

**Minutes of the December 21, 2020**  
**Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board Of Commissioners**  
**Held at 12:00 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room**  
**Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville North Carolina**

Present at the meeting held December 21, 2020 were Chairman Jeff Whitson, Commissioner David Grindstaff, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Mark Ledford, Commissioner Johnny Riddle, County Manager Lynn Austin, County Finance Officer Brandi Burleson, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk to the Board Sonya Morgan. Also present was a member of the media and Sheriff Gary Banks. Commissioner Grindstaff joined the meeting during the Republic Services Contract discussion.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Whitson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Whitson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Riddle made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion. By a vote of 4 – 0 the agenda was approved. (Attachment A)

**Republic Services Contract Amendment**

County Manager Austin began the discussion by stating she and County Attorney Donny Laws had reviewed the original contract with Republic Services signed in 2008 and the subsequent amendments. Mr. Laws indicated that the contract reads that Republic will provide the present level of service for the contract amount, and not a per haul amount. He indicated the county has an obligation not to dispose of industrial or commercial waste in the dumpsters. The contract as has a built-in consumer price index increasing the cost of the contract by 3% each year. Commissioner Ledford inquired about the possibility of the county collecting and hauling the solid waste. Commissioner Riddle indicated the county should continue to implement procedures to reduce out of county waste and keep our sites clean. A discussion ensued and Chairman Whitson asked, on behalf of the Board, County Manager Austin to investigate options such as using local haulers, establishing a solid waste department, using other vendors, and any other options and have it prepared for discussion at the beginning of the budget work sessions in March 2021. The Board did not take any action on the request from Republic Services to amend the current contract, which is in effect until June 30, 2023.

**Closed Session**


Chairman Whitson asked for a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NC Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(5) to review an employment contract. Commissioner Ledford made a motion to go into closed session, with Commissioner Riddle seconding the motion. The Board voted unanimously to enter closed session. Commissioner Grindstaff made a motion to leave closed session and reenter open session. Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the Board voted to reenter open session. The Board did not take any action during closed session. Commissioner Ledford made a motion to increase the salary of Sheriff Gary Banks by \$100 per pay period from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Commissioner Grindstaff seconded the motion. Chairman Whitson, Commissioner Ledford, and Commissioner Grindstaff voted in favor of the increase. Commissioners Austin and Riddle voted against the increase. By a vote of 3 – 2 the motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business, Commissioner Ledford made a motion to adjourn with Commissioner Austin seconding the motion. The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn.

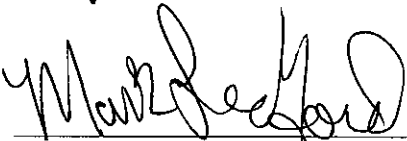
Approved and authenticated this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

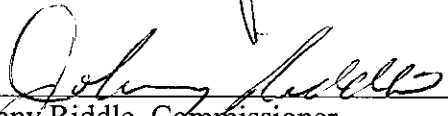
  
Jeff Whitson, Chairman

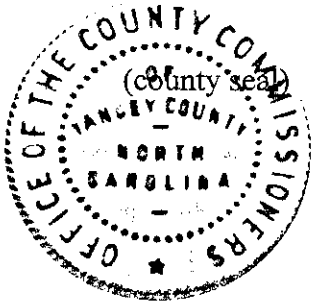
  
David Grindstaff, Vice Chairman

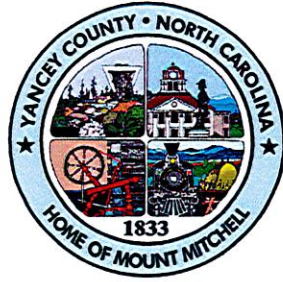
  
Jill Austin, Commissioner

  
Sonya Morgan, Clerk to the Board

  
Mark Ledford, Commissioner

  
Johnny Riddle, Commissioner





**AGENDA  
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 2020  
12:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Jeff Whitson**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Republic Services Solid Waste Collection Contract**
- IV. Closed Session**
- V. Adjourn**