

September 12, 2019– Regular Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Session on September 12, 2019 Present were Chairman Bushyhead, Vice-Chair Burns, Commissioner Parton, Commissioner Parsons and Commissioner Seagle.

Chairman Bushyhead called the regular session to order. Joe “Gunner” Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjust Agenda

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to adjust the agenda. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Tax Collector’s Report

Peggy Hyde gave the Tax Collector’s report to the Board for the months of August 2019. Ad-Valorem tax receivable for was \$5,443,752.04. There was \$805,691.56 collected for the month. Total collections year to date were \$1,622,693.03. The tax collection percentage year to date was 24.94%. Total releases were \$4,438.20, total discoveries were \$1,043.96 and total refunds were \$102.72. Commissioner Seagle made a motion to approve the report as submitted. Vice-Chair Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Budget Amendment #2

Commissioner Parsons made a motion to approve the following:

SWAIN COUNTY - BUDGET AMENDMENT #2

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the County of Swain, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020:

SECTION 1. For the purpose of amending the adopted budget to reflect the following changes:

<u>Description</u>	Inc. Expenditures or Dec. Revenues	Inc.Revenues or Dec. Exp.
<u>General Fund</u>		
Jail- Salary Overtime Budget	45,000	
Comp- Buy Out program	3,000	
Sheriff’s Office- Overtime Budget	101,250	
Comp time Buy Out program	43,000	
Administration- McGill	28,000	
Western Builders	31,000	

General Fund Revenues

Transfer from School Capital		31,000
Appropriated Fund Balance		28,000
Jail Fees		<u>192,250</u>
Total	<u>251,250</u>	251,250

As Clerk of the Board, I certify the Swain County Board of Commissioners in a Regular Session approved this budget amendment on September 12, 2019.

Cindi Woodard, Clerk to the Board
Vice-Chair Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Public Comments: None

Action Items

- Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Parton made a motion to approve the August 8 regular session and August 22 work session minutes. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

NCDOT Updates: Tabled

Jack Taylor – Tax Issue: Mr. Taylor asked the Board to consider giving him an additional year to try to get his taxes caught up. Commissioner Parsons made a motion to deny the request. Commissioner Parton seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Resolution – Vaya Funding: Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the following:



**Swain County
North Carolina**

Resolution 900-2019-11

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING TO MEET THE MENTAL HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF SWAIN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Swain County recognizes that, with appropriate services and supports, individuals with mental health and substance use disorders can achieve recovery; and

WHEREAS, Swain County further recognizes that individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (“IDD”) can live productive lives in the homes and communities of their choice; and

WHEREAS, The amount of resources needed for mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services and supports is increasing due to North Carolina’s increasing population; and

WHEREAS, Swain County is a member of Vaya Health, a public Local Management Entity/ Managed Care Organization (“LME/MCO”) responsible for management and oversight of publicly-funded mental health, substance use disorder and IDD services for over 270,000 Medicaid-covered and uninsured individuals across twenty-two (22) western North Carolina counties (the “Catchment Area”); and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the goals of the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver expansion, the Vaya Health Board of Directors developed a comprehensive reinvestment plan beginning in SFY 2015-16 as part of a focused effort to reduce unnecessary emergency department admissions, divert people from incarceration and institutionalization, combat the opioid epidemic, and support county Departments of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, Vaya has already reinvested \$18.5 million of its Medicaid savings in a broad array of initiatives designed to directly address the needs of the citizens of Swain County, including but not limited to expanding Facility Based Crisis and Behavioral Health Urgent Care services, implementing an innovative evidenced-based service to support children aging out of the foster care system, distributing opioid overdose reversal kits, increasing provider rates and expanding Medication Assisted Treatment; and

WHEREAS, State funding for North Carolina's behavioral healthcare system has been inconsistent and inadequate for more than 17 years since mental health reform legislation was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has reduced State funding for behavioral health services (known as single-stream funding) by more than \$458 million statewide over the past four years, including more than \$48 million in cuts to single-stream funding to Vaya alone, while requiring Vaya and other LME/MCOs to continue offering the same level of State-funded services as before such reductions; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed \$9 million single-stream reduction in the pending State budget is passed into law, the General Assembly will have cut \$57 million in single-stream funding from Vaya; and

WHEREAS, despite these significant single-stream funding reductions, Vaya has continued

servicing the uninsured and underinsured using remaining State funds and Medicaid savings that were intended to be used for implementing its reinvestment plan; and

WHEREAS, such continued reductions have forced Vaya to eliminate, or halt work on, items from its reinvestment plan; and

WHEREAS, Swain County has continued to fund Vaya with County dollars to supplement services to our residents, but we are concerned that additional reductions in behavioral health funding by the State may increase the need for the local allocation and place additional strain on local hospitals, Emergency Medical Services, jails, housing, and other social service resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Swain County Board of Commissioners, do hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly:

- Stop cutting Vaya Health's State single-stream funding so that such funds can be utilized to strengthen access to healthcare services for the mental health, intellectual/ developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder needs of uninsured and underinsured Swain County citizens; and
- Allow Vaya Health to build up its Medicaid savings so that Vaya can reinvest in services and supports for our communities rather than mandating that such funds be used to replace reduced State funding.

Adopted this 12th day of September, 2019 in Bryson City, North Carolina.

Ben Bushyhead, Chairman
Swain County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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

Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

2020 Census Partnership Resolution: Commissioner Seagle made a motion to approve the following:



**Swain County
North Carolina**

Resolution 900-2019-09

2020 Census Partnership

WHEREAS the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a complete count of the population and provides a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy;

WHEREAS Swain County is committed to ensuring every resident is counted;

WHEREAS federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based, in part, on census data and housing;

WHEREAS census data help determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are necessary for an accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, county and city councils and voting districts;

WHEREAS information from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey is vital for economic development and increased employment;

WHEREAS the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law;

WHEREAS a united voice from business, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will enable the 2020 Census message to reach more of our residents;

WHEREAS the Census count requires extensive work, and the Census Bureau requires partners at the state and local level to insure a complete and accurate count;

WHEREAS Swain County and its appointed Complete Count Committee will bring together a cross section of community members who will utilize their local knowledge and expertise to reach out to all persons of our community;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that Swain County is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau and the State of North Carolina and will:

1. Support the goals for the 2020 Census and will disseminate 2020 Census information;
2. Encourage all County residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2020 Census and increase participation;
3. Provide CCC members and Census advocates to speak to County and Community Organizations;
4. Support census takers as they help our County complete an accurate count; and,
5. Strive to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons within our borders.

Adopted this 12th day of September, 2019 in Bryson City, North Carolina.

Ben Bushyhead, Chairman
Swain County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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

Vice-Chair Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

County Manager's Report

-Blue Ridge Health received \$650,000 grant to increase health care in the community.

-September 17th is the Swain County Employee Appreciation picnic at the Morgan Pavilion 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Parsons: Attended TDA meeting, Giving Spoon fundraiser, Fontana Houseboat-TVA presentation

Commissioner Parton: No Report

Vice-Chair Burns: The library meeting was cancelled, meeting with C4C next week, Broadband Committee meeting coming up, attended the Schools Facilities Meeting and The Giving Spoon

Commissioner Seagle: Attended the TVA presentation

Chairman Bushyhead: Relayed the

New Business

None

Closed Session

None

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Burns 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