## TENTATIVE AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016 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: April 5, 2016, Regular Meeting April 5, 2016, Closed Session		1
	3	APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2016 AGENDA		13
5:35	4	PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON A PROPOSED SOLICITATION ORDINANCE	SHERIFF HAGAMAN	15
5:40	5	PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE	Mr. Joe Furman	25
5:45	6	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPDATE	Mr. RICHARD BOYLAN	41
5:50	7	TAX MATTERS A. Monthly Collections B. Refunds & Releases	Mr. Larry Warren	45 47
5:55	8	BUDGET AMENDMENTS	Ms. Margaret Pierce	57
6:00	9	MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS A. Boards and Commissions B. Announcements	Mr. Deron Geouque	59 63
6:05	10	PUBLIC COMMENT		64
7:05	11	Break		64
7:10	12	CLOSED SESSION Attorney/Client Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Personnel Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6)		64
7:15	13	Adjourn		

## **AGENDA ITEM 2:**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 5, 2016, Regular Meeting Cr tkd7.'4238.'Enqugf 'Uguukqp''

#### MINUTES



## WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting, as scheduled, on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioners' Board Room of the Watauga County Administration Building, Boone, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Jimmy Hodges, Chairman

David Blust, Vice-Chairman Billy Kennedy, Commissioner John Welch, Commissioner Perry Yates, Commissioner

Stacy C. Eggers, IV, County Attorney Deron Geouque, County Manager Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Hodges called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Commissioner Yates opened the meeting with a prayer and Commissioner Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hodges called for additions and/or corrections to the March 1, 2016, regular meeting and closed session minutes.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to approve the March 1, 2016, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to approve the March 1, 2016, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Hodges called for additions and/or corrections to the April 5, 2016, agenda.

County Manager Geouque requested to add possible action after closed session regarding the recent Board of Adjustment ruling regarding the Maymead Asphalt Plant.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blust, moved to approve the April 5, 2016, agenda as amended.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## PROPOSED PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING GREENING MY PLATE MONTH

Mr. Bill Moretz presented a proposed proclamation declaring the month of April 2016 as "Greening My Plate Month." The purpose of the proclamation is to bring awareness to the benefits of locally grown fruits and vegetables and recognize and celebrate the farmers who provide this produce. Mr. Moretz also announced that the indoor winter's farmer's market was going well.

Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to adopt the proclamation as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## UPDATE ON INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY AT WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Jay Jackson updated the Board regarding the indoor practice facility to be located at the Watauga High School. Mr. Jackson stated that the site plan changed with the facility to now be located near the existing concessions building. The building would also change in size (from 5,000 square feet to approximately 4,800 square feet) to accommodate for the nearby existing structure. The update was given for information only.

## W.A.M.Y. COMMUNITY ACTION, INC., COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Ms. Melissa Soto, W.A.M.Y. Executive Director, introduced Ms. Susanne Schneider, a master of social work student, who shared the results of a recently completed comprehensive community needs assessment. The report was given for information only.

## PROJECT ON AGING MATTERS

## A. Senior Community Service Employment Program Request

Ms. Julie Wiggins, High Country Area Agency on Aging, requested authorization to participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The program subsidizes employment for individuals 55 years of age and older who are within the 125% of the federal poverty level. The County has previously utilized workers from the program. The program would require a \$5,460 local match. The match would leverage five (5) workers for placement in the County. There is no guarantee that all of the workers would be placed with the County but there is a strong potential for at least two to three of the workers to be placed with the County.

However, even if the workers were not specifically placed with the County departments, they would still be serving the community through non-profit agencies. The value of that placement would range from \$14,000 to \$21,000; exceeding the local match requirement.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to authorize the participation in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and to allocate the \$5,460 local match from the administrative contingency fund.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## B. Update on the FY 2016 Senior's Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

Ms. Angie Boitnotte, Project on Aging Director, introduced Ms. Jennifer Teague, Senior Center Director, who updated the Board on the Senior's Health Insurance Information Program (SHIPP) and the benefits achieved in the current fiscal year. The report was given for information only.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE MATTERS**

## A. Proposed Solicitation Ordinance

Sheriff Hagaman and County Attorney Eggers presented and reviewed a draft solicitation ordinance which would regulate panhandling in the County. County Attorney Eggers stated that no fee would be charged as a fee was not constitutionally allowed. Sheriff Hagaman stated that a list of local resources would be made available to those applying for a permit. Sheriff Hagaman also stated that he agreed with the ordinance and enforcement of the ordinance would not place much additional work on his deputies.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to schedule a public hearing to allow citizen comment on the proposed ordinance for Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 5:30 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## B. Vehicle Purchase Request

Captain Kelly Redmon requested approval to purchase two new (2) new 2016 Ford Police Interceptor AWD SUVs in the amount of \$65,758 including taxes, tags, and full outfit of the vehicles. The vehicles would replace ones that had been wrecked or were experiencing significant maintenance issues. Funds have been identified in the motor vehicle fuel line item and insurance payments have been received for vehicles that were totaled at no fault of the Sheriff's Office. Due to the lower fuel costs and estimating the amount required to complete the fiscal year staff is comfortable utilizing these funds to procure the necessary vehicles.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blust, moved to authorize the purchase of two (2) new 2016 Ford Police Interceptor AWD SUVs in the amount of \$65,758 including taxes, tags, and full outfit of the vehicles.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## **SANITATION MATTERS**

## A. Proposed Community Pride Week Proclamation

Ms. Heather Bowen, Recycling Coordinator, presented a proposed proclamation declaring Monday, May 9, through Saturday, May 14, 2016, as Community Pride Week in Watauga County. The event is conducted each year by Sanitation staff and has proved to be very popular with the County's citizens.

Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to adopt the proclamation declaring the week of May 9 - May 14, 2016, as Community Pride Week in Watauga County.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## B. Grand Opening of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

Ms. Bowen invited the Board to the grand opening for the new household hazardous waste collection facility which would be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 10:00AM next to the recycling center located at the landfill. The new facility will allow for improved service and more opportunities for County citizens to dispose of household hazardous waste.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Joe Furman, Planning Director, stated that the Planning Board recently approved changes to the County's sign ordinance and is requesting the Board of Commissioners adopt the recommended changes. The changes were in response to the U.S. Supreme Court case Reed versus the Town of Gilbert, Arizona. Mr. Ric Mattar, Planning Board Chairman, stated that all signs were covered under free speech and had to be regulated content-neutral. It is permissible to regulate size, number, location, and differentiate between temporary and permanent and commercial and residential. The draft ordinance reflects these standards and was guided by the Signage Foundation, Inc. Mr. Furman reviewed a few additional changes recommended by the County Attorney.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to schedule a public hearing to allow for citizen comment on the proposed amendments to the sign ordinance for Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 5:30 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## **MAINTENANCE MATTERS**

## A. Request for Engineering/Special Inspections Testing Agreement

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, stated that engineering review and special inspections testing are required as part of the new medic base construction. Concrete, steel fabrication, masonry construction and soil compaction testing will be conducted and are outside the scope of services provided by the contractor and architect to ensure unbiased results.

Staff solicited Requests for Qualifications in which GeoHydro was selected from the proposals submitted. Staff did contact Wilkes County as a reference for GeoHydro as they provided the testing and reviews for their jail facility. Wilkes County was satisfied with the services provided by GeoHydro. A contract will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to approve GeoHydro as the engineering firm to provide the special inspections and testing required for the new medic base.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

- B. 2016 Anderson Building Roof Replacement Matters
  - 1. Request for Exemption of Quality Based Selection Process for the Procurement of Engineering Services
  - 2. Procurement of Engineering Services

Mr. Marsh stated that during the annual budget retreat direction was given to move forward with occupying the old AppalCART (Anderson) Building. In order to begin that process a new roof was required. Code requires the design process be completed by a registered engineer due to the fact that the structure of the building may be altered depending on the choice of the roofing system.

North Carolina General Statute 143-64.31 requires the hiring of architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management at risk services, design-build services, and public-private partnership construction services to be selected on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required without regard to fee. However, NCGS 143-64.32 allows for an exemption on the above requirement in writing where an estimated professional fee is in an amount less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The estimated fee is projected to be less than \$23,000.

Staff is recommending the Board hire Metal Roofing Consultants (MRC) for the Anderson Building roof project. MRC has worked for the County in the past. Further, MRC has completed projects for Appalachian State University, BREMCO, Mabel and Cove Creek Elementary Schools, Old Cove Creek GYM, and Watauga High School. Based on MRC's familiarity with the project and its past experience with the County and other local organizations; staff recommends the Board approve MRC to provide engineering services, contingent upon County Attorney review, for an amount not to exceed \$23,000.

Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to exempt the project from NCGS 143-64.31 as the project fee will be less than \$50,000.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blust, moved to approve Metal Roofing Consultants (MRC) to provide engineering services based on MRC's familiarity with the project

and its past experience with the County and other local organizations contingent upon County Attorney review, for an amount not to exceed \$23,000.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## TAX MATTERS

## A. Monthly Collections Report

Tax Administrator Larry Warren presented the Tax Collections Report for the month of February 2016. This report was presented for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

## B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Warren presented the Refunds and Releases Report for February 2016 for Board approval:

## TO BE TYPED IN MINUTE BOOK

Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to approve the Refunds and Releases Report for February 2016, as presented.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## C. Board of Equalization and Review Schedule

Mr. Larry Warren, Tax Administrator, discussed the scheduling of the 2016 Board of Equalization and Review (E&R). The Board may create a special Board of Equalization and Review that will serve this spring. In previous years, the Board was incorporated to include the County Manager as an alternate member. A proposed resolution was presented for consideration, should the Board wish to have the County Manager serve as an alternate member.

Mr. Warren recommended the convening date for the Board of Equalization and Review of April 18, 2016, at 2:30 P.M. in the County Commissioners Conference room. Adjournment of the Board was recommended to be scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. in the County Commissioners Conference room. Mr. Warren also presented a list of potential dates for meetings of the Board.

Commissioner Yates, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blust, moved to adopt the resolution establishing the 2016 Board of Equalization and Review (E&R) and setting compensation for members at \$75.00 per meeting and to convene the Board of Equalization and Review on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 2:30 P.M. and adjourn on Friday, May 20, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## FINANCE MATTERS

## A. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Lot 314 Twin Rivers Development

Ms. Margaret Pierce, Finance Director, requested the Board adopt a resolution authorizing the sale of a 2.01 acre lot located in the Twin Rivers Development in Foscoe. The Board had declared the property surplus. The current high bid for the property is \$12,000 as received by the County Manager. Staff recommended the Board reject the high bid submitted by George Thomas Thompson (high bidder) in the amount of \$12,000 and advertise the property on GovDeals to maximize the purchase price.

Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to reject the current bid on Lot 314 Twin Rivers Development from George Thomas Thompson and to adopt the enclosed resolution authorizing the sale of the listed property and to advertise the property with GovDeals with a minimum bid of \$12,000.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## B. Proposed Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Budget Amendment

Ms. Pierce requested the Board approve a revised Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) FY 2015-16 Funding Allocation form. Watauga County JCPC received an additional \$85 and funds allocated to the Crossnore School will not be utilized. Therefore, JCPC recommends transferring \$7,990 in State funds and \$2,397 in County funds to Project Challenge and the same amount to Western Youth Network. No additional County funding is required.

Commissioner Yates, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blust, moved to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council budget amendment as presented by Ms. Pierce.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

## A. Board of Education Request for COLA Funding

County Manager Geouque stated that each year the County budgets the projected COLA for the School Board in a separate line item to cover the amount later established by the State. The County budgeted \$95,263 or a 1.5% COLA, however the State provided a \$750 flat amount which totaled \$154,733.41. The difference between the budgeted amount of \$95,263 and the actual of \$154,733.41 was \$59,470.41.

Historical experience has been for the County to provide the COLA amount for the non-state positions when the State has awarded a COLA.

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to authorize the additional \$59,470.41 from the administrative contingency to pay for the COLA for the non-state positions of Watauga County School employees.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## B. Proposed Update to Social Services Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

County Manager Geouque stated that the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources recently amended the County Social Services Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. Staff recommended approval of the changes.

County Attorney Eggers suggested the "Agency Policy: Destroy in office after \_\_\_\_\_" sections be filled in with "one day."

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to adopt the Social Services Records Retention and Disposition Schedule as presented with the "Agency Policy: Destroy in office after" time period to be set at "one day."

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## C. Proposed Cell Phone Policy for the Courthouse

County Manager Geouque stated that Judge Gavenus had proposed a cellphone policy for the courthouse. Staff understands that policy would prohibit cellphones in the courthouse facility with some exceptions. Judge Gavenus is requesting review and comments on the proposed policy. Prohibition of cellphones in the courthouse facility has the potential to cause significant inconveniences for citizens utilizing the courthouse for other purposes such as the Tax Office, Register of Deeds, IT, and Board Elections.

The County Manager stated that a courthouse security meeting was held in which the topic of cellphones was discussed along with the access to the side entrance to the courthouse and attorney access to the District Attorney's Office. Local Attorney, Nathan Miller, presented a proposed resolution requesting cellphones be allowed in the courthouse with the exception of the courtrooms. Local Attorneys, Nathan Miller and Dustin Stacy, also requested the Board allow access to the side entrance of the courthouse for those Attorneys who were given access to the District Attorney's Office. The County Manager provided a copy of NCGS 153A-169 which could be used when considering possible options.

Commissioner Yates, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to adopt the Resolution to Allow Mobile and/or Cellular Telephones in County Buildings as presented.

County Attorney Eggers stated that the Board may wish to speak to the Judge prior to taking action; however, the Board could statutorily adopt the resolution.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Yates, moved to allow attorneys with access cards for the District Attorney's Office to also have access to the side door entrance of the Courthouse.

VOTE: Aye-4(Hodges, Blust, Welch, Yates) Nay-1

### D. Boards and Commissions

The Watauga Community Housing Trust Board of Directors appointments are due for reappointment. The Commissioners appoint organizations to the Board; the organizations then designate an individual to be the representative. The expiring seats are for Town of Boone, Appalachian Regional Health Care System, and Habitat for Humanity. It is requested that these organizations be reappointed. The terms are two years.

Janet Beck has resigned from the Board of Adjustment. Her 3-year term was set to expire in November. She is an at-large appointee. The Commissioners have the option of appointing someone to finish the term or to make a new 3-year appointment that would expire in November, 2019.

The above were all first readings and, therefore, no action was required.

#### E. Announcements

County Manager Geouque announced the following:

- A dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2016, at 4:00 P.M. to celebrate the formal opening of the greenway connecting Brookshire Park (traveling under U.S. 421) to the adjacent paddle access for the South Fork of the New River. The ceremony is sponsored by Watauga County and the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce.
- A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the new collection facility.
- Project on Aging invites Board members to attend their Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at the Blue Ridge Electric Community Room.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The following spoke during public comment:

T. Gaus

Nathan Miller

Susie Winters

Wiley Roark

Chip Williamson

Leigh Ann Henion

Cheri Hampton Smith

David Sengle

Anne Ward

Johnny Hampton

Caroline Henion

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:56 A.M., Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to enter Closed Session to discuss Attorney/Client Matters, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

[Clerk's Note: The recent Board of Adjustment ruling in the Maymead/Hampton case was discussed during closed session as well as the Town of Boone vs. North Carolina General Assembly (ETJ case).]

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Vice-Chairman Blust, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to resume the open meeting at 12:04 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION REGARDING

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to appeal the Board of Adjustment ruling in the Maymead/Hampton Asphalt Plant case.

After Commissioners comments, the following vote was taken:

VOTE: Aye-2(Kennedy, Welch) Nay-3(Hodges, Blust, Yates)

## **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Welch, moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Jimmy Hodges, Chairman

ATTEST:

Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

## **AGENDA ITEM 3:**

## APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2016, AGENDA

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## **AGENDA ITEM 4:**

## PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON A PROPOSED SOLICITATION ORDINANCE

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

A public hearing has been scheduled regarding the proposed Solicitation Ordinance. Sheriff Hagaman recently presented a draft ordinance regulating panhandling in the County. Prior discussions were held regarding the various ways that panhandling could be managed. County Attorney Eggers stated that panhandling could not be banned but could be regulated. The County Attorney also stated that, if permits were included as a solution, the County would be protected against liability under governmental immunity. The County Attorney also stated that if a penalty was established; it could be a monetary fine or a misdemeanor with a citation or arrest.

After the public hearing the Board may adopt the ordinance as presented, modify the ordinance, or schedule a work session with the Sheriff and staff.

Board direction is requested.

## NORTH CAROLINA WATAUGA COUNTY

## ORDINANCE TO REGULATE SOLICITATION

## ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina wishes to prevent fraud and crime upon its citizens and those visiting and working in Watauga County;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina finds that the in-person impromptu sale or offering for sale of goods and/or services and the in-person impromptu solicitation of funds from the public presents opportunities for fraud and crime;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina wishes to preserve free speech for all persons;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina wishes to narrowly tailor this Ordinance to prevent fraud and crime, and not to suppress constitutionally protected speech;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina wishes to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens;

THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Watauga, North Carolina hereby adopts the following Ordinance:

#### ARTICLE II. AUTHORITY

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Watauga County by North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 153A-121 and 153A-123.

#### ARTICLE III. JURISDICTION

Pursuant to North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 153A-122, this Ordinance shall apply to all areas of unincorporated Watauga County which are not within the corporate limits of any municipality.

#### ARTICLE IV. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply:

**Appeal:** The process of contesting the denial or revocation of a Permit.

**Application:** An application for a Permit.

**Applicant:** A person who applies for a Permit.

**Citation:** A written notice issued by a law enforcement official to any person who violates this Ordinance.

**County Manager:** The County Manager of Watauga County, North Carolina, or his or her designee.

False Statement of Material Fact: An affirmative statement, written or oral, that is untrue or misleading. A False Statement of Material Fact includes, but is not limited to, statement(s) regarding the scope or quality of goods or services offered by the Solicitor, statement(s) that the Solicitor represents a group or charity, statement(s) that a Solicitor is a veteran of the United States Military, or statements regarding family or housing status. A False Statement of Material Fact also includes wearing an identification, badge, emblem, uniform, or symbol that a reasonable person would believe identifies the Solicitor as part of, or as acting on behalf of, any group or charity when the Solicitor is not in fact part of, or acting on behalf of, the identified group or charity.

**Hearing:** An in-person proceeding to contesting the denial or revocation of a Permit, during which the Applicant may give testimony and present evidence.

**Notice of Denial:** Written notice that a Permit has been denied.

**Notice of Appeal Rights:** A written notice of the Applicant's right to appeal the denial or revocation of a Permit, to whom the appeal should be made, and the time limit for making an appeal.

**Ordinance:** The Watauga County Ordinance to Regulate Solicitation.

**Permit:** A Written Permit issued by the Sheriff granting the Applicant the right to Solicit.

**Permit Holder:** A person to whom a Permit is issued.

**Solicit:** In person use of the spoken, written, or printed word, or other acts conducted with the purpose of selling or offering for sale goods or services or collecting contributions of money or goods.

**Solicited Individual**: A person whom a Solicitor attempts to Solicit.

**Solicitor:** A person who Solicits.

**Sheriff:** The Sheriff of Watauga County, North Carolina, or his or her designee.

**Time:** In computing any period of time under this Ordinance, the day of the act shall not to be included.

**Violation:** A violation of this Ordinance.

**Warning Citation:** A citation given as a warning. A Warning Citation does not subject the Solicitor to penalties resulting from a violation of this Ordinance.

#### ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

The Watauga County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration of the provisions of this Ordinance.

### ARTICLE VI. SCOPE OF PERMITTED ACTIVITY

## A. Permit Required.

It shall be a Violation of this Ordinance for any person to Solicit upon the streets or any other public property, or upon private property without the permission of the owner, proprietor, or person in control of said private property without first obtaining a Permit from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office.

### B. False Statements.

It shall be a Violation of this Ordinance for any Solicitor to make a False Statement of Material Fact for the purpose of Solicitation.

## C. Exempt Activity.

This Ordinance shall not apply to transactions between family members or mutual acquaintances; or any matter that is not Soliciting, as defined herein.

#### D. Possession of Permit.

A Permit Holder shall keep his or her Permit in his or her possession when Soliciting and shall exhibit his or her Permit when requested to do so by any Solicited Individual or any law enforcement officer.

#### E. Permit Not Transferrable.

Permits are not transferrable. It shall be a Violation to give a Permit to another person, or to possess a Permit issued to another person unless the person receiving or possessing the Permit of another is the parent, step-parent, or guardian of the Permit Holder, or is acting at the request of a parent, step-parent, or guardian of the Permit Holder.

#### ARTICLE VII. PERMIT ISSUANCE

## A. Sheriff Shall Issue Permit.

The Sheriff shall issue a Permit, or a Temporary Permit, as appropriate, to each Applicant who meets the requirements of this Ordinance.

## B. Permit Application Procedure.

The Application shall be on a form issued by the Sheriff, signed by the Applicant and witnessed by the Sheriff, and shall set forth the following information:

- 1. The Applicant's first and last names and middle initial;
- 2. The Applicant's date of birth;
- 3. The Applicant's contact information;
- 4. The Applicant's emergency contact information;
- 5. A brief description of the activity to be conducted, including, if applicable, any items or services to be sold or offered for sale; and
- 6. If the Applicant is soliciting on behalf of a group or charity, the name and address of the group or charity;

The Applicant's contact information may include any of the following:

- 1. An address serviced by the United States Postal System;
- 2. An email address;
- 3. A telephone number(s); or
- 4. Any information that the Sheriff may reasonably use to contact the Applicant.

The Applicant's emergency contact information may include any of the following:

- 1. An address serviced by the United States Postal System;
- 2. An email address;
- 3. A telephone number(s); or
- 4. Any information that the Sheriff may reasonably use to contact the emergency contact person(s) specified by the Applicant.

## C. Identification Required.

The Applicant shall present identification. Any valid government-issued photo identification shall be deemed sufficient. If the Applicant does not possess valid government-issued photo identification, the Applicant may present other documentation that reasonably establishes his or her identity.

## D. Sheriff to Keep Record of Identification.

The Sheriff shall make a black and white copy of the Applicant's identification and keep the same on file. If the Applicant does not possess valid government-issued photo identification, the Applicant shall allow himself or herself to be photographed by the Sheriff. The Sheriff shall keep the photograph on file.

## E. Identification if the Applicant is a Minor.

If the Applicant is a minor and does not possess valid government-issued photo identification, he or she may present a valid photo identification, non-photo identification, or other documentation from any public or private school, including a home school, recognized by any state in the United States of America that reasonably establishes his or her identity.

- **F. Criminal Background Check.** The Sheriff shall perform a criminal background check on all Applicants.
- **G. Applicant Shall Provide Sufficient Information.** The Applicant shall provide his or her first and last name, middle initial, and date of birth. If this information is deemed insufficient by the Sheriff, the Applicant shall provide additional information sufficient to allow the Sheriff to conduct a criminal background check. If the Applicant does not provide sufficient information to allow the Sheriff to conduct a criminal background check, the Sheriff shall deny a Permit or a Temporary Permit.

## H. Applicant May Provide Social Security Number.

To reduce the potential for confusion when running a criminal background check, the Applicant may choose to provide his or her Social Security Number. The Applicant's provision of his or her Social Security Number is optional, and shall not be required. However, if the Applicant cannot provide sufficient information other than his or her Social Security Number to allow the Sheriff to conduct a criminal background check, and the Applicant elects not to provide his or her Social Security Number, then the Sheriff shall deny a Permit or a Temporary Permit.

### I. No Permit Fee.

No Applicant shall be charged a fee for a Permit.

### J. Lost Permit.

If an Applicant looses a Permit, he or she may apply for a new Permit.

## K. Assistance with Application.

The Sheriff shall provide reasonable assistance completing the Application to any person who requests the same.

## L. List of Volunteers.

The Sheriff shall maintain a list of organizations and/or volunteers, along with their contact information, who have asked the Sheriff to be put on a list of organizations and/or volunteers willing to assist Applicants free of charge. If the Sheriff is unable to provide the assistance needed by the Applicant, the Sheriff shall give a copy of the list to the Applicant.

## M. Temporary Permit.

All Applicants who present a properly completed Application shall be issued a Temporary Permit. A Temporary Permit shall be good for fourteen (14) calendar days. A Temporary Permit shall state the date upon which it is granted, and the date upon which it expires.

## N. Extension of Temporary Permit.

If the Sheriff has neither issued a Permit nor denied a Permit Application by the

time a Temporary Permit expires, the Sheriff shall issue another Temporary Permit.

## O. Permit Expiration.

A Permit shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance. A Permit shall state the date upon which it is granted, and the date upon which it expires.

#### ARTICLE VIII. PERMIT DENIAL AND REVOCATION

### A. Permit Denial.

A Permit shall be denied if the Applicant has:

- 1. Failed to properly complete an Application;
- 2. Made a False Statement of Material Fact on his or her Application; or
- 3. Been convicted or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest upon which final judgment has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in this State, or any other state, involving a crime of violence, theft, larceny, dishonesty, fraud, false pretenses, or a sexual offense within ten (10) years if the offense was a felony, or within three (3) years if the offense was a misdemeanor.

## B. Permit Revocation.

If a Permit Holder commits a Violation, the Sheriff shall revoke the Permit Holder's Permit. Upon notice of revocation, the Permit Holder shall immediately surrender the Permit to the Sheriff.

If a Permit is revoked for any reason, the Permit Holder shall not be eligible for a Permit for the following time periods:

- 1. Upon the first revocation, for one (1) month;
- 2. Upon the second revocation, for six (6) months; and
- 3. Upon the third revocation, for one (1) year.
- **C. False Statements.** Any Applicant who makes a False Statement of Material Fact on an Application shall be guilty of violating this Ordinance, shall not be issued a Permit, and shall not be eligible for a Permit for a period of one (1) year from the initial date of application.

## D. Notice of Denial.

If a Permit is denied, the Sheriff shall issue a Notice of Denial to the Applicant, which shall contain the following:

- 1. The reason(s) for the denial;
- 2. The applicable section of this Ordinance used as a basis for the denial;
- 3. A Notice of Appeal Rights; and
- 4. How to obtain a copy of this Ordinance, including that the Applicant may obtain a free copy of this Ordinance from the Sheriff.

It shall be the duty of the Applicant to maintain a valid address with the Watauga County Sheriff's Office for purpose of receiving notice pursuant to this ordinance.

Notice of Denial shall be sufficient if given to the Applicant in one (1) of the following manners:

- 1. By U.S. Mail, at the address shown on the Application;
- 2. If the Applicant does not provide an address serviced by the United States Postal Service; then by electronic mail, at the electronic mail address shown on the Application;
- 3. If the Applicant does not provide a U.S. Mailing address, an electronic mail address; then
- 4. If the Applicant does not provide an address serviced by the United States Postal Service or an electronic mail address, service may be effectuated at the address listed by the applicant in his paperwork by any reasonable method.

### ARTICLE IX. APPEAL OF DENIAL OR REVOCATION

**A. Appeal to Sheriff.** Any Applicant may appeal the denial or revocation of a Permit to the Sheriff within ten (10) business days after the denial or revocation by notifying the Sheriff in writing or in person at the office of the Sheriff. The Sheriff shall schedule a Hearing with the Applicant, which hearing shall take place within two (2) business days. The Applicant may give testimony and present evidence at the hearing. The Sheriff shall issue a written decision within two (2) business days of the hearing.

If the Sheriff designates a person to hear the Appeal, the Sheriff shall appoint a person to hear the Appeal who is not the same person who initially denied or revoked the license, and who is not supervised by the person who initially denied or revoked the license.

## B. Appeal to County Manager.

Any Applicant may appeal a Decision of the Sheriff to the County Manager within ten (10) business days after the Sheriff's Decision is issued by delivering a written notice of appeal to the County Manager. The County Manager shall schedule a Hearing with the Applicant, which hearing shall take place within five (5) business days. The Applicant may give testimony and present evidence at the hearing. The County Manager shall issue a Final Decision within five (5) business days.

## C. Appeal to District Court.

Any Applicant may appeal a Final Decision of the County Manager by filing an appeal in District Court within thirty (30) calendar days after the Final Decision of the County Manager.

## D. Providing Copy of Ordinance.

The Sheriff shall provide to each Applicant one (1) copy of this Ordinance without charge upon the Applicant's written or verbal request.

## ARTICLE X. PROHIBITED CONDUCT.

- A. No person shall engage in Solicitation as defined herein without first having obtained a permit as set forth herein.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person within the jurisdiction set forth in this Ordinance to engage in any of the following activities:
  - 1. Engage in Solicitation after a permit has been revoked or denied;
- 2. Use any words or language of a profane, vulgar, lewd, lascivious or indecent character, nature, or connotation;
- 3. Use any words or language threatening to inflict bodily harm to any person or to that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent or physical injury to the property of any person;
- 4. To follow or request repeatedly, whether or not conversation ensues, for the purpose of abusing, annoying, threatening, terrifying, harassing or embarrassing any person for financial gain;
- 5. To knowingly make any false statement concerning death, injury, illness, disfigurement, indecent conduct, criminal conduct, veteran status or housing status for financial gain.

## ARTICLE XI. ENFORCEMENT

## A. Warning Citation.

The Sheriff shall issue one (1) Warning Citation to any person Soliciting without a Permit in violation of Section X.A of this Ordinance. If, after receiving one (1) Warning Citation, the Sheriff again finds the person Soliciting without a Permit, the Sheriff may proceed with penalties as set forth herein. Nothing contained in this section shall limit the sheriff from enforcement of an action in violation of the requirements of the permit or other conduct as set forth herein.

#### B. Penalties.

Violation of this Ordinance shall be a Class 3 Misdemeanor. In addition, a violation of this ordinance may be enforced by any one or more of the remedies authorized by North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 153A-123.

### ARTICLE XII. MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Severability.

Should any portion of this Ordinance be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

	This O	rdinance shall b	ecome e	ffective thirty (30) days after its adoption.	
This	the	day of		2016.	
				BY: Jimmy Hodges, Chairman Watauga County Board of Commissioners	8

I, Anita Fogle, Clerk of the Watauga Courattest that the foregoing ordinance was dwatauga County after lawful public notic quorum being present.	uly adopted by the governing body of
This the day of	
Anita Fogle, (SEAL)	
Clerk to the Board	

## **AGENDA ITEM 5:**

## PUBLIC HEARING TO ALLOW CITIZEN COMMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

A public hearing has been scheduled regarding the proposed amendments to the county sign ordinance. The Planning Board recently approved changes to the County's sign ordinance and is requesting the Board of Commissioners adopt the recommended changes. The changes are in response to the U.S. Supreme Court case Reed versus the Town of Gilbert, Arizona. Sign regulations must now be content-neutral. It is permissible to regulate size, number, location, and differentiate between temporary and permanent and commercial and residential.

The draft ordinance reflects these standards and was guided by the Signage Foundation, Inc. After the public hearing the Board may adopt the ordinance as presented, modify the ordinance, or schedule a work session with the Planning Board.

Staff seeks Board direction.

## WATAUGA COUNTY SIGN ORDINANCE (DRAFT)

### SECTION 100. PURPOSE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The purpose of this Sign Ordinance is to provide for the public health, safety and welfare pursuant to the general ordinance authority granted to counties by the General Assembly of North Carolina. (NCGS §153A-121 *et seq.* and other pertinent statutes and amendments thereto). By enacting this Ordinance it is the County's intent to:

- 1. To promote the creation of an attractive visual environment that promotes a healthy economy by:
  - a. Permitting businesses to inform, identify, and communicate effectively; and
  - b. Directing the general public through the use of signs while maintaining attractive and harmonious application of signs on buildings and sites.
- 2. To protect and enhance the physical appearance of the community in a lawful manner that recognizes the rights of property owners by:
  - a. Encouraging the appropriate design, scale, and placement of signs.
  - b. Encouraging the orderly placement of signs on buildings while avoiding regulations that are so rigid and inflexible that all signs in a series are monotonously uniform.
  - c. Assuring that the information displayed on a sign is clearly visible, conspicuous, legible and readable so that the sign achieves the intended purpose.
- 3. To foster public safety along public and private streets within the community by assuring that all signs are in safe and appropriate locations.
- 4. To have administrative review procedures that is the minimum necessary to:
  - a. Balance the community's objectives and regulatory requirements with the reasonable advertising and way finding needs of businesses.
  - b. Allow for consistent enforcement of the Sign Ordinance.
  - c. Minimize the time required to review a sign application.
  - d. Provide flexibility as to the number and placement of signs so the regulations are more responsive to business needs while maintaining the community's standards.

#### SECTION 101. MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

## **101.01**. Determining Sign Area and Dimensions.

- 1. For a wall sign which is framed, outlined, painted or otherwise prepared and intended to provide a background for a sign display, the area and dimensions shall include the entire portion within such background or frame.
- 2. For a wall sign comprised of individual letters, figures or elements on a wall or similar surface of the building or structure, the area and dimensions of the sign shall encompass a regular geometric shape (rectangle, circle, trapezoid, triangle, etc.), or a combination of regular geometric shapes, which form, or approximate, the perimeter of all elements in the display, the frame, and any applied background that is not part of the architecture of the building.
- 3. When separate elements are organized to form a single sign, but are separated by open space, the sign area and dimensions shall be calculated by determining the geometric form, or

- combination of forms, which comprises all of the display areas, including the space between different elements.
- 4. Minor appendages to a particular regular shape, as determined by the Administrator, shall not be included in the total area of a sign.
- 5. For a freestanding sign, the sign area shall include the frame, if any, but shall not include:
  - a. A pole or other structural support unless such pole or structural support is internally illuminated or otherwise so designed to constitute a display device, or a part of a display device.
  - b. Architectural features that are either part of the building or part of a freestanding structure, and not an integral part of the sign, and which may consist of landscaping, building or structural forms complementing the site in general.
- 6. When two identical sign faces are placed back to back so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and are part of the same sign structure, the sign area shall be computed as the measurement of one of the two faces. When the sign has more than two display surfaces, the area of the sign shall be the area of largest display surfaces that are visible from any single direction.
- 7. In the event of a dispute in determining the area or dimensions of any sign, a negative decision of the Administrator may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment.

## 101.02. Determining Sign Height.

- 1. The height of a freestanding sign shall be measured from the base of the sign or supportive structure at its point of attachment to the ground, to the highest point of the sign. A freestanding sign on a man-made base, including a graded earth mound, shall be measured from the grade of the nearest pavement or top of any pavement curb.
- 2. Clearance for freestanding and projecting signs shall be measured as the smallest vertical distance between finished grade and the lowest point of the sign, including any framework or other embellishments.

## **101.03**. Determining Building Frontages and Frontage Lengths.

- 1. Building Unit The building unit is equivalent to the tenant space. The frontage of the tenant space on the first floor shall be the basis for determining the permissible sign area for wall signs.
- 2. Primary and Secondary Frontage The frontage of any building unit shall include the elevation(s) facing a public street, facing a primary parking area for the building or tenants, or containing the public entrance(s) to the building or building units.
  - a. The primary frontage shall be considered the portion of any frontage containing the primary public entrance(s) to the building or building units.
  - b. The secondary frontage shall include those frontages containing secondary public entrances to the building or building units, and all building walls facing a public street or primary parking area that are not designated as the primary building frontage by subsection "a" above.

## 101.04. Length of Building Frontage.

- 1. The length of any primary or secondary building frontage as defined in Section 107 shall be the sum of all wall lengths parallel, or nearly parallel, to such frontage, excluding any such wall length determined by the Administrator as clearly unrelated to the frontage criteria.
- 2. For buildings with two or more frontages, the length of the wall and allowable sign area shall be calculated separately for each such building frontage.
- 3. The building frontage for a building unit shall be measured from the centerline of the party walls defining the building unit.

### **SECTION 102. SIGNS PERMITTED**

### **102.01**. Residential Subdivisions

- 1. Residential Subdivision and Multi-Family Development signs shall be limited to 50 square feet.
- 2. Signs advertising home occupations shall be limited to 6 square feet.
- 3. Temporary sign(s) shall be limited to a total of 16 square feet per parcel.

#### 102.02. Unzoned Commercial Areas

- 1. Signs located in unzoned commercial areas shall be as described, located and designed in Section 103.
- 2. Temporary sign(s) shall be limited to a total of 32 square feet per parcel.
- 3. Advertising signs (Billboards) shall be as described, located and designed in Section 103.07.

#### SECTION 103. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

### **103.01**. Wall Signs

- 1. The basic allowance for wall signs shall be limited to 1.5 square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building or tenant frontage.
- 2. Each tenant may have multiple wall signs as long as the total wall sign area does not exceed the basic allowance established for wall signs.
- 3. The wall sign or signs shall not be greater than 80% of the length of the tenant space or the length of the building frontage for single tenant buildings.
- 4. The area of any wall sign may be increased by 25% when the building is setback at least 200 feet from the public right-of-way.
- 5. Additional wall sign area is permitted for a secondary frontage (see Definitions) which shall be equal to 100% of the primary sign area allowance.
- 6. The following additional wall signs may be permitted:
  - a. Projecting Signs In addition to the allowances for wall signs, projecting signs are permitted when designed and placed for the purpose of identifying the businesses for a pedestrian walking along the same side of the street as the business they seek or under a continuous rain canopy projecting from the building. Projecting signs shall have a maximum area of 16 square feet; the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum

- of 8 feet above the sidewalk; the sign shall not project more than 4 feet from the wall; and adjacent projecting signs shall not be closer than 20 feet.
- b. Building Directory In addition to the allowances for wall signs, a directory sign may be permitted up to a maximum of 16 square feet for the purpose of identifying first floor tenants that do not have outside building frontage or upper floor tenants.
- 8. Additional Wall Signs for Multiple Story Buildings An additional building sign is permitted on each of the building's primary and secondary frontages according to the following:
  - a. For a building with two floors, the area of any wall sign may be increased by 25% for each eligible wall.
  - b. This additional permitted sign area may be increased by 10% for each additional building floor.
  - c. The sign must be placed at the height for which the bonus has been granted.

## **103.02**. Freestanding signs

- 1. One freestanding sign is permitted for each 200 feet of primary road frontage with a maximum of 3 freestanding signs per parcel.
- 2. The permitted area of each freestanding sign shall not exceed 50 square feet except for:
  - a. Properties entitled to more than one freestanding sign based on primary frontage. In this instance the sign area of a single sign may be increased to a maximum area of 100 or 150 square feet in lieu of erecting a second or third sign.
- 3. No portion of a freestanding sign shall be in, or project over, the public right-of-way.
- 4. The maximum height of a freestanding sign shall be 35 feet in height above the road grade or natural grade level, whichever is higher.

### 103.03. Electronic Message Center/Changeable Copy Signs

- 1. Changeable copy by non-electronic means may be utilized on any permitted sign.
- 2. Only one EMC sign is permitted on each road on which the development fronts.
- 3. EMCs may not contain or display flashing, intermittent, or moving lights, including animated or scrolling advertising.
- 4. EMCs are permitted provided that the copy does not change more than once every 8 seconds.
- 5. Copy changes must be accomplished within a one second interval.
- 6. EMCs are required to have automatic diming capability that adjusts the brightness to the ambient light at all times of the day and night.
- 7. EMCs may not exceed 50% of the total sign area permitted.

## **103.04**. Instructional signs

1. Instructional or "way-finding" signs shall be permitted in addition to all other signs when they are of such size and location that satisfy the intended instructional purpose and based on their size, location, and intended purpose will not constitute additional advertising. Instructional signs may include the name of the business and logos.

## 103.05. Window Signs

1. Permanent window signs shall not exceed 25% of the area of a window and the total area of all window signs, including both permanent and temporary, shall not exceed 50% of the window area.

## **103.06**. Temporary Signs

- 1. In addition to the signs permitted in Section 102, temporary signs related to Special Events are allowed on private property for a time period not to exceed 30 days. Such signs are permitted off-premises.
- 2. In addition to the signs permitted in Section 102, temporary signs related to a single event for commercial enterprises are allowed on private property for a time period not to exceed 30 days. Such signs are permitted on-premises only.
- 3. Temporary signs containing any message are allowed on private property during an election period subject to the area limitations stated herein. An election period begins the first day of filing before and ends ten days after any election conducted under federal, state, county, or city laws or ordinances in which residents of Watauga are entitled to vote, including elections or votes regarding selection or recall of any federal, state, county or city officials, any ballot questions, referendum or advisory vote.
- 4. Temporary sign(s) located in residential subdivisions may not exceed a total area of 16 square feet per parcel.
- 5. Temporary sign(s) located in unzoned commercial areas may not exceed a total area of 32 square feet per parcel.
- 6. Temporary signs located on property offered for sale or lease are allowed for time periods exceeding those listed herein provided such signs are promptly removed following the sale or lease closing date. All signs are subject to the area limitations stated in this Section.
- 7. No temporary signs may be illuminated.
- 8. All temporary signs must be secured to prevent them from becoming a hazard to pedestrians, vehicles or adjacent property during high winds.

## **103.07**. Advertising Signs

- 1. Advertising signs shall not exceed 300 square feet in area. This square footage includes both sign face and border.
- 2. Advertising signs shall:
  - a. Be located outside the right-of-way of all roads, or 35 feet from the center line if there is no recorded right-of-way, provided that on corner lots no part of an advertising sign may be located within a triangular area formed by the street right-of-way lines and a line connecting them at points 50 feet from the right-of-way intersection.
  - b. Be located only in "Unzoned Commercial Areas" as defined in the North Carolina DOT Outdoor Advertising Manual and spaced as set forth in said manual except that new "side-by-side" signs shall be prohibited. This paragraph shall be applicable on all streets/roads in Watauga County which are not within the jurisdiction of a municipality.

- c. Be located not closer than 100 feet to a pre-existing residential structure on an adjoining lot. This does not prevent the owner of a residence from placing an advertising sign on the same lot as the residence provided that the placement of such sign complies with subparagraph "b" above.
- d. Not exceed 35 feet in height above the street/road grade level.
- e. Not exceed a width of 30 feet.
- f. Be located in such a way that they maintain horizontal and vertical clearance of all overhead electrical conductors in accordance with the National Electric Code and local electric utilities' requirements.
- g. Be located only on primary highway systems (i.e. 105, 221, 321, and 421) with evidence of NCDOT approval.
- h. Not be located on designated scenic byways.
- 3. No existing Advertising Signs may be converted to or replaced with a Digital Billboard.
- 4. No new locations for Digital Billboard signs shall be permitted.
- 5. Only one Advertising Sign shall be permitted per parcel.

### **SECTION 104. NON-CONFORMING SIGNS**

#### **104.01**. General Provisions

- 1. Nonconforming signs shall be maintained in good condition pursuant to Section 106.
- 2. A Nonconforming sign shall not be altered, modified or reconstructed except:
  - a. When such alteration, modification or reconstruction would bring such sign into conformity with these regulations;
  - b. When the existing use has new ownership which results in a change in the name or logo of the use or business on the property, and such change complies with subsection "d" below;
  - c. When the space is re-occupied by a similar use and the new occupant requires no external building or site renovation, and such change complies with subsection "d" below;
  - d. Any alteration, modification or reconstruction permitted in this section shall be limited to the replacement of a sign panel, replacing individual letters and logos within the same area or repainting a sign face, and does not permit changes to the structure, framing, erection or relocation of the sign unless such changes conform to subsection "a" above.
- 3. Nonconforming advertising signs for which there is in effect a valid NCDOT permit may be repaired or reconstructed without limitation so long as the square footage of the advertising surface area is not increased.

## 104.02. Limitations for Non-Conforming Signs

- 1. A nonconforming sign shall be removed upon verification that any of the following conditions have been met:
  - a. The use to which such non-conforming sign refers has been abandoned for more than 180 consecutive days; or
  - b. The regulation or amendment to these regulations which made the sign non-conforming has been in effect for 10 years or more.

- 2. Extension of time to comply The dates established in this Section for a sign to be brought into compliance with the requirements of these regulations may be extended at the request of the sign owner or leasee. In evaluating the extension of time for a nonconforming sign, the County shall consider the following factors to determine whether the owner of the sign has had reasonable amount of time to recoup the initial investment:
  - a. The value of the sign at the time of construction and the length of time the sign has been in place;
  - b. The life expectancy of the original investment in the sign and its salvage value, if any;
  - c. The amount of depreciation and/or amortization of the sign already claimed for tax or accounting purposes;
  - d. The length of the current tenant lease or expected occupancy compared to the date the sign is to be brought into compliance;
  - e. The extent to which the sign is not in compliance with the requirements of these regulations; and
  - f. The degree to which the County determines that the sign is consistent with the purposes of these regulations.
  - g. Whether the sign has "historical" or "landmark" significance and should, therefore, be exempt from amortization.

#### SECTION 105. SIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES

- 1. A sign permit shall be required for all permanent signage.
- 2. All sign permit applications shall be reviewed for compliance with these regulations and the North Carolina State Building Code within 10 business days from the time a completed application has been accepted by the Administrator.
- 3. All appeals and variances regarding the sign ordinance shall be heard by the Board of Adjustment in accordance with Section 110.

## SECTION 106. SUPPLEMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

## 106.01. Construction Standards

The construction, erection, safety and maintenance of all signs shall comply with the North Carolina State Building Code and all of the following:

- 1. Signs shall be structurally sound and located so as to pose no reasonable threat to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- 2. All permanent freestanding signs shall have self-supporting structures erected on, or permanently attached to, concrete foundations.
- 3. If possible, signs should not be in locations that obscure architectural features such as pilasters, arches, windows, cornices, etc.
- 4. Signs shall not be in locations that interfere with safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation or public safety signals and signs.
- 5. No signs shall be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window, or door opening used as a means of egress.

- 6. Signs shall be structurally designed in compliance with ANSI and ASCI standards. All electric signs shall be constructed according to the technical standards of UL or other certified testing laboratory.
- 7. Signs may be illuminated by external or internal means -- provided that:
  - a. The brightness and intensity shall not be greater than necessary to meet reasonable needs of the business or use served;
  - b. Light sources shall be shielded from all adjacent buildings and streets; and
  - c. The lighting shall not create excessive glare to pedestrians and/or motorists, and will not obstruct traffic control or any other public informational signs.

### 106.02. Maintenance

All signs shall be maintained in accordance with the following:

- 1. The property owner shall maintain signs in a condition appropriate to the intended use and to all County standards.
- 2. The property owner has a continuing obligation to comply with all building code requirements.
- 3. If the sign is deemed by the Administrator to be in an unsafe condition, the owner of the business shall be immediately notified in writing, and shall, within 48 hours of receipt of such notification, respond to the county with a plan to correct the unsafe condition, remove the unsafe sign, or cause it to be removed. If after 30 days, the unsafe condition has not been corrected through repair or removal, the Administrator may cause the repair or removal of such sign, at the expense of the property owner or lessee. If the total costs are not paid in full within 60 days of the repairs or removal, the amount owed shall be certified as an assessment against the property of the sign owner, and lien upon that property, together with an additional 10 percent penalty for collection as prescribed for unpaid real estate taxes.
- 4. In cases of emergency, the Administrator may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or defective sign without notice.
- 5. Whenever any sign, either conforming or nonconforming to these regulations, is required to be removed for the purpose of repair, re-lettering or repainting, the same may be done without a permit or without any payment of fees provided that all of the following conditions are met:
  - a. There is no alteration or remodeling to the structure or the mounting of the sign itself;
  - b. There is no enlargement or increase in any of the dimensions of the sign or its structure; and
  - c. The sign is accessory to a legally permitted or nonconforming use.

### **106.03**. Exempt from these Regulations

The following shall be exempt from regulation under this Ordinance:

- 1. Government Signs.
- 2. Works of Art.
- 3. Holiday Decorations, when displayed during the appropriate time of the year.
- 4. Flags, except feather flags.

5. Building markers.

## 106.04. Prohibited Signs

The following signs are prohibited in the County:

- 1. Abandoned Signs.
- 2. Animated Signs.
- 3. Signs containing any words or symbols that would cause confusion because of their resemblance to highway traffic control or direction signals.
- 4. Signs located on trees, utility poles, public benches or any other form of public property or within any public right-of-way unless explicitly permitted by the regulations.
- 5. Off-Premises Temporary Signs, other than those explicitly permitted by Section 103.6.
- 6. Any signs placed on public property without consent or placed in violation of local, state, or federal requirements.

#### **SECTION 107. DEFINITIONS**

The following words and phrases used in this Ordinance shall have the following meanings:

**Abandoned Sign.** A sign which for a period of at least 180 consecutive days or longer no longer advertises or identifies a legal business establishment, product or activity.

**Advertising Sign.** A sign directing attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment which is conducted, sold or offered on premises other than the premises upon which the sign is located.

**Alteration.** Any change in copy, color, size or shape, which changes appearance of a sign, or a change in position, location, construction or supporting structure of a sign, except that a copy change on a sign is not an alteration.

**Animated Sign.** A sign which has any visible moving part, flashing or osculating lights, visible mechanical movement of any description, or other apparent visible movement achieved by any means that move, change, flash, osculate or visibly alters in appearance in a manner that is not permitted by these regulations.

**Area of Sign.** Refer to measurement standards in Section 101.

**Art.** An aesthetic physical item or artistic creation.

**Attraction or Reader Board.** Any sign having changeable copy for the purpose of advertising events, sales, services or products provided on the site.

**Awning.** A shelter extending from the exterior wall of a building and composed of non-rigid materials except for the supporting framework.

**Awning Sign.** Any permanent sign painted on or attached to or supported by an awning.

**Balloon Sign.** A temporary lighter-than-air gas-filled balloon, tethered in a fixed location, that has a sign with a message on its surface or attached in any manner to the balloon.

**Banner Sign.** A temporary, lightweight sign that contains a message which is attached or imprinted on a flexible surface that deforms under light pressure and that is typically constricted of non-durable materials, including, but not limited to, cardboard, cloth and/or plastic.

**Billboard.** An Advertising Sign.

**Building Identification Sign.** A permanent sign containing the name or address of a building and may include hours of operation and emergency information, such sign being located on the same site as the structure.

**Canopy.** A freestanding permanent roof-like shelter not attached to or requiring support from an adjacent structure.

**Canopy Sign.** Any permanent sign attached to or constructed underneath a canopy. These signs are below a projecting structure which extends over the pedestrian walkway which effectively prevents the wall signs for being visible to the pedestrian walking under the canopy. **See Also Projecting Sign.** 

**Electronic Message Center / Changeable Copy Sign.** A permanent sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change either automatically through electrical or electronic means (for example, time and temperature units), or manually through placement of letters or symbols on a panel mounted in or on a track system.

**Construction Sign.** A temporary sign identifying the persons, firms or business directly connected with a construction project.

**Directional Sign**: A permanent instructional sign located on private property at or near the public right-of-way, directing or guiding vehicular traffic onto the property and/or toward parking or other identified locations on the property.

**Digital Billboard.** A billboard utilizing electronic image displays that present multiple static advertisements on a rotating basis.

**Freestanding Sign.** Any permanent sign which is affixed in or upon the ground, supported by one or more structural members, with air space between the ground and the sign face.

**Footcandle.** A measure of illumination on a surface that is one foot from a uniform source of light of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot.

**Governmental Sign.** A sign erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any governmental functions, or required by law, ordinance or other governmental regulation.

**Grade.** The level of the site at the property line located at the closest distance to the sign.

**Height of Sign.** Refer to measurement standards in Section 101.

**Holiday Decorations.** Signs or displays including lighting which are a nonpermanent installation celebrating national, state, and local holidays or holiday seasons.

**Illegal Sign.** Any sign placed without proper approval or permits as required by this Ordinance at the time of sign placement. Illegal sign shall also mean any sign placed contrary to the terms or time limits of any permit and any nonconforming sign which has not been brought into compliance with any applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

**Illuminated Sign.** A permanent sign for which an artificial source of light is used in order to make readable the sign's message, including internally and externally lighted signs and reflectorized, glowing or radiating signs.

**Instructional Signs**. A permanent sign clearly intended for instructional purposes, as determined by the Administrator, shall not be included in the permitted sum of the sign area of identification wall signs, provided such sign is not larger than necessary to serve the intended instructional purpose, and such sign is not in a location, nor includes design characteristics, that constitute or serve the purposes of an identification sign.

#### Length of Frontage.

- 1. The measurement purposes, the length of any primary or secondary frontage as defined in Section 101, shall be the sum of all wall lengths parallel, or nearly parallel, to such frontage, excluding any such wall length determined by the Administrator or Planning Commission as clearly unrelated to the frontage criteria.
- 2. For buildings with two or more frontages, the length and allowable sign area shall be calculated separately for each such frontage.
- 3. The building frontage for a building unit shall be measured from the centerline of the party walls defining the building unit.

**Logo, Logogram, or Logotype.** An emblem, letter, character, pictograph, trademark, or symbol used to represent any firm, organization, entity, or product.

**Marquee.** A permanent roof-like shelter extending from part or all of a building face and constructed of some durable material which may or may not project over a public right-of-way.

**Marquee Sign.** A permanent sign painted on or attached to or supported by a marquee.

**Mural.** A picture on an exterior surface of a structure. A mural is a sign only if it is related by language, logo, or pictorial depiction to the advertisement of any product or service or the identification of any business.

**Multi-Family Development.** Three or more dwelling units intended for residential occupancy contained within one building or a Planned Unit Development.

**Neon Sign.** A sign with tubing that is internally illuminated by neon or other electrically charged gas.

**Nonconforming Sign.** A sign which was validly installed under laws or ordinances in effect at the time of its installation, but which is in conflict with the current provisions of this Ordinance.

**Off-Premises Sign.** Any sign normally used for promoting an interest other than that of a business, individual, products, or service available on the premises where the sign is located.

**On-Premises Sign.** Any sign used for promoting a business, individual, product or service available on the premises where the sign is located.

**Primary and Secondary Frontage.** The frontage of any building or site shall include the elevation(s) facing a public street, facing a primary parking area for the building or tenants, or containing the public entrance(s) to the building or building units.

- 1. For multi-tenant buildings, the portion of such building that is owned, or leased by a single tenant, shall be considered a building unit.
- 2. The primary frontage shall be considered the portion of any frontage containing the primary public entrance(s) to the building or building units.
- 3. The secondary frontage shall included frontages containing secondary public entrances to the building or building units, and all walls facing a public street or primary parking area not designated as the primary frontage.

**Private Street.** Primary access ways that are intended to provide vehicular access to multiple commercial businesses and/or ownerships and are not dedicated as a public thoroughfare.

**Projecting Sign.** A permanent sign which projects from and is supported by a wall or parapet of a building with the display surface of the sign in a plane perpendicular to or approximately perpendicular to the wall. See also Canopy sign.

**Residential Subdivisions.** A collection of land parcels designated and platted (mapped) exclusively for residential development.

Revolving or Rotating Sign. An Animated Sign.

**Roof Sign.** Any sign erected upon a roof, parapet, or roof-mounted equipment structure and extending above a roof, parapet, or roof-mounted equipment structure of a building or structure.

**Sign.** Any name, figure, character, outline, display, announcement, or device, or structure supporting the same, or any other device of similar nature designed to attract attention outdoors, and shall include all parts, portions, units, and materials composing the same, together with the frame, background, and supports or anchoring thereof. A sign shall not include any architectural or landscape features that may also attract attention.

**Sign Face.** An exterior display surface of a sign including nonstructural trim exclusive of the supporting structure.

**Site.** All the contiguous ground area legally assembled into one development location or individual lot defined as a permanent parcel (lot of record), multiple lots of record, or a portion of a lot of record.

**Special Event Sign.** A temporary sign advertising or pertaining to any annual or seasonal event of interest to, open to, or available to, the general public.

**Temporary Sign.** A sign utilized for a limited time which is not intended to be installed on a permanent basis.

**Unzoned Commercial Area.** A site outside of municipal and county zoning jurisdiction which is within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the primary highway right of way and is actually used for commercial or industrial purposes.

**Vehicle Sign.** A sign permanently or temporarily attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer.

**Wall Sign.** A sign permanently attached to or painted on the wall of a building or structure in a plane parallel or approximately parallel to the plane of said wall.

**Window, Area of.** The area of a single window includes all of the window panes in an area that is separated by mullions, muntins, or other dividers which are less than 3 inches wide.

**Window Sign.** A sign viewable through and/or affixed in any manner to a window or exterior glass door such that it is intended to be viewable from the exterior (beyond the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the window), including signs located inside a building but visible primarily from the outside of the building.

#### **SECTION 108. SEVERABILITY**

1. If any part of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional, it shall be construed to have been the legislative intent to pass said ordinance without such unconstitutional provision, and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed and held to be valid as if such portion had not been included.

#### **SECTION 109. SUBSTITUTION**

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance and subject to the property owner's consent, any non-commercial copy may be substituted, in whole or in part, for any commercial copy on any sign permitted by this Ordinance. If non-commercial copy is substituted, the resulting sign will continue to be treated as the original commercial sign under this Ordinance and will not be deemed or treated as an off-premises sign.

#### SECTION 110. APPEALS AND VARIANCES

1. Request for Variance: When unnecessary hardships would result from strict application of the ordinance, upon application by an aggrieved party with standing, the Board of

- Adjustment may hold a hearing pursuant to NCGS §160A-388 (a2) and may grant variances to the provisions of the ordinance in accordance with the standards and procedures established in NCGS §160a-388(d) and as established by County policy.
- 2. Appeal: Any sign owner or applicant who alleges that a County administrative official acted erroneously in enforcing this ordinance may appeal the decision of that administrative official to the Board of Adjustment.
- 3. Every decision of the Board of Adjustment shall be subject to review at the instance of any aggrieved party by the Superior Court by proceedings in the nature of certiorari. The appeal to Superior Court must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the Notice of Decision in the office of the ordinance administrator.

#### SECTION 111. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

- 1. Any person violating provisions of this ordinance shall be given 10 working days to comply. Failure to comply within ten 10 working days shall be, upon conviction, guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$50.00 or by imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both. Each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
- 2. In addition to, or in lieu of, the criminal penalties outlined above, each person violating this ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$200.00 per day for each day the violation is allowed to continue.

#### **SECTION 112. REMEDIES**

1. When the ordinance administrator determines that a sign has been erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted or continued in violation of this ordinance, he or she is authorized to institute an action for injunction or take other appropriate action to prevent or abate such violation.

#### SECTION 113. INTERPRETATION AND CONFLICTS

- 1. The standards and provisions of this ordinance shall be interpreted as being the minimum requirements necessary to uphold the purposes of this ordinance.
- 2. Whenever this ordinance imposes a higher standard than required by other regulations, ordinances or rules, or by easements, covenants, or agreements, the provisions of this ordinance shall govern.
- 3. When the provisions of any applicable state or federal statutes impose higher standards, the provisions of such statutes shall govern unless it is determined that such higher standard is not being enforced. In such case, the provisions of this ordinance shall govern until such time as the higher standard is enforced.

#### **SECTION 114. JURISDICTION**

The provisions of this ordinance shall be applicable only to unincorporated areas of Watauga County which are not included in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality. The Valle Crucis Historic District and Foscoe-Grandfather Community have additional regulations concerning allowable signage.

## **SECTION 115. REPEAL**

1. Upon adoption of this ordinance, the current ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Regulate Signs in Watauga County," and all subsequent amendments thereto, shall be repealed.

## **SECTION 116. EFFECTIVE DATE**

1. This ordinance shall become effective on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2016.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6:**

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPDATE**

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Richard Boylan, Area Specialized Agent with Cooperative Extension, will provide program updates.

The report is for information only; therefore no action is required.

#### NC Cooperative Extension – Watauga County Center

Report to the Commissioners 4/19/16

Richard Boylan, Area Agent

#### 1) Specialty Crops Small Farms Class Series

a. Extension conducted a weekly eight-class series on regionally-adapted specialty crops (broccoli, blueberries, shiitake mushrooms, apples, greenhouses & season extension, raspberries, strawberries, etc.) which reached more than eighty participants with up-to-date information to enhance small farm diversification and profitability. One-on-one work with growers from these classes will allow for more detailed follow-up and ongoing collaborations

#### 2) Extension's work with WNC AgOptions grant recipients in Watauga County

a. Five Watauga County producers worked with Extension to secure 2016 WNC AgOptions grant assistance toward diversifying and improving their farm operations. Each of these farms will work with Extension to provide educational field days and other opportunities, so that other growers in the region can learn from their projects.

#### 3) NCA&T State University to visit Watauga County as part of Dean's Tour

a. On 6/15/16 and 6/16/16, the Cooperative Extension Program of NCA&T State University will conduct a tour of the Western Extension Region. The tour will include stops in Watauga, Catawba and Rowan Counties. This will be an opportunity for the NCA&T's Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and Extension Administration to learn more about Extension programming in the Western Region, and for Watauga County Cooperative Extension to showcase its programs and impacts. Our office plans to feature local ginseng production and new-farmer education efforts.

#### Small Farms Class Series Kicks-off with Free Broccoli Production Class on 2/15

Whether you run a small farm and are looking for new crops and strategies to improve your profitability, or a gardener with big plans for the season ahead, Extension's Small Farms Class Series on Monday nights in Watauga County will be of interest. The series begins with a class on growing and marketing broccoli on Monday, February 15 at 6:30 PM. This and all other Small Farms classes will be held at the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center.

Broccoli is a healthy vegetable that thrives in the NC High Country at times (i.e.- summer) when much of the rest of the southeast is too hot. Could it be a good fit for your farm? How should farmers plan for soil fertility, weed control, disease prevention and insect management? Techniques discussed will also apply to most other brassica crops, such as collards, kale, Brussel sprouts, etc. The class is free and open to all members of the public with a serious interest in small farms production. For further information or to reserve a place in the class, e-mail <a href="mailto:richard boylan@ncsu.edu">richard boylan@ncsu.edu</a> or call Watauga County Cooperative Extension at 828-264-3061.

## Full Small Farm Class Series Schedule

(All classes are free and begin at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted)

- 2/15 Broccoli Production How-To's: an increasingly-popular small farms and garden crop, with research and market updates. (Free)
- 2/22 Establishing and Maintaining a Blueberry Planting in your Small Farm or Garden (Free)
- 2/29 Shiitake Mushroom Production in Your Small Farm or Garden (Free)
- 3/7 Establishing an Apple Orchard at your Small Farm or Homestead. Avery County Agricultural Technician and Heirloom Apple enthusiast Doug Hundley co-presents. (Free)
- 3/14 Maintaining and Managing Pests in your Small Farm or Homestead Apple Orchard. Avery County Agricultural Technician and Heirloom Apple enthusiast Doug Hundley co-presents. (Free)
- 3/21 Season Extension at your Small Farm or Homestead: low tunnels, high tunnels, and greenhouses. (Free)
- 3/28 Establishing and Maintaining a Raspberry Planting in your Small Farm or Garden (Free)
- 4/4 Strawberries (& vegetable crops) on raised-bed &/or plasticulture systems at your Small Farm or Homestead (Free)

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## **AGENDA ITEM 7:**

## TAX MATTERS

A. Monthly Collections Report

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Larry Warren, Tax Administrator, will present the Monthly Collections Report and be available for questions and discussion.

The report is for information only; therefore, no action is required.

#### Monthly Collections Report

## Watauga County

Bank deposits of the following amounts have been made and credited to the account of Watauga County. The reported

totals do not include small shortages and overages reported to the Watauga County Finance Officer

#### Monthly Report March 2016

	Current Month Collections	Current Month Percentage	Current FY Collections	Current FY Percentage	Previous FY Percentage
<b>General County</b>					
Taxes 2015	421,210.33	36.02%	25,905,981.96	97.28%	96.87%
Prior Year Taxes	46,315.40		385,303.38		
Solid Waste User Fees	48,037.17	28.33%	2,412,208.88	95.77%	95.15%
Green Box Fees	1,236.26	NA	7,643.38	NA	NA
Total County Funds	\$516,799.16		\$28,711,137.60		
Fire Districts					
Foscoe Fire	9,071.01	45.20%	445,819.25	97.83%	97.00%
Boone Fire	11,558.54	29.90%	703,935.13	96.62%	96.51%
Fall Creek Service Dist.	276.67	39.40%	9,046.57	96.02%	94.41%
Beaver Dam Fire	3,043.54	40.44%	99,862.68	96.47%	94.99%
Stewart Simmons Fire	4,330.18	54.97%	117,912.49	97.16%	96.85%
Zionville Fire	2,764.68	33.47%	105,748.53	95.89%	94.54%
Cove Creek Fire	3,883.80	29.31%	223,497.83	96.33%	95.44%
Shawneehaw Fire	1,436.58	34.58%	91,507.53	97.59%	96.93%
Meat Camp Fire	3,672.83	23.22%	190,983.97	94.47%	93.27%
Deep Gap Fire	2,869.93	28.16%	177,783.85	96.48%	94.42%
Todd Fire	1,216.27	33.17%	59,484.40	96.66%	95.38%
Blowing Rock Fire	8,925.26	36.97%	446,084.38	97.37%	97.19%
M.C. Creston Fire	232.51	12.77%	6,358.26	84.55%	83.95%
Foscoe Service District	704.98	26.65%	67,688.01	97.38%	98.18%
Beech Mtn. Service Dist.	7.39	85.09%	1,490.27	99.83%	98.48%
Cove Creek Service Dist.	0.00	0.00%	324.15	100.00%	100.00%
Shawneehaw Service Dist	624.01	52.06%	5,928.22	91.05%	89.70%
	\$54,341.51		\$2,744,408.95		
Towns					
Boone	62,640.80	40.40%	5,590,716.89	98.44%	98.03%
Municipal Services	2,499.52	37.36%	126,895.34	96.89%	98.03%
Boone MV Fee	19.09	NA	139.09	NA	NA
Blowing Rock	7.28	NA	112.97	NA	NA
Seven Devils	0.00	NA	58.62	NA	NA
Beech Mountain	0.00	NA	1.63	NA	NA
Total Town Taxes	\$65,166.69		\$5,717,924.54		
Total Amount Collected	\$636,307.36		\$37,173,471.09		

\_Tax Collections Director

Tax Administrator

## **AGENDA ITEM 7:**

## TAX MATTERS

B. Refunds and Releases

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Warren will present the Refunds and Releases Reports.

Board action is required to accept the Refunds and Releases Reports.



| WATAUGA COUNTY | RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016

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	CAT YEAR BILL EFF DATE	VALUE	
OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS	PROPERTY JUR REASON	REF NO	CHARGE AMOUNT
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS 181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD	PP 2013 70 03/31/2016 510789999 F01 TAX RELEASES		G01 224.55 F01 35.87
BOONE, NC 28607	OUT OF BUSINESS 2012		260.42
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS 181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD	PP 2013 70 03/31/2016 510789999 F01 TAX RELEASES OUT OF BUSINESS 2012		G01 -224.55 F01 -35.87
BOONE, NC 28607	OUT OF BUSINESS 2012 Reversal of release 5612	3013	-260.42
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS 181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2014 2021 03/31/2016 510789999 F01 TAX RELEASES BUSINESS CLOSED 2012 Reversal of release 5613	0 5616	G01 -194.65 F01 -31.10 G01L -19.47 F01L -3.11
	Reversal of release 5013		-248.33
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS 181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2014 2021 03/31/2016 510789999 F01 TAX RELEASES BUSINESS CLOSED 2012		G01 194.65 F01 31.10 G01L 19.47 F01L 3.11
			248.33
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS	PP 2015 2020 03/31/2016 510789999 F01		G01 111.12 17.75
181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD BOONE, NC 28607	TAX RELEASES BUSINESS DISSOLVED IN 2012	5614	128.87
1510789 ALDRIDGE AND SONS NURSERY INC dba ALDRIDGE FARMS 181 AUTUMN RIDGE RD	PP 2015 2020 03/31/2016 510789999 F01 TAX RELEASES	0 5617	G01 -111.12 -17.75
BOONE, NC 28607	BUSINESS DISSOLVED IN 2012 Reversal of release 5614	2017	-128.87
1594107 BAIRD, JAMES FRANKLIN 212 HAMPTON TRAILER CT #15 BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2011 2716 03/31/2016 594107999 F02 TAX RELEASES DEMOLISHED IN 2010	0 5622	LF 62.00 GB 25.00 G01 3.69 F02 .47
			91.16



| WATAUGA COUNTY | RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016

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	CAT YEAR BILL EFF DATE PROPERTY JUR	VALUE	
OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS	REASON	REF NO	CHARGE AMOUNT
1594107 BAIRD, JAMES FRANKLIN 212 HAMPTON TRAILER CT #15 BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2012 217 03/31/2016 594107999 F02 TAX RELEASES MH DEMOLISHED IN 2010	0 5621	LF 62.00 GB 25.00 G01 3.57 F02 .57 G01L .36 F02L .06
			91.56
1594107 BAIRD, JAMES FRANKLIN 212 HAMPTON TRAILER CT #15 BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2013 229 03/31/2016 594107999 F02 TAX RELEASES MH DEMOLISHED IN 2010	5620	SWF 62.00 GB 25.00 G01 3.57 F02 .57 G01L .36 F02L .06
			91.56
1594107 BAIRD, JAMES FRANKLIN 212 HAMPTON TRAILER CT #15 BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2014 3061 03/31/2016 594107999 F02 TAX RELEASES MH DEMOLISHED IN 2010	0 5619	SWF 80.00 G01 3.57 F02 .57 G01L .36 F02L .06
			84.56
1594107 BAIRD, JAMES FRANKLIN 212 HAMPTON TRAILER CT #15 BOONE, NC 28607	PP 2015 2998 03/31/2016 594107999 F02 TAX RELEASES MH DEMOLISHED IN 2010	0 5618	SWF 80.00 G01 3.57 F02 .57 G01L .36 F02L .06
			84.56
1539253 CRIPPEN HOSPITALITY INC P O BOX 528	PP 2014 2390 03/31/2016 539253999 C03 TAX RELEASES	0	G01 260.35 G01L 26.04
	CLOSED	5601	286.39
1539253 CRIPPEN HOSPITALITY INC P O BOX 528 BLOWING ROCK, NC 286050528	PP 2015 2365 03/31/2016 539253999 C03 TAX RELEASES CLOSED IN 2013	0 5602	G01 246.93 G01L 24.69 271.62
		0	F02 11.70
356 OLD TURNPIKE RD BOONE, NC 28607	RE 2015 27596 03/31/2016 2819-55-7553-000 F02 TAX RELEASES BILLED/PAID REF DISC. BILL F	5611	G01 73.24
	BILLED/PAID REF DISC. BILL F		84.94



| WATAUGA COUNTY | RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016

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		CAT YEAR PROPERTY	BILL	EFF DATE JUR		VALUE		
OWNER	NAME AND ADDRESS	REASON			REF NO		CHARGE	AMOUNT
1623462	OHLDIECK, LINDA 115 CHINOOK CT MOORESVILLE, NC 28117	PP 2015 623462999 TAX RELEASES SOLD IN 2014	3415	03/31/2016 F12	5623	0	SWF G01 F12	80.00 36.53 5.84
								122.37
19245	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 1321 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NC 27699-1321	RE 2013 2905-75-7486 TAX RELEASES	40286	03/31/2016 FX9	E600	0	FX9 G01	13.60 85.14
	RALEIGH, NC 2/099-1321	SHOULD HAVE	BEEN E	EXEMPT	3000			98.74
19245	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 1321 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NC 27699-1321	RE 2015 1869-90-7410 TAX RELEASES	530 -000	03/31/2016 F08	5609	0	F08 G01	61.30 383.74
	RALEIGH, NC 27099-1321	SHOULD HAVE	BEEN E	EXEMPT	5009			445.04
19245	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 1321 MAIL SERVICE CENTER	RE 2015 2905-75-7486 TAX RELEASES	37178 -000	03/31/2016 FX9	F.C.0.77	0	FX9 G01	15.75 98.60
	RALEIGH, NC 27699-1321	SHOULD HAVE	BEEN E	CXEMPT	5607			114.35
1570927	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA .C/O STATE PROPERTY OFFICE 1321 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NC 27699	RE 2015 1879-00-0108 TAX RELEASES	2202 3-000	03/31/2016 F08	5606	0	F08 G01 SWF	49.90 312.37 80.00
				XEMPT				442.27
1570927	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA .C/O STATE PROPERTY OFFICE 1321 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NC 27699	RE 2015 1879-00-2773 TAX RELEASES SHOULD HAVE	2203 -000	03/31/2016 F08	5610	0	F08 G01 SWF	33.65 210.65 80.00
	RALEIGH, NC 27099	SHOULD HAVE	DEEN E	IAEMPI				324.30
1728344	TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN 304 BEECH MOUNTAIN PKWY BEECH MOUNTAIN, NC 28604	RE 2015 1940-59-3225 TAX RELEASES SHOULD HAVE	8001 5-000 BEEN C	03/31/2016 C05	5605 2015	0	G01	4.70
1728344	TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN 304 BEECH MOUNTAIN PKWY BEECH MOUNTAIN, NC 28604	RE 2015 1950-38-0334 TAX RELEASES SHOULD HAVE	12234 -000 BEEN C	03/31/2016 C05	5604	0	G01	50.08
1728344			12238 -000	03/31/2016 C05	5603	0	G01	50.08



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		CAT YEAR PROPERTY	BILL	EFF	DATE JUR		VALUE		
OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS		REASON			JUR	REF NO		CHARGE	AMOUNT
1285253 WINEBARGER, RUTH 2132 HARDIN RD BOONE, NC 28607-8171		RE 2011 2942-04-072 REFUND RELE HOUSE BURNE VERIFIED BY	3-000 ASE D YEARS	ago	F10	5600	36,000	F10 G01 GB SWF	18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00
1285253 WINEBARGER, RUTH 2132 HARDIN RD BOONE, NC 28607-8171		RE 2012 2942-04-072 REFUND RELE. HOUSE BURNE. VERIFIED BY	3-000 ASE D YEARS	ago	F10	5599	36,000	F10 G01 GB SWF	217.68 18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00
1285253 WINEBARGER, RUTH 2132 HARDIN RD BOONE, NC 28607-8171		RE 2013 2942-04-072 REFUND RELE HOUSE BURNE VERIFIED BY	47057 3-000 ASE D YEARS	03/31 B AGO	F10	5598	36,000	F10 G01 GB SWF	217.68 18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00
1285253 WINEBARGER, RUTH 2132 HARDIN RD BOONE, NC 28607-8171		RE 2014 2942-04-072 REFUND RELE HOUSE BURNE VERIFIED BY	ASE D YEARS	S AGO	l/2016 F10	5597	40,700	F10 G01 SWF	217.68 20.35 127.39 80.00 227.74
1285253 WINEBARGER, RUTH 2132 HARDIN RD BOONE, NC 28607-8171		RE 2015 2942-04-072 REFUND RELE HOUSE BURNE VERIFIED BY	3-000 ASE D YEARS	ago	F10	5596	40,700	F10 G01 SWF	20.35 127.39 80.00 —————————————————————————————————
DETAIL SUMMARY	COUNT: 28	RE	LEASES	- TO	ΓAL		189,400		3,846.80

| WATAUGA COUNTY | RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016

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#### RELEASES - CHARGE SUMMARY FOR ALL CLERKS

YEAR	CAT	CHARGE		AMOUNT	
2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011	RE RE RE PP PP PP	F10 G01 GB SWF F02 G01 GB LF	DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE BOONE FIRE PP WATAUGA COUNTY PP GREEN BOX PP SOLID WASTE PP	18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00 .47 3.69 25.00 62.00	
			ZUII IUIAL	300.01	
2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012	RE RE RE PP PP PP PP	F10 G01 GB SWF F02 F02L G01 G01L GB LF	DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE BOONE FIRE PP BOONE FIRE LATE LIST WATAUGA COUNTY PP WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST GREEN BOX PP SOLID WASTE PP	18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00 .57 .06 3.57 .36 25.00 62.00	
			2012 TOTAL	309.24	
2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013	RE RE RE PP PP PP PP	F10 FX9 G01 GB SWF F01 F02 G01 G01L GB SWF	DEEP GAP FIRE RE MEAT CAMP/CRESTON SERV DIST RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE FOSCOE FIRE PP BOONE FIRE PP BOONE FIRE LATE LIST WATAUGA COUNTY PP WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST GREEN BOX PP SOLID WASTE PP	18.00 13.60 197.82 25.00 62.00 .00 .57 .06 3.57 .36 25.00 62.00	
			2013 TOTAL	407.98	
2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014	RE RE PP PP PP PP	F10 G01 SWF F01 F01L F02 F02L G01 G01L SWF	DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE SOLID WASTE USER FEE FOSCOE FIRE PP FOSCOE FIRE LATE LIST BOONE FIRE PP BOONE FIRE LATE LIST WATAUGA COUNTY PP WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST SOLID WASTE USER FEE	20.35 127.39 80.00 .00 .57 .06 263.92 26.40 80.00	
2015 2015 2015 2015	RE RE RE RE	F02 F08 F10 FX9	BOONE FIRE RE SHAWNEEHAW FIRE RE DEEP GAP FIRE RE MEAT CAMP/CRESTON SERV DIST RE	11.70 144.85 20.35 15.75	5



WATAUGA COUNTY RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016 P 6

#### RELEASES - CHARGE SUMMARY FOR ALL CLERKS

YEAR O	CAT CHARGE		AMOUNT	
2015 F	RE G01	WATAUGA COUNTY RE	1,310.85	
2015 F	RE SWF	SANITATION USER FEE	240.00	
2015 E	PP F01	FOSCOE FIRE PP	.00	
2015 E	PP F02	BOONE FIRE PP	.57	
2015 E	PP F02L	BOONE FIRE LATE LIST	.06	
2015 E		BLOWING ROCK FIRE PP	5.84	
2015 E		WATAUGA COUNTY PP	287.03	
2015 E		WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST	25.05	
2015 1		SANITATION USER FEE	160.00	
2013	EL PMI.	SANITATION USER FEE	100.00	
		2015 TOTAL	2,222.05	
			,	
		SUMMARY TOTAL	3,846.80	



WATAUGA COUNTY RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016 P 7

#### RELEASES - JURISDICTION SUMMARY FOR ALL CLERKS

JUR	YEAR	CHARGE	AMOUNT	
C03 C03 C03 C03	2014 2014 2015 2015	G01 G01L G01 G01L	WATAUGA COUNTY PP 260.35 WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST 26.04 WATAUGA COUNTY PP 246.93 WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST 24.69	
			C03 TOTAL 558.01	
C05	2015	G01	WATAUGA COUNTY RE 104.86	
			104.06	
F01 F01 F01 F01 F01 F01 F01	2013 2013 2014 2014 2014 2014 2015 2015	F01 G01 F01 G01L G01L F01 G01	FOSCOE FIRE PP .00 WATAUGA COUNTY PP .00 FOSCOE FIRE PP .00 FOSCOE FIRE LATE LIST .00 WATAUGA COUNTY PP .00 WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST .00 FOSCOE FIRE PP .00 WATAUGA COUNTY LATE LIST .00 FOSCOE FIRE PP .00 WATAUGA COUNTY PP .00	
			F01 TOTAL .00	
F02 F02 F02 F02 F02 F02 F02 F02 F02 F02	2011 2011 2011 2011 2012 2012 2012 2012	F02 G01 GB LF F02L G01L G01L GB LF F02L G01L GB SWF F02L G01L SWF F02L G01L SWF	### BOONE FIRE PP	
F08	2015	F08	SHAWNEEHAW FIRE RE 144.85 WATAUGA COUNTY RE 906.76 SANITATION USER FEE 160.00	
F08	2015	SWF	WAIAUGA COUNTY RE 906.76 SANITATION USER FEE 160.00	
			F08 TOTAL 1,211.61	



| WATAUGA COUNTY | RELEASES - 03/01/2016 TO 03/31/2016

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#### RELEASES - JURISDICTION SUMMARY FOR ALL CLERKS

JUR	YEAR	CHARGE		AMOUNT
F10 F10 F10 F10 F10 F10 F10 F10 F10 F10	2011 2011 2011 2011 2012 2012 2012 2013 2013	G01 GB SWF F10 G01 GB SWF F10 G01 SWF F10 G01 SWF F10 G01	DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE GREEN BOX RE SOLID WASTE FEE DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE SOLID WASTE FEE DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE SOLID WASTE USER FEE DEEP GAP FIRE RE WATAUGA COUNTY RE SANITATION USER FEE	18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00 18.00 112.68 25.00 62.00 18.00 20.35 127.39 80.00
			F10 TOTAL	1,108.52
F12 F12 F12	2015 2015 2015		BLOWING ROCK FIRE PP WATAUGA COUNTY PP SANITATION USER FEE	5.84 36.53 80.00
			F12 TOTAL	122.37
FX9 FX9 FX9 FX9	2013 2013 2015 2015	G01 FX9	MEAT CAMP/CRESTON SERV DIST REWATAUGA COUNTY REMEAT CAMP/CRESTON SERV DIST REWATAUGA COUNTY RE	85.14
			FX9 TOTAL	213.09
			SUMMARY TOTAL	3,846.80

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## **AGENDA ITEM 8:**

## **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Margaret Pierce, Finance Director, will review budget amendments as included in your packet.

Board approval is requested.



## **WATAUGA COUNTY**

#### FINANCE OFFICE

814 West King St., Suite 216, Boone, NC 28607 Phone (828) 265-8007

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Deron T. Geouque, County ManagerFROM: Margaret Pierce, Finance DirectorSUBJECT: Budget Amendments - FY 2015/16

**DATE:** April 14, 2016

The following budget amendments require the approval of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners. Board approval is requested.

<u>Accour</u>	<u>nt #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
103991	399100	Fund Balance Appropriation		150,000
104264	458000	Capital Outlay-Buildings	150,000	

Per Board action; to recognize additional funds for the Emergency Medics Base construction contract.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9:**

#### MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

#### A. Boards and Commissions

#### **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

#### Watauga Community Housing Trust Board

The Watauga Community Housing Trust Board of Directors appointments are due for reappointment. The Commissioners appoint organizations to the Board; the organizations then designate an individual to be the representative. The expiring seats are for Town of Boone, Appalachian Regional Health Care System, and Habitat for Humanity. It is requested that these organizations be reappointed. The terms are two years.

The above are second readings and action may be taken if so desired.

#### Watauga County Board of Adjustment

Janet Beck has resigned from the Board of Adjustment. Her 3-year term was set to expire in November. She is an at-large appointee. The Commissioners have the option of appointing someone to finish the term or to make a new 3-year appointment that would expire in November, 2019.

#### Watauga County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

Regional Ombudsman, Laura Jane Ward, has requested that Mr. Tim Racz and Ms. Karen Robertson be considered for reappointment to serve on the Watauga County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for three-year terms. This is a first reading.





April 1, 2016

Watauga County Board of Commissioners ATTN: Anita Fogle 814 West King Street Suite 205 Boone, North Carolina 28607

Dear Ms. Fogle,

Both the appointments for Mr. Tim Racz and Ms. Karen Robertson to the Watauga County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee have expired. This is due to oversight on my part, for which I extend my sincere apologies. Both members have been assets to the committee and have a passion for advocating for the residents at Glenbridge and Blowing Rock.

Please submit their names to the Commissioners for re-appointment for three year terms and let the Regional Ombudsman know their decision at your convenience. Attached you will find their nomination forms.

Kindly

Laura lane Ward

Regional Long-term Care Ombudsman

Enclosures

## LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nominee Background Information	
Name Karen Robertson	
Home Address 273 Midvalley Road	Phone(H)(828) 262-067/
Blowing Rock, NC	Zip Code 28605
Business Address N/A	Phone (W)
	Zip Code
Email Address imnanak@bellsouth	r. net
Occupation retired school cours	elor
Number of hours available per month for this position	s needed
Education Masters degree (co	unseling)
Business and civic experience and skills Watauga	County Schools,
hospice volunteer, Boor	re UMC member
Areas of expertise and interest/skills COUNSELIN	
service to others, digni	ity for elderly
THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE EXCLUDED BY LEGISTHE COMMITTEE:	,
1. Persons or immediate family member of persons with a fi	nancial interest in a home served
<ul><li>by a committee.</li><li>2. An employee or governing board member or immediate fagoverning board member of a home served by a committee</li></ul>	
consultant is considered an employee).  3. The immediate family member of a patient in a home serv	
"immediate family member" is defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, and in-laws for the above.	-
I CERTIFY THAT NONE OF THE EXCLUSIONS LISTED OF THE EXCLUSIONS LISTED OF THE EXCLUSIONS LISTED OF THE OMBUDSM.  SITUATION CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THE ABOVE	AN IMMEDIATELY IF MY
Karen S. Robertson	Date 3/25/16
Signature of Applicant	d shills
Nomination form submitted by Na	me TIII

## LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nominee Background Information
Name Tim Racz
Home Address 160 River Way Phone(H) 828-963-4117
Home Address 160 River Way Phone(H) 828-963-4117 Boone, NC 28607 Zip Code 28607
Business Address Phone (W)
Zip Code
Email Address ftracz1950@gmail.com
OccupationRETIRED
Number of hours available per month for this position
Education MASTER OF DIVINITY
Business and civic experience and skills ACTIVE FIRST RAPTIST CHURCH
Areas of expertise and interest/skills SHOOTING POOL
THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE EXCLUDED BY LEGISLATION FROM SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE:
1. Persons or immediate family member of persons with a financial interest in a home served
by a committee.  2. An employee or governing board member or immediate family member of an employee or governing board member of a home served by a committee. (A person paid by a home as a consultant is considered an employee)
consultant is considered an employee).  3. The immediate family member of a patient in a home served by a committee. An "immediate family member" is defined as mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, child, grandmother, grandfather, and in-laws for the above.
I CERTIFY THAT NONE OF THE EXCLUSIONS LISTED ABOVE APPLY TO ME. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST NOTIFY THE OMBUDSMAN IMMEDIATELY IF MY SITUATION CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THE ABOVE EXCLUSIONS.
Tim Plan Date 3-31-16
Signature of Applicant  O(1) SO O(1) SO O(1) SO O(1) SO O(1) O(1) O(1) O(1) O(1) O(1) O(1) O(1
Nomination form submitted by Name

## **AGENDA ITEM 9:**

## MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

#### B. Announcements

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Budget work sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, (12:00-6:00 P.M.) and Thursday, May 12, (9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.). Both work sessions will be held in the Commissioners' Board Room.

AGEND.	Δ	ITEN	1	10.
AULUID.	$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$			10.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

## **AGENDA ITEM 11:**

## **BREAK**

## **AGENDA ITEM 12:**

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Attorney/Client Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Personnel Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6)