

**Minutes of the 21 September 2015
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Burnsville Town Center
Burnsville, North Carolina**

Present at the 21 September 2015 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were, Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Byrl Ballew, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Burnsville Mayor Theresa Coletta, Burnsville Town Council members Ron Powell, Judy Buchanan, and Ruth Banks, Burnsville Town Clerk Jeanne Martin, Town Public Works Director Anthony Hensley, Yancey County Economic Development Director Wanda Proffitt, Yancey County Economic Development Commission members Jon Ray, Erica Deaton, Warren Bare, Cynthia Deyton, Schell McCall, and Kevin McCraw Tom Johnson with AdvantageWest, Cindy Messer with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Ginger Johnson with the Chamber of Commerce, Tres Wagner with Cooperative Extension, and Phil Trew with the High Country Council of Governments.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order. Phil Trew with the High Country Council of Governments welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions. Mr. Trew stated that today was the continuation of annual meetings to provide a strategy for economic development. Mr. Trew presented an agenda for the meeting as well (Attachment A).

Review of Accomplishments from the April 8, 2014 meeting

Mr. Trew stated that it was a good idea to review some of the successes that have come about since last year. County Planner Jamie McMahan highlighted the area of broadband expansion in the county. EDC Director Wanda Proffitt updated the group concerning the new acquisition by The Winterstar Corporation of the old sock factory on the west side of town. Mrs. Proffitt reported that this is to be named the Burnsville Business Park and that there have already been some businesses express interest in the building. The group also had updates in the area of tourism development, agri-business, and a date of May 26, 2016 for the projected completion of Highway 19 through Burnsville. Mayor Colletta spoke about the need for the Town of Burnsville to improve their water and sewer infrastructure system as well as the acquisition of a site for the new Burnsville Fire Department.

Economic Development Focus over the next year

Mr. Trew stated that he believes there are six areas that the town and county could focus on in the next year to make a real difference for economic development. He stated that these areas would need

1. Physical Infrastructure-Burnsville Public Works Director Anthony Hensley spoke about the need to complete to town water expansion to Micaville. According to County Manager Nathan Bennett the number one priority for Yancey County is to complete the East Yancey Sewer Project and how to operate that sewer system. Again Mayor Colletta stressed the need for updates and improvements on both the water and sewer systems.
2. Broadband Utilization- Mrs. Proffitt and Mr. McMahan updated everyone about the expansion of broadband in the County. It was discussed about marketing the broadband to business and what should be marketed and to whom.
3. Industrial Site Development- It was decided that the biggest need in this area is finishing Burnsville Business Park and finding a tenant(s) for the building.
4. Tourism Development- It was decided that the marketing committee made up of County, Town, and Chamber of Commerce representatives could make recommendations to the Chamber of Commerce about how to market Yancey County and Burnsville. Discussion also centered on the need for a hotel in Burnsville and about the possibility of recruiting a destination restaurant.
5. Agri-business development- Discussion for possible areas to work on for the coming year included expanding TRACTOR, getting TRACTOR self-sufficient, and possibly looking again at the Voluntary Agricultural District program and reviving the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee.
6. Downtown Revitalization- Discuss of this area centered on completing the gateways into Burnsville from Highway 19 and about a strategy to fill vacant buildings

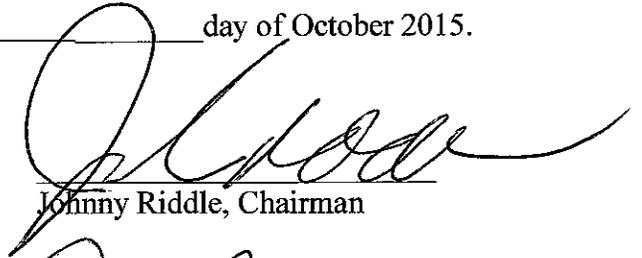
downtown. The possibility of establishing a 501(c) 3 organization for business development was also discussed as well as the need for additional downtown events and the possibility of a permanent stage on the square.

Mr. Trew thanked everyone for participating and asked that the event be held again next year.

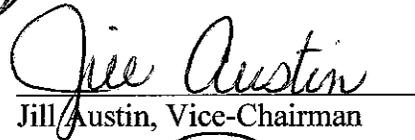
Adjournment

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

Approved and authenticated on this the 12th day of October 2015.



Johnny Riddle, Chairman

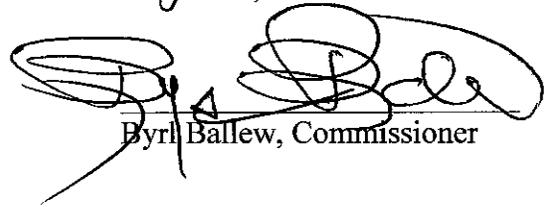


Jill Austin, Vice-Chairman

Attest:



J Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board



Byrl Ballew, Commissioner

(county seal)



Agenda

Joint Work Session

Yancey County Commissioners Burnsville Town Council Yancey County EDC

September 21, 2015

10:00 – 1:00

Burnsville Town Center

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, Work Session Purpose – Wanda Proffitt**
- 2. Review of April 8, 2014 Joint Work Session, and Accomplishments**
- 3. Identification of Economic Development Priorities for FY 2015-16 – Phil Trew, High Country Council of Governments**

Economic Development Focus Areas

- 1. Physical Infrastructure**
- 2. Broadband Utilization**
- 3. Industrial Site Development**
- 4. Tourism Development**
- 5. Agri-business Development**
- 6. Downtown Revitalization**