#### **MINUTES**

# WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025, & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, and Friday, February 28, 2025, in order to conduct a budget retreat to review goals and objectives for the County. The meetings originated in the Commissioners' Board Room at the Watauga County Administration Building, Boone, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Braxton Eggers, Chairman

Todd Castle, Vice-Chairman Emily Greene, Commissioner Tim Hodges, Commissioner Ronnie Marsh, Commissioner

Deron Geouque, County Manager/Finance Director

Lunch was provided at 12:00 P.M. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 1:30 P.M., welcoming those in attendance. Ms. Misty Watson, Finance Director Liaison, joined the meeting for both sessions.

The following topics were discussed:

## **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Deron Geougue

#### FY 2024 Review and Discussion of FY 2025 Budget

Major Kelly Redmon, Captain Preston Russell, & Captain Brian Bumgarner

- A. Sheriff's Report -
- Ms. Misty Watson
  - B. Revenues
  - C. Expenditures
  - D. Debt Service Report
  - E. Budget Calendar
  - F. Special Appropriations

#### **Review of Current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

Mr. Deron Geougue & Mr. Robert Marsh

- A. Current CIP Status Report
- B. Valle Crucis Elementary School
- C. County Facilities Assessment Update
- D. Board of Elections Storage Needs
- E. ARPA Projects/Funding

Broadband \$7,750,000
Kill/Chill Water/Sewer \$500,000

Mr. Jim Hamilton

- F. 911/Medic/Emergency Services Facility
- G. Library
- H. School Facilities

#### Break from 3:28 P.M. to 3:38 P.M.

# **Sanitation Facility Upgrades**

Mr. Chris Marriott

- A. Facility Upgrades
- B. Recycling

#### Tax Matters - 2027 Revaluation

Mr. Tyler Rash

## **Appalachian District Health**

Ms. Jennifer Greene & Ms. Lindsay Sullivan

- A. District Matters
- B. Opioid Plan

## Watauga County Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Jason Walker

# Watauga Medics

Mr. Craig Sullivan

- A. Annual Report
- B. Future Needs

## **County Manager's Summary**

Mr. Deron Geouque

Vice-Chairman Castle, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to recess the meeting at 6:02 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

Chairman Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Greene, moved to reconvene the meeting on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 9:01 A.M.

VOTE: Aye-5 Nay-0

## **EDC/Chamber Foundation Report**

Mr. Joe Furman & Mr. David Jackson

## Middle Fork Greenway Update

Ms. Wendy Patoprsty

# Watauga TDA

Mr. Wright Tilley & Mr. Matt Vincent

#### Break from 10:14 A.M. to 10:22 A.M.

## **Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute**

Dr. Mark Poarch

# **School Board Funding Issues**

Superintendent Dr. Leslie Alexander, School Board Chairman Dr. Gary Childers, Board Member Ms. Allison Idol, as well as Staff members Dr. Chris Blanton, Assistant Superintendent and Human Resources Director, and Ms. Joe Nash, Chief Finance Officer

- A. FY 2026 Funding Needs
- B. Schools' Capital Improvement Plan

# **Public Safety and Emergency Communications Matters**

Mr. Will Holt

- A. EMS Updates
- B. Communications Updates

## **Miscellaneous & Commissioner Matters**

Mr. Deron Geouque

- A. State Issues
- B. Commissioner Matters

# Wrap up, Goals, Objectives, and Board Directives

Budget Work Sessions are set for May 8, 2025, from 12:00 - 8:00 P.M. and May 9, 2025, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

The County Manager concluded the retreat by reviewing the issues discussed and seeking direction from the Board for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

**Braxton Eggers** 

Chairman, Watauga County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Deron Geouque

County Manager