

**Minutes 22 December 2008**  
**Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners**  
**Held at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room**  
**Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina**

The Yancey County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on 22 December 2008, Chairman Walter Savage and Commissioner Jerri Storie were present for the meeting. Also in attendance for the meeting were Sheriff Kermit Banks, Town of Burnsville Mayor Danny McIntosh, County Attorney Donny Laws, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Finance Director Lynne Hensley, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, Director of Social Services Alice Elkins, Income Maintenance Supervisor Sondra Banks, Jody Higgins, Steve Murphy, and members of the general public.

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner made the motion to approve the agenda and Chairman Savage seconded, the vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

The first order of business for the Board was the archaeological survey bids for the Yancey County Comprehensive Recreational Grounds. Mr. Jeff Howell updated the Board on the progress of the Recreational Grounds. Mr. Howell informed the board that the vision of the Recreational Grounds was something that the whole family could use and enjoy. Surveys have been sent out throughout the county to determine what the general public would like to see at the Recreational Grounds. The archaeological survey is required as part of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant that the county received for the Recreation Grounds. The survey is to determine if there is any significant archaeological evidence at the sight. Chairman Savage opened the bids from the bidders and the following were the results:

Blue Ridge Archeological-----	\$9,242.00
TRC-----	\$10,690.28
MACTEC-----	\$20,200.00
THE SCHIELE MUSEUM-----	\$4,993.28
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY----	\$20,991.67

Having opened all of the bids that were received Chairman Savage made a motion to accept the bid submitted by The Schiele Museum for \$4,993.28, Commissioner Storie seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

The Board then moved to the issue of entering into a contract agreement with Vanguard Staffing Incorporated. The contract has been sent to the County Attorney for review. The Board were informed by Director of Social Services, Alice Elkins about the Virtual Income Maintenance services offered by Vanguard. The service would not be used to replace any workers but would be used when the demands for income maintenance becomes too great for the Income Maintenance staff. The service is a mail out program that uses retired Income Maintenance workers in their homes. The service would only be used "as needed". Commissioner Storie made a motion to enter into the contract with Vanguard Staffing Incorporated and the motion was seconded by Chairman Savage. The vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.

The Board was then updated about the Energy Xchange program from Heather Dawes, the Executive Director of Energy Xchange. Ms. Dawes informed the Board that Energy Xchange had been a recipient of a Department of Energy grant, through Congressman Heath Shuler's office, that totaled \$840,000. Ms. Dawes stated that Energy Xchange is nationally and internationally recognized as a showcase for "green energy". She also said she looks forward to working with Jamie McMahan as Yancey County's representative on the Energy Xchange Board as that Yancey County previously had a representative but that representative didn't attend any of the Energy Xchange Board meetings. Chairman Savage stated again that the Board was committed to making Yancey County a "green" county.

County Manager Nathan Bennett then updated the Board about the East Yancey Water and Sewer Project. The Rural Center has awarded a \$3 million grant in 2003 but nothing has been done with the money. In discussions with the engineering firm the County Manager and County Planner has learned that the Town of Burnsville has also been awarded a \$3 million grant. There are currently 11 holdouts along the proposed corridor who would not sign a right-of-way for the project. County Manager Bennett informed the Board that all of the permits and money were in place for the project and need to know what direction needs to be taken with the remaining 11 land owners. Town of Burnsville Mayor Danny McIntosh expressed an interest in meeting with the county about the town's participation in this project. The Board thanked the County Manager for his update on this project.

The Board then moved the issue of the lease agreement with the North Carolina Probation and Parole office. The County Manager informed the Board that the county is required by law to provide space for the North Carolina Probation and Parole and the current lease agreement ran out on August 31, 2008. Commissioner Storie motioned for the County Manager to negotiate as good of terms as possible with North Carolina Probation and Parole. Chairman Savage seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Board then moved to the issue of the permanent status of an Emergency Management Coordinator and the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. Chairman Savage made a motion to have Bill Davis continue as permanent Emergency Management Coordinator and to have the County Manager study the issue of funding an Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator and to take application and use his judgment in hiring an individual.

The Board then directed to County Manager Bennett to advertise and hire a replacement in the Tax Collections Department for Tax Collector Margaret Greene, who is retiring at the end of January.

The Board then moved to the issue of a contract for Mr. Jeff Westbrook who has been helping out in the Tax Assessing office to do tax assessments as required by law. The County Manager indicated that he has talked with the Tax Assessor for the need to do these tax assessments in a timely manner. The Board then directed the County Manager to draft a letter to Mr. Westbrook indicating that at this time the county was not interested in entering into an agreement.

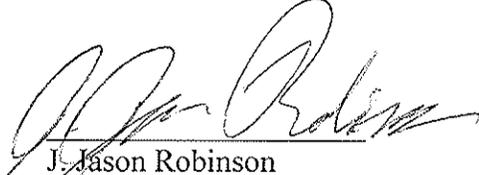
The Board then heard a report by Finance Director, Lynne Hensley, that the county continues to await the 07-08 audit. Mrs. Hensley also reported that she continues to learn the budget for Yancey County. The Board thanked Mrs. Hensley for her report.

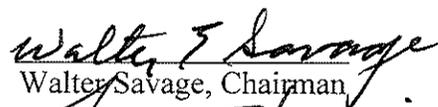
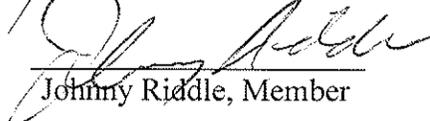
The Board then heard from County Planner, Jamie McMahan, about projects that he is working on. Mr. McMahan informed the Commissioners that he has been working closely with Mr. Jeff Howell on the Recreation Grounds along with Ms. Dawes on the Energy Xchange projects. Mr. McMahan also informed the Board that he is working on ways to improve the tax office structure as well as the method of payment for tax bills. The Board thanked Mr. McMahan for his report.

Having no further business, Commissioner Storie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Savage seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Approved and authenticated on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2009.

Attest:

  
J. Jason Robinson  
Clerk to the Board

  
Walter Savage, Chairman  
  
Jerri Storie, Member  
  
Johnny Riddle, Member

(county seal)