

August 22, 2019 – Work Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a work session on August 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Bushyhead, Vice-Chair Burns, Commissioner Parton, Commissioner Parsons and Commissioner Seagle.

Joe “Gunner” Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Bushyhead called the work session to order.

Items for Discussion:

-2020 Census Partnership Resolution and Information: Debbie Reese gave an update on the Census including the partnership resolution and time line. The resolution will be considered at the next Regular Session.

-Strategic Planning: Ann Bass and Russ Harris discussed proposed Community Meetings Facilitation with Swain County and Southwestern Commission partnering together and going out into Alarka, Birdtown/Whittier/Ela, Almond, Swain County Courthouse and Swain County Administration Buildings seeking public input.

Department Reports:

-Solid Waste: Scott Turpin presented the following report:

During the fiscal year July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019 the Solid Waste Department collected 8,305.70 tons of refuse. This tonnage was transported to waste management in Homer, Georgia for disposal. There was 1,521.21 tons of recycling collected during the past fiscal year. Last year our refuse was 8,049.72 tons, making our tonnage up 255.98. last year our recycling was 1,558.15 tons making our recycling down 36.94 tons this year. See attached sheets for a break down of refuse and recycling tonnages. Last year we added a fourth trailer to hold the increase of refuse. Last year we took 399 loads of refuse to Homer, Georgia. This year we took 437 trips making our trips up this year 38 loads. We have all the compactors installed at the schools and one at the jail. We have been working with the State to reduce the contamination in our recycling. See attached litter from the state. Lee Hill, the State Inspector came in April 2019 and inspected the Sanitation Department and LCID Landfill. No fines or violations were given. Scott Turpin

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to accept the Solid Waste Report as submitted. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Inspections: Bill Marr presented a report for January 1, 2019 thru August 16, 2019 and gave a comparison with the same time frame last year. In 2018 there were 47 residential new single family permits issued, 109 building permits, 193 electrical permits, 80 plumbing permits, 177 mechanical permits, 7 manufactured home permits with a total of 566 permits issued totaling \$47,721.28 in fees and 1993 total inspections.

For January 1, 2019 thru August 16, 2019 Mr. Marr reported 48 residential new single family permits issued, 125 building permits, 227 electrical permits, 90 plumbing permits, 202 mechanical permits, 15 manufactured home permits with a total of 659 permits issued totaling \$79,685.29 in permit fees and 2,673 total inspections made. Commercial projects started this year include the Swain County High School project, Stonebrook Lodge and Bakery on Main. Commissioner Parsons made a motion to accept this report as presented. Vice-Chair Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Tax Office: Peggy Hyde submitted the following report:

As you can see from the collection report presented on August 8, 2019, our collection rate for the month of July exceeded 2018 and started our new year out well!

Our reappraisal is well under way. We will start advertising in November that our personnel will be out beginning the field work required. Having pictometry has helped tremendously with parcels that needed to be looked at with taxpayers concerns. Jessica, with Ruth Ann's assistance, reduced the number of neighborhoods for the whole county. Jessica has also done data input to assist in the reappraisal and she now has her certification in mass reappraisal.

Ramona is continuing with the audit mapping. It is a very tedious undertaking but will be an asset to the County.

Janea is doing very well in collections. There is a lot to learn but she is well on her way!

Dawn is to be commended for her work on delinquent taxes. She mails out letters, sets up

payment agreements and checks the book each month to ensure payments are coming in as scheduled.

Tax foreclosures are proceeding well. Some of the most difficult ones, deceased, moved, etc are being taken care of first.

re have had several very good comments on our coupons this year. Then of course we have the ones that say "I pay my taxes every year. Why did you sand me coupons?" One thing about our tax office, there is seldom a "dull" moment.

As always, thank you for your support. I could not do my job without it!

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to accept the report as presented. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Cochran reported 627 incidents/investigations, 315 arrests, 160 citations, and 208 civil papers served. He also gave agency billing reports, aging report, and noted ***From March 28 thru August 19, 2019:

There were 527 inmates committed to the detention center.

This same period there were 504 inmates released.

***From Jan. 1 thru August 19, 2019:

Total revenue for housing inmates from Buncombe, Burke, Catawba, Cherokee, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, McDowell and the State Misdemeanor Confinement Program plus the Federal inmates from North Carolina and East Tenn. Generated \$612,838.00 with the Federal inmates being the bulk of it. N.C, Federal inmates for this period is \$383,036.00. We started housing East Tenn. Federal inmates on April 4, 2019 and have already generated \$140,182.00. The total revenue from Federal inmates from Jan. 1 thru August 19, 2019 is \$523,218.00.

***As of August 19, 2019 there were 19 Federal inmates from East Tenn. and 37 N.C. Federal inmates for a total of 56 with a daily per deim of \$3472.00/day and if this trend continues this would generate \$1,267,289/year. For more information, see written report on file in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Seagle made a motion to accept the report as given. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Community Health Improvement Plan Update – The Public Health Educator, Trish Hipgrave presented the new electronic Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), how to use and the report itself. Trish walked the Commissioners through each priority's strategies, indicators and performance measures. Ben Bushyhead asked about the School Nutrition Policy and why it was included. Trish informed the Commissioners that the School Health Advisory Committee Members also attended one of the listening sessions and thought the county should support a nutrition policy. The policy is still in the development stage and the CHIP report is more about what we want to do, not necessarily what we are doing.

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the CHIP as presented. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Marianna Black Library Board Nominee: Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to appoint Mary Wachacha to serve for a three year term expiring June 30, 2022. Commissioner Parton seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Animal Control Ordinance: The Board discussed the draft and scheduled a public hearing for September 5, 2019.

County Managers Report: Kevin King

-Mary Ann Baker is scheduled to attend the September 26th work session regarding audit software

-Restrooms at the Event Park have been completed

-Wanda Austin with NCDOT will be here next month regarding Highway 28

-Swain Cares is up and running, would like a commissioner to join the group.

-A Facebook page will be created for the Rec Park for community updates

-Surplus items are being listed and sold thru Govdeals but this time will be advertised locally only due to community interests in these specific items.

-Sheriff's salaries/7K plan – looking to dissolve it but would require comp time payout for several. A special session is planned for September 5th.

Commissioners Items

-Commissioner Parsons- Attended the Rec. Park Advisory meeting, the Fair, Giving Spoon meeting (they fed 124 last Thursday) and visited the Restoration House to get a better idea of what they offered.

-Commissioner Parton – Attended the Rec. Park Advisory meeting and noted lots of people enjoyed the fair

-Commissioner Seagle – Attended the Rec. Park Advisory meeting, opioid summit, checked out footers at the SCHS project, relayed TVA has a meeting scheduled at the Alarka Boat Dock September 12th regarding boat houses.

-Vice-Chair Burns – Attended the opioid summit but it's hard to know the impact due to each table having a specific theme, they're working on a plan for peer support for each county, Broadband got a new ARC grant submitted.

-Chairman Bushyhead – Attended the Rec. Advisory meeting, gave opening remarks at the Fair, relayed January 1, 2018 to now 180 animal complaint calls have been received with nine involving abuse and neglect.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Commissioner Seagle made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Parsons 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