

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on September 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Conference Room, Administration Building, Bakersville, NC. Those present for the meeting were: Bill Slagle, Chairman; Lee Roy Ledford; Member, Ken Hollifield, Keith Holtsclaw, Member; Joe Street, Member; Charles Vines, County Manager and Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board. Also present were: Hal Harrison County Attorney and Corey Hoilman Editor of the Mitchell-News Journal.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Slagle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Commissioner Street gave the invocation.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – County Manager Vines led the Pledge of Allegiance and a portion of the United States Constitution.
4. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Ledford moved to approve the minutes for Regular Session August 1, 2011, Emergency Session August 10, 2011, and Special Session August 29, 2011. Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
 - A. **Proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program Application** – Chairman Slagle called the Public Hearing on the Proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program Application to order at 6:06 p.m. MCTA Director, Sheila Grindstaff reviewed the Rural Operating Assistance Program.

No written or oral comments were received.

Commissioner Street moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Holtsclaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The public hearing closed at 6:12 p.m.

B. Creating Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance.

Chairman Slagle called the Public Hearing on Creating Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance to order at 6:14 p.m.

Keynan Phillips, Building Inspector read the proposed Minimum Housing Standard Ordinance.

No written or oral comments were received.

Commissioner Ledford moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The public hearing closed at 6:20 p.m.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Marvin Miller spoke to the Board concerning Judge Guinn’s request on the Courthouse Security and his resignation.

Bonnie Sagon requested clarification on Attorney Harrison’s letter dated August 2, 2011. Chairman Slagle informed Ms. Sagon he would get the clarification out to her in a timely manner.

9. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Oscar Weinmeister, President/CEO of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital - Commissioner Holtsclaw introduced Mr. Weinmeister to the Board. Mr. Weinmeister informed the Board he was working on several projects, one of which is the Dental School. He stated he has experience with Economic Development and was excited to work with the Board.

B. Phil Trew, High Country Planning Director will provide the Board with an update on the High Country Regional Bike Plan – Phil Trew, High Country Planning Director informed the Board that High Country Counting of Governments recently contracted with NCDOT to develop a Regional Bike Plan for the seven-county region. The Plan is intended to improve safety, access and mobility for cyclists by designating logi8cl routes that connect municipalities and other major destinations in the region. The Plan will identify needed improvements to existing roadways, prioritize the improvements and develop a signage plan to make the identified routes. The Regional Bike Plan is intended to complement existing municipal bicycle plans and will therefore not include extensive circulation routes within town limits. While NCDOT recognized the recreational nature of cycling, the Plan is intended to develop routes that will provide transportation connections. The Plan will also recognize the economic and health impacts of cycling. He explained the process would include (per NCDOT guidance) a Steering Committee be formed to guide development of the Plan. L The Steering Committee will included three representatives from each County, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. Additionally, representatives from NCDOT Divisions 11 and 13 and the Blue Ridge Parkway will be asked to be on the Steering Committee. The plan will be developed over a twenty-four month period July 2011 – June 2013), with twelve Steering Committee meetings

anticipated. The meetings will be held during business hours in Boone. Development of the Plan, the nineteen municipalities and seven Counties in the region will be asked to adopt the plan. High Country Council of Governments and High Country RPO will also be asked to adopt the plan. The Regional Bike Plan will be long-term and comprehensive. It will analyze traffic data, accident data, existing bike and greenway plans, existing road conditions, and scheduled road projects to determine appropriate routes throughout the region. Existing right-of-way and identification of corridors suitable for off-road bike plan development will also be considered during Plan development. The Plan will address the following: policies affecting cycling (regulatory and educational), maintenance of bike facilities cost of improvements, source of funding, and safety programs. Finally, the Plan will include recommended design for various bike facilities, signage plan consisting of appearance and specific location of recommended signs. Mr. Trew asked the Board to be considering their appointment to the Steering Committee.

- C. **NCACC Risk Management 2011 Liability & Property Pool Award** – Clerk to the Board/HR Director, Kathy Young presented the Board with the NCACC Risk Management 2011 Liability and Property Pool Award presented to Mitchell County in recognition of having the lowest number of vehicle claims per 100 vehicles among all small county members that she received on behalf of Mitchell County at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioner’s Conference on August 20, 2011 (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). She informed the Board this was the seconded year in a row that Mitchell County had received this recognition.

10. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- A. **Toe River Health District Funding Request** – Commissioner Ledford moved to approve the Toe River Health District funding request of \$18,333 for Electronic Medical Records. Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- B. **Ordinance Creating Minimum Housing Standards** – Commissioner Street moved to adopt the Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of minutes). Commissioner Holtsclaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- C. **Mitchell County Sheriff’s Office Overtime Assistance Grant** – Commissioner Street moved to approve the Sheriff’s Office Overtime Assistance Grant (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Hollifield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **Rural Operating Assistance Funding Request**
- B. **Memorandum of Understanding AssetWorks Vehicle Maintenance Software Project**
- C. **Appointment of Hazel Yelton and Elena Street to the Mitchell County Advisory Committee for Long Term Care**
- D. **Western Highlands Fiscal Monitoring Report for the 2011 fiscal year 4th Quarter ending June 30, 2011**

E. Releases/Refunds and Discoveries

Commissioner Ledford moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items (a copy of the Consent Agenda Items are hereby attached and become a part of the minutes). Commissioner Hollifield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- 12. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT** – County Manager Vines informed the Board that Kellyn Slotnick had represented Mitchell County on the Youth Summit at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioner's Conference. He stated the Youth Voice had developed in 2010 a list of ten-priority concerns that were presented to the NCACC membership and later in January 2011 incorporated into the NCACC's 2011-12 package of legislative goals.
- 13. BOARD COMMENTS** – Commissioner Holtsclaw stated it was his first meeting and he appreciated their confidence.
- 14. ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Holtsclaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Bill Slagle, Chairman

Lee Roy Ledford, Vice-Chairman

Ken Hollifield, Member

Keith Holtsclaw, Member

Joe Street, Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Young, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

