

Minutes of the 30 December 2010
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina

Present at the 20 January 2011 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Dale England, Commissioner Michele Presnell, Commissioner Marvin Holland, County Manager and Assistant Clerk to the Board Nathan Bennett, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Howell, and Parks and Recreation staff member Randy Hall.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to approve the agenda Commissioner England made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Holland. The vote to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

Parks and Recreation Workshop

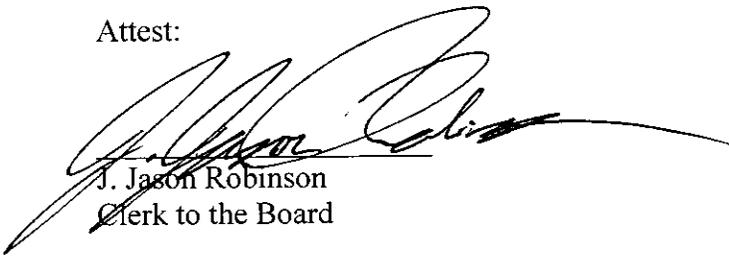
The Board heard from Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Howell who advised the Board that he had been called into active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves and would not return to county service until sometime in January of 2012. Mr. Howell stated that the past couple of years have been a learning experience with the operation of Toe River Campground and has taken away from other projects such as the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds. Discussion followed about a number of issues that were brought up at the end of the camping season last year. One of those issues was the electric service problems on Strawberry Lane. Mr. Howell informed the Board that this issue had been repaired by Brian Cooper Electric who received the contract to do the electrical work after a low bid of \$17,490. This should solve the electrical problems in the campground especially on Strawberry Lane. The second issue that was raised last year was the lack of water which is a persistent problem because there is deeded water rights to a prior owner who use the water for crop irrigation. The water was repaired this summer and is tested monthly by an outside laboratory. The results are posted at the campground store and the bathhouse. The third issue was a septic failure last year near the end of the season. The health department has been assisting the Parks and Recreations Department with a plan to repair this problem. The health department has designed a system that would serve the affected area and cost about \$25,000 that would be operational before the start of the new camping season. Upon hearing from Mr. Howell concerning this problem, Chairman Riddle made a motion to authorize county staff to proceed with making the needed septic repairs, to include staff to prepare a request for bid proposals and advertise the project in the newspaper, and to transfer funds for the repair work from unused parks and recreation salaries. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Presnell and the vote was unanimous. The Board also discussed the options for operation of the campground. One option would be the continued operation by the county which was recommended by Mr. Howell. The second option would be to return the operation to a private contractor. Under this scenario the county has no say in how the campground is run and the county would still be responsible for all of the infrastructure repairs (water, electrical, septic). Mr. Howell also highly recommended appointing Randy Hall as campground manager if the county were to continue operation. Mr. Hall is well respected by the campers and brings a lot of experience from Yancey County Schools. Upon hearing from Mr. Howell Commissioner Austin made a motion to appoint Randy Hall as Campground Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holland and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Howell also stated the need for a sound legal policy about the rental of Hoot Owl Hall. County staff was directed to research other rental agreements and provide information to the Board at a later time. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Board would meet with the seasonal campers of Toe River Campground on January 20th at 6 pm. Mr. Howell also advised the Board that Yancey County was in the midst of applying for a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for phase one development of the Comprehensive Recreation Grounds.

Adjournment

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

Approved and authenticated on this the _____1st_____ day of February 2011.

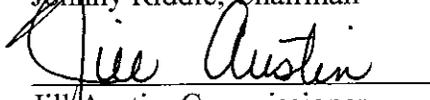
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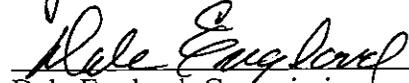

J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)




Johnny Riddle, Chairman


Jill Austin, Commissioner


Dale England, Commissioner


Michele Presnell, Commissioner


Marvin Holland, Commissioner

COUNTY MANAGER
Nathan Bennett



COMMISSIONERS
Jill Austin
Dale England
Marvin Holland
Michele Presnell
Johnny Riddle

YANCEY COUNTY

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AGENDA

YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

December 30, 2010

9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Johnny Riddle
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Parks and Recreation Workshop – Jeff Howell, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
- IV. Adjourn