

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

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.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Rebecca McCall, Commissioner William Lapsley, 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.

Absent was Vice-Chair J. Michael Edney

Also present were: Director of Business and Community Development Christopher Todd, Finance Director Samantha Reynolds, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, Health Director David Jenkins, Director of Facility Services Andrew Griffin, Assistant Finance Director Randal Cox, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Planner Liz Hansen, Tax Assessor Harry Rising, Social Services Director Jerrie McFalls, Deputy Director Lorie Horne, Administrative Officer III Melissa Novak, M Admin II Debby Freeman, Soil and Water Conservation District Director/Conservationist Director Jonathan Wallin, Library Director Trina Rushing, Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam, Park Maintenance Supervisor Jason Kilgore, Engineer Marcus Jones, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Human Resources Director Karen Ensley, A/V Technician Oscar Guerrero, Capital Projects Manager Bryan Rhodes, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping. Deputies Travis Pierce and Tracy Davis provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

INVOCATION Pastor Marc Reynolds with Little River Baptist Church provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Molly Cowan, with Barnyard Bandits 4-H Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Certification of Appreciation – John Lynn

The Board of Commissioners presented John Lynn with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service on the Animal Services Committee.

After reading the Certificate of Appreciation aloud, Chairman McCall presented the certificate to Mr. Lynn.

Approved:

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143.318.11 (a)(4). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to go out of closed session at 5:47p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall made the motion to reconvene the meeting. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The meeting was reconvened at 5:50 p.m.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Joe Elliott shared information about North Carolina's investment in public schools. He believed the pay teachers receive in NC was inadequate. He spoke about the cost of the voucher program. He said Henderson County schools depended on the Board of Commissioners to provide the support they needed.
2. Al Yeck spoke about the Veteran's Healing Farm and the help it provides for veterans. He said there had been an increase in the suicide rate for veterans. He urged the Board to support programs that are helpful to veterans.
3. Patricia Sheley said there was a public school emergency. She shared information she had read on Governor Cooper's website regarding the voucher program.
4. Katy Gash supported the proposed stipend for Henderson County teachers included in the HCPS Budget request. She believed teachers are not respected, supported, appreciated, or paid like the professionals they are. She urged the Board to approve HCPS's funding request fully.
5. Chris Walters spoke about land and farm conservation. He appreciated the Board's creation of the Farmland Preservation task force.
6. Walker Houlihan spoke about the need for soccer fields in Henderson County.
7. Bryson Reid spoke about the need for soccer fields in Henderson County.
8. Alex Ramirez urged the Board to fund HCPS' Budget Appropriation fully.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Chairman McCall made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall pulled item H – MOU with NCDHHS for Social Service Programs.

CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval for the following meeting:

May 6, 2024 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

May 15, 2024 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

I move the Board approve the minutes of May 6, 2024, and May 15, 2024.

Approved:

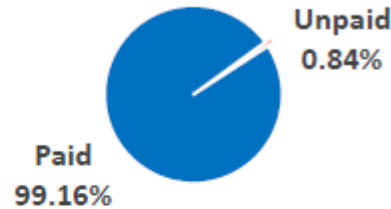
Tax Collector’s Report

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

Please find outlined below collections information through May 23, 2024 for 2023 real and personal property bills mailed on August 21, 2023. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):

2023 Beginning Charge:	\$99,218,816.55
Discoveries & Imm.	\$216,128.76
Releases & Refunds:	(\$304,626.32)
<u>Net Charge:</u>	<u>\$99,130,318.99</u>
Unpaid Taxes:	\$828,095.36
Amount Collected:	\$98,302,223.63



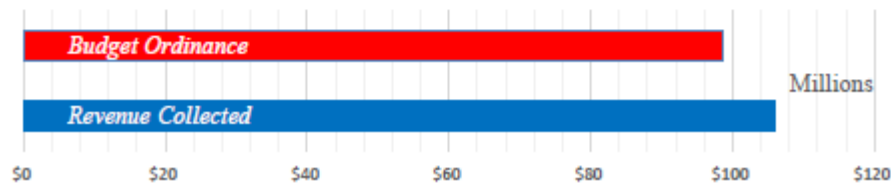
Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$6,728,971.94
Unpaid Taxes:	\$21,159.54
Amount Collected:	\$6,707,812.40

99.69%

Henderson County FY24 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$97,695,412.00	\$105,010,036.03
Prior Years:	\$1,041,250.00	\$888,207.65
Budget Total:	\$98,736,662.00	YTD Revenue: \$105,898,243.68



2024.065 Pending Releases & Refunds

The Assessor reviewed the pending releases and refunds and concluded that these findings were in order. Supporting documentation is on file in the County Assessor’s Office.

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

Type:	Amount:
Total Taxes Released from the Charge	\$15,179.35
Total Refunds as a result of the Above Releases	\$14,410.34
Motion:	

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

County Financial Report – April 2024

The April 2024 County Financial and Cash Balance Reports were provided for the Board’s review and approval.

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

- Dues/Non-Profit Contributions – payment of 4th quarter Board appropriations

Approved:

- Administrative Services – timing of board-approved expenditures
- Rescue Squad – payment of 4th quarter Board appropriations and timing of reimbursable expenditures
- Mental Health – payment of 4th quarter Board approved appropriation
- Juvenile Justice Programs – disbursement of juvenile detention fees
- Public Education – payment of 10 of 10 annual appropriations made to the public school system
- Interfund Transfers – timing of board-approved transfers

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Emergency Telephone System (911) Fund is due to utilizing fund balance appropriations for FY24.

Year-to-date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Solid Waste Landfill Fund were due to expenditures incurred related to the Third Transfer Station Bay Project. Revenues associated with borrowing will be recognized upon closing of the installment financing contract in May 2024.

HENDERSON COUNTY
FINANCIAL REPORT
APRIL 2024

GENERAL FUND REVENUES						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
General Fund	204,896,918	10,303,087.71	170,562,683.61	83.2%	-	170,562,683.61

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
Governing Body	690,655	30,761.22	489,659.36	70.90%	3,297.26	492,956.62
Dues/Non-Profit Contributions	829,896	197,115.00	799,241.08	96.31%	-	799,241.08
County Manager	470,511	22,977.04	259,426.44	55.14%	-	259,426.44
Administrative Services	823,862	56,647.42	687,583.47	83.46%	-	687,583.47
Human Resources	1,442,456	113,256.19	1,169,738.54	81.09%	22,586.76	1,192,325.30
Elections	1,127,819	51,755.39	866,914.96	76.87%	38,374.72	905,289.68
Finance	1,344,653	89,265.15	1,073,864.21	79.86%	-	1,073,864.21
County Assessor	2,133,023	151,783.77	1,530,469.34	71.75%	-	1,530,469.34
Tax Collector	589,966	42,072.90	426,979.09	72.37%	-	426,979.09
Legal	1,086,063	74,319.93	874,081.99	80.48%	-	874,081.99
Register of Deeds	726,643	45,252.47	592,749.49	81.57%	-	592,749.49
Facilities Services	6,367,233	458,031.18	3,972,162.32	62.38%	478,705.51	4,450,867.83
Garage	553,002	13,584.89	329,846.53	59.65%	-	329,846.53
Court Facilities	153,000	9,861.81	102,756.95	67.16%	4,426.00	107,182.95
Information Technology	6,546,962	327,704.38	4,519,376.78	69.03%	221,306.11	4,740,682.89
Sheriff	23,892,521	1,825,016.25	18,655,943.46	78.08%	379,837.94	19,035,781.40
Detention Center	6,830,443	473,395.38	4,953,996.84	72.53%	148,759.12	5,102,755.96
Emergency Management	848,104	67,859.64	646,786.98	76.26%	-	646,786.98
Fire Services	1,194,860	95,775.15	584,335.59	48.90%	30,291.00	614,626.59
Building Services	1,655,748	124,167.04	1,295,053.55	78.22%	-	1,295,053.55
Wellness Clinic	1,460,986	101,936.38	1,170,733.60	80.13%	33,031.78	1,203,765.38
Emergency Medical Services	12,457,042	829,253.04	9,366,964.15	75.19%	38,142.69	9,405,106.84
Animal Services	963,795	59,305.02	639,875.35	66.39%	31,488.50	671,363.85
Rescue Squad	757,750	189,506.43	767,469.33	101.28%	-	767,469.33
Forestry Services	151,972	4,594.37	34,357.10	22.81%	-	34,357.10
Soil & Water Conservation	1,009,983	45,641.73	392,569.78	38.87%	286,911.55	679,481.33
Planning	1,026,955	67,540.53	754,219.56	73.44%	5,400.00	759,619.56
Code Enforcement Services	331,303	26,150.90	245,607.49	74.13%	-	245,607.49
Site Development	326,490	15,532.63	235,691.94	72.19%	-	235,691.94
Heritage Museum	100,000	8,333.33	83,333.30	83.33%	-	83,333.30
Cooperative Extension	682,639	66,753.09	561,892.31	82.31%	1,936.50	563,828.81
Projects Management	267,360	18,157.83	182,409.17	68.23%	-	182,409.17
Economic Development	945,777	108,500.00	705,058.05	74.55%	-	705,058.05
Agri-Business	220,084	-	170,000.00	77.24%	-	170,000.00
Public Health	12,403,028	797,434.86	8,559,290.95	69.01%	199,027.41	8,758,318.36

Approved:

Environmental Health	1,876,787	126,415.88	1,423,159.85	75.83%	-	1,423,159.85
H&CC Block Grant	844,293	77,317.75	668,145.75	79.14%	-	668,145.75
Medical Services - Autopsies	90,000	2,750.00	54,200.00	60.22%	-	54,200.00
Strategic Behavioral Health	298,615	22,194.45	156,038.32	52.26%	-	156,038.32
Mental Health	528,612	132,153.00	528,612.00	100.00%	-	528,612.00
Rural Transportation Assist Program	201,384	23,566.70	167,340.39	83.10%	-	167,340.39
Social Services	22,729,501	1,577,383.29	16,704,127.43	73.49%	9,490.80	16,713,618.23
Juvenile Justice Programs	302,020	34,335.44	258,301.72	85.52%	-	258,301.72
Veteran Services	245,704	20,231.27	169,877.13	69.14%	-	169,877.13
Public Library	4,231,727	292,698.84	3,229,216.13	76.31%	163,425.85	3,392,641.98
Recreation	3,227,536	209,163.95	2,396,367.93	74.26%	85,634.54	2,482,002.47
Public Education	40,128,000	3,958,633.33	39,211,333.30	97.72%	-	39,211,333.30
Debt Service	19,178,617	3,058,657.73	13,312,997.27	69.42%	-	13,312,997.27
Non-Departmental	4,863,137	261,772.27	2,770,574.76	56.97%	-	2,770,574.76
Interfund Transfers	13,738,401	2,608,430.84	11,722,493.40	85.33%	-	11,722,493.40
TOTAL	204,896,918	19,014,947.08	160,473,224.43		2,192,074.04	162,665,298.47
Net Revenues over (under) Exp.	-	(8,711,859.37)	10,089,459.18		(2,192,074.04)	7,897,385.14

APPROPRIATIONS

APPROPRIATIONS DETAIL						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOCIAL SERVICES						
Staff Operations	18,535,353	1,315,638.99	14,182,409.08	76.5%	9,490.80	14,191,899.88
Federal & State Programs	4,094,148	257,342.33	2,473,316.65	60.4%	-	2,473,316.65
General Assistance	100,000	4,401.97	48,401.70	48.4%	-	48,401.70
TOTAL	22,729,501	1,577,383.29	16,704,127.43		9,490.80	16,713,618.23
EDUCATION						
Schools Current/Capital Expense	34,628,000	3,500,300	34,628,000	100.0%	-	34,628,000.00
Blue Ridge Community College	5,500,000	458,333	4,583,333	83.3%	-	4,583,333.30
TOTAL	40,128,000	3,958,633.33	39,211,333.30		-	39,211,333.30
DEBT SERVICE						
Public Schools	11,642,875	2,314,676.79	8,029,072.86	69.0%	-	8,029,072.86
Blue Ridge Community College	3,297,401	1,094.40	1,872,054.88	56.8%	-	1,872,054.88
Henderson County	4,238,341	742,886.54	3,411,869.53	80.5%	-	3,411,869.53
TOTAL	19,178,617	3,058,657.73	13,312,997.27		-	13,312,997.27
INTERFUND TRANSFERS						
Capital Projects Fund	306,116	20,833.34	208,333.40	68.1%	-	208,333.40
Capital Reserve Fund	4,603,500	383,625.00	3,836,250.00	83.3%	-	3,836,250.00
Fire Districts Fund	20,000	-	20,000.00	100.0%	-	20,000.00
HCCPS MRTS	4,603,500	383,625.00	3,836,250.00	83.3%	-	3,836,250.00
BRCC MRTS	2,301,750	191,812.50	1,918,125.00	83.3%	-	1,918,125.00
Debt Service Fund	1,628,535	1,628,535.00	1,628,535.00	100.0%	-	1,628,535.00
Solid Waste	275,000	-	275,000.00	100.0%	-	275,000.00
TOTAL	13,738,401.00	2,608,430.84	11,722,493.40		-	11,722,493.40

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
FIRE DISTRICTS FUND						
Revenues:	15,915,648	164,848.25	16,652,169.99	104.6%	-	16,652,169.99
Expenditures:	15,915,648	207,579.75	16,491,472.32	103.6%	-	16,491,472.32
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(42,731.50)	160,697.67		-	160,697.67
REVALUATION RESERVE FUND						
Revenues:	1,510,021	138,947.53	1,359,697.34	90.0%	-	1,359,697.34
Expenditures:	1,510,021	71,039.24	1,072,461.03	71.0%	10,800.00	1,083,261.03
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	67,909.29	287,236.31		(10,800.00)	276,436.31
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (911) FUND						
Revenues:	346,116	4,137.17	38,949.83	11.3%	-	38,949.83
Expenditures:	346,116	5,227.15	278,632.94	80.5%	-	278,632.94
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(1,089.98)	(239,683.11)		-	(239,683.11)
PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND						
Revenues:	1,240,801	6,691.06	1,010,643.80	81.5%	-	1,010,643.80
Expenditures:	1,240,801	64,213.06	596,349.34	48.1%	-	596,349.34
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(57,522.00)	414,294.46		-	414,294.46
MISC. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES						
Revenues:	960,000	63,851.19	452,836.85	47.2%	-	452,836.85
Expenditures:	960,000	43,638.25	438,833.67	45.7%	-	438,833.67
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	20,212.94	14,003.18		-	14,003.18
ARPA FUND						
Revenues:	16,592,537	113,787.52	22,052,885.29	-	-	22,052,885.29
Expenditures:	16,592,537	-	559,992.94	-	-	559,992.94
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	113,787.52	21,492,892.35		-	21,492,892.35
DEBT SERVICE FUND						
Revenues:	1,628,535	1,628,535.00	1,628,535.00	-	-	1,628,535.00
Expenditures:	1,628,535	-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	1,628,535.00	1,628,535.00		-	1,628,535.00
OPIOID FUND						
Revenues:	668,882	616,369.26	3,689,997.67	-	-	3,689,997.67
Expenditures:	668,882	47,091.99	182,409.35	-	-	182,409.35
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	569,277.27	3,507,588.32		-	3,507,588.32

Approved:

CAPITAL PROJECTS						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	PROJECT TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
EDNEYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT (1702)						
Revenues:	26,854,136	-	27,891,962.18	103.9%	-	27,891,962.18
Expenditures:	26,854,136	1,628,535.00	26,959,829.76	100.4%	-	26,959,829.76
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(1,628,535.00)	932,132.42		-	932,132.42
HENDERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT - 2019 (1903) - PROJECT COMPLETE						
Revenues:	60,442,694	-	61,181,021.22	101.2%	-	61,181,021.22
Expenditures:	60,442,694	-	60,940,000.37	100.8%	-	60,940,000.37
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	-	241,020.85		-	241,020.85
ENTERPRISE FUNDS						
	BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL FUND						
Revenues:	9,622,547	855,939.95	7,562,542.47	78.6%	-	7,562,542.47
Expenditures:	9,622,547	847,444.41	7,577,786.38	78.8%	5,614,576.65	13,192,363.03
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	8,495.54	(15,243.91)		(5,614,576.65)	(5,629,820.56)
JUSTICE ACADEMY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	67,739	7,700.61	68,983.58	101.8%	-	68,983.58
Expenditures:	67,739	3,611.08	30,178.63	44.6%	5,793.49	35,972.12
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	4,089.53	38,804.95		(5,793.49)	33,011.46

Henderson County - Cash Balance Report – April 2024

Fund(s)	03/31/24 Beg. Cash Balance	Debits Revenues	(Credits) Expenditures	04/30/24 Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 115,751,507.45	\$ 8,654,326.31	\$ (18,355,664.46)	\$ 106,050,169.30
Special Revenue	44,209,029.24	3,113,938.08	(430,882.03)	\$ 46,892,085.29
Capital Projects	2,903,944.59	1,663,390.35	(3,567,055.68)	\$ 1,000,279.26
Enterprise	1,859,005.13	863,551.50	(830,796.28)	\$ 1,891,760.35
HCPS - Maint. and Repair	10,698,068.93	388,299.83	(578,421.88)	\$ 10,507,946.88
BRCC - Maint. and Repair	2,378,049.07	191,812.50	(68,880.59)	\$ 2,500,980.98
Custodial	543,270.74	304,722.02	(323,856.05)	\$ 524,136.71
Total	\$ 178,342,875.15	\$ 15,180,040.59	\$ (24,155,556.97)	
Total cash available as of April 30, 2024				\$ 169,367,358.77

Motion:

I move the Board approve the April 2024 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.

Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report – April 2024

The Henderson County Public Schools April 2024 Local Current Expense Fund / Other Restricted Funds Report was provided for the Board’s information.

Approved:

**HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE/OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS
as of April 30, 2024**

REVENUES:	LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND		OTHER RESTRICTED FUND		Combined Total	Prior YTD
	Budget	YTD Activity	Budget	YTD Activity		
3200 State Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,263	\$ 8,263	\$ 8,000
3700 Federal Sources-Restricted	-	-	1,522,494	641,602	641,602	640,395
3800 Other Federal-ROTC	-	-	106,000	114,883	114,883	98,589
4100 County Appropriation	32,878,000	32,878,000	-	-	32,878,000	31,378,000
4200 Local -Tuition/Fees	-	-	55,000	51,750	51,750	36,695
4400 Local-Unrestricted	705,000	453,826	173,327	213,626	667,452	651,746
4800 Local-Restricted	-	-	1,498,172	1,175,835	1,175,835	546,891
4900 Fund Balance Appropriated/Transfer From school	2,001,317	-	132,816	35,666	35,666	64,398
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 35,584,317	\$ 33,331,826	\$ 3,495,809	\$ 2,239,624	\$ 35,571,451	\$ 33,424,714

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	YTD Activity	Budget	YTD Activity	Combined Total	Prior YTD
Instructional Services:						
5100 Regular Instructional Services	\$ 9,934,680	\$ 6,159,638	\$ 680,806	\$ 360,496	\$ 6,520,134	\$ 6,605,581
5200 Special Populations Services	1,378,356	723,387	935,525	349,640	1,073,027	1,001,301
5300 Alternative Programs and Services	183,243	96,339	377,954	235,838	332,177	282,212
5400 School Leadership Services	3,114,291	2,524,549	12,513	9,604	2,534,453	2,364,741
5500 Co-Curricular Services	890,423	637,414	391,227	402,593	1,040,008	602,718
5800 School-Based Support Services	1,811,109	1,459,190	9,500	6,302	1,465,492	1,255,943
Total Instructional Services	\$ 17,412,102	\$ 11,600,517	\$ 2,407,524	\$ 1,364,773	\$ 12,965,291	\$ 12,112,496
System-Wide Support Services:						
6100 Support and Development Services	\$ 312,404	\$ 242,828	\$ 6,500	\$ 10,949	\$ 253,777	\$ 236,810
6200 Special Population Support	183,034	159,065	116,579	93,637	252,701	189,184
6300 Alternative Programs	106,286	85,555	431	431	85,986	79,074
6400 Technology Support Services	1,287,752	1,055,311	94,784	77,197	1,132,508	1,018,084
6500 Operational Support Services	9,491,369	7,060,364	425,671	350,296	7,410,660	6,789,780
6600 Financial and Human Resource Services	2,346,702	1,971,891	123,292	65,166	2,037,057	1,998,075
6700 Accountability Services	120,174	100,294	1,200	1,200	101,494	175,340
6800 System-Wide Pupil Support Services	415,304	350,573	538	538	351,112	302,452
6900 Policy, Leadership and Public Relations	781,001	571,667	25,970	22,113	593,779	546,638
Total System-Wide Support Services	\$ 15,044,025	\$ 11,597,547	\$ 794,964	\$ 621,527	\$ 12,219,074	\$ 11,333,437
Ancillary Services:						
7100 Community Services	\$ 388	\$ 388	\$ 165,108	\$ 132,871	\$ 133,259	\$ 97,308
7200 Nutrition Services	265,803	97,747	23,725	23,725	121,472	102,962
Total Ancillary Services	\$ 266,190	\$ 98,135	\$ 188,833	\$ 156,596	\$ 254,731	\$ 200,270
Non-Programmed Charges:						
8100 Payments to Other Governments	\$ 2,362,000	\$ 1,871,988	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,871,988	\$ 1,614,724
8400 Interfund Transfers	500,000	-	68,489	90,782	90,782	63,572
8500 Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-
8600 Educational Foundations	-	-	36,000	9,601	9,601	35,162
Total Non-Programmed Charges	\$ 2,862,000	\$ 1,871,988	\$ 104,489	\$ 100,383	\$ 1,972,371	\$ 1,713,458
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 35,584,317	\$ 25,168,187	\$ 3,495,809	\$ 2,243,280	\$ 27,411,467	\$ 25,359,661

Motion:

I move the Board approve the April 2024 Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report and Cash Balance Report 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. Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee- 1 vac.
Position # 7 - Committee Nominee
2. Mountain Area Workforce Development Board – 1 vac.
Position # 1 – Chamber of Commerce Nominee

2024.066 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council County Plan FY2024-2025

The Henderson County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) approved funding for local juvenile crime prevention programs. The State of North Carolina made \$266,020 available for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Each Program is required to provide a 30% match.

Approved:

The programs approved by the JCPC were as follows:

1. JCPC Administrative Expenses	\$ 5,400
2. Aspire – Kids at Work	\$68,401
3. Aspire – Vocational Direction	\$93,753
4. Hendersonville Boys & Girls Club	\$39,600
5. Hope Rising	\$58,866
Total	\$266,020

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

The Henderson County JCPC approved the 2024-2025 County Plan for Henderson County. This County Plan was recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners by the JCPC.

Motion:

I move that the Board approve the JCPC recommendations for the FY24-25 Annual Plan and the distribution of the FY24-25 Juvenile Crime Prevention Program funds.

2024.067 Memorandum of Agreement 2023 – NCSU

The State of North Carolina partners with Henderson County to provide services to the agricultural community through the NC Cooperative Extension. This partnership is outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Henderson County and the State. The State has submitted changes to the MOA through an addendum and language modification to the MOA. Most of the changes submitted are ones that address the functions of the State to manage the NC Cooperative Extension as state employees and clarify the salary agreement between the County and State. A summary of the changes was provided to the Board for review.

Motion:

I move to approve the MOA and relevant addendums with the State of North Carolina for the NC Cooperative Extension.

2024.068 Resolution Appointing Plat Review Officers

N.C. Gen. Stat. §47-30.2 requires that all persons appointed as plat review officers be appointed by a resolution recorded in the Register of Deeds office. “Plat review officers” ensure that all plats to be recorded comply with the plat requirements set out in the General Statutes.

This Board first adopted a plat review officer resolution on September 17, 1997, and has been revised several times since then. This resolution also sets out certain other procedures that all plat review officers must follow.

Due to staff changes, the Board needed to update the list of persons appointed as plat review officers. A proposed resolution was prepared and was provided for the Board’s consideration. The proposed resolution restates all persons currently appointed as plat review officers, removes any

Approved:

former county employees, and appoints new employees from the Planning Department and/or Land Records.

Motion:

I move that the Board adopt the resolution for plat review officers for Henderson County.

DEQ Water Resources Development Grant Award

The Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District requested the Board approve the Water Resources Development Grant awarded to the department for FernLeaf Charter School, Creek Campus – Cane Creek Restoration Project. The project will include stream bank stabilization, the establishment of a riparian buffer and native vegetation, and the creation of an educational access point/outdoor learning lab. The school has also received a CCAP grant from the Division of Soil and Water in the amount of \$40,000 toward this project. The amount awarded in May 2024 to the department for this project is in the table below:

NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources: Water Resources Development Grant	\$66,000
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

Motion:

I move the Board of Commissioners approve the Water Resources Development Grant for the stream restoration project at the FernLeaf Charter School – Creek Campus.

2024 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant

Staff requested the Board approve the 2024 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant in the amount of \$50,000. The purpose of the grant funds was for the expansion of the Henderson County Household Hazardous Waste Program. The grant also requires a match of \$15,500, which was included in the Solid Waste budget. Grant funds will be expended in FY2025.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the 2024 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant and authorize Staff to execute the Contract.

2024.069 Budget Amendment – Fire Workers Compensation Expense

The Board was requested to approve a Budget Amendment transferring \$250,000 from the Fire Services Budget into the Capital Reserve Fund. The appropriation within the FY24 budget was for Worker’s Compensation Insurance the County pays for the volunteer fire departments. Staff had been informed that this cost would be covered by the State for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff requested the transfer to allow these funds to still be used for the benefit of the fire departments.

Motion:

I move the Board approve the Budget Amendment as presented.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to approve the agenda with the revision discussed. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Approved:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to go into the public hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.070 Public Hearing FY2024-2025 Budget

The Board was requested to hold the Public Hearing on the FY 2024-2025 Budget at this meeting. Following the public hearing, the Board was requested to continue discussions with regard to the FY 2024-2025 Budget.

Public Input

1. Katy Gash urged the Board to fully fund HCPS Budget Appropriation request.

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to go out of the public hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2024.071 Public Hearing for Consideration of Economic Development Incentives for Project Score

Chairman McCall made the motion to go into the public hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Notice was given of a public hearing on the possibility of economic investment incentives for Project Score Company. The project and proposed incentives were stated in the notice for this hearing.

Economic Development President Brittany Brady provided information about “Project Score” and the requested incentives. Project Score was an existing industry in Henderson County that was competing for new investments to remain competitive in its market sector. The company provides components that impact the food & beverage, aerospace, and automotive sectors. The investments would improve the quality of life, safety, and production elements across their site. If selected to expand in Henderson County, the company would retain its 114 employees and be in a position for future growth opportunities. The project would invest 4.5 million in personal property in 2025.

If approved, the county would provide the incentive over five years for a total of \$38,097.32, with the first year being \$9,697.50.

Public Input: There was none.

Commissioner Hill clarified that this incentive would be for retaining an existing industry in the county.

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

Commissioner Andreotta made the motion that the Board grant the economic incentives as stated in the notice of this hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.


Approved:

DISCUSSION

Clear Creek Sewer Project Update

With the Board's approval of the design and permitting agreement with WGLA Engineering during the December 4, 2023, meeting and the approval of the discharge permit for the treatment plant last month, Will Buie from WGLA Engineering presented an update on the project, including cost estimates and available scope options, for the Board's consideration.

**Clear Creek
Proposed Sewer System**
Henderson County, North Carolina



**Clear Creek
Project History**

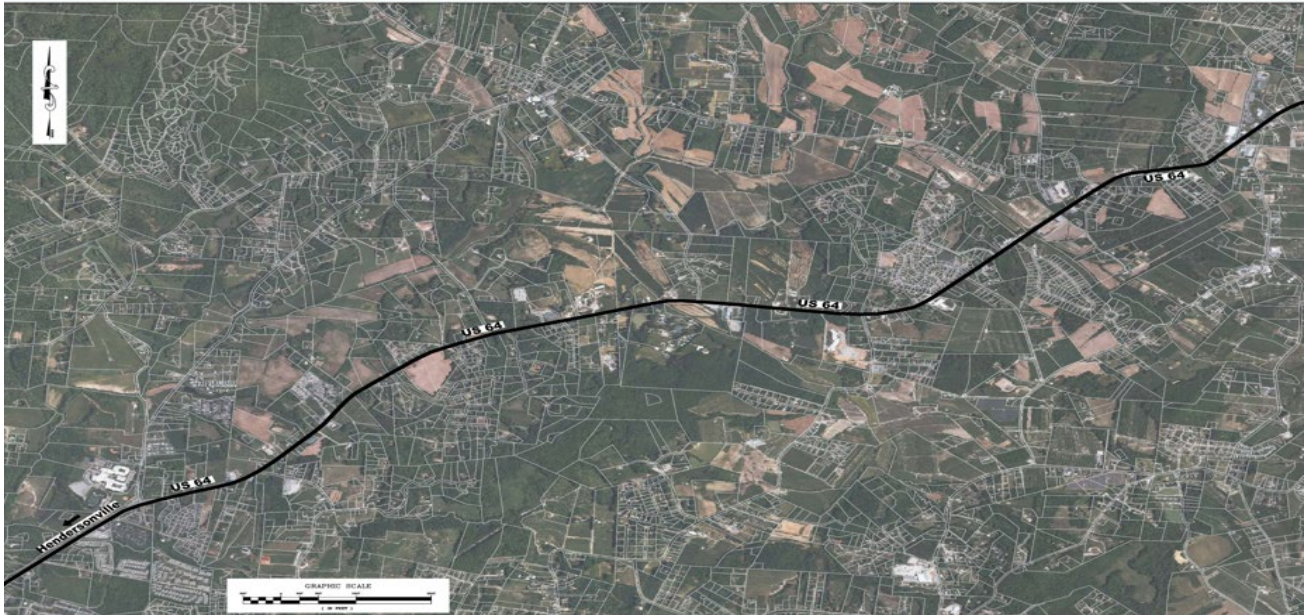
- ◆ County has been considering sewer service in the Edneyville community prior to the construction of the new Edneyville Elementary School.
- ◆ County completed Preliminary Engineering Report with KCI in July 2021.
- ◆ Report identified numerous options for providing sewer service to the area ranging in cost from \$2 million (Edneyville Elementary School only) - \$60 million +/-.
- ◆ State budget has allocated \$12.7 million in funding for the project. County has allocated \$9.3 million in ARPA funds for the project. Finally, the County reserved \$2 million in funding from the Edneyville Elementary project for sewer service and the Justice Academy has a reserve of \$0.73 million.
- ◆ In May 2024 NCDEQ issued a discharge permit a new wastewater treatment plant on Clear Creek.

**Clear Creek
Study Area**

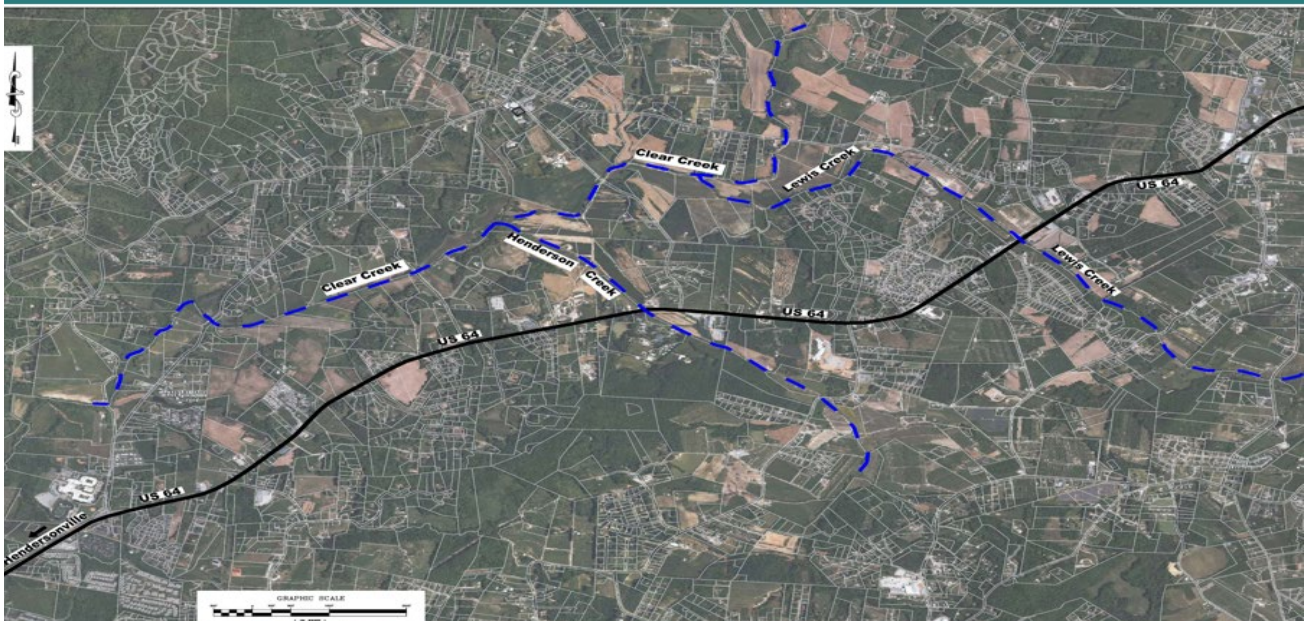


Approved:

Clear Creek Study Area

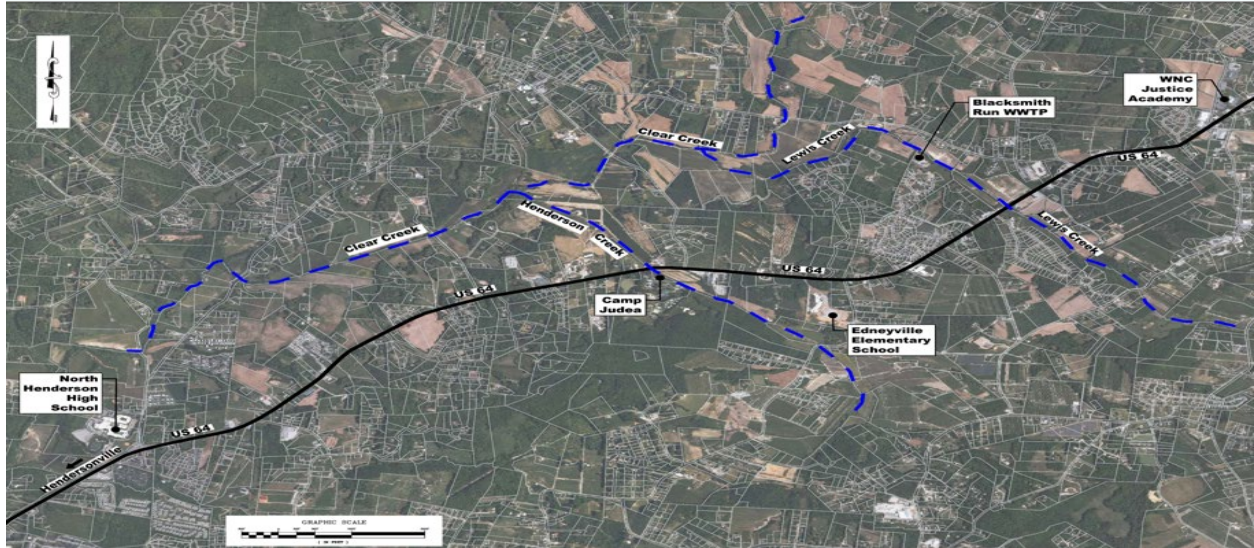


Clear Creek Study Area

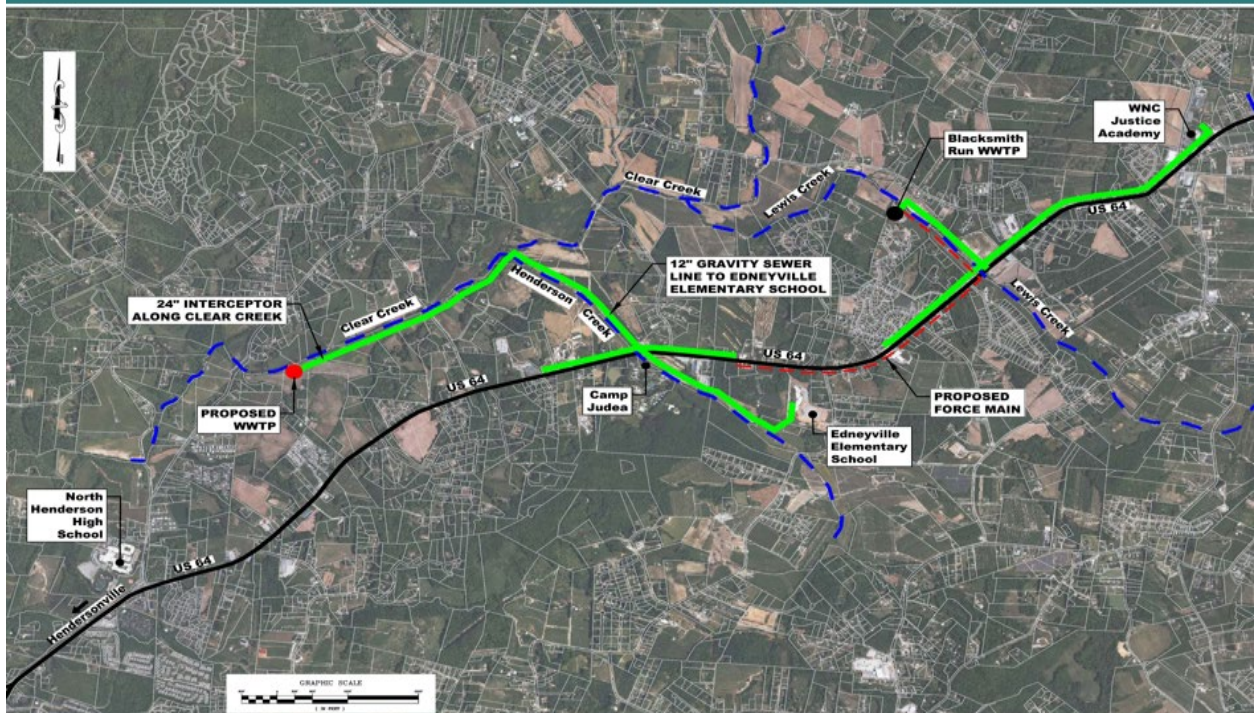


Approved:

Clear Creek Study Area



Clear Creek Proposed Project



Approved:

Mr. Buie noted that the red dot in the previous slide was the proposed location of the Wastewater Plant Discharge. The green lines represent gravity sewer lines. Access to all adjacent to those lines. The red line along the road included a pump station that would pump from Blacksmith Run's Wastewater Treatment Plant back to the collection system for treatment at the new Wastewater Facility. Mr. Buie offered the following points about the cost.

- When this was first looked at, the option the Board looked at was estimated at approximately twenty million dollars in the KCI Study
- In 2022, those costs were benchmarked against current bid costs, and the \$20m estimate was agreed to be pretty accurate.
- During the process with the State, the EAA (Engineering Alternative Analysis), the various costs of the alternatives considered for wastewater treatment disposal had to be justified. While examining those costs, they observed that wastewater treatment plant costs began to grow.
- WGLA was approved to begin design in January, and since then, they have worked diligently and obtained additional information. Today, Mr. Buie believes the project will be a \$32m.

Commissioner Lapsley noted that the two years it took the state to issue the discharge permit, coupled with nationwide inflation, increased the estimated cost for this project by almost 30%. He believed the project was in jeopardy because the county had budgeted \$24m.

Mr. Buie reviewed components that had added to the costs.

- An influent pump station had to be added at the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of over \$1m.
- The state added certain stipulations and additional conditions to the permit they issued, which added roughly a million dollars
- The most significant cost was the increased cost of the collection system

Mr. Buie clarified that the costs were estimates and not bid numbers. However, he felt it was in the county's best interest to present his best cost estimates. He said there was a \$7.27 million gap in funding from the current scope to the estimated cost. He explained options to consider, such as delaying or eliminating some of the sewer collection line along HWY 64. Those could also become options to bid.

Approved:

Clear Creek Estimated Costs

- ◆ 2021 Estimated Costs - \$20 Million
- ◆ 2022 PER Estimate - \$20.2 Million
- ◆ 2023 EAA Estimate - \$22.5 Million
- ◆ Current Estimate - \$32 Million*

Possible Cost Reductions:

- Eliminate/delay sewer collection along US 64 - \$2.7 Million +/-
- Replace gravity line to Justice Academy with pump station and force main - \$1.0 Million +/-

Current estimate includes required permit changes from NCDEQ and updates collection system costs from 2021.

Clear Creek Estimated Costs

- ◆ WWTP & Influent Pump Station \$10,566,000 +/-
- ◆ 24" Gravity Interceptor - \$4,000,000 +/- (6,600 LF +/-)
- ◆ Smaller Diameter Sewer (8" & 12") Cost - \$2,000,000/mile +/-

Next Steps

- ◆ Preliminary design is being completed now and moving into final design.
- ◆ Easement acquisition and permitting will take place 3rd Quarter 2024 – 1st Quarter 2025.
- ◆ Bidding and contractor selection will take place over 1st Quarter and 2nd Quarter 2025.
- ◆ Construction scheduled for mid 2025 – end of 2026.

Commissioner Lapsley said this had been a favored project of his for the last several years, and he has worked very hard with community members to try and make it happen. Initially, he was

Approved:

optimistic, but after three years of frustration with the state government getting a permit for the treatment plant to serve the project, he found that the project cost had increased to an estimated 32 million dollars. He said one of the key reasons that this project was considered was because of the Board's actions in getting the appropriation from the legislature and using appropriations from the Federal Government. Those were all grant funds, "No county taxpayer general funds, none of your local county taxes, not one dime, is going into this project. It's all grant funding." Due to the time crunch the county was now in, he said the Board must decide within thirty days if they can raise 7.27 million dollars, cut expenses from the project, or a combination of the two.

Commissioner Lapsley asked Mr. Buie to consider eliminating portions of the green lines and putting a pump station at Camp Judaea.

Commissioner Hill requested that Staff examine financial options that could be added to the sewer's operational costs so that the users could pay the extra borrowing costs over time while keeping those rates as low as possible.

Commissioner Andreotta agreed with what his colleagues had stated. He said citizens look to the Board for the Board to bring projects like this to fruition. He was pleased that the public was now hearing some roadblocks preventing projects from moving forward. He said the county "enjoys its great bond rating and with other debts services rolling off over the next couple of years or more. Let's look at that. He would like to see this project, as you are seeing it, salvaged and be able to, maybe in the future, it could be expanded and built upon." He said the Board had done all they could at this point, and he would hate for the project not to move forward.

Chairman McCall challenged Mr. Buie to provide an option to provide as much service as possible along Hwy 64. Aside from Edneyville Elementary, the businesses along 64 really pushed this project. An option to keep those businesses serviced as well as the Justice Academy and Camp Judaea, because those systems will fail eventually. She said Blacksmith Run was a relatively new system, so she did not find that as necessary right now. She wanted to keep 64 alive.

Mr. Buie summarized the direction received from the Board.

- Chairman McCall's priority was service along Highway 64.
- Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Andreotta wanted to examine how borrowing those funds would impact operational and user costs.
- Commissioner Lapsley wanted to look at the idea of a pump station at Camp Judaea, which would eliminate the gravity lines along Henderson and Clear Creek and possibly keep the treatment plant smaller. This resembles Mrs. McCall's idea of eliminating the gravity lines along Henderson and Clear Creek.

Mr. Buie said he would begin studying those options and several other options related to phasing. In closing, Mr. Buie said he expects to present the Board with options at their July meeting.

FY 2024 – 2025 Budget Ordinance

The Board was requested to continue discussions with regard to the FY 2024-2025 Budget.

County Manager John Mitchell presented the following.

Approved:

FY 2025 BUDGET PROCESS

- ✓ **May 6, 2024 – Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
 - County Manager’s Recommended Budget Presented to the Board of Commissioners
 - Schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, June 3, 2024
- ✓ **Advertise the Presentation and Publication of the Recommended Budget and June 3rd Public Hearing**
 - The Budget Publication, Workshop, and Public Hearing will be advertised in the Hendersonville Lightning on May 8th
- ✓ **May 15, 2024 – Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
 - FY25 Budget Workshop
- ✓ **June 3, 2024 – Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
 - FY25 Budget Public Hearing
 - FY25 Budget Adoption

FY25 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Henderson County Public Schools

- Funding amount consistent with FY24
- Unfunded amount of \$4,890,990

Blue Ridge Community College

- Unfunded Operational = \$1,994,318
 - Operating Expenses = \$1,044,546
 - Maintenance in lieu of a new facilities building = \$949,772
- Unfunded MRTS Capital = \$96,123

Solid Waste

- Solid Waste is \$325,682 out of balance, primarily due to mandated post-closure costs

Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley referred to the tally sheet shown (next page) and noted that the proposed budget on May 6 was \$202m, with approximately \$20.7m appropriated in Fund Balance. The Board went through requests from non-profits, and money was added to the proposed budget for the Boys and Girls Club, Interfaith Assistance Ministry, and several other things. The Board also added an Animal Enforcement Investigator for the Sheriff’s Department. She said the Board's decision on the JCAR project reduced the proposed debt service, which would be an interest-only payment next year. The budget staff had planned a flat debt service amount. While the interest went down, they proposed that the Board put the \$163,312 (shown on line 12) into the Capital Reserve Fund to help smooth the debt service on that very large (JCAR) project.

Approved:

Henderson County FY 2024-2025 Budget Tally							Total Budget	Fund Balance Appropriation	
FY 2024-2025 Manager's Proposed Budget as Presented May 6, 2024							\$ 202,142,366	\$ 20,742,795	
Following Discussions at the May 15th Workshop				REVENUE		EXPENDITURE			
				Reductions	Additions	Reductions	Additions		
1	Non-Profit - Boys & Girls Club [Lapsley]					\$ 20,000	\$ 20,162,366	\$ 20,762,795	
2	Non-Profit - Interfaith Assistance Ministry [Lapsley]					\$ 20,000	\$ 202,182,366	\$ 20,782,795	
3	Non-Profit - Mills River Life Enrichment Center [Lapsley]					\$ 12,000	\$ 202,194,366	\$ 20,794,795	
4	Non-Profit - Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center [Lapsley]					\$ 20,000	\$ 202,214,366	\$ 20,814,795	
5	Non-Profit - Boy Scouts [Edney]					\$ 5,000	\$ 202,219,366	\$ 20,819,795	
6	Non-Profit - NCAJ HS Moot Court [Edney]					\$ 3,000	\$ 202,222,366	\$ 20,822,795	
7	Non-Profit - Back on Track Addiction Ministries [Hill]					\$ 50,000	\$ 202,272,366	\$ 20,872,795	
8	Non-Profit - Hope Center [McCall]					\$ 30,000	\$ 202,302,366	\$ 20,902,795	
9	Non-Profit - Hope Coalition [McCall]					\$ 20,000	\$ 202,322,366	\$ 20,922,795	
10	Sheriff - Animal Enforcement Investigator [Andreotta] (includes \$3,300 for IT equipment)					\$ 182,579	\$ 202,504,945	\$ 21,105,374	
11	Non-Profit - First Contact [McCall] (in Detention budget)					\$ 200,000	\$ 202,704,945	\$ 21,305,374	
12	Debt Service - Change in interest only payment			\$ 163,312			\$ 202,541,633	\$ 21,142,062	
13	Capital Reserve Fund - Increase in amount transferred					\$ 163,312	\$ 202,704,945	\$ 21,305,374	
Totals following May 15th Workshop				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 163,312	\$ 725,891	\$ 202,704,945	\$ 21,305,374
							Other Revenues	Fund Balance Appropriation	
							\$ 181,399,571	\$ 21,305,374	
				1¢ TRE =	\$ 2,430,987	Fund Balance Remaining =		\$ 1,624,903	
				Fund Balance over 12%	\$ 22,930,277	Tax Rate Equivalent		\$ 0.007	

Brantley said that since the May 15 Budget Workshop, some other discussions and events had taken place.

- The Tax Administrator provided Staff with a new valuation number that increased the Ad Valorem Revenue by \$197,296
- The Board added \$250,000 for the SRO reimbursement to the City of Hendersonville.
- Budget staff met with Cooperative Extension, who are state employees. The county reimburses a portion of their salaries, so Staff recommended the addition of \$8,128.
- The final allocation of \$19,209 in HCCBG funding was received. This was a pass-through grant, so the addition of revenue and expenditure was shown.

As of yesterday, Ms. Brantley said the proposed budget is \$202,982,282, with a Fund Balance appropriation of \$21.3M.

Proposed Budget revisions following the May 15th Workshop							Total Budget	Fund Balance Appropriation	
Proposed Budget Revisions							\$ 202,704,945	\$ 21,305,374	
				REVENUE		EXPENDITURE			
				Reductions	Additions	Reductions	Additions		
1	Additional Ad Valorem Revenue per updated valuation 5.21.24				\$ 197,296		\$ 202,704,945	\$ 21,108,078	
2	Payment to Other Agency - SRO reimbursement to the City of Hendersonville per BOC 5.22.24					\$ 250,000	\$ 202,954,945	\$ 21,358,078	
3	Cooperative Extension Salary Adjustment					\$ 8,128	\$ 202,963,073	\$ 21,366,206	
4	Additional HCCBG funding - Final FY25 allocation received 5.31.24			\$ 19,209		\$ 19,209	\$ 202,982,282	\$ 21,366,206	
As of June 2, 2024				\$ -	\$ 216,505	\$ -	\$ 277,337	\$ 202,982,282	\$ 21,366,206
				1¢ TRE =	\$ 2,435,559	Fund Balance Remaining =		\$ 1,564,071	
						Tax Rate Equivalent		\$ 0.006	

Commissioner Lapsley said the appropriation from the General Fund to Solid Waste needed to be included. He also supported two changes regarding \$61,000 in PILT money. In previous years, \$20,000 has been appropriated to Mills River Fire and Rescue because their fire district includes a significant amount of Pisgah Forest National Park property. He proposed \$10,000 of the PILT money to be appropriated to the Gerton Fire Department.

Approved:

(Commissioner Andreotta's comments are verbatim per his request.)

Commissioner Andreotta's comments were as follows:

“So, we do spend a lot of time on the budget, and sometimes various ones of us have a lot of questions for the department heads. We get the sheriff, we get the school system, we get the college, we get EMS. It is drilled down very finitely. Someone mentioned inflation a bit ago. You know whose revenue is way up? Dollar General. But, initially that was because when inflation was first hitting, people went there instead of Ingles or Walmart to buy whatever they sold that was cheaper than the other stores. That has changed. Their floor traffic is way up. But the products that are being bought has shifted. It's shifted to consumables. What you might consider more daily necessary items, whatever food and beverage items they sell. Baby items, things like that. That's an interesting economic indicator to me. If things keep going up, people don't have a whole lot of options beyond that to get the things they need and still save money. And I think one of the most sacred things we do is, with heavy conviction and great attention to detail, steward every dollar; every digit on that screen comes from one place. We tax it out of homes in Henderson County. It's money you can't put in your children's education fund. It's money you can't put in your retirement fund. It's money you can't spend anywhere else in your life. It's money we taxed away from our citizens. It's that simple. We get a lot. I mean a long list of grant requests every year. They submit some pretty detailed information. And, if you want to know what I do in my free time, I read it all. And I want to cover this in case, my friends who are here, many connected to the Flat Rock Playhouse, they might still like to have an evening. So here's the thing about the nonprofit organizations. Let's remember that non-profit is not an operational status; it is a tax status. Typically, when we use the term nonprofit, we mean and/or people define it as an organization that does benevolent good in the community. And most of them are that, to be fair. But non-profit is simply you can legally organize and file paperwork with the feds etc, and you get a tax pass. You don't pay taxes. But believe me, you can generate, and many do, a lot of revenue. Or you couldn't; you wouldn't exist. You have to generate revenue, and you have to, air quote, profit to stay afloat or you wouldn't be there. And listen, as an advisor, if I were talking to someone, they said, you know, I found out we could organize as a nonprofit. I would say well, go do it. What are you waiting on? You are going to save a lot of money. I mentioned this a couple of meetings back. When we read the purpose statements, the activities, things like that of many of these organizations, there is a good bit of overlap. We have several that state independent of each other, much the same goal of service. And listen, they all do very needed, noble work. We know that. And to be fair, they have a right to organize and pay structure however they see fit. If they own property, they don't get a tax bill. If you do a little research, an organization by the name of Charity Watch says that 75% of every dollar that comes into a nonprofit organization should make its way to the recipient. Whomever you're serving. Charities Review Council says that no less than 65%. So that means 25 to 35% of what that organization takes in should be taken up with salaries, administration, fundraising, whatever their expenses are. Well, I have had some concerns when I started reading some of the applications and reports of organizations that apply for some of your money. One in particular shows a revenue of \$5m a year. 84% going to salaries. This is in Henderson County. Another \$13m a year, with 88% going to salaries. Another one is \$3.1m, with 71% going to salaries. Now, maybe I am not the politically expedient kind. But I am too convicted; I don't give that a rubber stamp and let it pass. I don't. To me, when we give out taxpayer money, that recipient, whoever it is, becomes somewhat of a quasi-county department. So, it's a an organization that we're partially funding with your money, probably most of the time we're contributing to supporting the payment of their staff. Some of them, admittedly, and you can look

Approved:

at their financials, operate in the red. I think we're the Band-Aid for some of them. Now, keep in mind, if we allocate money out like that, the taxpayer from whom we tax away money does not get a benefit on their taxes as a contribution to that organization. You know how you go to a store, grocery store, drug store, whatever it might be, and they ask you if you'd like to give to a cause. Well, there's nothing wrong with that; you can do that, but at the end of the year, if that's a multi-state chain, how much money do they collect and write a check for? And guess whose taxes it came off of? Didn't cost them a penny. I've received emails from citizens that said, hey, I know you guys give XYZ money; I'm not really in agreement with them for whatever reason. And they want a say in where their money goes. Which they should have as much as possible. Some might argue that we have leftover money and we're picking winners and losers. That could happen. We do thorough audits. We typically pick three a year; sometimes, it's those who are receiving the most, or we're going down the list, and we audit these organizations. This county submits to an entire county audit every year. The hospital submits to an audit. We audit all of our departments, and that's put out in front of the public, as it should be. This Board does not have a set policy, which has kind of bothered me in the past of how much and how we arrive at what, if any, grants we give out. There's no such thing as a government grant or a county grant; it's a taxpayer grant. We don't have a set policy. And often, the results are very difficult to track, right? I mean it's a lot of it is kind of like seed that is that is thrown out. It's hard to track what is happening. I think a good bar for us is to partner with organizations that are very efficiently run with the essential services. There are times that we as a county can partner with an outside organization to meet an essential service more efficiently than if we do it in-house; foster care is one of those. Often, I'm going to say 80% of the time, I don't see our municipalities on these financials contributing to these organizations. Also, I think to myself, what if I were advising these people across the table from me as to whether or not they should put their money here? There are a lot of people who make financial decisions based on what I tell them. Now, I believe there is somewhat of a cut out here, and that's where my friends from the Flat Rock Playhouse come in. For example, in 2023, their numbers of a \$4.2m revenue-generating enterprise that is able to file as a nonprofit because of your connection to the theater school, Vagabond School of Theater, if I said that right. Nothing wrong with that. They own \$2.6m in real estate, which they do not get a tax bill on. Their property taxes per year would be \$11,263, and their fire tax, because they're in a Volunteer Fire district, would be \$3,380. So that's \$14,643. 64% of their revenue goes to salaries. Many of those incomes in some of these organizations are way far and above what the young lady spoke earlier about the county workforce average, sometimes 2 ½ times. Again, they have a right to form and function how they wish, but everything changes for me when you want taxpayer dollars; that's the key; that's where it all changes. I believe in this instance, and we got pegged, I think a couple of us, a couple of years ago. I'm going to buy the folks at the Hendersonville Lightning a dictionary and I'm going to highlight the word defund and I'm going to highlight the word subsidized so they can read the two definitions because they're different. I view this as a subsidy to a revenue-generating enterprise. We're not helping organizations stay afloat for a necessary service. All of this has skyrocketed in urgency, in my mind since - not with my vote, we put the citizens of this county \$150 million in new debt. Which is going to equate to when it's all borrowed out and spent to about \$15 million a year payment. That's \$15 million a year that's not going to go anywhere else. So, I think between now and our next meeting in June. I would encourage us to look at those things carefully. Because you entrust me, not necessarily always by your preference; you entrust me with a lot of your money. We taxed it away from you and you deserve no less than attention to detail and careful management of it. If we leave more money in citizens' pockets. Guess what? That's more they have to give to any organization they want to support. So, I would encourage us to look closely at those things. I think that some of these organizations maybe should look at condensing

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and becoming one and having more effectiveness because then you're cutting 1/2 or 1/3 of the salaries you're paying to the positions that are duplicated. That's the kind of fiduciary responsibility I take on a daily basis with your money. Whatever the topic. If it's the sheriff, if it's the jail, if it's the schools, whatever it might be. And I'm too convicted to pretend otherwise. I certainly support what we've talked about thus far. Let's look at that carefully. And if nothing else, the citizens have a right to know where their money goes and why because part of that money is mine. That's where I'm coming from."

Commissioner Hill said he agreed with Commissioner Lapsley about the Solid Waste fund and the PILT money going to the Mills River and Gerton fire departments. He believed the non-profits that receive funds from the county should provide a yearly report to the Board outlining how those funds were spent.

Mr. Hill stated that a tenth of a cent was \$244,000. He proposed that the Board could take two or three tenths of the tax rate to return some unused funds to the taxpayers. He asked fellow Board members to consider the proposal.

Chairman McCall said the Recreation Department had requested a position for a custodian at the VFW Building. She said the building needs to be cared for, and the county has spent \$4-5m on renovations. Mrs. McCall would like the Board to consider providing the same amount, \$7,500, allocated to Pisgah Legal in last year's budget, stipulating that those funds may only be used for their work at Safelight or for the elderly.

Mrs. McCall said she would like to examine the \$290,000 for outsourcing county EMS billing to a company in Lewisville, NC. She directed staff to provide justification that this was a valid expense and compare it to why this function was not done in-house.

Mrs. McCall clarified that 55% of Ad Valorem taxes and 35% of the County's budget are allocated to Henderson County Public Schools. She said there was a list that the school system had asked to add on top of their regular budget request, including five social workers that had been added during COVID using COVID funds. Those additional social service workers were added during a critical time when there was a need for students, bringing the total number of social workers in HCPS to fourteen. Mrs. McCall said there were current openings at Social Services, and those five positions could easily move from HCPS to the DSS and still service the schools. If that were to occur, those positions could possibly be funded by the state because DSS workers' salaries are partially state-funded by 50-66%. She said certain items on the extra list of needs were state-required and questioned why they would have been on the list of extra items and not already included in the standard budget request. Mrs. McCall agreed that the 1.5%, \$1.5m, increase for the teacher's supplement was needed only because the state of NC was not providing enough pay to our teachers. Mrs. McCall said the Board of Education was tasked with using 35% of the county's budget allotted to the HCPS to meet their needs. She challenged the school board to take the money allocated to them, prioritize, and make the things happen that need to happen. She said she would be willing to recommend the \$1.5m to their budget if the funds were available. It was mentioned that the Board could consider taking funds from the County's 12% fund balance.

John Mitchell recommended that budget staff work with the list of additions and determine

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whether there are options to acquire additional funds with expenditure deductions that were currently included in the budget.

Chairman McCall said the Board expects to vote on the budget at their next meeting.

Commissioner Andreotta informed the audience that Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley would retire at the end of this month, and this would be the last budget of the twenty-five that she has helped prepare for Henderson County.

Broadband Taskforce

The Broadband Taskforce has reviewed the program guidance for the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) broadband funding program, Completing Access to Broadband (CAB), to understand the next steps for Henderson County's participation. NCDIT has prepared a draft Scope of Work for the County and needs confirmation of a desire to identify Priority Areas and to map where those priority areas shall be. The Broadband Taskforce has considered the need and impact of the investment to make a recommendation for where Priority Areas should be. Datasets considered in the decision include 2022 ACS data for household income, density of school-age children, and density of older adults, as well as emergency services data such as drive time to EMS stations and cell service coverage. The Taskforce determined that as every resident in our County deserves access to reliable internet, every eligible Broadband Serviceable Location (BSLs) – of which there are over 5,200—should be included in the Priority Areas. The Taskforce recommends splitting the county in two, approximately along Hwy 25. The east side of the county is recommended to be the first priority given its higher concentration of low-income households and school-age children, with the west side recommended as the second priority.

The next steps are for Staff to submit priority area identification materials to NCDIT to complete the Scope of Work. Once the draft has been approved by both the County and NCDIT, the Scope of Work may be posted for responses from pre-approved internet service providers.

CAB Scope of Work

Priority Areas Recommendations from the Broadband Taskforce

Participating in CAB

- ✓ 1. Submit a County Commitment Form
 - BOC voted to commit \$2.5 Million in ARPA funds
 - Total Project Amount is **\$7,142,857**
- ✓ 2. Develop a Scope of Work with NCDIT
 - Determine Priority Areas
 - Affirm NCDIT draft document
- ✓ 3. Post Scope of Work to get Proposals from Pre-Approved Providers
- ✓ 4. Create Agreement

Planner Lee Stevens said Staff was working with NCDIT to create the scope of work. She said there was an option to include priority areas in the scope of work and asked for direction as to where those areas would be. Once the scope of work is posted, proposals will be received from pre-approved providers who have already been processed by the state. Once the evaluation committee reviews those proposals, the selected providers will agree with the state and be reimbursed based on reaching pre-approved, agreed-upon milestones throughout the process.

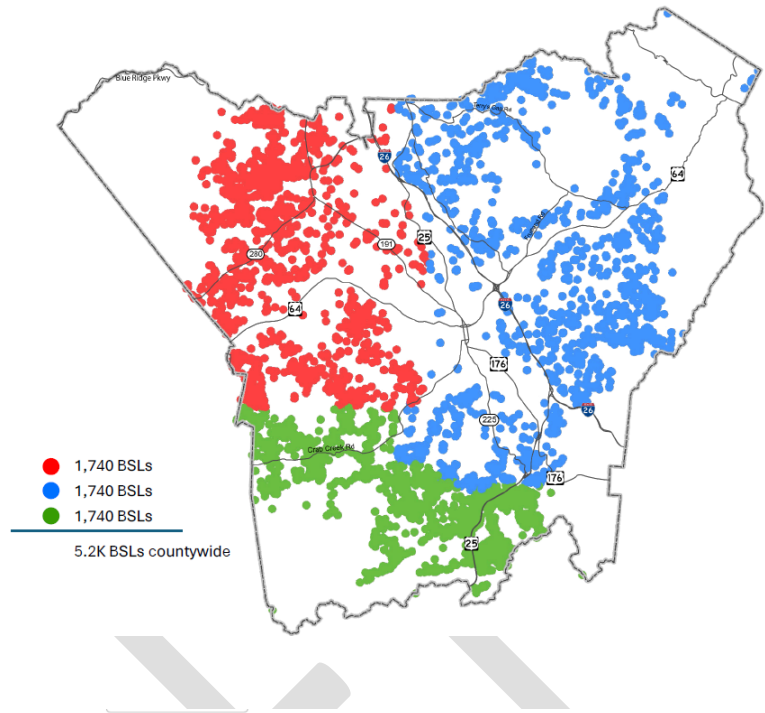
Approved:

How Far Could \$7Million go?

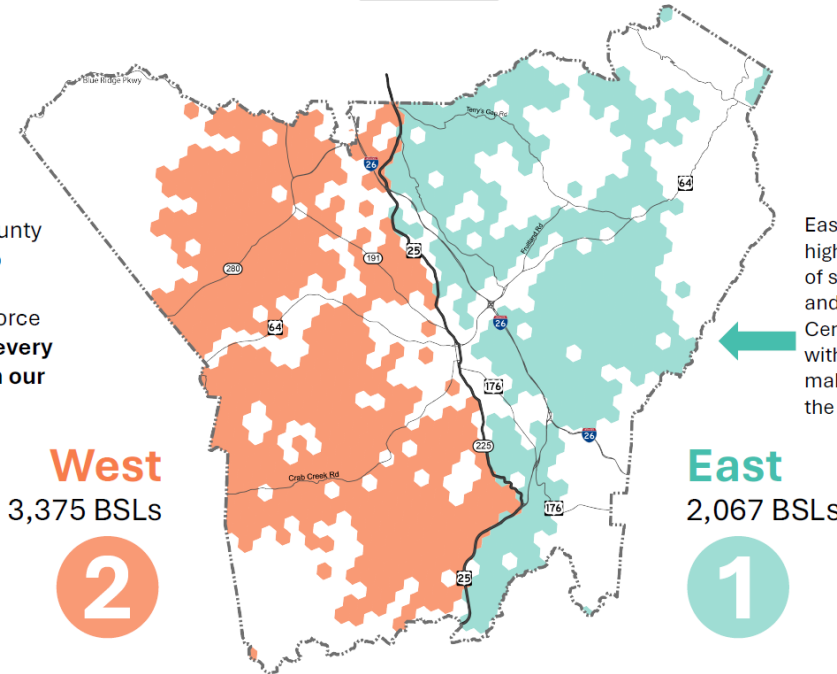
Staff **estimate** that the committed funds could reach a potential **1,600 – 1,750** locations.

That’s approximately 1/3 of the unserved locations in the County.

This map shows **all** CAB-eligible locations split into equal thirds to illustrate how those locations are distributed, and the impact the project could make.

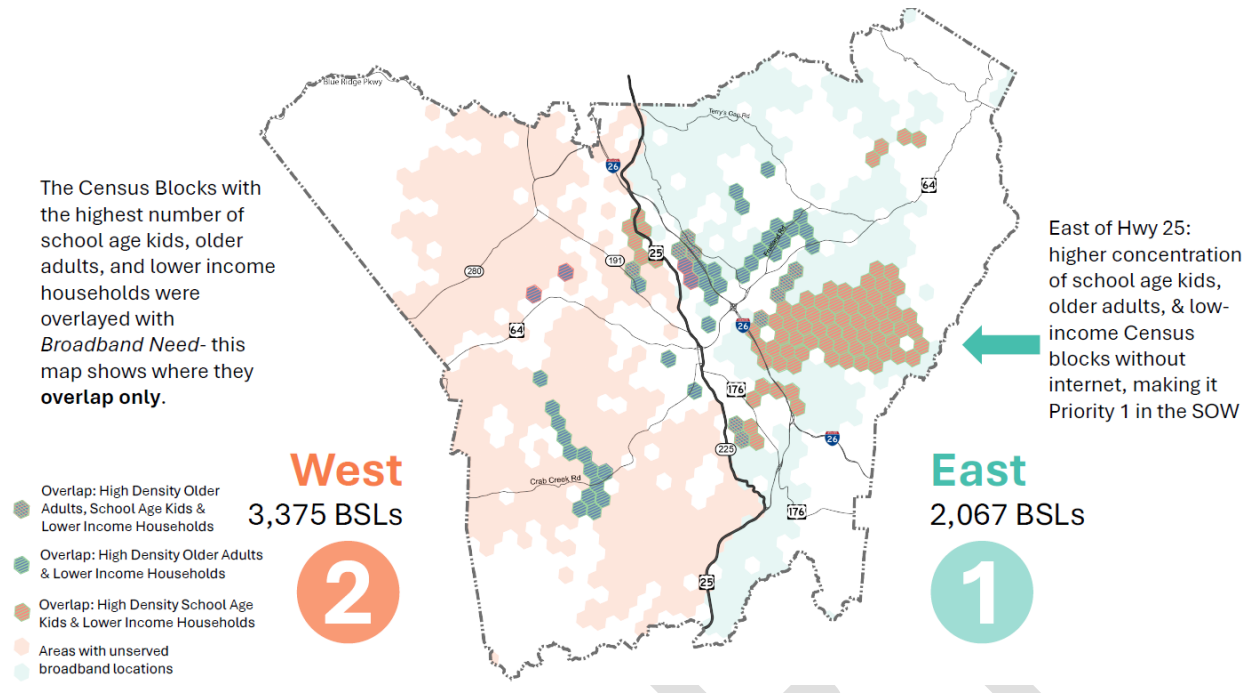


Everyone in our County deserves access to reliable internet, therefore the Taskforce recommends that **every BSL be included in our Scope of Work**

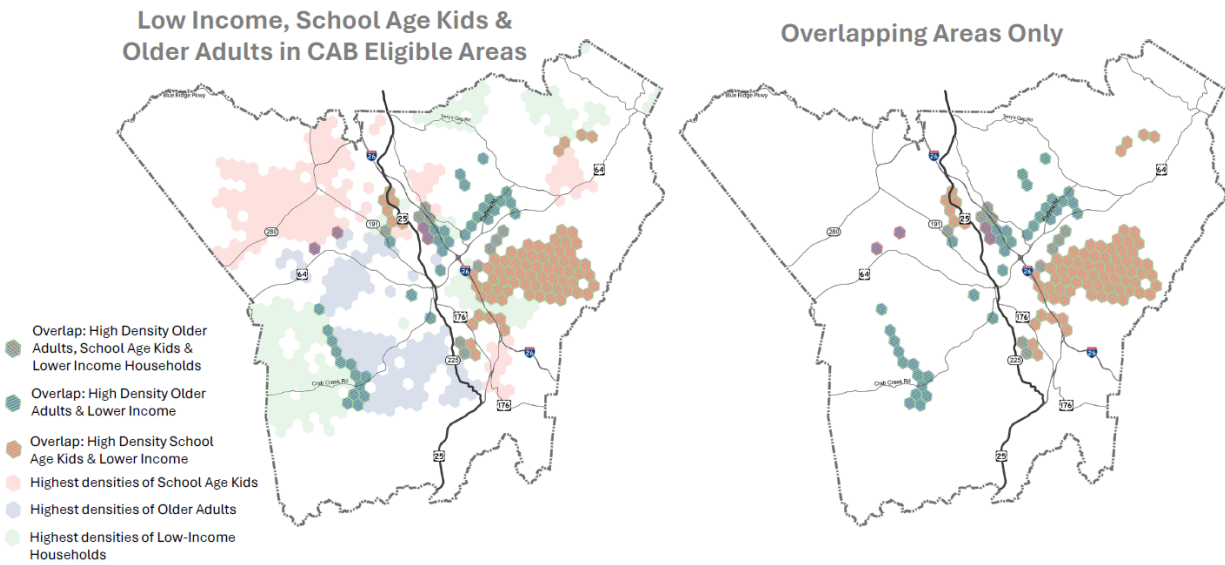


East of Hwy 25: higher concentration of school age kids and low-income Census blocks without internet, making it Priority 1 in the SOW

Approved:



Process of Prioritization



Evaluation Criteria

- 1** Ability of the Respondent to Perform
- 2** Technical Merits of the Project
- 3** Cost and Scope of the Project

Approved:

Commissioner Hill said that based on the evaluation criteria used, the East side of the county was identified as the priority area, but the West side was also included.

Commissioner Andreotta said that as the information unfolded, the team looked for a nexus between lower-income households and households with school-aged children, two important criteria to serve.

Commissioner Lapsley asked for the schedule to complete some of these projects. Chris Todd said the next steps were for staff to work with NCDIT to develop the scope of work to be put out on the street and get responses back. Once those are under contract, the contractors have two years to complete the project. He expected responses to be received in approximately sixty days. He estimated 2-1/2 years to completion.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to direct staff to use the Broadband Taskforce's recommended Priority Areas to complete the Scope of Work with NCDIT. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Environmental Advisory Committee – 4 vacs.

Commissioner Andreotta made the motion to nominate Nancy Diaz for reappointment to seat #2. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall asked Marcus Jones to speak with the Environmental Advisory Committee members and bring back recommendations for appointment to the Board before the next meeting.

2. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

3. Henderson County Courthouse Corporation dba/Heritage Museum – 3 vacs.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to nominate Carolyn Justus for reappointment to seat #4, Robert Justus to seat #5, and Nancy Edwards to seat #6. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

4. Henderson County Rail Trail Advisory Committee – 3 vacs.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to nominate Mike Egan for reappointment to seat #3 and Richard Shelton to seat #9. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

5. Historic Resources Commission – 3 vacs.

Chairman McCall made the motion to nominate Amanda Gibson for reappointment to seat #1, Knox Crowell to seat #4, and Anne Hanson to seat #7. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

7. Hospital Corporation Board of Directors/UNCH – 4 vacs.

Chairman McCall made the motion to nominate Greg Burnette for appointment to seat #5 and

Approved:

Will Bryant to seat #8. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman McCall made the motion to nominate Anthony McMinn for reappointment to seat #4 and Hall Waddell to seat #7. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

8. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

9. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 14 vacs.

Chairman McCall made the motion to nominate Shannon Auten for reappointment to seat #1, Adrienne Becton-Marsh to seat #5, Angela Garner to seat #6, Libby Myers to seat #7, Kendall Fox to seat #10, Angela Wesson to seat #15, Linda Carter to seat #17, Richard Simpson to seat #21, Michael Absher to seat #22, and Sally Buchholz to seat #24. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

10. Mountain Area Workforce Development Board – 3 vacs.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to nominate Graham Fields for reappointment to seat #5 and Sissy Rogers to seat #6. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

11. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 9 vacs.

Chairman McCall made the motion to nominate Joe Strange for appointment to seat #12. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Lapsley and Commissioner Hill had no updates to share.

Commissioner Andreotta “congratulated students and all our educators and faculty on another school year successfully completed. That means that the 90% of us who live our lives on a schedule may breathe a sigh of relief that there are no more yellow buses on the road. Please be careful; more kids will be out riding bikes, playing, and walking with families, so still leave that time and be safe. Everybody have a wonderful safe summer.”

Chairman McCall shared that she and Commissioner Lapsley had attended a TAC meeting earlier in the day, and some project prioritization had been done. She said some of the projects already scheduled to be funded when funding becomes available were voted on probably fifteen years ago. So, the projects that were submitted for consideration today probably would not be completed for fifteen to twenty years.

Mrs. McCall said a Farmland Preservation Taskforce meeting was held last week, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 10.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

John Mitchell thanked Recreation Department staff for helping organize the event held on the courthouse square with NASCAR drivers Jimmy Johnson and Erik Jones.

Mr. Mitchell noted that tonight’s meeting would be the last evening meeting for Ms. Brantley and DSS Director Jerrie McFalls before their respective retirements in the coming months.

Approved:

Mrs. McFalls had been an employee of the county for over forty-four years. He thanked them both for their years of dedicated service.

Mr. Mitchell shared that he and Chairman McCall were headed to Raleigh next week to meet with legislators for NC Advocacy Day for the County Commissioners Association.

Commissioner Lapsley made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(5)(6). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman McCall made the motion to go out of closed session and adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

Rebecca McCall, Chairman

Approved: