

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**APRIL 13, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Tate called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. All Board Members, County Manager Derek Roland, Deputy Clerk Mike Decker, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, County Attorney Eric Ridenour and members of the news media were present, as were a number of county employees and citizens.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- (A) Introduction of County Attorney Eric Ridenour  
Chairman Tate welcomed Mr. Ridenour and read a brief biography of his background and experience [Attachment 1].
- (B) Update on NACo Annual Conference – Mr. Roland shared that the annual conference will be held July 9-12, 2021 via a hybrid model with some in-person and some virtual sessions in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Mr. Roland requested that any members interested in attending contact him within the next couple of weeks so registrations could be submitted. Chairman Tate recommended that members consider attending, especially if they had never done so.
- (C) Chairman Tate recognized Kathy McGaha, Health Director, for an introduction of members from the North Carolina National Guard who have been assisting Macon County Public Health for the past 18 months with COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Mrs. McGaha stated two teams of a total of twelve members lead by Sargent First Class Jason Bowman and Sargent Sequisha Leary have assisted with giving vaccines as well as data entry. Ms. McGaha expressed her appreciation for the assistance they provided and their partnership as they prepared to leave Macon County at the end of the month. On behalf of the board, Chairman Tate provided each of them with a small gift as a token of appreciation followed by handshakes and verbal appreciation from the board members.
- (D) Chairman Tate asked Mr. Roland to give an update on the budget process. Mr. Roland stated that the budget presentation was scheduled for May 11, 2021 at the regular scheduled meeting. He reminded members that, at the budget kick-off meeting, the tight schedule for the compensation and

classification study was discussed. He stated that the process continues to follow a very tight schedule and that at this time he is recommending that the budget presentation be postponed in order for him, the finance staff, and the committee of county employees to have time to review the information and incorporate such into the budget recommendations. Mr. Roland further stated that postponing the presentation would allow for notification of the next round of COVID-19 funding opportunities from the federal government to be passed through the state to the counties. Manager Roland asked the board to entertain calling a special meeting for May 25, 2021 at the time of their choice for the budget presentation. Chairman Tate polled each member regarding their approval in postponing the presentation, which would be followed by scheduling workshops with county departments as needed. Chairman Tate announced a special meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 25, 2021 as recommended and that advertising would be handled by Mr. Roland.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Tate requested all in attendance to rise and a moment of silence was observed.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Led by Commissioner Shields, the pledge to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

(A) **Ed Trask**, Vice President of the Nantahala Community Club, member of the Macon County Library Board and a member of the Regional Library Board, spoke about activities sponsored by the Nantahala Community Club, some of which are recommended by Nantahala School and are held at the Nantahala Library. He provided a handout to the board and shared there are many activities for senior citizens also held at the library due to comfort and safety of the attendees, staff and volunteers. Mr. Trask requested the board entertain consideration of keeping the library on the school property.

(B) **Sharon Crosby**, Branch Supervisor for Nantahala Community Library, shared that the library has always been on school property and that in 22 years there has never been a safety or security issue. She stated that traffic is sometimes an issue but that if the library was located on the other side of the school the traffic issue would be eliminated. Ms. Crosby gave an overview of some advantages of being

located on school property for both teachers and students. She indicated that some teachers and students had indicated they were writing letters to be considered by the board and requested the board take into consideration what the teachers and students will lose if the library is located off of school property.

(C) **Bill Dyar**, Chairman of the Macon County Public Library Board of Trustees, shared that he and the Board of Trustees wanted to express their thanks and appreciation to this board for their determination and resolve to move forward on replacing the current Nantahala Library and Community Center. Mr. Dyar summarized activities that had occurred over the past month in regard to discussions and review of options for the library and, his full written report is attached to these minutes [Attachment 2]. In closing, Mr. Dyar stated that the Library Board and community members in attendance at the April 6, 2021 library board meeting had reached full agreement that converting the industrial arts building into the new library and community center was, from their perspective, the preferred alternative. Mr. Dyar informed the board that a letter with their recommendation and additional details of their review had been mailed to board members. None of the board members had seen the letter. Mr. Dyar apologized and provided each member with a copy of the letter.

**ADDITIONS, ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Young, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda, as adjusted, as follows:

- To add Item 13B, appointment for the Highlands TDC, per Mr. Roland.
- To add Budget Amendments #234 and #235 to Item 12B, per Mrs. Carpenter.
- To add an additional matter to Item 11E under New Business, per Commissioner Higdon, regarding the Franklin Town Square.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

(A) **Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan** - Rose Bauguess, Senior Planner with the Southwestern Commission, addressed the Board in person with an NCDOT Transportation Engineer joining via phone to assist with answering questions. Ms. Bauguess indicated that this is a brand new format for the plan and this is the first one to be completed in the state. Ms. Bauguess stated there was more success with obtaining public input this year

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than in previous years. The project proposals capture the top list of needs for Macon County as reviewed by the steering committee and support team. She stated nothing in the plan is guaranteed to be funded or built but, this is the list of projects that have been vetted and the public sees as feasible. There were a number of areas identified as problems but, with the goal to maintain the natural beauty and rural character of the county, those would pose too great of an impact and were not feasible. The proposed list of approximately 50 projects includes highway, bicycle, pedestrian and public transit recommendations which are detailed in the plan and on the map. Ms. Bauguess highlighted a few as follows: continuation of the 441 U.S. 23 entry to the state, improvement of the 441 U.S. 23 intersection at Main Street where the new hospital is going, elimination of the center turn lane on 441 U.S. 23 between Franklin and Sylva, addition of a lane for trucks on U.S. 64 West from Franklin to Hayesville similar to the addition on the Clay County side, Highlands Road modernization from Rogers Road to Walnut Creek Road, modernization of Highway 64 from Highlands to Jackson County where trucks are not able to keep their tires on the pavement and the asphalt is crumbling, 441 Business in Franklin from Porter Street to Big Bear Lane modernization with sidewalks and better driveway entrances, elimination of the center turn lane on the Highlands Road from Main Street to the four-lane, modernize Bryson City Road going North and improvement of the Y-intersection at Cowee Creek Road, N.C. 106 (Dillard Road) from the state line to U.S. 64 in Highlands, Airport Road from Olive Hill Road to N.C. 28, Buck Creek Road from U.S. 64 to Teague Road, Clarks Chapel Road, Elijah Road, Old Murphy Road, Prentiss Bridge Road, Rabbit Creek Road, Roller Mill Road, and Wells Grove Road include the highlights of the road recommendations. Commissioner Beale stated the plan includes replacement of 11 bridges. He further stated the process has gotten a little simpler but continues to be based on a point system and that often other counties and towns have to combine efforts in order to get enough points to get a project completed. Commissioner Beale indicated the airport runway extension has also been included to be funded in 2023. He emphasized that small projects like the Macon County Fairgrounds to Addington Bridge Road has now reached over \$9 million and that we do well in getting projects funded in the western counties. Commissioner Young asked for consideration of center turn lanes on some divided highways and locations like the bottom of Cowee Mountain where trucks are coming down the mountain at high rates of speed. Commissioner Beale added that the volume of traffic that we are now seeing in Macon County has increased, especially in Highlands and that the volume is going to

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only continue to be a concern. Commissioner Beale expressed appreciation for Ms. Bauguess' work on the transportation plan as well as Jack Morgan, Warren Cabe, Tommy Jenkins and others who were on the steering committee. Commissioner Beale commented that we do not know how we are going to come out in the 2020 Census but that outcome has a significant impact on our funding. Commissioner Beale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shields to adopt a "Resolution Adopting a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Macon County, North Carolina" as presented. The motion passed unanimously, and a copy of the resolution is attached [Attachment 3].

**(B) Community Funding Pool** – Karen Wallace provided a handout [Attachment 4] to board members of the Round 1 applications for funding. Applications from 13 organizations were received in response to the \$75,000 available. Ms. Wallace stated the committee was recommending funding for 12 of those applicants. The organization not receiving a recommendation is a new non-profit that did not have all of their documentation together, she explained. The committee did reach out to them and encouraged them to apply next year. Commissioner Beale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shields, to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**(C) Medicaid Transformation Funding** – Hugh Johnson, Senior Government Affairs Manager, and Jessica Beach, Travel and Outreach Programs Manager with WellCare of North Carolina, introduced themselves and shared a PowerPoint presentation about WellCare. Ms. Beach stated it was very important for them to have a local presence in every region in the state and good relationships with community organizations. She highlighted some community events WellCare has been a part of in Macon County. Mr. Johnson gave an overview of Medicaid Transformation and what managed care looks like. Open enrollment for Medicaid began March 15<sup>th</sup> and ends May 14<sup>th</sup> during which time members can call the enrollment broker for assistance with an explanation of plans and enrollment. Mr. Johnson indicated that May 15<sup>th</sup> will begin the auto-enrollment for members who have not selected a plan. Member benefit packets will be mailed out to members in late May and plan benefits begin on July 1, 2021.

**(D) North Carolina Public Transportation Association** – Mr. Roland requested that Kim Angel, Director of Macon County Transit, come forward and be recognized as the new President-elect of the North Carolina Public Transportation Association with her term beginning July 1, 2021. Board members congratulated Ms. Angel.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**(A) Appropriation of funding for the purchase of the Macon County Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association ("Co-Op") Property** – Mr. Roland reminded the board that this matter has been in discussion for a number of years. He reviewed a timeline including notes from his meeting with previous County Attorney Chester Jones on October 12, 2020. Those notes indicated that the county had agreed to purchase the property in the amount of \$87,500. In December 2020, the board minutes reflected that authorization was given to then Interim County Attorney Kim Carpenter to draw up an offer to purchase. On January 12, 2021, the board discussed in closed session to proceed with the offer of \$87,500 and also noted there were taxes owed on the property and the Co-Op had indicated they would pay those at closing. On February 9, 2021, the board was notified that the signed offer to purchase had been submitted but the county was still awaiting review of the deed by the Co-Op's attorney. On March 9, 2021, the board discussed in closed session that no communication had been received regarding that review. It was also discussed that the board would have to move into open session to appropriate the funding to purchase. On March 17, 2021, the Co-Op received the requested changes to the deed back from their attorney, Jeff Gillett, and signor authority as requested. Mr. Roland said he spoke with Kim Carpenter today and agreed that as soon as the funding is appropriated a closing could be set-up to finalize the purchase. Mr. Roland stated that the county would be taking a special warranty deed and confirmation of title insurance on the property which will be in place at closing. He reminded the board that an appraisal had been completed January 20, 2020 with a total value at that time of land and buildings at \$223,600.00. Mr. Roland requested that, with a signed offer by both parties, the board appropriate the funding necessary to move forward with the purchase. Chairman Tate stated that he was glad to see this moving forward as it had been on the agenda for the whole 10 years he had been in office. Commissioner Beale commented that this relationship goes back further than any of the current board members have been in office and that it has taken a long time to unwind. He further stated the reason the county is interested in this property is because it adjoins other property owned by the county and this provides an opportunity for expansion of current businesses or a location for new business. Commissioner Beale made a motion to appropriate \$87,500 from the fund balance for the purchase and for the County Attorney to schedule a closing. Commissioner Shields seconded the motion. In discussion, Commissioner Higdon stated he had questions from the

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beginning related to the wording of the deed and previous Attorney Jones' opinion. Commissioner Higdon stated he did not feel we have followed the specifics of the deed as to how the sale was to occur. Commissioner Young suggested the property be offered to a private business and that he didn't want the county to purchase and sit on it. Commissioner Beale shared that attempts had previously been made to sell the property but because of the convoluted nature of the deed no one was interested. He said his hope was that after the deed was made whole through this transaction that someone would be interested and more opportunities could be afforded for use of the property. Commissioner Higdon asked if the current attorney had had an opportunity to review the deed and stated we did not have to purchase this property. Mr. Ridenour stated he had reviewed the deed just prior to the meeting and that it was really difficult to determine the value of improvements when the structures were likely to have to be torn down. Commissioner Higdon stated he did not feel there was any usable structure there and Commissioner Beale disagreed and indicated he believed the block building was a sound and sturdy structure and needed very little work. Mr. Roland shared the breakdown of the appraisal included the land value for seven acres at \$159,000 and the building value at \$71,700. Commissioner Young stated he was in favor of making the property whole but he was not in favor of holding the property indefinitely. Commissioner Tate stated it seems the consensus of the board is to move forward with the purchase but the questions is in regard to what we do with it after. He said that there had been so many options looked at over the years and that he thought we had finally reached a good outcome. The motion passed with a split vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Tate, Beale and Shields voting in favor and Commissioners Young and Higdon opposing. Commissioner Higdon stated he would like to clarify his vote based on his review of the deed with the wording in 1971 that if the property ever sold, the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association would receive the first \$15,000 and this Board would receive the remainder. Commissioner Beale stated in previous discussions it was stated that the Association paid for all the improvements and put the building in. Commissioner Higdon said he could not support the purchase based on the wording in the deed for how we could give \$87,500 of tax payers' dollars to them as opposed to the stated \$15,000.

**(B) Update on the cost of locker room project at Macon Middle School** - Mr. Roland reminded the Board of their request at the February 26, 2021 meeting for him to review the project and that Jack Morgan, Planning, Permitting and Development Director, had

worked with local architect Tom Ritter who drew the plans and will provide an update as requested by the Board. Mr. Morgan provided a handout of the plans and reminded members that the idea of the project came about in 2019 when other projects at Macon Middle School were discussed. The proposal was for a 7,400 square foot facility on the back side of the school. He shared that in January 2020 the estimated cost was \$1.2 million and that as of April 2021 the estimated cost is \$1.4 million. Mr. Morgan stated the plans are complete and ready to go to bid if the Board were to choose to do so. The estimated construction time is six months. Mr. Morgan indicated the current contractor conducting renovations on the site would probably be interested but the bid process still has to be followed. Mr. Roland reminded the board that this project was originally included in the renovation project but was pulled by the board because the architect estimated the cost at a higher level due to design fees. He further stated funding for this project would come out of the fund balance and to keep in mind that we still have the burn building project slated to come from fund balance as well as the Nantahala project and the Armory project. He recommended that the board look at these projects during the budget process in order to avoid taking all of these projects from the fund balance at one time. He recommended prioritizing the projects and allowing time for him to work with the financial advisor on audit impacts. He stated there is also another round of COVID funding forthcoming and a lot of other things in play right now. Mr. Morgan stated the plan indicates construction is to begin June 1<sup>st</sup> as soon as school is out for the summer. Mr. Roland explained that in order for us to maintain a solid financial position we are going to have to prioritize some of these projects which will move some of the previously mentioned projects further down the road. He stated that our debt capacity is not as great as it used to be but would still be good enough to support a \$1 million project but that we also had some county projects that needed to be considered as well. Commissioner Shields made a motion to send the project out for bids. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) Lease space in the Business Development Center to the Macon County Board of Education** – Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins explained that the Macon County Schools STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program currently rents one of the spaces at the Business Development Center and it is time to renew their lease. He said they have also requested to rent an additional 1,000 square foot space adjacent to their current location. Mr. Jenkins stated

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the smaller spaces do not have as much demand as the larger spaces and that with the growth of the STEM program he recommends leasing the additional space to them. Commissioner Shields read the terms of the current lease from page 21 which specifies a start date of April 13, 2021 for the term of one year. He suggested an amendment to the language allowing for a 14-month period or to end the term in June to be consistent with the school year when students would be using the facility. Commissioner Shields made a motion to approve a “Resolution of the Macon County Board of County Commissioners Approving a One Year Lease for a Portion of the Macon County Business Development Center to the Macon County Board of Education,” and it was seconded by Commissioner Higdon and passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached. [Attachment 5]

**(B) Macon County Balsam West Fibernet Grant Agreement** – Mr. Jenkins provided a brief history on the expansion of the high speed internet project. He stated Balsam West was the successful bidder on the proposed south Macon focus area which is slated to be a seven-year project. He explained that Phase I was completion of the fiber backbone from the Franklin town limits to the Otto Community Center. Mr. Jenkins stated that Balsam West has suggested extending the project up to Scaly Mountain which would also provide service for Otto Fire Department and Community Center, the old Scaly Mountain Community Center, and the Scaly Mountain Fire Department. Mr. Jenkins indicated a positive of these additions would include 1 gig of service to these locations for free for the seven-year period. He stated that Balsam West’s prediction is that we could potentially expand service from 2,700 households to possibly 5,000 households. Mr. Jenkins stated the Broadband Committee has looked at the proposal and the board has authorized Mr. Roland to negotiate such and that Mr. Ridenour has looked at the agreement as well. Mr. Jenkins stated he feels we are in good shape in bring service to the southern part of the county and have a template for use with expansion to other areas as well as we move forward. Commissioner Shields requested Jason Maple from Balsam West explain the aerial pathway. Mr. Maple stated Balsam West was envisioning a partnership with Haywood EMC, who has the aerial pathway and fiber structure in place already from Otto to Scaly Mountain. Mr. Maple shared that Balsam West has a new CEO, Ryan Sherby, who is supportive of this project and they are prepared to start as soon as possible upon approval of the agreement. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields and passed unanimously. A copy of the grant agreement is attached [Attachment 6].

**(C) Approval of bid award for Prime Movers** - EMS Director Warren Cabe began by reminding the board of the types of funding that EMS receives including grants, county funds and Homeland Security funds which is what he is talking about tonight. He shared that shortly after 2001, the state was divided into regions to assist with better management and consistency in the use of funds. Macon County is in Region 9 which consists of Buncombe County west. Funds are distributed regionally with some counties getting funds annually and some less often. To maintain consistency, some counties serve as a host to bid services which can be accessed by all counties. In August 2020, Macon County was awarded \$140,000 to purchase two Prime Movers, one for us and one for Clay County. Mr. Cabe explained these are what is commonly known as a one-ton truck with a flatbed. He explained that we are one of the last counties in the region to get one of these, as we have previously repurchased old ambulance chasses and made our own. He shared that we have already gone through the formal bid process and met all the requirements for the grant and the federal guidelines. Mr. Cabe stated he was asking permission tonight to award the bid. There were also two alternate bids for communication equipment and lighting. He said we will be using this equipment to move our Hazmat trailer, mass casualty trailer, 100K generator, light towers, sign boards, two command posts, etc., adding that we also plan to use this equipment as a mobile communication site as well as a back-up for fire departments. Mr. Cabe stated three bids had been received. None of the bids included the main bid and both alternate bids. He is recommending we award bids to the following three vendors: Jackie Jones Chrysler Dodge for the two trucks and chasses in the amount of \$117,891.10, West Chatham Warning Devices for the emergency lighting package in the amount of \$6,099.80, and Western Carolina Communication Systems for the communications package in the amount of \$9,824.06 for a total of \$133,817.96 [Attachment 7]. He further stated the bids are under budget and there is no county match. The trucks will be budgeted separately at approximately \$66,900 each. Commissioner Young made a motion to award the bids as presented, seconded by Commissioner Shields and it passed unanimously.

**(D) Release of Morris Broadband, LLC performance bond** – Mr. Ridenour stated that the county had a performance bond that was no longer valid nor applicable and Morris Broadband had requested it be returned to them. Mr. Ridenour has been working with Lori Carpenter on review of the same. Commissioner Higdon made a motion to release the bond, and it was seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0 with Commissioner Beale being temporarily absent. A copy of the “Release of Performance Bond” is attached [Attachment 8].

**(E) Town Square** – Commissioner Higdon stated that he has not seen a good relationship between the town board and this board during the term of his service. He explained that the county owns the town square property and leases it to the town. The town just put a new roof on the gazebo. He shared he believes there are some safety issues with the property and he is not sure where the liability falls – to the Lessor or the Lessee. He indicated there are exposed nails in the base of the gazebo, the electrical boxes are falling off the wall, shrubbery is terrible, and the paint is terrible on the building and benches, etc. Commissioner Higdon stated he would like to meet on that project and is already the liaison for the Town Water and Sewer Committee. He would like to get some estimates for cost which he believes is minimal and get some youth and community organizations involved in the project along with the town – possibly with a committee of 6-8 members. Commissioner Higdon will bring information back to the board next month. Commissioner Shields suggested a sign be placed to cover the safety and liability issues. Mr. Roland stated he will have the attorney look at the deed but he believes the liability is on the town.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented which includes: (A) Minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting and the February 26, 2021 special meeting, (B) Budget Amendments #225-232 with the addition of budget amendments #234 and #235, (C) Tax releases for the month of March in the amount of \$1,990.24, (D) COVID billing updates and fees for Macon County Public Health, (E) Application to the Public School Building Capital Fund/North Carolina Education Lottery in the amount of \$381,584.07, and (F) Monthly ad valorem tax collection report – no action necessary.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**(A) Town of Franklin representative on the Economic Development Commission (EDC) (one seat)** – Commissioner Beale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Young, to approve Mike Lewis to serve as the town’s representative, and it was unanimously approved.

**(B) Highlands Tourism Development Commission (TDC)** – A vacancy occurred due to the resignation of Mr. Jerry Moore. Mr. Bill Bubenick has agreed to serve and owns some rentals on Main Street and property in the Town of Highlands. Commissioner Beale made a motion to approve Mr. Bubenick, seconded by Commissioner Shields and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Tate requested

Deputy Clerk Decker notify the director of the Highlands Chamber of the appointment.

**CLOSED SESSION** – At 8:05 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session as allowed under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve the attorney/client privilege and 143-318.11(a)(5) regarding the acquisition of real property with a plan to take action following the closed session. At 8:33 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Young, the board voted unanimously to come out of closed session and return to open session. Chairman Tate reviewed the history of discussion regarding the potential purchase of real property in the Nantahala Community located at 36 White Oak Lane, Partial ID 6526-271654. The current owner is Brian Wendall Bateman and wife Kimberly Wishon Bateman with a property value of \$159,800 and an appraised value of \$158,900 for 1.2 acres. Mr. Roland stated there is a current signed offer to purchase the property at \$159,800. Commissioner Higdon stated he is no longer the liaison for the Nantahala Library but there had been many discussions about the purchase of this property during the due diligence period, the Bateman's have been very patient, the Health Department has evaluated the sewer for us, we have drilled a good well, had the property surveyed and now tonight there is some opposition that the library does not want to move. Commissioner Higdon shared that he had promised the people in Nantahala that he would push to buy this property for a library and a community center and, based on a couple years work and representation, made a motion to purchase the property, seconded by Commissioner Young, at a price of \$159,800, with the money to be taken from the fund balance. Commissioner Beale spoke in opposition of the purchase indicating there would be no purpose for the building as it would put the library four miles away from the school, the community club only meets five times a year, and there would be a significant cost to repairs to the building. He stated he believes we can do something better for the community and keep the library at the school because the school uses it every day and furnish them with a new building. Commissioner Young clarified his support based on the facility being used for other community functions such as reunions, birthday parties, etc., and he does not feel comfortable bringing those events onto school property. He stated it is not a perfect solution but his support is to move the community building/library away from the school and on to an independent piece of property. Commissioner Shields stated he did not know what the community club was going to be and since the library was not in support of the move, he could not support the motion. Chairman Tate stated he seems to be the man in the middle but hears both sides loud and clear. He shared that what pushed him over the edge was the email from the school board representative which equaled the support of two elected officials from the Nantahala Community to purchase the property. Commissioner Beale called

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the question and requested a vote. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote with Commissioners Tate, Higdon and Young in favor and Commissioner's Beale and Shields opposing.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business, at 8:48 p.m., upon amotion from Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Beale, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board

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Jim Tate  
Board Chair