

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 6, 2014

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on October 6, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Conference Room, Administration Building, Bakersville, NC. Those present for the meeting were: Bill Slagle, Chairman; Joe Street, Vice-Chairman; Ken Hollifield, Member; Keith Holtsclaw, Member; Rickey McKinney, Member; Charles Vines, County Manager and Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board. Also present were: Andy Mendhenk, Reporter with the Mitchell-News Journal.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner 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.
4. **ETHICS AWARENESS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER:**
In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict. Does any board member have any known conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.
5. **ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
6. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Street moved to approve the Minutes for September 2, 2014. Commissioner Hollifield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
 - A. **Public Hearing on the Proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program Application** – Chairman Slagle opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Chairman Slagle stated the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comments on

the proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application by October 24, 2014.

The programs included in the Rural Operating Assistance Program application are:

1. Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance (EDTAP) Program provides operating assistance for the public transportation of elderly and disabled citizens.
2. Employment Transportation Assistance Program provides operating assistance for the public transportation of persons with employment related transportation needs.
3. Rural General Public (RGP) Program provides operating assistance for the public transportation of persons living in non-urban areas of the county.

The period of performance for Rural Operating Assistance Program funds is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The FY2015 ROAP individual program totals are:

PROGRAM	TOTAL
EDTAP	\$ 47,445
EMPL	\$5,466
RGP	\$43,938
TOTAL	\$96,849

No written or oral comments were received.

Chairman Slagle closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS/BOARD COMMENTS – None.

10. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on the North Toe River Project – Starli McDowell and Jonathan Hartsell provided the Board with an update on the North Toe River Project. Jonathan Hartsell told the Board that the objectives of the North Toe River Project were:

- Foster a local partnership that seeks to improve the natural resources of our watershed and help improve the local economy
- Conduct watershed assessment to identify problem areas in the watershed
- Develop a watershed action plan; the plan will be available to the public and allow us to pursue additional funding for improvement projects
- Work voluntarily with local partners and landowners on water quality improvement projects
- Education and outreach
 - The watershed coordinator and North Toe partners have worked extensively with Mitchell and Avery County Schools to help with field days, class seminars, educational materials, etc.

Some of the examples of the projects are:

- Rockhouse Creek Enhancement Project
 - Worked with Sharon Hollifield and Doug Wiseman to improve a section of eroding stream bank in the Grassy Creek watershed

- Grassy Creek Storm water and Enhancement Project
 - Improve the Creek by stabilizing stream banks, removing invasive vegetation and planting with native riparian plants
 - Develop a greenway that would one day connect to the Blue Ridge Parkway/Over the Mountain Trail and Riverside Park
 - Capture and treat storm water runoff from the Grassy Creek Shopping Center parking lot to reduce parking lot flooding and flooding in Grassy Creek

- Parkway Fire & Rescue Project
 - Fix eroding stream bank
 - Improve aquatic habitat

Jonathan Hartsell presented the Board with a framed map of the North Toe River Project Area developed by the project partners.

11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Rural Operating Assistance Program Application** – Commissioner Holtsclaw moved to approve the Rural Operating Assistance Program Application (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Hollifield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- B. **Late Application for Property Tax Relief** – Commissioner Street moved to approve the Late Application for Property Tax Relief. Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- C. **Resolution in Support of Aid to Public Libraries Fund** – Commissioner Holtsclaw moved to adopt the Resolution in Support of Aid to Public Libraries (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner McKinney seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- D. **Resolution in Support of Easement Agreement** - Commissioner Street moved to adopt the Resolution in Support of Easement Agreement (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Holtsclaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- E. **Home & Community Care Block Grant Budget Revision #1** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to approve Home & Community Care Block Grant Budget Revision #1 (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Street seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Property Releases/Refunds/Discoveries for September**
- B. **Vehicle Releases/Refunds for September**

Commissioner Street moved to approve the Consent Agenda (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.

13. **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT** – County Manager Vines reviewed the Monthly Finance Report with the Board. He informed the Board the ribbon cutting for the dental school had been set for January 30, 2015 and there would be a communications exercise taking place on October 8, 2014 at Parkway Fire Department. County Manager Vines stated the Mitchell County Trails Plan and the Space Needs Assessment would be on the November 6, 2014 agenda.

14. **BOARD COMMENTS** – Commissioner Holtsclaw stated he felt the Board needed to look at incorporating a jail into the Master Plan. He also asked Assessor Hyder the cost of the vehicle refunds that had been done to correct the valuation issue. Assessor Hyder said he didn't have the total cost, but there had been issues with people not cashing those checks.

Chairman Slagle told the Board that the Audit, Space Plan Assessment and the Mitchell County Trails Plan would be on the next agenda and for them to be prepared for a long meeting. He also reminded the Board to get with County Manager Vines on the EM Coordinator/Fire Inspector's job description.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Hollifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McKinney seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Bill Slagle, Chairman

Joe Street, Vice-Chairman

Ken Hollifield, Member

Keith Holtsclaw, Member

Rickey McKinney, Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Young, NCCCC Clerk to the Board