

**Minutes of the 17 February 2014**  
**Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners**  
**Held at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room**  
**Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina**

Present at the 17 February 2014 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Jim Edwards, Commissioner Randy Ollis, Commissioner Jeff Whitson, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Attorney Donny Laws, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Finance Director Lynne Hensley, and Finance Officer Brandi Burleson.

**Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order and asked the Board to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ollis made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The motion to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

**General Project Update**

County Manager Nathan Bennett began the meeting by updating the Board on the latest concerning capital projects. Mr. Bennett started with the East Yancey Sewer Project. Mr. Bennett did an overview of the project and the reason for the delay concerning the permit issues. He stated that the treatment plant is about 95% complete and that there is still about 6 to 9 months worth of work to be completed for the installation of the sewer line. This installation is about 60-65% complete and the line installation is going to have to be rebid to get another contractor to finish the installation. Funding is now becoming an issue and there are a couple of options including asking the NC Department of Commerce for additional funding and asking GoldenLeaf for funding. Another option would be to scale the project down. The first priority after the line installation is restarted is to do the section to connect Micaville School. Mr. Bennett next updated the Board on the Yancey County Senior Center. The construction bids are to be opened on March 6<sup>th</sup> and construction will begin 30 days after the awarding of the contract. Mr. Bennett next updated the Board on the progress at Cane River Park. He stated that work is beginning on the grading and fencing and with are planning to be complete mid-to late April.

**Yancey County Board of Education**

The Board next welcomed the Yancey County Board of Education to discuss issues that are relevant to both boards. School Board Chairman Mike Orr stated that the school board has concerns about the schools in Yancey County. Dr. Tony Tipton outlined the major concerns of the school board concerning the buildings in the Yancey County school system and stated that as a system that Yancey County has the oldest school buildings in the state. Discussion followed between the two boards about possible solutions to the problem. School Board Member Jack Tipton stated that the school board was looking to have a dialogue with the county commissioners about the conditions of the schools. Dr. Tipton also discussed current needs and that there were two issues. The first was panic alarms at each of the schools and the second was pumping of the septic tank at Micaville. He stated the school system would appreciate any help that the county commissioners could provide on these two issues.

**Finance and Budget Update**

The Board next heard from Finance Director Lynne Hensley and Finance Officer Brandi Burleson concerning the 2014-15 fiscal year budget. Discussion followed about meeting dates and possible additional requests from outside agencies and nonprofits. In addition there was a discussion about the EMS contract and where that stood with Mission Hospital. County Manager Nathan Bennett stated that he had sent a letter to Mission and had not heard anything back from them. Commissioner Ollis stated that he was hopeful to add an extra ambulance and have it in place for April, May, and June of this fiscal year. Discussion also followed about the building that houses the Board of Elections and where the process of adding Emergency Medical Dispatch to the E911 operations stands.

**Tax Department**

The Board next heard from Tax Administrator Jeff Boone. Mr. Boone began by reviewing with the Board the business personal property tax audits that were done last year by Tax Management Associates. Mr. Boone stated that three businesses had asked to have their penalties for these audits forgiven. Discussion followed with County Attorney Donny Laws about the legality of forgiving these penalties. Mr. Laws reviewed the relevant statues with the Board on this issue. Upon hearing from Mr. Boone and Mr. Laws, Commissioner Whitson made

a motion to forgive the penalties and interest for the three petitioning businesses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The motion failed to be approved by a three to two vote with Commissioners Austin and Whitson voting for and Commissioners Edwards, Ollis, and Chairman Riddle voting against. Mr. Boone then moved to the issue of the octennial tax reevaluation. Mr. Boone stated that the county attorney had been working to prepare a request for proposal to be sent out to all companies that were approved by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. These proposals are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion followed about the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a quadrennial tax reevaluation, and County Attorney Donny Laws went over the process of reevaluation with the Board.

**Yancey County Economic Development Commission**

The Board next heard from Wanda Proffitt, Executive Director of the Yancey County Economic Development Commission (EDC) along with EDC members Mayor Theresa Colletta, Jon Ray, and Erica Deaton. Mrs. Proffitt updated the Board on the major employers in the county. Mrs. Proffitt also mentioned that she would like to have direction from the Board about the direction to go in the future. Discussion followed about certified industrial sites and about projects that are currently in the works to further build a climate for economic growth in the county. Mrs. Proffitt also stated that she would like to have a joint planning session with the EDC board and the Town of Burnsville.

**County Operations/Services**

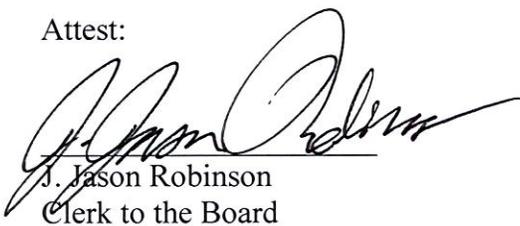
The Board next heard from County Manager Nathan Bennett concerning leases and how to progress with a couple of buildings. Mr. Bennett informed the Board that there were two buildings that were owned by the county that have tenants that are not county operations. Discussions followed concerning the Bald Creek Child Development Center and the building that houses RHA about whether to charge a rental fee. Following the discussions of these two buildings, Commissioner Whitson made a motion to authorize the county manager to surplus the Bald Creek Child Development Center and to enter into lease negotiations with the current occupants until it is sold. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ollis and the vote to approve was unanimous. The Board also directed County Manager Bennett to negotiate a market lease rate with RHA.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business Commissioner Ollis made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved and authenticated on this the \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2014.

Attest:

  
J. Jason Robinson  
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)



  
Johnny Riddle, Chairman

  
Jill Austin, Commissioner

  
Jim Edwards, Commissioner

  
Randy Ollis, Commissioner

  
Jeff Whitson, Commissioner



**AGENDA  
YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
February 17, 2014  
9:00 am**

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Riddle
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. General Project Update
  - a. Capital Projects Update
  - b. Other
- IV. Yancey County Board of Education – 10:00 am
- V. Finance and Budget Update
  - a. Fiscal Year 2014-15 Planning
- VI. Tax Department
- VII. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – 2:00 pm
- VIII. County Operations/Services
- IX. Future Initiatives
- X. General Discussion
- XI. Adjourn