

**Minutes of the March 22, 2021
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 March 22, 2021 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 were members of the media and the public.

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 Ledford made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the agenda was approved. (Attachment A)

Newdale Volunteer Fire Dept. Pumper/Tanker Financing

Tracy Cox with the Newdale Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the Board requesting approval to purchase a pumper/tanker truck and enter into a financing agreement for a 15-year non-profit loan in the amount of \$300,000. Mr. Cox reported the new pumper/tanker would replace a 21-year old vehicle that cost approximately \$19,000 in repair and maintenance last year and \$23,000 the year prior. County Attorney Laws advised that in order for the fire department to purchase the vehicle, IRS regulations required the fire department must have an agreement with the government entity and the county must approve the undertaking. He further advised the agreement did not obligate the county to pay, but in order for the department to move forward the county must approve the purchase at a public hearing after appropriate notice. Mr. Cox advised that a public hearing was held with notice given on the department's website. County Attorney Laws advised that the authorization agreement between the county and the department had been amended such that approval would be given provided the public hearing held by the fire department constitutes the requirement under the IRS. (Attachment B) Chairman Whitson read the agreement to the Board. Commissioner Riddle asked if the amount was budgeted by the department. Mr. Cox responded the \$300,000 for the cost of the vehicle was a 15-year loan, with a payment of \$24,000 per year, and noted this was the approximate cost the department was currently paying annually for repairs. He also reported the purchase had been approved by the fire department's board. Commissioner Ledford made a motion to approve the purchase and financing of the pumper/tanker by Newdale Fire Department. Commissioner Grindstaff seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Mowing Contracts

County Manager Austin requested the Board extend the mowing contracts for a period of one year for county properties. She reported the contract with Heritage, currently providing mowing services at the landfill would end April 15. She requested the Board approve an extension for one year, and reported Heritage was doing a good job keeping the landfill property up. Commissioner Austin made a motion to renew the Heritage contract for mowing services at the landfill for a one-year term, with Commissioner Riddle seconding the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion was approved. County Manager Austin requested the same consideration for contract extension for Jerry Renfro, the contractor currently providing mowing services for county properties. She requested approval for a one-year contract extension with Jerry Renfro, for the same contract price, as budgeted. Commissioner Austin made a motion to approve a one-year contract extension with Jerry Renfro for the mowing services for the county properties. Commissioner Grindstaff seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Little Leaf Timeline Update

Finance Officer Brandi Burleson presented a Little Leaf Farms Projected Timeline, which is required by the Local Government Commission (LGC). (Attachment C) Planning and Economic Development Director Jamie McMahan reported while the option to purchase for the proposed Little Leaf site had expired, the site was still considered an option and he anticipated a proposed contract would be ready by May 1. Mr. McMahan gave an update on the project and indicated French Broad EMC may need to construct a substation at the site, which could require approximately a two acre section of the property and would be oversized to accommodate for future development. Ms. Burleson reported the project would be financed through BB&T Bank, with the county having to pay just the interest the first three years of the loan. A discussion ensued with County Attorney Laws regarding moving forward with the acquisition of the property. Ms. Burleson distributed proposed budget amendments that will be presented for consideration for approval at the April 2021 regular meeting of the Board.

Adjournment

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

Approved and authenticated this the 12th day of April 2021.

Jeff Whitson, Chairman

David Grindstaff

David Grindstaff, Vice Chairman

Jill Austin

Jill Austin, Commissioner

Sonya Morgan

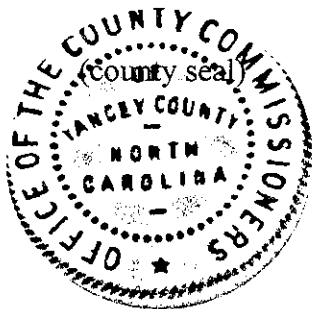
Sonya Morgan, Clerk to the Board

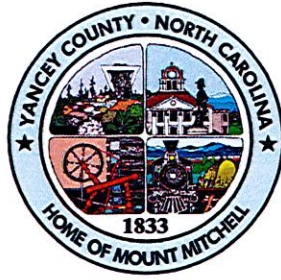
Mark Ledford

Mark Ledford, Commissioner

Johnny Riddle

Johnny Riddle, Commissioner





**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2021
12:00 P.M.**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Newdale Volunteer Fire Dept. Pumper/Tanker Financing**
- IV. Mowing Contracts**
- V. Little Leaf Project Timeline**
- VI. Adjourn**

COUNTY MANAGER
Lynn Austin



Attachment B

COMMISSIONERS
Jill Austin
David Grindstaff
Mark Ledford
Johnny Riddle
Jeff Whitson

YANCEY COUNTY

110 Town Square, Room 11 • Burnsville, North Carolina 28714
PHONE: (828) 682-3971 • FAX: (828) 682-4301

The undersigned Official of Yancey County, NC (hereinafter referred to as "Municipality") pursuant to section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "code"), hereby approves the entering into by Newdale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. of an Agreement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 to finance equipment consisting of One (1) New Midwest Fire Pumper/Tanker which will be located at the fire house of the Newdale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.; provided specifically that the notice provisions applicable to special meetings of the County satisfy the notice of provisions of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. **This approval does not in any way constitute any financial involvement or obligation of the Municipality.**

Furthermore, this document acknowledges that for consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Newdale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. has provided firefighting and other services for the Municipality for many years and Newdale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. hereby agrees to meet the requirement to continue to provide firefighting and other services for the Municipality.

Dated as of March 22, 2021

Newdale Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Roger Huskins, Vice-President

Yancey County, NC

Signature of authorized representative

Jeff Whitson, Chairman
Name and Title

Little Leaf Farms Projected Timeline

- Close on proposed property by May 1, 2021
- May 3rd, 2021 - Send out RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for engineering services
- May 21, 2021 – RFQ's are due back and recommendation will go before Board of Commissioners on May 24, 2021
- Site Design will begin and take approximately 30-45 days, hopefully be back by July 1 , 2021
- July 1, 2021 Advertise bidding for contractor services
- July 26, 2021 Bid will be due back from contractors
- Review bids on August 9, 2021
- Submit application for the September 14, 2021 Local Government Commission Meeting
- If approved by LGC, close loan by September 30th, 2021
- Award bid and begin construction October 1, 2021