

**MINUTES OF A  
WORK SESSION  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JANUARY 11, 2022**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on January 11, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman  
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair  
Mark Jones, Commissioner  
Tom Stribling, Commissioner  
Gayle Woody, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager  
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney  
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

**(1) NANTAHALA AND PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST PLAN:** Troy Waskey, Nantahala National Forest District Ranger, stated that the U.S. Forest Service revised the land management plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests (NFs). The forest plan provided a strategic framework for the next 20 years. The plan included desired conditions and goals for the future of the Forests and objectives that described actions the Forest Service would take to move toward those goals. The plan positioned the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs to address the challenges they anticipated in the years ahead, such as the growth of wildland urban interface; the spread of insects, disease and invasive species; development pressure on adjacent private lands; unprecedented increase in recreation; and the escalating impacts from climate change. In this time of accelerated change, ensuring the forest ecosystems were healthy and resilient was critical to long-term sustainability of the diverse habitats these forests provided for wildlife and plants and for supplying the clean water and other ecosystem benefits that everyone depended on.

In addition to the final plan, they were releasing an environmental analysis of the plan, called an Environmental Impact Statement. This plan was developed and shaped by extensive public input. They worked with diverse interests to build a broadly supported and implementable forest plan that would connect people to the land; restore forest resiliency, forest health and wildlife habitat; provide clean and abundant water; support recreation and local jobs; and provide a platform for working together toward shared goals.

Since the final Plan had been released, there was one more step before a final decision was signed. Members of the public who had been engaged in the revision process had an opportunity to file an objection before the final decision was approved. Documents would be available for a public review on the National Forests in North Carolina Forest website. The 60-day objection period would begin with the publication of the legal notice in the Asheville Citizen Times. The regulations did not allow for extending the objection period.

Individuals and entities that submitted substantive formal comments during earlier comment periods were eligible to file an objection. The objection must be based on the same concerns raised in earlier comments unless it concerned an issue that arose after the last formal comment period.

Next, the Regional Forester would review objections and work to resolve them. He would issue a written response that may include additional direction for the Forest Supervisor to include in the final plan. The Regional Forester's written response was the final decision and the Forest Supervisor could then approve the new plan and begin implementation.

Chairman McMahan asked if the plan covered both the Nantahala and Pisgah Forests the same?

Mr. Waskey stated that the eco zones had their own site specific standards and guidelines, the plan-wide standards were the same.

Commissioner Woody stated that they had some concerns in the local area, especially with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with overuse during Covid. Some felt the trend would continue. Did he feel the plan addressed those concerns and how it would affect the ecosystem when there were more people hiking, etc.?

Mr. Waskey stated that the forest plan did not address the effects from Covid-19 specifically. However, it did speak to growth potential and continued recreation pressure on the facilities and trails. The plan had a lot of information about sustainable systems. He thought with collaborative planning, they could catch that issue in real time through subsequent engagement.

Commissioner Deitz asked if there were any change in plans about road closures in the county?

Mr. Waskey stated as far as the big picture, no.

Commissioner Deitz stated that previously, there was a Highlands District, but it was consolidated with the Nantahala. After that happened, there were a lot of road closures in the county, especially in the Little Canada and Caney Fork areas. That had been a contentious issue in the county.

Mr. Waskey stated that he was aware of the situation, especially in the Roy Taylor acquisition area of the district. The forest plan was not compelling them to do anything different with their travel management in those areas, nor were they taking up any additional closures or dramatic road changes.

During the time this occurred, there was a travel management rule in the Forest Service System nationwide, which required all Forests to undergo a travel planning process. He thought Highlands did not conduct their comprehensive travel planning. When it was consolidated, the new leader in the district had to clean that up.

Chairman McMahan asked how the Forest Service managed electric bikes on trails?

Mr. Waskey stated that he thought the Forest Service would continue to track this and it would evolve, but at that time, electric bikes were not authorized on trails. Technology would continue to evolve and electric bikes would become more commonplace. He would keep an open dialogue on the issue to keep the discussion going.

*Informational item.*

## **(2) SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS SELF DETERMINATION ACT PROGRAM:**

Mr. Waskey stated that the Forest Service participated in a program called Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). When the Forest Service Lands came to be, it was recognized that it took up acreage within the county, which could otherwise generate tax revenue for schools, roads, etc. Congress recognized this and passed PILT, which created a scenario where they derived money from timber receipts. 25% of the revenue went to the county based on the amount of Forest Service in the particular county. The county still received those funds.

In the 1990's there was a substantial decrease in timber volume, causing the PILT funds to decrease. In order to help rural counties, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act, which was set up to augment the PILT and provide additional revenue for schools, roads, etc.

There were three different titles of the Act. Title I money went straight to schools and road systems in the county, which was a direct payment based on the number of federal acres in the county. Title II and Title III money were interchangeable with counties selecting which one they had. In 2000 when this began, Jackson County selected Title III funding, which was set up to fund EMS, Fire, Search and Rescue, 911 Centers, etc. The funding, on average, was approximately \$17,000 per year.

In 2013, Jackson County selected Title II funding, which was for projects on federal lands within the county. Title II funding was a broader application and required more coordination with the Forest Service and a Resource Advisory Committee, which was a federal committee.

Since 2013, those funds had been accumulating and was currently a total of \$120,172. No other county in North Carolina with National Forest had selected Title II funding. The county would continue to get the Title II funding until there was an opportunity to make a change, if the county chose to do so. He did not know when the opportunity would occur. Also, funds could not be disbursed without establishing a Resource Advisory Committee.

The Resource Advisory Committee was subject to federal rules and had to be vetted and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture in D.C. There were multiple layers of federal structure to go through, which took time. The committee was comprised of three categories with a minimum of nine people with a maximum of 15. The Forest Service would work hand in hand with the county to assemble the committee.

Once the committee was set, they would hold a meeting where folks would bring ideas for uses of the \$120,172 to the committee within the set rules. The committee would then make recommendations to the Forest Service Supervisor of North Carolina, who would be the selecting official. To clear the account and spend funds in the future, the committee would have to be established.

General discussions were held.

Mr. Waskey stated that the path forward that he presented, was all within the confines of the law. Since the Act was reauthorized from time to time, they may want to have conversations with their congressional delegation to determine if there was another way to remedy the issue.

*Informational item.*

**(3) HOMELESS PROGRAMMING:** Robert Cochran, HERE Director, was present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated this was a continuing conversation regarding the homeless programming, future planning and how to continue to provide homeless services in the community. He requested that Mr. Cochran discuss ARPA and Dogwood funds that were set aside to help with the planning for what the future homeless program would look like. He requested to discuss what resources Mr. Cochran may need to start the process. Also, to provide an update on the homeless program and what were the partnerships and stakeholders involved.

Mr. Cochran provided the Board with HERE Outcome Data:

**(a) FY20-21:**

- Shelter Programs - 30 Day Program and Code Purple Program:

Total Hotel Nights	2611
Total People Nights	4838
Total Unique Individuals	144
Total Adults	103
Total Children	41

- Permanently Housed:

Households	58
Total Individuals	103
Total Adults	70
Total Children	33

**(b)** FY21-22 through December:

- Shelter Programs - 30 Day Program and Code Purple Program:

Total Hotel Nights	607
Total People Nights	1004
Total Unique Individuals	108
Total Adults	84
Total Children	24

- Permanently Housed:

Households	36
Total Individuals	40
Total Adults	31
Total Children	9

Mr. Cochran stated that HERE's two primary goals were to meet immediate needs and to get people into permanent housing.

Chairman McMahan asked Mr. Cochran to explain Code Purple.

Mr. Cochran stated they borrowed the name from Asheville and it was something that people understood. It basically meant the temperatures were freezing or below. When the program started out under Southwestern Child Development Commission it was an ongoing cold weather shelter that started in November and ended in March.

At some point, they realized the need would be greater and they needed to begin to think about how they would address a greater number of people. They then broke it out into a 30-day shelter where they were working with people more long-term and more intensive to help give case management for permanent housing. It had always been Jackson County's goal for the immediate need, to keep anyone from freezing to death in the county. They currently had 12 rooms for Code Purple and six rooms for the 30-Day Program. The standard for Code Purple was the National Weather Service forecast for Sylva.

Mr. Cochran continued:

**(c)** Other Services provided:

- Homeless Prevention
- Transportation Assistance
- Housing Furnishings
- Moving Assistance
- Clothing Assistance
- Medication Assistance
- Telephone Assistance
- Cold Weather Supplies
- Information and Referral

**(d)** HERE received 100% accuracy outcomes on all quarterly record monitorings by NC DHHS since the program's inception in September, 2019.

**(e)** HERE responded 24-7/365 to emergency needs.

**(f)** HERE just received their first audit review, which was good.

**(g)** They were currently full, but were still receiving calls.

Commissioner Woody asked what happened when they were full and he got a call?

Mr. Cochran stated that up until December, 2020, they never had a cap on Code Purple. They had gotten up to 40 rooms at over \$17,000 per week and the calls were still coming in. He realized that they could not be completely open-ended. They were a finite organization with finite resources and they could not meet every need. He previously mentioned the county's priority of keeping anyone from freezing to death, he could not guarantee that anymore. But, he would offer blankets and supplies to anyone in need.

There was a meeting in September with United Christian Ministries, First Methodist Church, Jackson Neighbors In Need and St. David's Episcopal, who were the primary partners in Sylva. They had all been responding in a piecemeal fashion to people that came directly to them. HERE was designated as the county's homeless services provider. He proposed for HERE to be the clearinghouse and if they had a need that they could not meet and felt was a serious need, HERE would then reach out to these partners. They tried to coordinate and communicate to make sure they were all on the same page.

General discussions were held.

He was still learning about homelessness and strategies for the community. At some degree, some surrounding counties did not address their homeless needs, so they were getting folks from other counties and even other states in Jackson County. In response to that, he believed that by providing a lesser level of accommodation than a hotel room, by providing a safe, secure, respectful, clean and best practice homeless shelter, he felt they may get more of a right sized request for need. But, he was not an expert, he could be wrong.

(h) Consulting: Mr. Cochran stated that he reached out Beth Bordeaux and Stan Holt, who both had experience in homeless shelter administration and were in the business of consulting. They were competent and experienced. He shared their proposal for services at a total of \$15,000:

<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Report on the nature of homelessness in Jackson County	Gather and analyze data from the current providers, secondary sources and some simple interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness.	February 2022	\$2,500
Report on the values that influence the implementation of solutions that reduce homelessness	Design interview and focus group guide. Complete a combination of stakeholder interviews (2-6) and/or focus groups (1-3). Analyze data. Complete report.	March-April 2022	\$4,500
Report on best practices in reducing homelessness in rural communities	Curate best practices in reducing homelessness in rural communities, including the role of shelter best practices	April 2022	\$1,500
Community prioritization of the best practices based on the values	One stakeholder meeting where they would have a matrix of values, best practices and get the community to prioritize the best practices against the values.	May 2022	\$2,000
Draft plan for shelter, facility, operations and programming	Consulting team, working with a local guiding team of 3-4 key leaders. Write a draft plan for review by selected stakeholders.	June 2022	\$3,000
Final plan completed		June 2022	\$1,500

He also hoped to engage a second consultant, Mandy Haithcox, Executive Director of Haywood Pathways. He felt he could learn a lot from Ms. Haithcox as she was in a similar area mountain community. He thought this would allow them to get two different perspectives.

General discussions were held.

Chairman McMahan stated that this sounded like a good start. He appreciated Mr. Cochran's willingness to give an update and share how the process was unfolding. This was an issue they all, as a Board, as a community and as a county would have to figure out together. There was not a simple solution. This was a good effort to try and address an issue that was not just there, but was everywhere. He appreciated Mr. Cochran's work and willingness to address the issue. He also appreciated all of the local partners that provided assistance.

Commissioner Woody expressed her appreciation to Mr. Cochran. This could not happen without his work. Also, all the organizations that helped, the community had a lot of caring individuals and she appreciated that.

*Informational item.*

**(4) OSHA MANDATE:** Mr. Adams stated that he asked Ms. Baker to give an update regarding the OSHA mandate for vaccination. They were in a position where there were unknowns, but he did not want to come to the Board after a decision was made by the courts with a lot of information. Even though they did not have specifics and they were waiting on court rulings, he wanted to begin the conversations.

Ms. Baker stated that there were three federal vaccine mandates. The first was a CMS mandate for Medicare and Medicaid that affected health care workers, which was on hold. A lot of health care facilities had gone ahead and required vaccines for employees. The health department would not be subject to this mandate.

The second was the federal contractor mandate, which was on hold as well. This one would probably not apply to the county, but it could. If the county had contracts with the federal government, it was possible that anyone working on those contracts would have to be vaccinated. They did exempt grants, which most of the money received by the county was by grant. It only applied to contracts after September 24, 2021 and probably at high levels. This mandate would probably not apply to the county. However, in the future, they could have federal contracts with included language that if they accepted the money from the federal government, anyone working on the contract would have to be vaccinated.

The third was the Federal OSHA mandate. This would apply to employers with 100 employees or more, so the county would fall under that. However, in North Carolina, Federal OSHA only applied to private employers in North Carolina not government employers. But, instead North Carolina Department of Labor had an agreement with Federal OSHA that North Carolina's office would apply the standards and enforce them. They had to be at least as restrictive as the Federal OSHA Standards and they could be more restrictive.

If the OSHA mandate came to fruition, then North Carolina Department of Labor would have 30 days to issue its standards that would then apply to North Carolina local government. In that case, it would apply to the county. That particular mandate was pending at the US Supreme Court. The expectation, after hearing oral arguments, was that it would be overturned and not be enforced. But, they did not have that information yet. If it was upheld, North Carolina would have 30 days to issue its standards and the county would then know what their guidance would be. The way it was written, everyone would have to be vaccinated or supply a negative test once a week.

Mr. Adams stated that if it was upheld, then the Board may start getting questions. There were boards that had already taken a stance on the issue. The Commissioners may be asked individually what they planned to do if it was upheld. At that time, they did not know what the rules would be.

*Informational item.*

**(5) PANDEMIC UPDATE:** Shelley Carraway, Health Director, was present via Zoom for this item.

Mr. Adams stated he had asked Ms. Carraway to give an update on the pandemic and then discuss where the county was regarding the county's state of emergency and the mask mandate for county facilities.

Chairman McMahan stated that under the state statutes, he had the authority, as Chairman, to declare states of emergency locally. The county followed suit to mirror what the state had done. At some point, when did they move toward normal because he thought Covid would be with them for a long time and the county was still under a state of emergency. Was there a point in time when they could become more normalized.

Ms. Carraway stated that they held a Board of Health meeting the night before. She learned more from state calls and meetings she had earlier that day. In North Carolina, the four key metrics they had always been looking at were all going up, but they had been seeing it in other countries as well, so it was not a surprise. They had record breaking case counts, but that was following the course of other countries as well.

They have had the highest hospitalizations in North Carolina since the beginning of the pandemic and the entire state was in the red zone. Omicron had pretty much taken over and it was in the county. Preliminary data showed it was a less severe disease that affected the upper respiratory tract, but that did not mean people were not getting seriously ill as seen by the increase in hospitalizations. 80% of the people in the hospital were unvaccinated.

Unfortunately, they learned there was a decreased protection from the primary series of vaccinations or a past infection. This was why boosters came on the scene and were extremely important for Omicron. Also, two out of the three therapeutics were not effective against Omicron. The one that was fairly effective was in very short supply. There were now standing orders of who would receive it, if there was any available.

The primary concern was the strain on the health care system. She spoke to the hospital and they generally had six to twelve Covid-19 inpatients. Their ICU had been full, but they were not all Covid-19 patients. They also had staffing issues because it was so contagious, so they could not fully staff. As of that morning, they had 20 employees out. They were managing staffing on an hourly basis. It was a strain and they should want to do everything they could to make it not get worse. That was where the vaccines and boosters were the greatest weapon in fighting the virus, especially against severe illness, hospitalizations and death. The good news was that Omicron did not seem to be as deadly.

Also, they now had a recommendation for boosters for children 12-15 years old, five months after their second dose of Pfizer. Over 18 could choose any brand of booster. They had also recommended a third dose for immunocompromised children ages 5-11. There was a belief that they really needed more vaccination in the community. They also reduced the timeframe to get the booster of five months and two months after the J&J. She encouraged everyone to get the booster as soon as they were eligible because it did strengthen protection. Vaccines were free and were readily available. They were still providing those at the Health Department.

The Health Department was pretty much back in full swing. There was a surge in vaccinations and testing, so they enlisted the help of a state vendor called Optum to support the vaccines in November and December. They asked for and received help from the National Guard in December through March or April. That allowed the Health Department to increase the number of appointments available from 180 to 370 per week. The National Guard had also helped with a lot of outreach in the communities.

A primary tool was the masks. They had mandatory masks in the county buildings and everyone should wear masks indoors. The cloth masks were not working for Omicron because of its highly transmissible state. The guidance now stated that if at all possible, to wear a surgical/procedural mask, K95 or N95. The state would be sending N95 masks to all local health departments to make available in the community. Jackson County was slated to receive 8,200 in total. All schools and child care centers could order N95 masks from the state.

There was a change in the isolation guidance to be people with Covid-19 to isolate for five full days and then wear a mask for an additional five days. If a person was exposed to Covid-19, they should quarantine for five days and wear a mask for five days. If a person was fully vaccinated, they did not need to quarantine, but should be tested at five days. Omicron was quicker to be contagious and quicker to resolve.

The caveat in the changes in isolation and quarantine changed the definition of fully vaccinated. If a person was eligible for the booster, but did not have it yet, they were considered the same as unvaccinated because they were not completely vaccinated. If not yet eligible for the booster, then a person was considered fully vaccinated.

When the push for more testing started, the Health Department's capacity was not going to be enough. They wanted to make sure there was availability for free testing in the county. They called the state vendor Optum and they set up in the Meridian building and in Cashiers at the Village Green. They had been a huge support to them in the testing realm. They tested Thursday-Monday, all day and were completely funded by the state. There had been an issue of availability for rapid tests. The demand on a local level would soon exceed capacity. They had ordered all they could to ramp up testing in the county.

With Omicron being so contagious, many in the county were struggling with staffing issues in the entire county. She wondered if the message should be to wear masks to protect the community's economy and making it through. In looking at everything globally, it seemed that this was a very steep climb up and it would be just as steep going back down and it did seem to be a much shorter period of time.

As they were previously talking about the executive order and the mask mandate, those would go away. They had to get to a point where this was not a pandemic, but they treated it as an endemic disease as they did many others. Covid-19 would still be there and they had to learn how to live with it. Before they started the discussion about the executive order, that was what they needed to have in order to do things like mandates. There were also things about FEMA and requests for National Guard. She thought they did not need an executive order when they no longer needed to mandate anything.

Chairman McMahan stated that when he and Mr. Adams first had a conversation, it was pre-Omicron. Given what they had seen and the update from Ms. Carraway, he thought it was prudent they stay the course on where they were at. He did think it would spike and they would see it go down. Hopefully, in the spring or early summer they would start trending back toward a more normal state. He thought they should hold the course and Ms. Carraway could come back to provide the Board an update in April.

*Informational item.*

**(6) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION STATE RAISES – COUNTY MATCH:** Rob Hawk, Extension Director, was present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated that the county contracted with the state in cost sharing for the Extension employees. When a state raise was involved, it required approval from the county for the match to the state raise.

Mr. Hawk stated that the state passed a salary increase of 2.5%. With Extension employees being state employees and matched 50/50, he was seeking the match on the county part for a total of \$2,323 annually. This would be retroactive to July 1, 2021 and go into effect in February.

**Consensus:** *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*



**(7) MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Mr. Adams presented:

- (a) Town of Sylva: Requested \$5,000.00 for Jackson Street sidewalk repairs.
- (b) Town of Dillsboro: Requested \$5,000.00 for public restroom renovations project.
- (c) Town of Webster: Requested \$4,873.70 for park equipment for JC BOE site.

Commissioner Jones stated that since \$20,000 was budgeted for the municipal grants and they only received three applications, that would give them flexibility for another municipality that may submit, a project that may be in other communities or fully fund a request.

**Consensus:** *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

**(8) PROPOSED BUDGET CALENDAR:** Mr. Adams presented the Proposed FY2022-23

Budget Calendar:

January 11	Regular Commissioner Work Session – Set budget calendar- 1:00 pm
February 22	Commissioner’s Budget Retreat, location and meal TBD- 1:00 pm
February 28	Manager’s preliminary meeting with staff
March 1	Non – Profit Grant Applications Disseminated
March 10	Special Called Budget Meeting-Revenue Discussions- 1:00 pm
March 25	All requests submitted to Finance
March 31	Non – Profit Grant Applications Due
April 12	Regular Commissioner Work Session –summary of all new requests- 1:00 pm
April 18–April 29	Manager / Finance Budget Meeting with Departments & Agencies
May 10	Regular Commissioner Work Session – Capital Projects, update on new requests- 1:00 pm
May 17	Regular Commissioner Meeting – Manager’s Recommended Budget- 1:00 pm
May 19–May 20	Special called budget work sessions to hear presentations if needed (safety, education, non-profits, other departments) - 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
June 7	Regular Commissioner Meeting – Budget Public Hearing - 6:00 pm
June 9–10	Special called budget meetings as needed and regular work session (June 14 at 1:00 pm) to make final adjustments.
June 21	Adoption of budget- 1:00 pm

**Consensus:** *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

**(9) SALARY STUDY:** Mr. Adams stated that unfortunately, due to Covid issues and lack of personnel, Evergreen was delayed with the salary study. At that point, they did not feel that they had the most up-to-date information since they did not have Macon County’s information. Once they had that, they would have all the counties that touched Jackson and that they competed with. After they have that information, Evergreen would start providing preliminary information. He, along with Ms. Fox and Kathleen Breedlove, Human Resources Director, would still need a few weeks to evaluate the information.

A more realistic time frame would be to look to have some information to the Board on February 8<sup>th</sup> or February 15<sup>th</sup>. The goal would be to put the Board in a position for adoption on March 1<sup>st</sup> or March 8<sup>th</sup>. This would allow for implementation on paychecks on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The initial goal was to have something in place by January 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to request to make the changes retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, which was the original plan, although they were delayed with the recommendations.

*Informational item.*

**(10) OTHER BUSINESS:**

(a) Commissioner Deitz stated that he had been approached by two fishing guides, who worked on the Tuckasegee River, about the importance of putting in a restroom between Rolling Green where the Dillsboro dam was. They also requested a put-in somewhere near the Baptist church with a restroom. He thought those were important requests.

Commissioner Woody stated that she was on the Sustainability Committee for TDA and they had a long discussion about bathrooms along the Tuckasegee River. There was a fly fishing map indicating where bathrooms were located, but there was a large gap where Commissioner Deitz stated. She thought that would be a really good thing to add a put-in and bathroom.

Commissioner Jones stated that years ago, with relicensing, Duke Energy had committed \$400,000 to the county over the next 30-45 years. He did not think they had expended all of those funds. It may be something that Duke Energy could help with for the restroom on the Tuckasegee River. Mr. Adams may want to reach out to Lisa Leatherman.

*Informational item.*

(b) Commissioner Deitz stated he was concerned with the amount of time people were spending trying to get a driver's license renewed. It was difficult for people to get a driver's license or get a license renewed. There was a huge need as people were waiting hours and hours to try and get in. People were even going out of the county to travel long distances just to get an appointment. He thought that someone needed to push the state to do something about this.

Chairman McMahan stated that maybe they could start with writing a letter to find out the root cause of the problem and make sure that Representative Clampitt, Senator Davis and local state delegation were aware of this. They could let them know this was a concern and was causing problems with county functions.

*Informational item.*

(c) Commissioner Woody stated that she received a letter from Marie Driver, who was the leader of the 4-H Club Smoky Mountain Sinkers. This was for a North Carolina Native Pollinator Garden Project and was a local 4-H group. They requested the county to provide a location on county property where they could transplant seedlings in late April for pollinators. They were thinking possibly a location near the Justice Center. She thought it would bring beauty and pollinators around. She would forward the information to Mr. Adams to facilitate the request.

*Informational item.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Stribling moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman