



**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 13, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Tate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Tate asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Chairman Tate opened the continuation of the July 9, 2019 Public Hearing at 6:01 pm. Discussion resumed concerning the application submitted by Verizon Wireless, for construction of a 175 ft. monopole telecommunication tower at 575 CR Cabe Road, Franklin NC, 28734. The County Manager distributed to the board, all correspondence and new information which had become available following the July 9, 2019 Public Hearing. This information included email correspondence between the County Manager and Jim Lapann, Zoning Specialist with Faulk and Foster Real Estate, who presented at the July 9, 2019 Public Hearing on behalf of Verizon Wireless. The Manager's email to Mr. Lapann listed questions posed by the Board of Commissioners and those in attendance at the July 9, 2019 Public Hearing. Attached to this email were letters written to the County Commissioners on June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 along with color photographs which were submitted by Mrs. Diane Dodge (property owner at 267 CR Cabe Road), to illustrate and articulate her concerns regarding the aesthetic impact the proposed tower would have on her property's view.

A response to the Managers email was provided to the Macon County Planning Department in the form of a letter dated July 24, 2019 from Benjamin S. Herrick of Faulk and Foster Real Estate. Mr. Herrick was present at the meeting to speak on behalf of Verizon Wireless. Following the administration of oath by Chairman Tate, Mr. Herrick read his July 24, 2019 response letter into the record. A copy of the Manager's email, color photographs and letters submitted by Mrs. Dodge, and accompanying response letter from Benjamin S.



Herrick of Faulk and Foster Real Estate is attached (Attachment 1) and is hereby made a part of these minutes. Mr. Herrick also read into the record, a letter from Verizon Wireless to the Macon County Planning Department dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 which stated increased coverage area as the primary reason for proposing a 175 ft. tower, rather than a shorter 100 ft. tower as suggested by participants at the July 9<sup>th</sup> hearing. Attached to the letter were propagation maps which highlighted the enhanced coverage provided by a 170 ft. tower as opposed to a tower only 100 ft. in height. The August 9, 2019 letter and accompanying propagation maps from Verizon Wireless is attached (Attachment 2) and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Following Mr. Herrick's presentation, Chairman Tate invited questions from the board members. Commissioner Beale questioned the decision by Verizon Wireless not to employ stealthing techniques on the proposed tower. Mr. Herrick stated that stealthing techniques would lead to increased tower size requirements, as well as limit future re-location capabilities for additional providers on the tower. Commissioner Gillespie questioned if the towers would be constructed to accommodate 5G technology? Mr. Herrick responded that "all towers are currently being built for 4G technology" but the antennas used would determine whether 5G technology would be available. Commissioner Beale informed Mr. Herrick that Macon County had a history of telecommunication towers remaining empty following construction. Mr. Herrick responded by highlighting a provision from the Macon County telecommunications ordinance which requires towers to be in operation. He went on to say that the situation with the proposed Verizon tower is different from a situation involving a tower company who constructs a tower and makes it available to carriers for lease as Verizon is both the owner of the tower and the carrier. Commissioner Higdon thanked Mr. Herrick for addressing all conditions of the ordinance.

Chairman Tate administered an oath to Geoffery Stubbs. The Chairman also requested that Mr. Stubbs, for the record, attest that the statements he provided on July 9, 2019 were the truth, as no oath was administered to Mr. Stubbs at this meeting. Mr. Stubbs indicated for the record that the statements he provided on July 9, 2019 were the truth. Mr. Stubbs stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Stubbs family, who currently resides at 285 C.R. Cabe Road. Mr. Stubbs distributed to the board, a proposal for an alternate tower location, which according to Mr. Stubbs would provide a "visual aid" to the verbal comments he made at the last meeting. Mr. Stubbs then read into the record his proposal for an alternate tower location, and asked that board "use its discretionary powers and the laws that support those powers to reach a reasonable and thoughtful conclusion when considering this tower. A copy of Mr. Stubbs proposal is attached (Attachment 3) and hereby made a part of these minutes.



Chairman Tate administered an oath to Rick Reed. Mr. Reed asked that the board take into consideration that the tower as proposed would have a negative impact on the Clarks Chapel community and residents.

Chairman Tate administered an oath to Daniel Jimison. Mr. Jimison stated that his property at 437 C.R. Cabe Road borders the proposed tower location. Mr. Jimison feels the Clarks Chapel community has excellent cellular coverage while areas such as Tessentee and Ellijay have absolutely no cellular coverage. As a result, Mr. Jimison felt the tower should be relocated to the property as proposed by Mr. Stubbs or in an area such as Ellijay that has no cellular coverage. Mr. Jimison also questioned the internet capabilities of the proposed tower.

Benjamin Herrick again addressed the board as Commissioner Gillespie questioned how far apart the tower sites as proposed by Verizon and Mr. Stubbs were? Mr. Herrick estimated the two locations to be approximately 600 ft. apart, reiterating that the site proposed by Mr. Stubbs would not meet Verizon's needs due to the elevation at the site being lower. Mr. Stubbs approached the podium as he wished to remind the board that Mr. Herrick had not said that it was "technically impossible" to re-locate the tower on the adjacent piece of property per his recommendation. Commissioner Shields questioned whether re-locating the site to a different piece of property would bring about the same issues? Mr. Herrick indicated that this was a likely result. In closing Mr. Herrick reminded the board again that Verizon had complied with all provisions in the Macon County Telecommunications Towers Ordinance.

Chairman Tate administered an oath to Diane Dodge who attested that all statements she had made at the last hearing were truthful as well. Mrs. Dodge again requested that the board re-consider the alternate proposal as presented by Mr. Stubbs.

Chairman Tate administered an oath to Jack Morgan, Director of Planning Permitting and Development, who attested that all statements he had made at the last hearing were truthful. Commissioner Higdon confirmed with Mr. Morgan that all ordinance provisions had been met. Commissioner Beale then asked Mr. Morgan if it was up to us to "recognize and consider the effect something like this has on a community"? Mr. Morgan responded by saying "that was the commissioners decision."

County Attorney Chester Jones reminded the board that they were acting as a quasi-judicial body, thus could not visit the site or attempt to gain information

outside of the public hearing. Furthermore, Mr. Jones reminded the board that they have to make a decision in a “reasonable amount of time.” The original application for this tower was submitted in July. Commissioner Beale made a motion to close the public hearing and postpone a decision until the September meeting, due to the amount of information that had been presented at the meeting; motion was seconded by Commissioner Shields, motion passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Lenny Jordan** Chairman of the Library Board presented the board with a library update. Summer reading and STEM activities continue to be in high demand at the Macon County Public Library. The Macon County Public Library also has also assisted those in our community who are considered food insecure by serving almost 900 lunches over the summer. Hudson Library “Books and Bites” continues to be a big hit along with the “Kid Zone” who holds year-round afternoon programs. Nantahala Library continues to offer craft classes and has recently added water-color painting. In June and July alone there were 36,717 physical visits to our three libraries. **Emma Baker**, a sixth year 4H student reported that she would be attending North Carolina Youth Voices at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC, August 15-17. Ms. Baker gave a summary of 4H youth activities and stated that she was “excited to have an opportunity to make the best better” at the upcoming Youth Voices Conference.

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

- To move item 9H to 9B under reports and presentations.
- To add an item under Old Business as 10A, a revised interlocal agreement concerning the Southwestern Community College Paving Project.
- To add budget amendment #'s 47-49 on the consent agenda.
- Remove item # 11B under new business
- Closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege and to discuss a county employee's competence/qualifications.
- Closed session to discuss potential property acquisition.

#### **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**9A. Recognition of Special Olympic Athlete Jason Hedrick and Coach Eric Hall:** Chairman Tate recognized Jason Hedrick, Special Olympics Athlete and

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Coach Eric Hall, by presenting them with a Macon County Pen and Plaque. The County Manager informed the board that the pair has qualified for the Special Olympics National Invitational Games in Nashville Tennessee. Jason and Eric will be competing September 23-25 in a 9-hole alternating shot golf tournament. When asked for comment on the upcoming tournament Mr. Hedrick simply stated "show me the cash."

**9B. Update on VAYA Health and Community Crisis Plan:** Shelly Foreman, Regional Representative with VAYA Health, addressed the Board of Commissioners concerning recent changes to involuntary commitment laws at the state level. The changes to involuntary commitment legislation, according to Ms. Foreman has been years in the making and attempts to; reduce the number of involuntary commitment transports for first examinations to hospital emergency rooms, increase the number and availability of first examination sites, broaden the types of individuals who can perform first examinations, and implement a physical health exam that can be performed with the first commitment examination.

Legislation changes further require VAYA Health to coordinate working with community partners such as law enforcement, hospitals, magistrates, counties and crisis service providers to implement a Community Crisis Plan for the region. A draft of the Community Crisis Plan according to Ms. Foreman, has been completed by VAYA Health in partnership with Cansler Collaborative and focus groups throughout the region representing all counties.

Within the Community Crisis Plan, counties such as Macon, will be required to develop an Involuntary Commitment Transportation Plan outlining how it handles the transportation of those under an involuntary commitment petition. VAYA Health, within the Community Crisis Plan will identify training opportunities for non-law enforcement individuals or agencies that have been identified as transportation resources in the local Involuntary Commitment Transportation Plan.

In closing, Ms. Foreman expressed great concern over funding reductions to mental health which have been proposed in the state's biennium budget. Commissioner Beale indicated proposed reductions at the state level would be detrimental, especially to rural counties which make up 18 of 23 counties in the VAYA service area. Commissioner Beale stated that local programs such as the "No Wrong Door" initiative and Jail program will become increasingly important for providing mental health services in the future, especially in light of proposed funding reductions.

**9C. Presentation regarding county safety program:** Karl Smink with East Coast Risk Management provided the Board of Commissioners with a status



report on the firm's workings with Macon County. East Coast Risk Management acts as a consultant to Macon County, assisting with workers compensation claims management, Human Resources consulting and safety and compliance Issues as they arise.

Mr. Smink informed the board that Macon County's incident case rate, with respect to Workers Compensation Claims, has improved, despite challenges brought about through retirements and the need to train new employees. Macon County's incident case rate fell from 3.2 to 2.6 from 2016-2019. The OSHA recordable average for incident case rates, according to Mr. Smink was 3.8, so Macon County continues to be "better than average." This has resulted in a decrease to workers compensation premiums of approximately \$144,000 since 2016.

In order to continue this cost savings trend, Mr. Smink stressed that the county needs to create a culture of safety and compliance through implementation of a comprehensive safety program. Mr. Smink requested that the Board of Commissioners continue to support the Manager's Office in the development and implementation of a comprehensive safety program. Although funding might be required to accomplish this, Mr. Smink assured the board that any funding request would be discussed as part of the annual budget process.

**9D. Statement of Intent to relocate SCC Burn Building, fire training facility and other SCC programs at the National Guard Armory:** Dr. Don Tomas, President of Southwestern Community College presented a statement from the Community College Board expressing interest in the National Guard Armory site located at 192 Industrial Park Road, for placement of the SCC Burn Building, fire training facility and other SCC Programs. The Community College Board retained the services of Stewart-Cooper- Newell Architects, P.A. to evaluate the site. When questioned by Commissioner Beale on estimated cost of construction, Dr. Tomas responded that no cost figures were associated with the evaluation.

The County Manager informed the Board of Commissioners that the National Guard Armory site had not been transferred to Macon County at this time and reminded the board it had been included in the Space Needs Analysis, to be looked at from the standpoint of meeting the county's space needs. The County Attorney indicated it would be a good time to re-visit the Memorandum of Understanding between SCC and Macon County, pertaining to the property on Siler Road. Dr. Tomas informed the board that if a deed was granted to the National Guard Armory site, the college would deed back to Macon County, the property that was previously identified for Burn Building construction on Siler Road.

Commissioner Gillespie felt that locating the burn building on the National Guard Armory property could result in project savings. An attachment of the



letter of intent (Attachment 4) has been included and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**9E. Update on Convenience Center(s) Renovation Project and recycling**

**discussion:** Chris Stahl, Director of Macon County Solid Waste provided the Board of Commissioners with an update on the convenience center(s) renovation project, as well as an overview of recycling in Macon County. Mr. Stahl indicated that while the Nantahala and Carson Convenience Centers were the first centers earmarked for renovations, both of the projects are on temporary hold. With respect to the Nantahala site at Junaluska, Duke Energy is currently reviewing the formal proposal for site improvements. In the search for a temporary site to be used during the Carson center renovation, a potential site for a permanent relocation of the Carson Center was identified and negotiations to acquire this site are currently underway according to Mr. Stahl. In light of these projects being on hold, Stahl indicated that equipment had been ordered for the Scaly Mountain Center and upon receiving the equipment, renovations here could begin. Stahl estimated approximately 2 weeks for equipment delivery.

Mr. Stahl had indicated that the new equipment for the centers in Nantahala and Highlands had arrived. Chairman Tate questioned why the equipment ordered for Nantahala and Carson could not be used at other centers, now, while these projects were on hold? Mr. Stahl responded by saying all equipment was the same and he did not have to wait, however he would really like to be able to start improvements at the Junaluska site as soon as approval from Duke was given. The county manager informed the board that the site plan submitted to Duke Energy for the Nantahala site involves the need to get an encroachment permit over a forest service road bordering the site. Mr. Stahl indicated that he had discussed this with Duke Energy for almost 15 years now. County Attorney, Chester Jones asked Mr. Stahl for an opportunity to review the encroachment permit, prior to moving forward. Commissioner Gillespie encouraged Mr. Stahl to consider deploying the equipment he had at convenience centers in different communities now, and he felt that considering the circumstances, the citizens in Nantahala “would understand that”. Commissioner Higdon added that he wanted to be sure that renovations to the Nantahala site at Junaluska were not delayed once approval was granted.

Mr. Stahl then gave a presentation on the state of recycling in Macon County. For almost 20 years Macon County has ranked in the top 10% of North Carolina counties in per capita recycling. As of 2018, Macon County ranked number 4 in the State of North Carolina. Mr. Stahl then addressed some common misconceptions on recycling in Macon County. He informed the board that the Solid Waste Department does not put recyclables in the landfill, nor does recycling generate a revenue windfall to the Macon County Solid Waste



Department, as state law prohibits counties and municipalities from charging for recycling programs.

In closing, Chairman Tate informed Mr. Stahl, that he had recently attended a community meeting in Scaly Mountain, where the group in attendance expressed many concerns about the Scaly Mountain Convenience Center. As a result, the group presented Chairman Tate with a check for \$1,000 to go towards improvements at the Scaly Mountain Convenience Center. Chairman Tate presented Mr. Stahl with the check and requested that he write a letter thanking the Scaly Mountain community members.

**9F. Update on Cost Savings brought about by NC SHIPP:** Jennifer Hollifield, Director of Senior Services, Karen Robbins, SHIPP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) Coordinator, and Patrick Betancourt, Director of Social Services, provided the board with a report on cost savings generated by volunteers through the SHIPP program and other programs at the Senior Center. Mrs. Hollifield stated that in 2016, 9 Macon County SHIPP volunteers counseled 1,555 individuals for a savings of approximately \$1.1M. In 2017 8 Macon County volunteers counseled 1,139 individuals for a savings of \$1.2M. The 2018 numbers according to Mrs. Hollifield are just as impressive. In the three years, that records for SHIPP savings have been calculated for the State of North Carolina, Macon County has remained a leader in terms of dollars saved.

Karen Robbins added to Mrs. Hollifield's presentation by providing an overview of the SHIPP program; which uses volunteers to educate, advocate and counsel individuals on their Medicare. Macon County currently has 8 volunteers that have been trained to assist beneficiaries of Medicare. In 2018 according to Mrs. Robbins, these 8 volunteers assisted 994 beneficiaries for a total savings of approximately \$1.4M. This effort ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of 100 North Carolina Counties.

Patrick Betancourt, Director of Social Services, informed the board that the number of SHIPP recipients has increased by 23% since 2012. According to Mr. Betancourt Congregate and Home Delivered Meals has increased by almost 22% as well from 2012-2017.

**9G. 2020 Census and importance of Complete Count Committee:** Debbie Reese, Partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, gave a presentation to the board highlighting the importance of establishing a Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census will be conducted on April 1, 2020. Ms. Reese informed the board that it was her role to educate and engage individuals within her jurisdiction on the importance of a complete and accurate census count. For the first time ever according to Ms. Reese, the 2020 Census will have internet submission.



Ms. Reese distributed to the board a document prepared by the Census Bureau which identified all federal programs that use the census count as a basis for funding distribution. Commissioner Beale informed Ms. Reese that Macon County appealed the count from the 2010 census with no luck. The County Manager, who assisted with the 2010 census for Macon County added that while we do believe there was an undercount in 2010 that the response rate for Macon County increased over 20% from 2000-2010. The manager added that he hoped we would see this trend continue from 2010- 2020 through the continued efforts of the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Reese highlighted that the increase in response rate from 2000-2010 not only in Macon County, but across the United States could be attributed to the establishment of Complete Count Committees. Ms. Reese informed the board that Macon County would need to continue their Complete Count Committee efforts which began in 2010 on into the 2020 Census. The purpose of this committee, according to Reese is to identify and remove barriers to a complete count. A resolution titled "Macon County, North Carolina, Resolution for 2020 Census Partnership was provided to the board by Ms. Reese. Commissioner Beale made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioners Shields, motion passed 5-0. An attachment of the resolution (Attachment 5) has been included and is hereby made a part of these minutes. The county manager thanked Ms. Reese for arriving early to the meeting and giving a great presentation.

**9H. Information concerning "Drug Court" initiative in Clay, Cherokee and Graham Counties:** Ricky Hill, Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator for the Hinton Rural Life Center was not present to provide an update on the "Drug Court" initiative in Clay, Cherokee and Graham Counties. Item was removed from agenda.

**9I. Presentation regarding Highlands Performing Arts Center:** Cindy Trevathon, a resident of the Highlands community, informed the board that she was present to solicit support for the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Currently the Highlands Performing Arts Center occupies two facilities; a Church and an Old School. The existing facilities are old, having structural damage, ingress/egress issues, parking issues, etc. according to Mrs. Trevathon.

Demand for performing arts in the Highlands Community has continued to grow. This increase in demand, combined with the existing aging facilities and the desire to bring Highlands performing arts under one roof, has resulted in an effort to construct a new Performing Arts Center. Mrs. Trevathon informed the board that to date, 100 private individuals have donated approximately



\$10M towards this project. Mrs. Trevathon then requested financial support from the Macon County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Tate and Commissioner Beale shared the opinion that a contribution to an effort such as this one makes sense as it will economically benefit the entire county. Furthermore, the county has previously supported efforts such as this one through donations to projects such as the Cowee School Heritage Center. Commissioner Beale made a motion for Macon County to contribute \$30,000 annually from the County's Economic Development Reserve Fund for a period of two fiscal years (\$60,000 total) beginning in 2019. Commissioner Shields seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0. County Attorney Chester Jones reminded the board that certain statutory requirements accompany an appropriation for economic development purposes. Commissioner Beale stated this was understood, and requested that administration work with the county attorney to prepare the requisite paperwork.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**10A. Revised interlocal agreement concerning the Southwestern Community College Paving Project:** The County Attorney provided to the board a revised interlocal agreement for the Southwestern Community College Paving Project at the Public Safety Training Center on Industrial Park Road. The county attorney informed the board that a change to the project scope, which included completely removing the existing asphalt base at a cost of \$12,740 had not been included in the original interlocal agreement, which called for a \$46,365 project. Thus, the existing interlocal agreement had to be amended to reflect the additional \$12,740 in project costs. The Finance Director notified the board that they had already approved an additional \$16,535 for this project in July, which is more than SCC was now requesting, thus no action would be needed to provide the additional funding.

The County Attorney then explained while no action was required to appropriate funding, the board must still approve the revised interlocal agreement reflecting the new total project cost. Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to approve the revised interlocal agreement, Commissioner Beale seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. A copy of the revised agreement has been attached (**Attachment 6**) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**11A. Discussion of Changes to Involuntary Commitment Transportation Proceedings:** The County Attorney informed the board that changes in state legislation concerning involuntary commitment proceedings would now require Macon County to enter into a Transportation Agreement which outlines how



the county and its municipalities will handle the transport of involuntary commitments. This agreement is required to be in place on or before the state mandated October 1 deadline.

The draft agreement as presented, according to the attorney, is reflective of how Macon County and its municipalities currently handle the involuntary commitment transportation process. This agreement however, could be subject to change as the Sheriff is currently evaluating the use of private providers to perform some portions of the involuntary commitment transport process. In the event a decision is made to use private providers, a change to the draft agreement as presented would be needed. Chairman Tate thanked the Sheriff and the County Attorney for their work on this document and following a consensus of the board, the draft agreement was taken under advisement. A copy of the draft Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement has been attached (Attachment 7) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**11B. Scaly Mountain Recreation Agreement:** Finance Director Lori Hall presented the Scaly Mountain Recreation Agreement which includes a \$5,000 appropriation from Macon County. The \$5,000 appropriation was included in the FY 19-20' Macon County Budget. Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to approve the document as presented, Commissioner Beale seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. A copy of the Scaly Mountain Recreation Agreement has been attached (Attachment 8) and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**11D. Brooke and Kevin Henze Occupancy Tax Penalty Waiver Request:** Finance Director Lori Hall presented to the board a request to waive Occupancy Tax Penalties in the amount of \$200 for Brooke and Kevin Henze. Motion was made to waive the penalties by Commissioner Beale for good cause shown, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, motion passed 5-0.

**11E. Colin Gooder Occupancy Tax Penalty Waiver Request:** Finance Director Lori Hall presented to the board a request to waive Occupancy Tax Penalties in the amount of \$129.02 for Colin Gooder. Motion was made to waive the penalties by Commissioner Gillespie for good cause shown, seconded by Commissioner Shields, motion passed 5-0.

**11F. Partnership with Macon Program for Progress to support the Smart Start Region A Partnership for child care health.** Chuck Sutton, Director of Macon County Program for Progress, requested \$12,000 from Macon County to support the SMART Start Program. According to Mr. Sutton, MPP received the SMART Start grant which had previously been administered by Macon County Public Health in July of 2019. The grant will be used to hire a Childcare Health Consultant at MPP.



The County Manager informed the Board of Commissioners that the SMART Start program was an asset to Macon County and that in working with Interim Health Director Carmine Rocco, they had been able to find \$12,000 within the Macon County Health Department's budget to fund the request by MPP. Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to appropriate the \$12,000 as outlined by the County Manager from the Macon County Health Department to Macon Program for Progress, Commissioner Shields seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. The County Attorney informed the board that an interlocal agreement between Macon County and MPP would be needed prior to disbursing the funds.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Shields, the board voted unanimously to approve the items on the consent agenda as follows: (A) the minutes of the June 11, 2019 regular meeting; the following budget amendments: #23 Social Services carry forward amount of \$1,026; #24 Appropriate Insurance Settlement money for Detention Center Van \$24,913; #25 U.S. Department of Justice Investigative Operations Project \$3,826, Sheriff's Department #26 Appropriate funds for Courthouse Security Project not completed in FY 18-19' \$75,858 #27 State, Federal, and Treasury Forfeiture Funds Appropriation of Fund Balance into FY 19-20' #28 Purchase of military service credit in the retirement system for an employee. NC law requires the employer to pay the cost which represents both employer and employee contributions for the service credit period \$14,731. #29 Transit carry forward funds from sale of vehicle \$1,413. #30 Transit Insurance Claim \$7,752 #31 Appropriate \$50,000 received from the Homeland Security Grant Program for the purchase of event support trailers (carry forward from prior FY) #32 Appropriate grant funds received from the NC Division of Emergency Management for two Tier II Grants one for \$1,000 and one for \$4,900 #33 Appropriate funds for Courthouse generator transfer switch not completed in FY 18-19 #34 Health Department Rollover of FY 18'-19' unexpended Zonta funds into current FY #35 Receiving new funds for WIC lobby improvement and equipment purchase in Health Department #36 Health Department Agreement Addendum for FY20 includes monies that are budgeted to pay for June 2019 expenses. Need to decrease total budget for FY20 from \$87,772 to \$79,725 in revenue and expenditures. This decrease will cover the expenses for June 2019 #37 Health Department Agreement Addendum for FY20 includes monies that are budgeted to pay for June 2019 expenses. Need to decrease total budget for FY20 from \$197,956 to \$187,825 in revenue and expenditures. This decrease will cover the expenditures for June 2019 #38 Health Department need to carry forward unexpended grant money to current FY20, Appalachian Regional Commission \$222,674 #39 Health Department need to carry forward unexpended grant money to current FY20, Mission Hospital

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Foundation \$18,604 #40 Health Department need to carry forward unexpended grant money to current FY20, Community Foundation of WNC \$13,572 #41 Health Department need to carry forward unexpended grant money to current FY20, Tobacco Grant \$712 #42 Need to carry forward unexpended contributions to current FY20, Mountainwise Services, \$3,079 #43 Receiving new funds for Community Health Grant/ School Based Health Center, Health Department #44 Animal Control donations roll over into FY20', \$950 #45 Health Department carry forward a portion of FY19' funds into FY20' for a total of \$35,690 on the "490 Emergency Overdose: Local Mitigation to the Opioid Crisis" AA. Health Department had originally budgeted \$150,000 due to funds expected but not yet guaranteed, thus the line item has been reduced until funds are received #46 for Housing to move budgeted funds between line items #47 Health Department carry forward Evergreen Foundation Grant unexpended funds to FY20', Evergreen Foundation \$49,269 #48 Carry forward of unspent funds for Cullasaja Community Association \$4,922 #49 Appropriate \$24,000 grant received from the Governors Hwy Safety program for purchase of MDT's and licenses. This grant requires a 50% match which will come from the Sheriff's capital equipment line; approved tax releases for July 2019 in the amount of \$8,813.15. Copies of the releases are on file in the Deputy Clerk's office.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Transit Advisory Board:** Commissioner Higdon made a motion to appoint Herb Sherlin, Selma Sparks, Angelo Ramos Jr., Reid Smithdeal, Lisa Jambon and Tim Fish to the Transit Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Shields and passed 5-0

**Health Board:** Commissioner Beale made a motion to re-appoint Dr. Melissa Bell, Pharmacist (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Teresa Murray, General Public (3<sup>rd</sup> term) and Dr. Jeff Todd, DVM (2<sup>nd</sup> term) to the Board of Health. Motion seconded by Commissioner Shields and passed 5-0.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Commissioner Shields made a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of preserving the attorney client privilege and to discuss a personnel matter involving the competence and qualities of a Macon County employee. Commissioner Beale seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0 and at 9:30 pm. the Board of Commissioners entered into closed session.

The board reconvened in open session at 10:12 pm. Chairman Tate informed those in attendance that the closed session discussion focused primarily on the County Manager and the exceptional job he has done for Macon County. Chairman Tate stated that "he could not be prouder of Mr. Roland and felt that one of his greatest accomplishments as a commissioner was hiring Mr. Roland



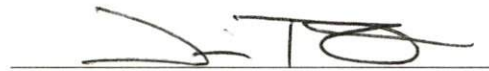
as a County Manager years ago. Chairman Tate went on to say that as a result of a job well done, the board was desirous to raise Mr. Roland's salary to \$140,000 annually in the form of a second amendment to Mr. Roland's contract agreement, to become effective August 19, 2019. Commissioner Beale made a motion to approve the second amendment to Derek Roland's contract agreement in the amount of \$15,760, along with the accompanying budget amendment to move the funds from contingency. Commissioner Beale went on to say that "there was no telling how much money Derek has saved Macon County" and he was a "bear dog after every dollar." Commissioner Shields seconded this motion and Chairman Tate invited discussion among board members. Commissioner Gillespie stated that "Derek was a very hard worker with a lot of ambition and the citizens of Macon County were reaping the benefits of that." Commissioner Shields agreed with Commissioner Gillespie's comments. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

County Manager Derek Roland then addressed the board, thanking them for the confidence that they have continued to place in him as county manager. He stated that it is an honor to work alongside the department heads and employees of the Macon County Government, and "it was the efforts of these individuals that the citizens of Macon County were reaping the benefits of". Mr. Roland stated that while he has never asked the board for a salary increase, he was greatly appreciative of their decision to increase his salary, and will continue to give 110% to Macon County.

**ADJOURN** : With no other business, and at 10:19 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Beale, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie Chairman Tate adjourned the August 13, 2019 meeting.



Derek Roland  
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Jim Tate  
Board Chairman