

Minutes 13 March 2009
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina

Present for the Board of Commissioners meeting were Chairman Walter Savage, Commissioner Jerri Storie, and Commissioner Johnny Riddle. Also present at the meeting were County Manager Nathan Bennett and members of the general public.

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order and asked for unanimous consent of the Board to amend the agenda to include a closed session for consultation with the County Attorney Donny Laws regarding former personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3). Both Commissioner Riddle and Commissioner Storie along with Chairman Savage agreed to this consent. Chairman Savage then made a motion to accept agenda with the amendment and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle (See Attachment A). The vote to approve this was unanimous. A motion was made by Commissioner Storie and was seconded by Commissioner Riddle to go into closed session pursuant to the previous North Carolina General Statute citation. The Board then entered into closed session.

When the Board returned to open session there was a motion by Commissioner Storie to amend the agenda once again to discuss the employment contract of former County Manager Michele Lawhern and her severance package. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and the vote to approve was unanimous. Chairman Savage then recognized County Attorney Donny Laws. County Attorney Laws gave a report to the Board concerning former County Manager Michele Lawhern. He stated that Ms. Lawhern had originally entered into an employment agreement in 2000 but the former Board made amendments to that original agreement in November of 2008. There have been conversations between Mr. Laws and the attorney for Ms. Lawhern, Larry Leake. Mr. Laws informed the Board that the offer from Mr. Leake was \$48,000. The County Attorney then recommended the County Manager be able to execute this agreement between the Board and Ms. Lawhern. Chairman Savage then opened the floor for comments from the public. No comments were made from the audience. The motion to authorize the County Manager to execute this agreement was made by Commissioner Riddle and was seconded by Commissioner Storie. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The Board then moved to Mr. Clay Carroll, EMS director for Yancey County, about a possible amendment to the EMS contract with Mission Hospitals. Mr. Carroll was coming before the Board to ask for an additional EMS unit for Yancey County. This would cost more money which would be the need for the amendment to the EMS contract. Commissioner Storie asked Mr. Carroll the reason for this extra unit and was told that it was because of the number of calls that EMS receives has increased. He also stated that Yancey County has an aging population that is growing. Chairman Savage made a motion to table this item to further review the financial considerations with county staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and the vote to approve was unanimous.

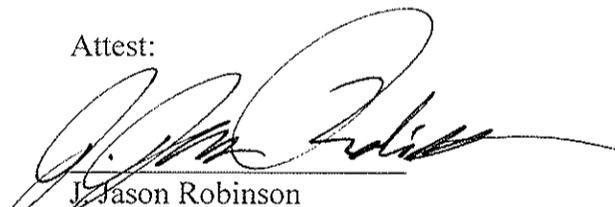
The Board then moved to the issue of Toe River Campground and Patience Park and who would be running it this year. The Board first heard from Mr. Jeff Howell, CRG director, who asked that the County run the campground. Mr. Howell stated that he recommended using existing County Parks and Recreation staff along with a few new people that the County could hire on a temporary basis. He believes that this would maximize the profit the County could make off the campground (an estimate of around \$78,000). The County would also do all of the mowing and a campground host could be utilized from 10pm-6am for the consideration of a month's free camping. The Board next heard from Ms. Amanda Hensley and Mr. Danny Ball who are permanent site holders at the campground. Ms. Hensley and Mr. Ball stated that they know how to run a business and that they have access to heavy equipment if needed. They also told the Board that they have access to electricians to fix some of the electrical problems. They proposed having family oriented activities as well as adding washers and dryers. The pay would be done as in the past the contractors would get the profits from the store and the County would get everything else. The Board next heard from Mr. and Mrs. Cliff and Daphne Vinson. Mr. and Mrs. Vinson have been permanent campers at the campground for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Vinson stated that they were aware of many maintenance issues but stated they would make sure the campground was clean and well maintained. The estimated cost for Mr. and Mrs. Vinson to operate the campground was around \$65,000. The Board next heard from Mr. Randy Hall. Mr.

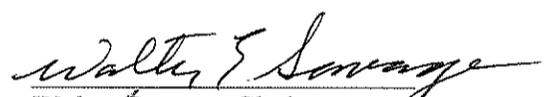
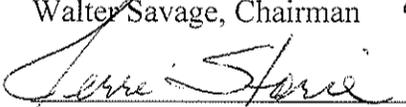
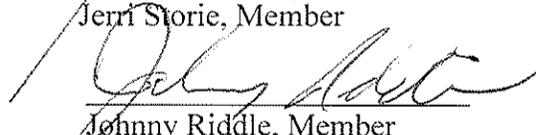
Hall stated that he didn't know a lot about campground operations but he did work as a manager for the Yancey County Schools as Transportation Director. He stated that he was looking for a daytime position as a county employee. He proposed utilizing the hall at the campground for gospel singings and other entertainment aspects. No estimate for the cost was provided. The Board next heard from Mr. Ricky Sellers. He is a resident of Mitchell County and has been a camper at the campground for the last 10-11 years. He stated that he has family that would be available to help run the campground and that he would organize events for the youth and plan other events such as the Fourth of July. He also stated that he would work diligently to keep the campground clean and would enforce the rules. The Board next heard from Patrick Williams who has been a camper at the campground for many years. He proposed a 60%/40% split of the gross revenue with a 50/50 split of the store revenue. He stated that he was capable of doing maintenance and had two sons who would work and help out. Mr. Williams also stated that he wants to have events for families and children, and that he would keep the restrooms clean. Mr. Williams also informed the Board that he works full-time 8-4:30 but he has his wife and children to help run the campground. The final person the Board heard from was Mr. John Hilliard who is a long time camper at the campground. He stated that he would "do it all" for the campground, that he would do all maintenance and mowing but would like to have the county mowers to do the mowing. He also thinks the campground needs activities for kids and organized activities for the children. He also stated that he wants to see musicians and entertainment for the hall and the playground equipment improved. He also would like to install a washer and dryer and believes it could be a money maker. No estimate of the cost was provided. After hearing from all of the presenters Commissioner Riddle stated that he was against the County running the campground and that Ms. Hensley and Mr. Ball made a good presentation. Commissioner Storie stated that the County has a recreation department and we have facilities that should be maintained and run like a department and if the County is responsible for facilities county should take care of them. Chairman Savage would like to ask campers for their help with hosting opportunities. After this discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Storie that the Yancey County Parks and Recreation Department run Toe River Campground from April 15 until October 15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Having no further business Chairman Savage entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Commissioner Storie and was seconded by Commissioner Riddle. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Approved and authenticated on this the 7th day of April 2009.

Attest:


Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board


Walter Savage, Chairman

Jerri Storie, Member

Johnny Riddle, Member

(county seal)



YANCEY COUNTY

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Nathan Bennett, *County Manager*

Walter Savage, *Chairman*
Jerri Storie, *Commissioner*
Johnny Riddle, *Commissioner*

AGENDA

YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

March 13, 2009

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Savage
- II. Approval of agenda
- III. EMS Contract with Mission Hospitals, discussion of amendment – Clay Carroll
- IV. Patience Park / Toe River Campground discussion
- V. Adjourn