

April 25, 2019 – Work Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a work session on April 25, 2019 Present were Chairman Bushyhead, Vice-Chair Burns, Commissioner Parton and Commissioner Seagle. Commissioner Parsons was absent.

Chairman Bushyhead called the work session to order.

Joe “Gunner” Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Items for Discussion:

Department Reports

-Ems/Emergency Management: David Breedlove reported the following:

E911 Dispatched agency calls: January-March 2019

EMS 621

Police Department 669

Sheriff's Department 2524

Rescue Squad 28

West Swain VFD 47

Alarka VFD 51

Bryson City VFD 113

NCFS 14

Other(Safe, DSS,SHP,WIA) 389

Total number of dispatched calls 4456

Total Calls into dispatch 7443

Last Quarter total number of dispatched calls

(October-December 2018) 4658

Emergency Management

-This quarter the Emergency Operations Plan has been updated.

-The full amount of the Emergency Management Program Grant was received due to all the required and optional items being completed

-We are working with the 83rd Civil Affairs of unit of the US Army to complete a project in this area. Out terrain is similar to the mountainous areas overseas, where military action are currently underway.

-We are working with the Health Department, DSS and Sheriff's Office to develop an emergency plan and exercise for several county facilities. We hope to extend the emergency plan to all county facilities in the future.

For more information, please see report submitted on file.

-Building/Grounds Report- Bobby Jenkins reported the following:

- Renovated Court House
- Prepared Federal Building for the Finance Office
- Moved the following offices:
 - Finance
 - Mapping
 - DMV
 - District Attorney
 - Probation
 - Clerk of Court
- Expanded the District Court Room to seat 85 people
- Renovated the old Clerk of Court office to seat 80 jurors
- Added 1 small bathroom in the Court House
- Repaired erosion problem at the Business Center
- Pruned trees and mulched around most County buildings
- Finished bathrooms at the soccer fields
- Helped the school install footing and foundation at the multi use building
- Installed footing and block wall at the Rec. Center "
- Completed regular maintenance as needed
- Purchased new diesel mower
- Purchased 90 degree finish mower for tractor

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Department Reports as submitted. Commissioner Parton seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Consider USDA Financing: It was consensus of the Board to authorize filing an application with the USDA for financing of 8 Ford Escapes, 2 Ford trucks, 5 Ford Explorers, 1 jail van, 2 maintenance trucks and 1 sky lift.

Ela Sewer District: The Board discussed creation of a sewer district in the Ela Community that would allow The County a venue to apply for water and sewer grants and would make the Commissioner the board of the district with the hopes that Tuckaseige Water and Sewer would manage the district once it's in place.

Strategic Planning: Kevin King reiterated the following options for help with strategic planning:

- Department of Commerce – Ann Bass – Free
- Western Carolina University
- Heath Shuler
- Send out a survey seeking input from the community

David Nicholson with the Association of County Commissioners is willing to meet with the Board to discuss the strategic planning process.

County Managers Report: Kevin King discussed the following:

- Event Park well and 100x120 ft shelter and bathroom to be built with grant funds
- Spay/Neuter Program will no longer be thru PAWS, it will be thru the County and contracted with the Bryson City Veterinary Office
- Sneider Electric Service is partnering with Swain County Schools, including this building to better correct energy needs. Swain County Schools will pick up the County's electric bills and we will reimburse them.
- Budget Meeting – May 2nd 5:30 pm
- May 8 – County Assembly Day

Commissioners Items

Vice-Chair Burns – Broadband meeting last week – Skywave was the only provider to apply for a \$260,000 grant in which Southwestern Commission will be the fiduciary of. ARC is offering a \$60,000 grant; Kudos to Marianna Black Library; met with Congregations 4 Children who is planning a summer reading program.

Commissioner Seagle: None

Commissioner Parton: Noland's Creek will be open Sunday at 10:00 am for decoration.

Chairman Bushyhead: United States Forest Service has implemented recreation fee changes in the Nantahala National Forest

Public Comments: None

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Chairman Bushyhead made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi C. Woodard,
Clerk to the Board
Swain County Commissioners

Ben Bushyhead,
Chairman
Swain County Commissioners