioned settings; and

**WHEREAS,** such an effort will improve health care for athletes and those engaged in physical activity and promote athletic trainers as health professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of March as National Athletic Training Month in Henderson County and urge the citizens of the County to learn more about the importance of athletic training.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

*Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the Proclamation as present. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

**2022.26 Resolution of Appreciation – Jay Jackson**

The Henderson County Cemetery Advisory Committee has been meeting since 2005 to ensure the preservation and maintenance of historic cemeteries in Henderson County. Jay Jackson has acted as Chairman since the creation of the Committee. Mr. Jackson recently stepped down as Chairman but is still an active member of the Board. The Committee requested the Board adopt a Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Jackson, for the Committee to present along with a plaque for his dedication to the Cemetery Advisory Committee.

Vice-Chair McCall read the Resolution aloud and then presented Mr. Jay Jackson with the plaque and resolution.

***RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION***  
***MR. JAMES CLYDE JACKSON***

**WHEREAS,** the Henderson County Cemetery Advisory Committee was chartered in January 25, 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** James Clyde Jackson has faithfully served the Henderson County Cemetery Advisory Committee as Chairman since December 15, 2004 for 10 Terms; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Jackson helped create the Adopt-A-Cemetery Program; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Jackson helped identify and inventory all Cemeteries in Henderson County; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Jackson helped educate others to properly clean and repair gravestones; and

**WHEREAS,** the members of the Cemetery Advisory Committee wish to show their appreciation for Jay Jackson’s tireless leadership;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners does hereby acknowledge their appreciation for Mr. James Clyde Jackson for his seventeen years of leadership as Chairman of the Henderson County Cemetery Advisory Committee from 2005 through 2022.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

*Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to adopt the Proclamation as present. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

Approved:

**INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**PUBLIC INPUT – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

1. Lucy Rogers Clark Crawford spoke regarding use of American Rescue Funds.
2. Ashland McCoy, Executive Director for the Housing Assistance Corporation, spoke regarding the use of American Rescue 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:

**Approval of Minutes**

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval of the following meeting(s):  
February 16, 2022 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

*I move the Board approve the minutes of February 16, 2022.*

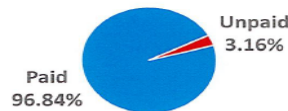
**Tax Collector’s Report**

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

Please find outlined below collections information through February 27, 2022 for 2021 real and personal property bills mailed on August 27th. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

**Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):**

<b>2021 Beginning Charge:</b>	<b>\$88,218,513.92</b>
Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:	\$1,251,683.00
Releases & Refunds:	<b>(\$224,492.97)</b>
<b>Net Charge:</b>	<b>\$89,245,703.95</b>
Unpaid Taxes:	\$2,824,541.32
<b>Amount Collected:</b>	<b>\$86,421,162.63</b>



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

Net Charge:	\$5,104,712.47
Unpaid Taxes:	\$10,785.36
<b>Amount Collected:</b>	<b>\$5,093,927.11</b>

**99.79%**

**Henderson County FY22 Budget Analysis:**

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>		<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$91,127,728.00	Ad Valorem:	\$91,515,089.74
Prior Years:	\$980,000.00	Prior Years:	\$660,209.42
<b>Budget Total:</b>	<b>\$92,107,728.00</b>	<b>YTD Revenue:</b>	<b>\$92,175,299.16</b>



**2022.27 Pending Releases and Refunds**

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

**Type:**

**Amount:**

Approved:

Total Taxes Released from the Charge	\$ 3,165.27
Total Refunds as a Result of the Above Releases	\$ 1,111.23

Motion:

*I move the Board approve the combined release/refund report as presented.*

**County Financial Report/Cash Balance Report – January, 2022**

The January 2022 County Financial and Cash Balance Reports were presented for the Board’s review.

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

- Administrative Services – timing of approved employee payroll
- Emergency Management – timing of Board approved purchases
- Wellness – timing of payment for Board approved contracted services and medical supplies and equipment
- Rescue Squad – payment of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Board approved appropriation
- Site Development – timing of Board approved purchases
- Heritage Museum – timing of Board approved appropriations
- Cooperative Extension – timing of payment of Board approved contracted services
- Agri-business – excess operating expenditures to be covered by membership fees
- Mental Health – payment of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Board approved appropriation
- Juvenile Justice – timing of provider appropriations
- Public Education – payment of 7<sup>th</sup> of 10 annual appropriations made to the public school system
- Non-Departmental – Occupancy tax transmittal trending above budgeted amounts

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Justice Academy Sewer Fund was due to the timing of budgeted minor equipment for the sewer fund.

Motion:

*I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the January 2022 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.*

**Henderson County Public Schools Financial Reports – January, 2022**

The Henderson County Public Schools January 2022 Local Current Expense Fund / Other Restricted Funds Report was provided for the Board’s information.

Motion:

*I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the Henderson County Public Schools January 2022 Financial Reports as presented.*

**Notification of Vacancies**

The Notification of Vacancies was provided for the Board’s information. They will appear on the next agenda under “Nominations.”

1. **Animal Services Advisory Committee – 1 vac.**  
Position #5 (At Large)
2. **Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team – 1 vac.**  
Position #4 (DSS Appointment)
3. **Henderson County Tourism Development Authority – 1 vac.**  
Position #8 (Registered Henderson County Voter)

Approved:

**Civil Unrest Block Grant Award – NC Governor’s Crime Commission**

The Sheriff’s Office requested the Board approve the North Carolina Crime Commission’s Civil Unrest Block Award Grant awarded to the department in the amount of \$22,950.00. This grant will provide the department with 30 Riot Control Suits, 30 Riot Duty Helmets with Gas Mask Shields and 30 36x20 Riot Shields necessary to protect the employees and public during civil unrest.

Motion:

*I move the Board of Commissioners approve the attached Budget Amendment to receive the grant funds for the needed equipment.*

**Revaluation Reserve Position**

The Board was requested to approve the addition of one (1) new permanent full-time position in the Revaluation Reserve Department, effective March 14, 2022. The position to be added will be a Property Appraiser 1 who will also assist with technology aspects of the 2023 Reappraisal. No additional funds are requested within the fiscal year, as the budgetary impact will be minimal due to the timing within the fiscal year.

Motion:

*I move the Board approve one (1) new permanent full -time position within the Revaluation Reserve Department, effective March 14, 2022.*

**Building Services Position**

The Board was requested to approve the addition of one (1) new permanent full-time position in the Building Services Department, effective March 14, 2022. The position to be added will be a Building Code Inspector. No additional funds are requested within the fiscal year, as the minimal budgetary impact will be offset with revenues received during the fiscal year.

Motion:

*I move the Board approve one (1) new permanent full -time position within the Building Services Department, effective March 14, 2022.*

**State Capital Investment Fund (SCIF)**

Staff requested the Board to approve an application for a State Budget SCIF Grant in the amount of \$500,000. This amount was included in the State budget - Session Law 2021-180 (House Bill-105) for capital expenses with Henderson County. Staff requested the Board approve application for those funds to be used to partially fund playground equipment at Jackson Park (\$200,000) and soccer fields (\$300,000).

Motion:

*I move the Board approve the application for the use of SCIF Grant funding to partially fund playground equipment at Jackson Park (\$200,000) and soccer fields (\$300,000).*

**2022.28 NC Department of Public Safety – Henderson County Sheriff’s Office State Budget Allocation**

Staff requested the Board approve the State Budget allocation for the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$84,269.66. This allocation has been made as directed by the NC General Assembly pursuant to Session Law 2021-180 (House Bill-105) for expenses incurred in enforcing the law. Staff requested the Board provide authorization to Sheriff Griffin to execute the agreement on behalf of the County. The agreement, attached to these minutes, will be executed, and funds will be budgeted for in accordance with the agreement.

Approved:

Motion:

*I move the Board approve the agreement and related budget amendment for the NC Department of Public Safety State Budget Allocation to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and provide authorization for Sheriff Griffin to execute.*

### **Public Records Disposal Request – Animal Services Center**

Staff requested approval from the Board to destroy all records listed on the Public Records Disposal Request and Destruction Log in accordance with the County's Records Retention Policy and the provisions of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Retention and Disposition Schedule as the period for retention of these records has expired. The Public Records Disposal Request is attached to these minutes.

Motion:

*I move the Board of Commissioners approve the Public Records Disposal Request and Destruction Log Submitted by the Animal Services Center.*

### **Use of Courtroom – NC State Bar**

The Board was requested to allow the North Carolina State Bar to use the Courtroom and the Community Room on Friday, September 9, 2022. The rooms will be utilized for the Bar's Fall Meeting.

Motion:

*I move the Board approve the use of the Courtroom and the Community Room by the NC State Bar on Friday, September 9, 2022.*

### **2022.29 Agreement with Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. – Henderson County Rail Trail Project**

With the selection of Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. (V&M) as the most qualified responding Engineering firm for the subject project during the Board's December 6, 2021 meeting, staff has negotiated a proposed agreement with V&M for \$447,651.09. (Agreement is attached to these minutes) The scope of the agreement is to perform the engineering services for the subject project through 30% design. The engineering services from 30% design through bidding will fall under a separate agreement to be negotiated when the scope of work needed to improve or replace the bridge structures is known. The bridges will be evaluated during first phase. The second phase is estimated to be \$460,000 which includes design of full bridge replacement.

The greenway project scope is from Kanuga Road to US 64 in Horseshoe and fully funded by a federal grant administered through NC Department of Transportation. The total grant is for \$6,344,023 with the 20% local match (\$1,268,804) coming from private donations.

Motion:

*I move that the Board authorize the County Engineer to execute the proposed agreement with Vaughn & Melton, Inc. for \$447,651.09.*

### **ABC Permit Comment Request**

John Turchin seeks non-negative County comment on his request to the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for a permit for a private club at his property, The Horse Shoe Farm, located on South Rugby Road.

Motion:

*I move that the Board give notice of non-objection to this permit request.*

### **Jackson Park Playground Consultant Selection**

Approved:

At the December 6, 2021, Board of Commissioners meeting, Tommy Laughter presented a plan to fund-raise for an All-Inclusive Playground to be located in Jackson Park. The Board voted to support this project and allocated up to \$50,000 for consultant fees to lay the cornerstone of the Jackson Park All-Inclusive Playground Project.

An RFQ for architectural/engineering services was developed and closed on Friday, January 21, 2022. The selection committee reviewed the proposals, and the outcome of this review was shared with the Recreation Advisory Board at the February 8, 2022, meeting. After careful review and reference checks, Progressive, AE was identified as the recommended firm. The Recreation Advisory Board made a motion recommending that the County Commissioners select the top-rated firm from the selection committee, Progressive, AE.

Board approval was needed to authorize staff to proceed with this selection and negotiation of a contract. This contract will be brought back before the board at a future meeting.

Motion:

*I move that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners select Progressive, AE as the consulting firm for the All-Inclusive Playground at Jackson Park and authorize staff to proceed with all required documents and contracts.*

#### **Petition for Addition to State Road System**

Staff received a petition to add Bellariva Drive and Blue Moon Lane to the state road system. It has been the practice of this Board to accept road petitions and forward them to NC Department of Transportation for their review. It has also been the practice of the Board not to ask NCDOT to change the priority for roads on the paving priority list. The petition is attached to these minutes.

Staff has reviewed attached petition and it appears that all affected property owners or developers have signed the required petition.

Motion:

*I move that the Board approve the petition and direct staff to forward it to NCDOT.*

#### **2022.30 Grant of Easement to Duke Energy**

Duke Energy requires an easement to provide service to the under-construction surgical center for Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital in Mills River. Easement is attached to these minutes.

Motion:

*I move that the Board grant the proposed easement to Duke Energy Carolinas LLC for the Pardee Surgical Center in Mills River.*

#### **Architectural Design Services Selection – Henderson County Courthouse and Detention Facility**

The Board was requested to approve Fentress Architects for the potential 95 Court House and Detention Facility Capital Project. An RFQ was prepared, advertised, and reviewed by a selected panel. Three architectural firms submitted responses to the RFQ, of which Fentress Architects was scored the highest by the panel.

The Board was requested to approve the Henderson County Staff recommended architect, Fentress Architects. The Board was further requested to direct staff to request from Fentress Architects a proposal to provide the architectural services for the design of the 95 Courthouse and Detention Center based upon design recommendations previously presented and approved by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners. The final cost will be brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Approved:

Motion:

*I move the Board accept Fentress Architects as the potential architect for the Henderson County 95 Courthouse and Detention Facility project and authorize Staff to begin work on the cost for services.*

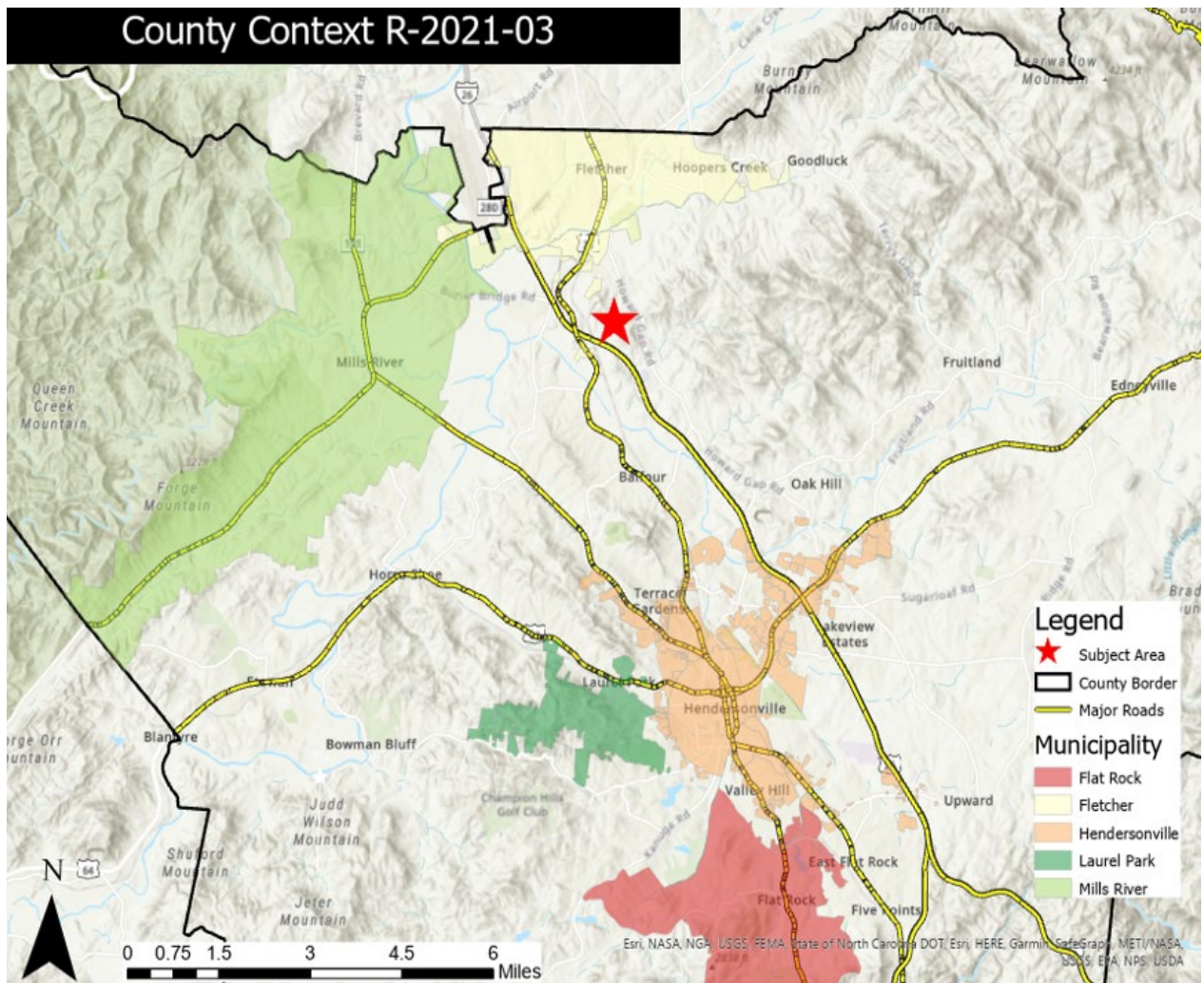
*Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**2022.31 Rezoning Application #R-2021-03 Laughter, Industrial (I) to Residential District One (R1)**

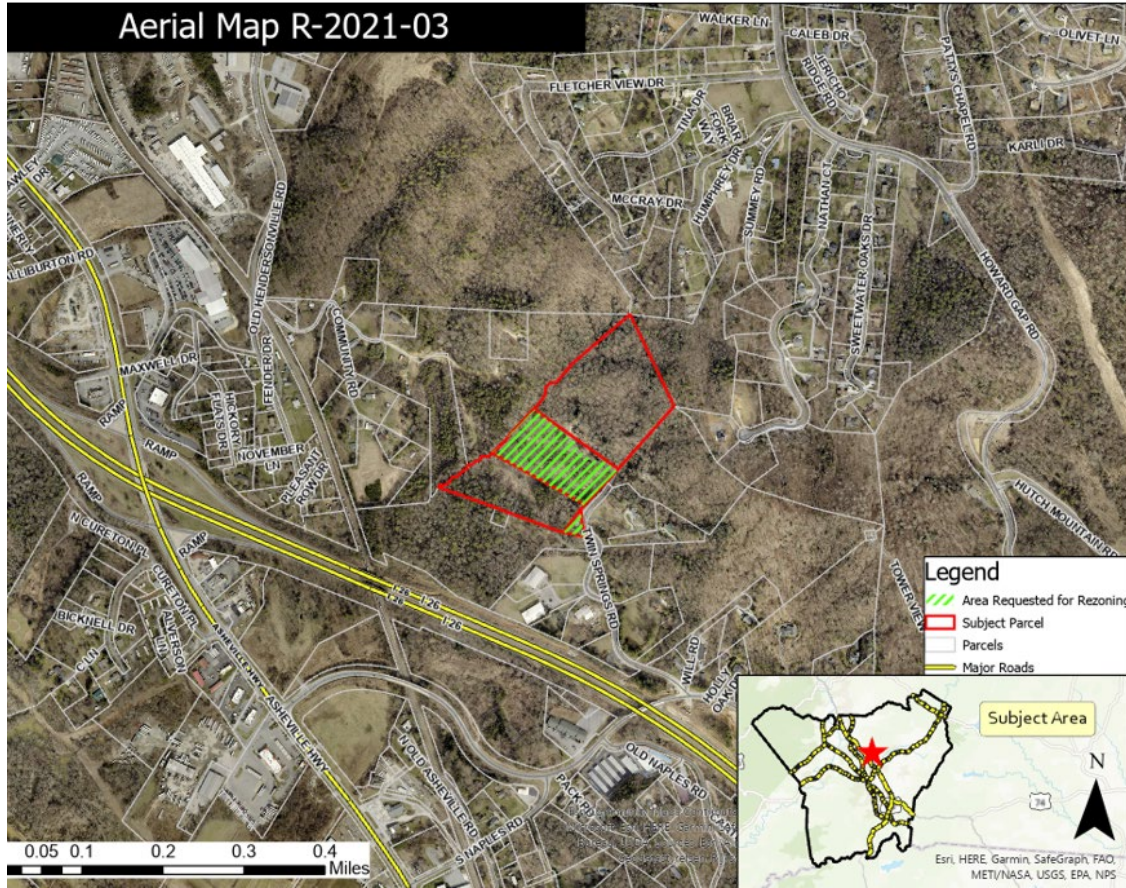
*Chairman Lapsley made the motion to go into Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

Grayson Taylor, Planner III, stated that rezoning Application #R-2021-03, initiated on December 6, 2021, requests that the County rezone approximately 5.21 acres of a 22.03-acre parcel from Industrial (I) to Residential One (R1) zoning district. The acreage consists of 1 parcel (PIN: 9651-79-4087) located adjacent and west of Twin Springs Road (SR 1353), specifically 161 Twin Springs Road.



Approved:





## Additional Studies and Plans

- Oklawaha Greenway Extension Plan identifies subject area within 100-500 number of jobs within a square mile.
- Subject area is not within a township with a Community Plan.
- Site is currently served by individual well and septic.
- Twin Springs Road (SR 1353) is contiguous to the subject area.

## District Comparison

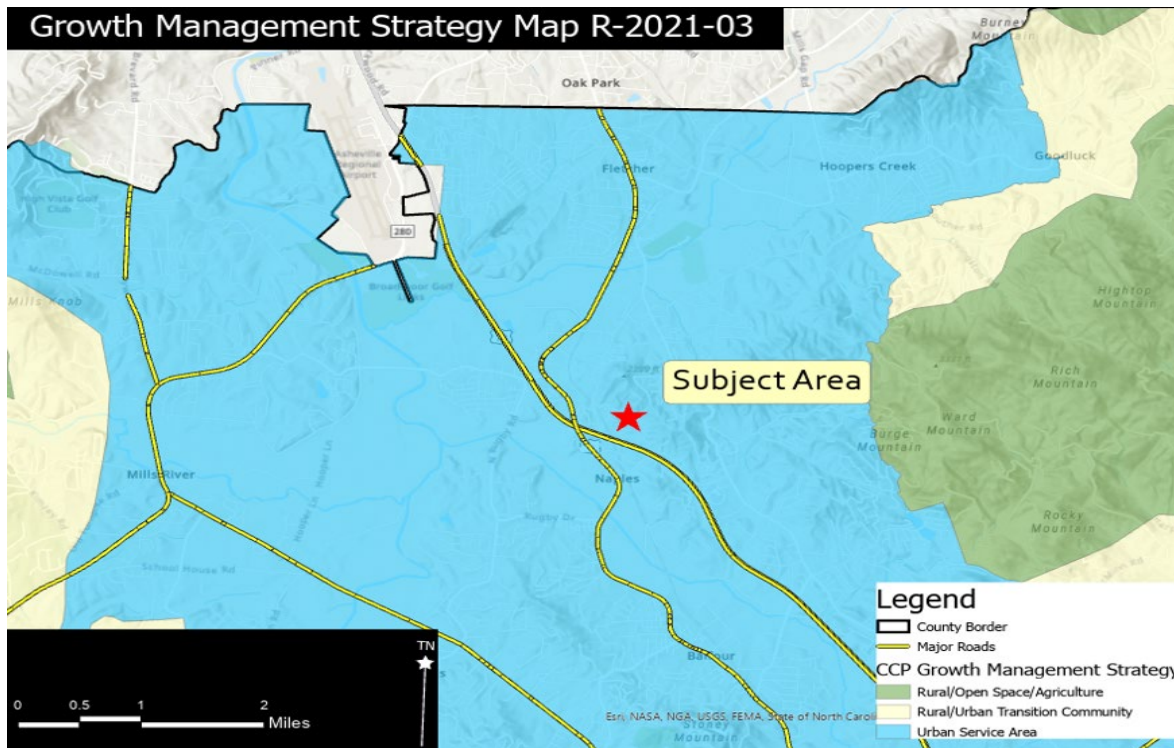
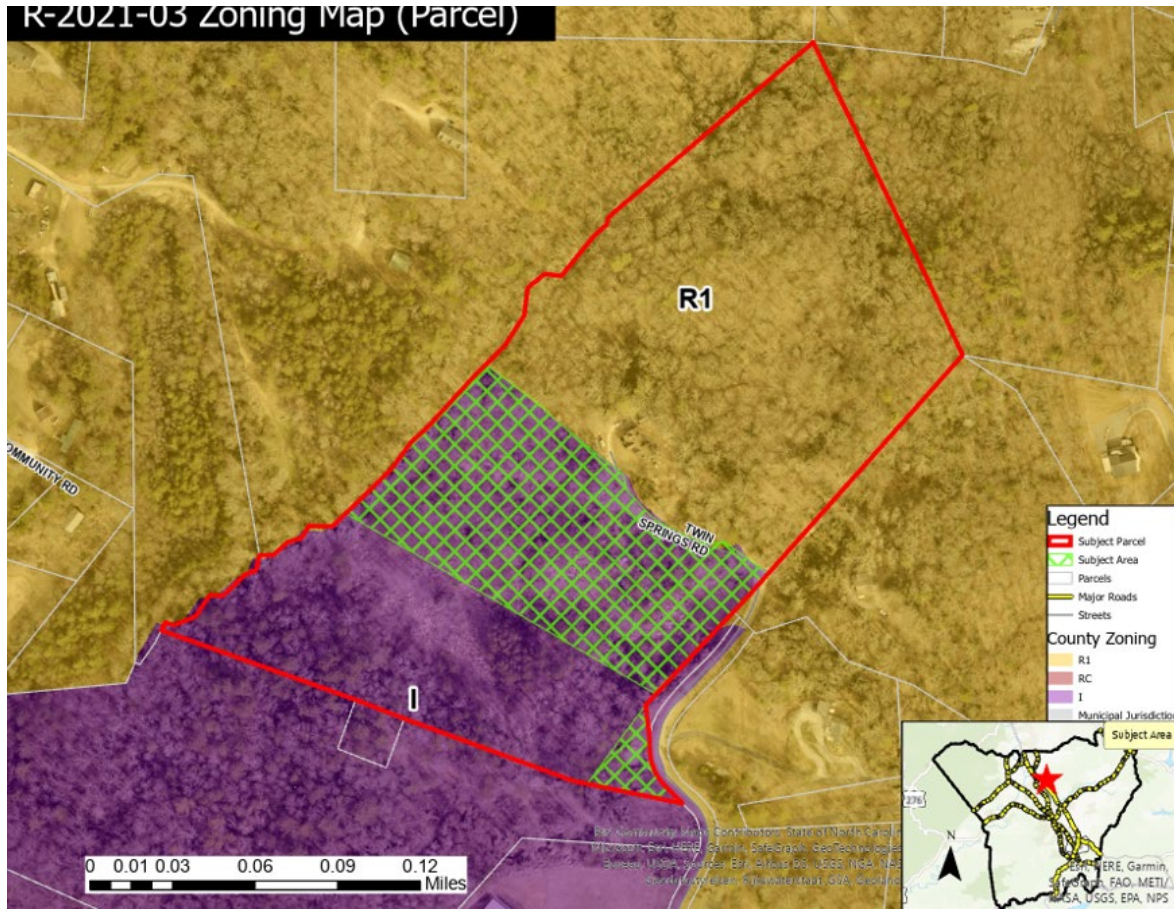
### RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ONE (R1)

Principal use of land is residential.  
 Manufacturing and processing facilities are not permitted in Residential District One (R1).

### INDUSTRIAL (I)

Principal use of land is a mixture of industrial and heavy commercial.  
 Residential uses are not permitted in Industrial (I).

Approved:



Approved:

The Planning Board reviewed this request at its January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and voted 6-2 to send forth a favorable recommendation for approval.

**Public Input**

1. Forrest Tate spoke in favor of the rezoning request.
2. Sam Massa spoke regarding the rezoning request.

*Chairman Lapsley made the motion to go out of public hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Commissioner Hill made the motion the Board approve rezoning application #R-2021-03 to rezone the subject area from an Industrial (I) zoning district to Residential One (R1) zoning district based on the recommendations of the Henderson County Comprehensive Plan and further move that the Board approve the Resolution of Consistency with the CPP. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

**DISCUSSION**

**Nantahala/Pisgah Forest Plan Update**

The US Forest Service recently released their new forest plan. Dave Casey, District Ranger with the Forest Service, was in attendance and provided an update for the Board.

**PEG Channel – Bruce McDonald**

Bruce McDonald presented information to the Board

**Selection of Annual Audit Firm**

On February 1, 2022, Staff released a Request for Proposal for Auditing Services (RFP) to invite qualified CPA Accounting Firms, to conduct the FY2022 annual audit as required by NCGS §159-34(a) and in compliance with Uniform Guidance. Staff subsequently developed and released a Request for Proposals, which was posted on February 1, 2022. Proposals were due on February 18, 2022.

Four proposals were submitted for consideration. Those proposals were reviewed by the Chairman and Staff on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Following that review, Cherry Bekaert LLP, was selected as the most qualified firm to conduct the FY22 Audit.

Approved:

(Score from 1 to 5 with 5 the best)

CRITERIA	%	Cherry Bekaert LLP		Gould Killian CPA Group, PA		Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, PA		Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co.	
		Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score
1 North Carolina Office location(s) that will handle the audit.	5%	4	4.00	5	5.00	4	4.00	3	3.00
2 Number of people (by level) located within the local office that will handle the audit.	5%	5	5.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	3	3.00
3 Local office's current and prior government audit clients, the type(s) of services performed and the number of years for each.	18%	4	14.40	5	18.00	0	-	4	14.40
4 Experience of the local office in providing additional services to government clients.	5%	3	3.00	3	3.00	3	3.00	2	2.00
5 Audit organization's participation in AICPA-sponsored or comparable quality control programs (peer review).	5%	5	5.00	5	5.00	5	5.00	5	5.00
6 Professional experience in governmental audits of each senior and higher level person assigned to the audit.	15%	5	15.00	5	15.00	5	15.00	5	15.00
7 Relevant experience and education with the new GASB reporting requirements.	5%	5	5.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	3	3.00
8 Professional experience of assigned individuals in auditing relevant government organizations, programs, activities, or functions (e.g., utilities, solid waste, etc.)	10%	5	10.00	3	6.00	5	10.00	3	6.00
9 Specialized skills, training, or background in public finance of assigned individuals.	5%	5	5.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	2	2.00
10 Quality of references	10%	4	8.00	4	8.00	4	8.00	3	6.00
11 Firm's Statement of Policy and Procedures regarding Independence under Government Accounting Standards.	5%	5	5.00	4	4.00	4	4.00	4	4.00
12 Adequate liability insurance coverage	3%	5	3.00	5	3.00	5	3.00	5	3.00
13 Regulatory action taken by any oversight body against the proposing audit organization?	7%	5	7.00	5	7.00	5	7.00	5	7.00
14 Knowledge of and relationship with the NC Local Government Commission and the UNCISOG.	7%	5	7.00	5	7.00	5	7.00	4	5.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>92.40</b>		<b>88.00</b>		<b>74.00</b>		<b>76.00</b>

Motion:

*Vice-Chair McCall made the motion the Board select Cherry Bekaert to conduct the FY22 Audit and authorize Staff to execute a contract subject to review by the County Attorney for purposes of conformity with North Carolina Law 5-0.*

**Foster Care Update**

Alex Williams, President of Fostering Hopes, and Adam Ponder with H3 Collective provided information on a proposal for additional foster care homes in Henderson County.

DSS Director Jerrie McFalls and Lori Horne provided the Board with information regarding Foster Children in Henderson County and the need for additional local foster care.

**ARP – Priority Discussion**

As the Board has heard input from the public, requests from Staff, and other potential uses identified by the Board of Commissioners, the Board was requested to discuss prioritizing requests for American Rescue Plan (ARP) expenditures. Any ARP expenditures must be authorized by the ARP Final Rule and must also have state authorization through enabling legislation.

Citizen Virginia Tagel asked the Board questions.

Approved:

The Board discussed their funding priorities and directed Staff accordingly on development of a funding priority plan.

### **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

1. EMS Peer Review Committee – 2 vac.  
There were no nominations and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
2. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 2 vac.  
*Chairman Lapsley nominated Alicia Wallace for appointment to position #4, All voted in favor and the motion carried.*
3. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
4. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.  
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
5. Home and Community care Block Grant Committee – 2 vac.  
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
6. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac.  
*Chairman Lapsley nominated Kelly Leonard for reappointment to position # 5. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*
7. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 3 vac.  
*Commissioner Edney nominated Judi Hafner for appointment to position #13, All voted in favor and the motion carried.*
8. Laurel Park Planning Board – 1 vac.  
*Chairman Lapsley nominated Clint Dewitt for re appointment to position #1, All voted in favor and the motion carried.*
9. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 10 vac.  
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

### **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Commissioner Hill stated the Broadband Task Force recently held it's first meeting. There were approximately 50 people present including citizens and providers. He was pleased with the success of the meeting and thanked those who participated. The next meeting for the Broadband Task Force is scheduled for April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the Historic Courthouse.

Vice-Chair McCall informed the audience that there will be banners hanging from the Historic Courthouse balcony the last two weeks in April promoting Henderson County's Litter Sweep. She encouraged everyone to "Save the Date" for the upcoming litter pickup day scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Commissioner Edney noted the passing of longtime volunteer fireman Bill Hill. Bill Hill was the Fire Chief at the Valley Hill Fire Department for many years. Mr. Hill will be deeply missed.

Chairman Lapsley shared the date of the upcoming meeting for the Substance Abuse Task Force. The meeting will take place Thursday, March 17, 2022, in the Community room located in the Historic Courthouse. Chairman Lapsley continues to serve on the NC Leadership Forum and stated the forum will be discussing Affordable Housing at their next meeting. In closing, Chairman Lapsley shared some statistics regarding Vaya Health. Vaya currently serves thirty-one NC counties and has an amassed budget

Approved:

of six hundred and forty million dollars.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager John Mitchell acknowledged Carleen Dixon, Bruce Gilliam, and the Recreation Department's initiative to bring girls' softball back to Henderson County.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Board that there are a lot of projects moving in the county. The 95 Courthouse Project will be back on the agenda for the mid-month meeting. Staff is currently negotiating a fee with Fentress, the architect that was chosen for this project. Same is true for the VFW Project and architects McMillan, Pazden, Smith. He continued that the Board's motion tonight approving the agreement with Vaughn and Melton Consulting Engineers for the engineering portion of phase one will keep that project moving forward. An update is expected later this month or early April with the timeline to inform the public of where we are on this project.

In closing, Mr. Mitchell shared that the General Assembly will be back in session in Raleigh next week to take up technical corrections. He will be watching the Technical Corrections Bill with great interest as the County is participating in a number of the projects included in that Bill. Staff is also keeping an eye on global issues that are related to the County. One of which is the impact on the County Budget and likely all household budgets in the County due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Chairman Lapsley noted that the Board needed to schedule a Joint Schools Facilities meeting and tasked commissioner representatives Edney and Hill with the scheduling of that meeting.

*Commissioner Edney made the motion that the Board go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3)(4).*

1. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with attorney employed or retained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Board.
2. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

*Commissioner Edney made to motion to go out of closed session and adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.*

### **ADJOURN**

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Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

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William Lapsley, Chairman

Approved: