

**TENTATIVE AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

**WATAUGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM**

TIME	#	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
5:30	1	CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER		
	2	APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting February 18, 2025, Closed Session		1
	3	APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2025, AGENDA		13
5:35	4	PUBLIC COMMENT – Will last up to 1-hour dependent on number of speakers	CHAIRMAN EGGERS	15
5:40	5	REVISED BID FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLE PURCHASE	CAPTAIN PRESTON RUSSELL	17
5:45	6	HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE	MR. WILL HOLT	19
5:50	7	MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS A. Kill/Chill Project B. Boards and Commissions C. Announcements	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	21 23 37
5:55	8	BREAK		37
6:00	9	CLOSED SESSION Attorney/Client Matters per, G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3)		41
6:30	10	ADJOURN		

AGENDA ITEM 2:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting

February 18, 2025, Closed Session

DRAFT**MINUTES****WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting, as scheduled, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room located in the Watauga County Administration Building, Boone, North Carolina.

Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The following were present:

PRESENT: Braxton Eggers, Chairman
 Todd Castle, Vice-Chairman
 Emily Greene, Commissioner
 Tim Hodges, Commissioner
 Ronnie Marsh, Commissioner
 Nathan Miller, County Attorney
 Deron Geouque, County Manager
 Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Vice-Chairman Castle opened with a prayer and Chairman Eggers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Eggers presented the February 4, 2025, regular meeting and closed session minutes.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the February 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the February 4, 2025, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Eggers called for additions and/or corrections to the February 18, 2025, agenda.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to approve the February 18, 2025, agenda as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
 Nay-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPDATE AND REQUESTS

Mr. Richard Boylan, Area Agent, updated the Board on Extension matters and request authorization to apply for a Tobacco Trust Fund (TTF) grant in the amount of \$46,906.15 for shared use equipment grant, as well as approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Working Landscapes for shared use equipment.

Mr. Boylan stated that he was pursuing small farm equipment that could be shared with those who could use it from gardeners to farmers in the area at no cost. The Extension was using seed money for the TTF grant to expand the project. If the grant was awarded, the equipment would stay with the Extension. Mr. Boylan stated that he had worked with the County Attorney in preparing the MOU and lease. County Attorney Miller stated that he was good with the contract.

When concerns were brought up about liability, County Attorney Miller stated that government had sovereign immunity and the County had insurance to cover what immunity didn't; however, he wasn't sure if this would be exempt from immunity.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to authorize the application for the Tobacco Trust Fund (TTF) grant in the amount of \$46,906.15 for shared use equipment and approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Working Landscapes for the shared use equipment.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

PROJECT ON AGING MATTERS***A. Request for Acceptance of FY 2025 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Grant/Contract***

Ms. Angie Boitnotte, Project on Aging Director, requested the acceptance of a Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Grant from the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). The grant was in the amount of \$3,030 with no local match required and would be used to expand low income subsidy outreach and for supplies.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to accept the MIPPA Grant in the amount of \$3,030.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

B. Requested Appointment of Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) Advisory Committee and Lead Agency

Ms. Angie Boitnotte, Project on Aging Director, stated that each year it was required to appoint a lead agency and advisory committee to make recommendations on how to best expend the County's allocation from the Home and Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) funds. These funds were previously established by the Older American's Act and were administered by the North Carolina Division of Aging.

Ms. Boitnotte requested the Project on Aging be appointed as the Lead Agency and presented the following names for appointment to the H&CCBG:

Name	Representing
Braxton Eggers	Board of Commissioners
Zack Green	High Country Council of Governments
Dustin Burleson	Vaya Health
Brooke Whitman	Daymark Recovery Services
Karina Romero	Appalachian District Health Department
Christie Markham	Social Services
TBD, Patient Resource Specialist	High Country Community Health
Kat Danner	Senior Citizen
Mary Moretz	Senior Citizen (STHL Alternate)
Ed Rosenberg	Senior Citizen

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to appoint the list of nominations as presented by Ms. Boitnotte to the Home & Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee for FY 2026 and to appoint the Watauga County Project on Aging as the Lead Agency.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

A. Request for Exemption of Mini Brooks Act

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, presented a proposed resolution exempting the County from the quality-based selection process required by the Mini-Brooks Act, per G. S. 143-64.31. The statute allows local governments to exempt specific projects from the provisions of the general statute if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000. An engineer was needed for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study of the Old Cove Creek Gym sports field which was destroyed by Hurricane Helene. The reason for the requested exemption was the specialty of the scope of services for the project and Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants existing knowledge of the project and past experience with the County.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to adopt the resolution as presented by Mr. Marsh.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

B. Request to Procure Engineering Services

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, requested approval of a contract with Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants in the amount of \$45,000 for a feasibility study for the Old Cove Creek facility grounds which was needed due to Hurricane Helene leaving the sports field unusable. The County's insurance provider and FEMA recently concluded their inspections with the insurance company committing to restoring the facility to pre-storm condition provided the County completes the restoration project and pays the \$500,000 policy deductible. FEMA officials have stated that there is a possibility that FEMA would pay the deductible, engineering fees, and costs associated with the designing and restoration project as well as covering the cost to mitigate the site from future damage where opportunities exist. The cost of the study should be a reimbursable expense through FEMA recovery funds as well.

Mr. Marsh recommended the feasibility study be conducted to document existing conditions and to define the area where site amenities can be restored without violating floodplain regulations by Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants, PA. (BREC). BREC has the ability to fly the site with LIDAR and determine how the site has been changed by the flood and the information gathered by doing so would be valuable in determining the amount of fill which would either need to be exported or incorporated into the site. The survey would also be a part of a larger feasibility study which was vital to planning a successful project. Staff recommends the County.

Discussion was held regarding whether enhancements could be made to the property during the repair phase. County Manager Geouque stated that there was an opportunity for the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) to fund enhancements as the site was included in the Imagine Watauga Plan.

County Attorney Miller stated that a line of liability needed to be removed from the contract and the venue needed to be changed to Watauga County.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to approve the contract with Blue Ridge Environmental Consultants for a fee of \$45,000 to conduct a feasibility study of the facility contingent on the County Attorney's approval.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

C. Bid Award Recommendations

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, requested approval of a contract with Tarheel Basement Systems in the amount of \$39,606.11 for restoration of the crawlspace at the Old Cove Creek gym. The crawlspace was flooded during Hurricane Helene where the floodwater left behind a layer of

silt on the moisture barrier and damaged some of the fiberglass floor joist insulation. The County's insurance company inspected and approved the crawlspace for restoration.

Bids for the repair work were solicited with three contractors submitting bids on February 13, 2025, as follows:

Bidder	Amount
Tarheel Basement Systems Greensboro, NC	\$ 39,606.11
AFTER DISASTER Greensboro, NC	\$124,897.11
Wolfe Construction Group Cornelius, NC	\$ 36,349.02

Mr. Marsh recommended Tarheel Basement Systems be awarded the project as the second lowest bidder as their proposal contained a much larger scope of work than the lowest bidder's proposal and it was deemed by staff to be the actual lowest responsible bid based upon the quality and performance factors stated in their proposal.

County Attorney Miller stated that there were some issues with the contract which were corrected with initials and could, therefore, be approved as presented.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Chairman Eggers, moved to award the contract to Tarheel Basement Systems in the amount of \$39,606.11.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

SHERIFF'S OFFICE MATTERS

A. Requested Award to Retiring Officer

Captain Preston Russell, stated that Detective Terry Julian recently retired after working many years in the Sheriff's Office. G.S. 20-187.2 allows governing bodies of a law enforcement agency to award a retiring member the service side arm, at a price determined by the governing body. Law enforcement personnel may retire at age 55 with 25 years of credible service with full retirement benefits. Captain Russell stated that Mr. Julian planned to act as a reserve officer and provide firearms training. Captain Russell requested Mr. Julian's respective side arm and badge be awarded to him due to his retirement and that the price of the side arm be set at \$1.

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to award retired Detective Terry Julian his badge and side arm.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

B. Out-of-State Travel Request

Captain Preston Russell requested out-of-state travel authorization for training and travel expenses for members of the K-9 team to attend the “Hold the Line K-9 Conference” in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, as it would provide advanced instruction in critical areas such as tracking, detection, and handler techniques. The request included the use of a County vehicle for travel, meal allowances, and registration fees.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to authorize the out-of-state travel to South Carolina for members of the K-9 team.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

C. Patrol Vehicle Purchase Request Due to Loss/Damage from Hurricane Helene

Captain Preston Russell requested authorization for the purchase of two (2) vehicles, one (1) 2025 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$41,556.78 from Deacon Jones Dodge of Clinton and one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck from McNeil Chevrolet of Wilkesboro in the amount of \$48,744.36. The replacement was due to losses from Hurricane Helene. The County received \$38,591 (including the \$1,000 deductible per vehicle) leaving a \$51,710.14 shortfall from the amount received from insurance. Staff would recommend the shortfall come from the Sheriff’s budget and if adequate funds were not available then contingency funds be used to cover the shortfall.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2025 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$41,556.78 from Deacon Jones Dodge of Clinton and one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck from McNeil Chevrolet of Wilkesboro in the amount of \$48,744.36 with the funds to come from the Sheriff’s existing budget or contingency funds.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

AEROSTAR RIGHT OF ENTRY AND SITE ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

Ms. Darlene Abbott with AeroStar, gave a presentation on the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) and Demolition Program Right of Entry (ROE) for private property debris removal and site assessments. Ms. Abbott provided the scope of work through program planning and implementation and then shared the simplified process walkthrough. When Ms. Abbott shared the communication plan and methods of taking applications, some discussion was held to make sure the information would get to the citizens in need. Ms. Abbott then gave a walkthrough of the ROE simplified intake process and shared the online application as well as call center information.

The presentation was for information only and, therefore, no action was required at this time.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MATTERS

A. Hurricane Helene Update

Mr. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, provided the following Hurricane Helene update:

- *“County staff continue to work with our insurance provider on coverage limits and settlements. We have started to receive determination letters and coverage approvals for several properties with clarification requested on some projects.*
- *Right-of-Way debris removal continues with an end date forecasted of March 2nd for the public to add new debris to the Right-of-Way. This timeline was coordinated with SDR to give them time to complete their work ahead of their contract expiration date.*
- *Waterway and private property debris removal operations with the Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been approved, with contract awards ongoing for contractors. Aerostar and TetraTech are leading the intake process, Right of Entry acquisition, and site assessments for the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program. Representative Foxx’s office has been very active on this issue and we appreciate her continued support.*
- *Staff completed assessments on waterways to give multiple State and federal partners access to raw data to determine eligibility for Category A (USACE debris removal), EWP, or other potential programs being discussed. We appreciate the incredible work of our Soil and Water staff and those who partnered with them in this process.*
- *Governor Stein has signed an Executive Order directing NCEM and OSBM to establish a private road and bridge program. Staff has been in met with the Director and Assistant Director of that division of OSBM and initial planning has begun on how to implement that Executive Order. This program is designed to duplicate the success seen in the southwest part of the State during the 2022 TS Fred floods.*
- *The Commissioners previously approved the proposal from Hagerty Consulting, Inc, to provide technical assistance with recovery. We are early in that process but have engaged the firm to begin operations once the final contract is executed.*
- *As a point of success, DSA and he DRC teams have largely completed their work in Watauga County but will have staff available for any issues that arise. Teams registered thousands of individuals and helped put more than \$17M at time of report into the hands of our citizens to begin their recovery.*
- *The deadline for organizations to apply for Public Assistance (PA) and individuals to apply for assistance (IA) have both been extended to March 8th, 2025*
- *After legal review, the County and all municipalities who consented with the County during Helene have terminated the State of Emergency that was in place.”*

The report was for information only and, therefore, no action was required at this time.

B. Request Bid Award for Valle Crucis School BDA/DAS

Mr. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, received an updated proposal from Mobile Communications America, Inc. in the amount of \$102,357.71 for a Bi-Directional Amplifier and Distributed Antenna System for the new Valle Crucis Elementary School which included Foscoe Fire Department. County Manager Geouque stated that funds were included in the FF&E budget for the school project to cover the cost. When asked if the addition would delay the project, Mr. Holt stated that they would be onsite in ten days to run the equipment. The lead time would not change only the amount of materials ordered would be more.

County Manager Geouque stated that hopefully the school could be moved into by March but it would probably be April or May. Mr. Geouque stated that it would be operational by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Geouque stated that Blue Ridge Energy and Skybest would help with cell coverage. Blue Ridge was working with Verizon and Skybest to put in mini towers in the area. Mr. Holt stated that it was a VIPER system and VIPER would “turn up” the system to make certain it worked with all components.

Commissioner Greene, seconded by Chairman Eggers, moved to approve the bid with Mobile Communications America, Inc. in the amount of \$102,357.71 for a Bi-Directional Amplifier and Distributed Antenna System for the new Valle Crucis Elementary School including Foscoe Fire Department.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROPOSED SHARED PERSONNEL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Ms. Michelle Kasey with the Soil and Water Conservation Office, requested approval of a Shared Personnel Mutual Aid Agreement with the Soil and Water Conservation District. The agreement would allow Watauga County Soil & Water Conservation District to share employees as needed with other Counties in a like manner to how other counties assisted Watauga County during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to adopt the Mutual Aid Agreement.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

TAX MATTERS

A. Monthly Collections Report

Mr. Tyler Rash, Tax Administrator, presented the Tax Collections Report for the month of January 2025. The report was presented for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Tyler Rash, Tax Administrator, presented the Refunds and Releases Report for January 2025 for Board approval:

TO BE TYPED IN MINUTE BOOK

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to approve the Refunds and Releases Report for January 2025 as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Proposed Daymark Recovery System, Inc. Lease Renewal

County Manager Geouque presented a lease renewal with Daymark Recovery Services with the same terms and conditions as the current lease. The space to be leased was at the County's Human Services Building and included 13,775 square feet of space. Daymark agreed to lease the space at the rate of \$10 per square foot (\$137,750 per year) in monthly installments of \$11,479.17. The new lease term would be March 1, 2025 to February 29, 2028. Included in the lease under Section 10 was an additional fee in the amount of \$67,718 per year, to be paid in monthly installments of \$5,643, which was to cover utilities and janitorial services.

The County Manager stated that the lease had been reviewed by County Attorney Miller who stated that it was good. The advertisement period has been met in accordance with the general statutes and the lease was ready for adoption.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, moved to adopt the Daymark Recovery System, Inc., lease as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

B. Boards and Commissions

County Manager Geouque share the following:

Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

The terms of Ms. Kim Rogers and Mr. Tony Gray on the Watauga County TDA Board were to expire at the end of February 2025. Ms. Rogers serves in one of three seats required to be filled by an owner or operator of a taxable lodging business with properties in Watauga County District U. Mr. Gray retired from Appalachian State University years ago having served as the Director of Conference and Institutes. He was also a Christmas tree grower for many years. The TDA has

requested the reappointment of both Ms. Rogers and Mr. Gray each for a 3-year terms. This was a first reading for both and, therefore, no action was required at this time.

Watauga County Board of Adjustment

The Board of Adjustment term of Ms. Sue Sweeting has expired. The revised NC General Statute 160D no longer makes any mention of appointments representing zoned areas of counties with partial-county zoning; therefore, it was not necessary to consider where appointees live. The term would be for three years. There were no recommendations from the Board of Adjustment at this time; however, Chairman Eggers shared at the last meeting that Mr. Shane Robbins was interested in serving. This would be a second reading for Mr. Robbins.

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to appoint Mr. Shane Robbins to the Watauga County Board of Adjustment for a three-year term

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Appalachian Regional Library Board

The Watauga County Library Board voted unanimously to recommend Ms. Natalie Harkey be appointed to the Appalachian Regional Library Board for a first term, to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Sandra Basel who resigned in September before her second term expired. Ms. Basel was on both the local and regional board. This was a first reading and, therefore, no action was required at this time.

Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to waive the second reading and appoint Ms. Natalie Harkey to the Appalachian Regional Library Board.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

C. Announcements

County Manager Geouque announced the following:

- The Annual Pre-Budget Retreat will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, beginning at 12:00 P.M. and continue on Friday, February 28, 2025 beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room.
- The High Country Council of Governments' 49th Annual Banquet was postponed due to Hurricane Helene and has been rescheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the Grandview Ballroom at the Northwest End Zone Facility, Appalachian State University.
- A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held for the new EMS Facility off of Innovation Drive on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.

- The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners will hold a District 14 Meeting on April 24, 2025, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Avery Community Center. Commissioners are invited to attend. The deadline to RSVP is April 1, 2025.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:08 P.M., Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to enter Closed Session to discuss Attorney/Client Matters, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3), Land Acquisition, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(5)(i), and Personnel Matters, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, moved to resume the open meeting at 7:57 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

ADJOURN

Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Vice-Chairman Castle, moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5
Nay-0

Braxton Eggers, Chairman

ATTEST: Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

AGENDA ITEM 3:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2025, AGENDA

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AGENDA ITEM 4:

PUBLIC COMMENT

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Public Comment will last up to 1-hour dependent upon the number of speakers.

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AGENDA ITEM 5:

REVISED BID FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Captain Russell will request the Board rescind the offer of acceptance to McNeil Chevrolet of Wilkesboro in the amount of \$48,744.36 for one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck and accept the offer from Elevation Chevrolet of Boone in the amount of \$46,356 for one (1) 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck.

Board action is required to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck in the amount of \$46,356 from Elevation Chevrolet of Boone with the funds to come from the Sheriff's existing budget or contingency funds.



WATAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

184 HODGES GAP ROAD
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607
(828) 264-3761 • FAX (828) 263-5345

LEN D. HAGAMAN, JR.
SHERIFF

To: Deron Geouque

From: Captain Preston Russell

Ref: Revised Bid Consideration for Chevrolet 1500 Purchase

The Board recently approved the purchase of a **2025 Chevrolet 1500** from **McNeil Chevrolet of Wilkesboro** for **\$47,279.33**. However, shortly after approval, we received a **lower bid** from **Elevation Chevrolet of Boone** for a **2024 Chevrolet 1500** at a price of **\$45,000**.

In light of this new bid, we respectfully request the Board to consider purchasing the vehicle from **Elevation Chevrolet of Boone** at the lower cost of **\$45,000**, resulting in **cost savings for the county**.

Sincerely,

Captain Preston Russell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Russell", written over a horizontal line.

AGENDA ITEM 6:

HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Will Holt, Emergency Services Director, will provide the Board with a Hurricane Helene update. The report is for information only; therefore, no action is required at this time.

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AGENDA ITEM 7:

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Kill/Chill Project

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

The County Manager will present an update for the Board regarding the fair market lease for the Kill/Chill facility. Board action may be required depending on the decision made by the Board.

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AGENDA ITEM 7:**MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS*****B. Boards and Commissions*****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:*****Tourism Development Authority (TDA)***

The terms of Ms. Kim Rogers and Mr. Tony Gray on the Watauga County TDA Board expired at the end of February 2025. Ms. Rogers serves in one of three seats required to be filled by an owner or operator of a taxable lodging business with properties in Watauga County District U. Mr. Gray retired from Appalachian State University years ago having served as the Director of Conference and Institutes. He was also a Christmas tree grower for many years. The TDA has requested the reappointment of both Ms. Rogers and Mr. Gray each for a 3-year terms. These are second readings.

Workforce Development Board

Ms. Misty Bishop-Price, Director of High Country Council of Governments Workforce Development Board, has requested the reappointment of Ms. Tara Brossa for a two-year term ending on June 30, 2027. This is a first reading and, therefore, no action is required at this time.

Social Services Advisory Board

The Social Services Advisory Board recommends the appointment of Ms. Tiffany Williams who will fill the seat held by Ms. Mary Smalling. The term is for four years. This is a first reading and, therefore, no action is required at this time.



MEMO

DATE: February 3, 2025

TO: Watauga County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Wright Tilley, Executive Director – Watauga County TDA

RE: Kim Rogers – TDA Board Re-appointment Application

Dear Watauga County Board of Commissioners,

Kim Rogers with Jenkins Realtors term on the Watauga County TDA Board will expire at the end of February. Kim serves in one of three seats required to be filled by an owner or operator of a taxable lodging business with properties in Watauga County District U.

Kim has been an excellent board member during her time on our board and we highly encourage you to consider re-appointing her to another 3-year term on the board.

As you will see from her application, Kim works in a family owned vacation rental company that meets the criteria of the seat she currently holds. Kim has a strong attendance record and regularly contributes to discussions at the board meetings. She supports outdoor recreation and recreational development that attracts visitors and actively promotes those opportunities to potential visitors.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration of this application for re-appointment to the Watauga County TDA Board.

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form. Please sign and mail or fax to:

Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230

Name: Kim Jenkins Rogers
Home Address: 404 Heritage Drive
City: Boone Zip: 28607
Telephone: (H) 828-266-9188 (W) 828-295-9888 ext. 115 (Fax) 828-295-6249
Email: kim@jenkinsrealtors.com
Place of Employment: Jenkins Realtors, Inc.
Job Title: Owner/Broker

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- Bald Mountain
- New River
- Beaver Dam
- Blue Ridge
- Elk
- Stony Fork
- Brushy Fork
- Meat Camp
- Blowing Rock
- North Fork
- Watauga
- Cove Creek
- Shawneehaw
- Laurel Creek
- Boone

In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- Foscoe-Grandfather Community
- Howards Creek Watershed
- South Fork New River Watershed
- Valle Crucis Historic District
- Winklers Creek Watershed
- Extraterritorial Area

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- Gender
 - Male
 - Female
- Ethnic Background
 - African American
 - Caucasian
 - Native American
 - Hispanic
 - Other

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. Watauga County Tourism Development Authority
2. _____
3. _____

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)**

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

**Work
Experience:**

I work in the Vacation Rental market in a family owned business that was founded in 1978. I continue to represent cabins, condos, single family homes that support dream vacations through out Watauga County for all age families. We continue to change our marketing methods promoting hiking and fishing along with skiing, biking and shopping. I look forward to supporting the recreational developments in all county areas that attract vacationers to return and to experience our beautiful mountains.

**Volunteer
Experience:**

I am on the executive board of the Blowing Rock Chamber. Will continue to support and host The Blowing Rock Trout Derby and the Trout Fest.

**Other
Experience:**

I am a resting elder for the 3rd time at Ruple Memorial Presbyterian, continue to teach Sunday School and on the Properties Committee.

**Other
Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the TDA. Given the dramatic experience of the September 26 storm to our area, I am awed by the way local residents embrace the continuing repair and encourage the return of people vacationing and supporting our small town hospitality.

Signature: _____



Date: _____

1/14/25

[Print Form](#)


[Reset Form](#)



MEMO

DATE: February 6, 2025

TO: Watauga County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Wright Tilley, Executive Director – Watauga County TDA 

RE: Tony Gray – TDA Board Re-appointment Application

Dear Watauga County Board of Commissioners,

Tony Gray's term on the Watauga County TDA Board will expire at the end of February.

Tony has been an outstanding board member during his time on our board. He brings a knowledge of the early years of the Watauga County TDA. Tony retired from App State years ago after serving as the Director of Conferences and Institutes. He was also a Watauga County Christmas tree grower for many years.

He was very involved with the High Country Host in its early years. Tony brings decades of a wide knowledge base about tourism and outdoor recreation in the High Country. We highly encourage you to consider re-appointing him to another 3-year term on the board.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration of this application for re-appointment to the Watauga County TDA Board.

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions

030425 BCC Meeting

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form. Please sign and mail or fax to:

Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230

Name: ANTHONY I. GRAY (TONY)
Home Address: 524 HARRISON Rd
City: BOONE Zip: 28607
Telephone: (H) 264-9123 (W) _____ (Fax) _____
Email: TONYBRENDKATIE@GMAIL.COM
Place of Employment: ASU RETIRED
Job Title: DIRECTOR CONFERENCES + INSTITUTES

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Stony Fork | <input type="radio"/> Watauga |
| <input type="radio"/> New River | <input type="radio"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="radio"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="radio"/> Meat Camp | <input type="radio"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="radio"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Elk | <input type="radio"/> North Fork | <input type="radio"/> Boone |

In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input type="radio"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="radio"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
| <input type="radio"/> South Fork New River Watershed | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Extraterritorial Area |

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Gender | Ethnic Background | |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> African American | <input type="radio"/> Hispanic |
| <input type="radio"/> Female | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Caucasian | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| | <input type="radio"/> Native American | |

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. WATAUGA TDA
2. _____
3. _____

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)

030425 BCC Meeting

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

Work
Experience:

SEE ATTACHED

Volunteer
Experience:

SEE ATTACHED

Other
Experience:

SEE ATTACHED

Other
Comments:

Signature: Anthony J. Gray

Date: 2-6-25

Print Form

Reset Form

Tony Gray
524 Harrison Road
Boone, NC 28607

Education:

1989 – Appalachian State University; ED.S. Adult Education

1967 – Appalachian State Teachers College; M.A. Degree, Major: Health Physical Education and Recreation; Minor: Junior College Administration and Supervision

1966 – Appalachian State Teachers College; B.S. Degree, Major: Health Physical Education and Recreation; Minor: Biology

Experience:

1972 – 2002 – Director, Office of Conferences and Institutes, Division of Continuing Education (Retired with 35 Years Service)

1971 – 1972 – Instructor of Health Physical Education and Recreation, Appalachian State University

1969 – 1971 – Assistant Basketball Coach and Instructor of Health Physical Education and Recreation, Appalachian State University

1967 – 1969 – Assistant Basketball Coach and Resident Manager of High Rise Residence Hall, Appalachian State University

1966 – 1967 – Assistant Basketball Coach and Resident Manager of High Rise Residence Hall as a Graduate Student, Appalachian State University

Professional Organizations:

American Camping Association, Association of Experiential Education, North Carolina State Employees Association, National University Continuing Education Association, North Carolina Adult Education Association, Association for Continuing Higher Education

Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors International 1980 – 2003
Regional Director 1988-89; Board of Directors 1989 – 97 & 1998 – 2002; President Elect, President and Immediate Past President – 1992 – 95; Chairman Hospitality Committee 1992 Annual Conference; Chairman Education Committee 1989 – 1993 (Developed ACCED-I Certification Program); Chairman Scholarship Committee 1989 & 1995- 2002; Chairman Resource Center Advisory Committee 1994 – 95; Chairman Economic Impact Task Force Committee 1994 – 97; Committees served on: Scholarship Committee, Awards and Recognition Committee, Annual conference Site Selection Committee, Regional Development Committee, Annual Conference Committee, Future Directions Task Force, Publications committee, Electronic communication Committee, Foundation

Scholarship Committee, New Member Recruitment Project Team, and CCEP Advisory Committee

Civic Activities:

Member First Presbyterian Church of Boone 1967 – Present), has served on the Board of Deacons, Men of the Church, Church Council, and currently serving as a Ruling Elder Moderator of Capital Improvements Committee and Building and Grounds 2002-2005

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce 1974 – 2002 – Board of Directors, Vice President for Community Affairs 1984, Vice President for Business Affairs 1987 – 88, President and Chairman of the Board 1985 – 86, Chairman ASU Discover Boone Business Fair 1989 – 90, Chairman Ambassadors Program 1990, Member of the Travel and Tourism Committee and Business Affairs Committee 1989 – 90, Vice President for Tourism and Convention Development 1991 – 2001.

North Carolina High Country Host 1980 – 2001; Board of Directors 1985 - 2001; Chairman Advertising and Publicity Committee 1982-86; Chairman Area Guide Map Project 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990; participated in the 1984 North Carolina Trade Mission to Florida; Chairman of Hunting, Fishing, Hiking Guide and NCHCH General Brochure; Executive Committee Member at Large 1988-89; Treasure 1989 – 90, 1995 – 2001, Second Vice President 1990 – 91

Watauga County Recreation Commission from inception to 1982 and 1988 – 1994

Member Boone Jaycees 1972 - 1980 (Offices Held – Internal Director, Internal Vice President, President and two terms as Chairman of the Board

Appalachian State University Former Athletes Association member 1985 – 2007; Board of Directors 1988 –Present; Chairman of Alumni Basketball Game 1986 – 89, President and Chairman of the Board 1992- 93, Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee 1999 – 2002; Chairman of Annual Major Fund Raiser 1992 – 2005

Appalachian State University Yosef Club 1967 – Present

Watauga High School Boosters Club 1985 – 1990

High Country Senior Games Board of Directors and Executive Committee 1989 – 90, Chairman of the Facilities Committee

Coach Junior Girls Softball 1985 – 89, All Star Coach 1986 – 88

Coach Women's Recreation League Softball Team 1990 – 2001

Boy Scouts of America, sustaining Membership Drive 1985 – 1993
Boone Jaycees and Watauga County Junior Champ Track and Field Day Event Coordinator 1982 – 1997

Habitat for Humanity Work Team 2003 – 2005

Watauga County Tourism Development Authority March 2006 to Present (Vice Chairman)

Watauga County Humane Society Capital Campaign (In-kind Contributions) 2004 – 2005

Awards and Honors:

Elected Mr. Appalachian by Student body 1966; Appalachian Basketball Awards – MVP 1966, All NAIA District 26 – 1966, Honorable Mention Small College All American 1966, All Carolinas Conference 1965 & 1966, All Tournament 1966, Served as Co-Captain 1965 – 66

Boone Jaycee – Freedom Guard 1973, Speak-up 1973, Presidential Award of Honor 1974, Keyman II 1976, Outstanding Young Men of America 1975, Spark Plug of the Year 1977, Jaycee of the Year 1976 & 1977, Nominee for Five Outstanding Men in North Carolina 1979, Watauga County Distinguished Service Award 1979

Watauga County Heart Association – Founders Award 1977, Achievement Recognition Award 1979, Bronze Service award 1981, Silver Service Award 1983

Watauga High School Booster Club – Distinguished Service Award for Fund Raising 1989

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce – Special Service Award 1992, Ben Suttle Distinguished Service Award 1994

Appalachian State University Athletic Department – Jackson A. Branch Volunteer Service Award 2002

Appalachian State University Former Athletes Association Special Service Award - 2005

Association Of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors International – Outstanding Individual Achievement Award 1990, Earned Collegiate Conference and Events Director Certification 1997, Jack Thornton Distinguished Service Award 1997, Accepted the Outstanding Institutional Achievement Award on behalf of Appalachian State University for its role in the Economic Impact Study 1998, Lifetime Honorary Membership in ACCED-I 2003

TONY GRAY 1961-1966 TEAM (70-57)

SPARROWS POINTHIGH SCHOOL SPARROWS POINT, MARYLAND

1961-66 PLAYED FOR LEGENDARY COACH BOB LIGHT

1964-65 LED TEAM IN FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE .471%

1965-66 LED TEAM IN REBOUNDING WITH 291 (27 GAMES) 10.8 PER GAME

1965-66 TEAM CO-CAPTAIN (WITH HOF MEMBER JIM WILCOX)
TEAM WON CAROLINAS CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

1966 ALL CAROLINAS CONFERENCE

1966 NAIA ALL DISTRICT

1967-72 FIRST FULL TIME ASSISTANT COACH WITH COACH BOB LIGHT

1966-67 TEAM WON CAROLINAS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

1966 SELECTED BY ASTC STUDENT BODY AS "MR. APPALACHIAN"

Anita.Fogle

From: Misty Price <misty.bishopprice@highcountrywdb.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 2:09 PM
To: Braxton Eggers
Cc: Anita.Fogle
Subject: Watauga WDB member; save the date March 10th

Good afternoon Commissioner Eggers—hope things are going well and was nice talking with you this afternoon!

I am reaching out regarding your private sector workforce development board member, **Tara Brossa**/Hampton Inn. Her term is expiring in June, however she is willing and would like to be reappointed to continue her role on the High Country Workforce Development Board for another two year term. Tara has been great to work with and we would welcome her reappointment!

As a reminder, your other private sector seat is filled by **JD Kern** with Blue Ridge Brokerage—his term expires June 2026. The two private sector seats have alternating two year terms.

Also, please save the date for a regional **Consortium meeting for March 10th possibly at 11:30** in Boone. Once I hear from the majority of members, I will confirm the date and time.

Have a great weekend and thanks for all that you do!

Misty Bishop-Price

High Country Workforce Development Board



468 New Market Blvd.
 Boone, NC 28607
 828.265.5434 ext. 119

Services and activities funded by the High Country Workforce Development Board are equal opportunity employers/programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities. To place a free relay call in North Carolina, dial 711.

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions**

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Please sign and mail or fax to:

*Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230*

Name: Tiffany Williams

Home Address: 127 Boulder In

City: Blowing Rock Zip: 28605

Telephone: (H) 803-604-6174 (W) _____ (Fax) _____

Email: tteate@gmail.com

Place of Employment: N/A

Job Title: - Currently on maternity break

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> Stony Fork | <input type="checkbox"/> Watauga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New River | <input type="checkbox"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="checkbox"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="checkbox"/> Meat Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Ridge | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elk | <input type="checkbox"/> North Fork | <input type="checkbox"/> Boone |

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="checkbox"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
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- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Gender | Ethnic Background | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | |

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. Social Services Board
2. ~~Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee~~
3. ~~Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee~~

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)**

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

**Work
Experience:**

-Western Youth Network (2020-2024) Watauga Community Health Coordinator. In this position I coordinated the Watauga Substance Action and Prevention Coalition. This Coalition is a multi-sector group of leaders in the community who utilize evidence based community strategies to prevent substance use among youth. I also coordinated the Community Mental Health Project, a grassroots initiative that spread awareness and resources to improve access to mental health professionals.
- Adjunct Social Work Faculty at Appalachian State University. (2023-2024) I taught Basic Skills for the social work profession. The course is designed to teach effective relationship, communication, interviewing and recording skills, based on ethical and professional values
-

**Volunteer
Experience:**

-Leadership Board for the Community Mental Health Project (2023-Present)
-Founder of Helene Housing Relief Project (Fall of 2024) Coordinated a group of volunteers to find temporary housing for those who lost their home.

**Other
Experience:**

Previously to working in North Carolina, I worked as a policy analyst for the House of Representatives in Texas for Representative Garnet Coleman. Following that position I was a Policy Analyst and Advocate for legislation that protected the educational rights of youth with disabilities.

**Other
Comments:**

As a macro social worker, it is certainly my passion for systems to be in place to protect all children from harm, and to promote community strategies that help them thrive.

Signature: 

Date: 2/25/2024

[Print Form](#)

[Reset Form](#)

AGENDA ITEM 7:

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

C. Announcements

MANAGER’S COMMENTS:

The High Country Council of Governments’ 49th Annual Banquet was postponed due to Hurricane Helene and has been rescheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the Grandview Ballroom at the Northwest End Zone Facility, Appalachian State University.

A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held for the new EMS Facility off of Innovation Drive on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners will hold a District 14 Meeting on April 24, 2025, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Avery Community Center. Commissioners are invited to attend. The deadline to RSVP is April 1, 2025. Please let Anita know if you plan to attend and she will assist with registration.

AGENDA ITEM 8:

BREAK



Event Details

Cost

\$50.00 Per Person

Date and Location

Friday, March 7, 2025

Grandview Ballroom
North End Zone Facility
Appalachian State University
135 Jack Branch Drive
Boone, NC 28607

RSVP Deadline

February 21, 2025

Schedule of Events

Reception (Cash Bar)
6:00 - 7:00pm

Presentation of Awards
7:00 - 7:30pm

Buffet Dinner
7:30 - 8:30pm

Networking
8:30 - 9:00pm



Important Information

- ◆ Refunds can be given if cancellations are provided prior to RSVP deadline of February 21, 2025.
- ◆ If your guest is not being paid for by your local government entity or organization, please remit payment with RSVP.
- ◆ We are unable to accept payments of any kind at the door.
- ◆ Cash bar during reception accepts Mastercard & Visa only.
- ◆ Parking attendant will direct you to a handicap accessible parking area, the drop-off lane, or the general parking.
- ◆ Directions: From Rivers Street, turn onto Stadium Drive and proceed up the hill until you see a parking attendant. The facility will be on your left (connected to the stadium).
- ◆ Questions? Please contact Victoria at 828-265-5434 x.101 or voxentine@hccog.org.



You are cordially invited to the rescheduled
49th Annual Banquet
and meeting of the
High Country Council of Governments

Celebrating 50 Years ◆ 1974-2024

Dear Watauga County Commissioners,

I am pleased to invite Watauga Commissioners to attend the upcoming NCACC District 14 meeting. This event will take place on Thursday, April 24th, 2025 at the Avery Community Center located at 661 Vale Rd in Newland. I hope each of you will attend and join in this opportunity to have county leaders and staff from our district together.

This year's meeting will feature NCACC president "T" Davis and his presidential initiative "Heroic Hands". This initiative is focused around honoring those in the public service workforce and highlighting the value of having a career in public service. Over the next couple of months be thinking about someone in public service who has gone above and beyond. Each county will have the opportunity to make a submission and once they are consolidated a book will be produced. More information about this project will be dispersed once the details are finalized.

Your participation is invaluable as we work together to strengthen our communities and advocate for western North Carolina. Please feel free to include your administrative staff and have your clerk to the board consolidate RSVP's and submit them **before April 1st**. *If you have any food allergies please let me know so I can make menu accommodations.*

Some important upcoming dates you may want to get on your calendar are June 10th & 11th which are County Advocacy Days in Raleigh and August 21st - 23rd will be the annual NCACC conference in Pitt County and registration will open in April.

Should any of you have questions about any of the information provided please don't hesitate to contact me.

Harley Masters
NCACC District 14 Director
harley.masters@mitchellcountync.gov
(423) 741-9645

District 14

Alleghany - Ashe - Avery - Mitchell - Watauga - Wilkes - Yancey



**April 24th, 2025
5:30 - 7:30pm**

**661 Vale Rd
Newland, NC 28657**

Please RSVP by April 1st, 2025

Please join us for the District 14 meeting being held at the Avery Community Center.

This years Presidential initiative is Heroic Hands and the NCACC President "T" Davis and Director Kevin Leonard will both be in attendance at our meeting.

Important Upcoming Dates

June 10th & 11th - County Advocacy Days

August 21st - 23rd Annual Conference



AGENDA ITEM 9:

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney/Client Matters per, G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3)