

September 26, 2019 – Work Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a work session on September 26, 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:

Department Reports:

-EMS/Emergency Management/E-911: David Breedlove reported the following:

Emergency Medical Services

Trained over 250 teachers and school staff, while distributing 'Stop the Bleed' kits, at Swain County Schools, the Charter School, and Grace Christian Academy, as well as the County Admin staff In the process of applying for grants to establish a community paramedic program
Added two employees on a 9 am to 9 pm shift during busy hours This ambulance has been stationed at West Swain Fire Department several shifts
Currently have 2 openings, with no applications

Emergency Management

Completed the National Weather Service requirements for certification as a "Storm Ready Community"

The Weather Service will be at a future meeting to present the certification to the board (additional information is included)

Developed a template for each County Department to use for an all hazards emergency plan (an example is included)

The templates have been distributed to each department

Worked with the school system to hold tabletop drills for emergency planning purposes

Worked with Mountain View Manor to hold a walk through drill

Developed an emergency exercise plan for DSS, the exercise is scheduled for October

Completed requirements for the Hazard Mitigation Planning grant

Assisted the Town of Bryson City with developing a Dam Safety plan for the old water impoundment dam on Lands Creek

-Presented an Emergency Action Plan for Swain County Administrative Offices

Department Report September 2019

911 Emergency Communications

Dispatched agency calls: June-September 2019

EMS	808
Police Department	1290
Sheriffs Department	2524
Rescue Squad	104
West Swain VFD	59
AlarkaVFD	89
Bryson City VFD	158
NCFS	17
Other(Safe, DSS,SHP;WIA)	2188
Total number of dispatched calls	237
Total Calls into dispatch	12103
Last Quarter total number of dispatched calls (March-May 2019)	5237

We have two interns from Swain County High School currently working with the 911 dispatchers, and have a student from WCU scheduled to work with the dispatchers next semester

Community Paramedic

Community paramedicine is a relatively new and evolving healthcare model. It allows paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to operate in expanded roles by assisting with public health and primary healthcare and preventive services to underserved populations in the community. The goal is to improve access to care and avoid duplicating existing services. Some rural patients lack access to primary care and use 9-1-1 and emergency medical services (EMS) to receive healthcare in non-emergency situations. This can create a burden for EMS personnel and health systems in rural areas. Community paramedics can work in a public health and primary care role to address the needs of rural residents in a more efficient and proactive way.

RENEW Bryson City: Hidden in plain Sight is an educational awareness tool to help parents. The bedroom display will be at the library September 28, 2019 for parents to visit and see how many places drugs or other paraphernalia may be hidden.

Animal Control Ordinance discussion: Some concerns addressed included the uncertain cost of the implementation once in place, where the funding source would come from, the effect or non-effect on the Town of Bryson City, and fees.

County Managers Report: Kevin King

-Involved in 3 grants currently – Health Department/dentistry, EMS and Recreation/Day camp pool enhancement. Mr. King asked the Board for permission to submit letters of support for each. Commissioner Parsons made a motion granting said permission. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Genealogy building is 50% complete

-Planning a Christmas dinner for mid-November and will distribute bonuses at that time.

-S.C. High School project is going well

-S.C. Administration Building HVAC update; looking at different methods of replacements

Commissioners Items

-Vice-Chair Burns – attended literacy council meeting, waiting to hear from ARC grant for Broadband, commended Linda Dills for C4C program, meeting with Southwestern Commission September 25th.

-Commissioner Seagle – met with Mark Sale and going to walk thru the property to get updates on future SC Schools' projects

-Commissioner Parton – Rec. Park meeting; discussed lights needing repaired, pool issues, Rec. Park Advisory resolution needs number of members decreased, discussed valve expense at the jail

-Commissioner Parsons – attended Four Square meeting in which four western counties were present and he was elected as vice-chair, they are currently down one member, attended the employee picnic, attended the literacy meeting, attended The Giving Spoon meeting

-Chairman Bushyhead – attended the employee picnic, met with David Breedlove, volunteers and the Family Resource Center who plan to check on the elderly, discussed needs of a couple lanes at the recycling center, spoke at Rotary and plans to speak at the Lions Club next month.

Public Comments: Comments were received from Nancy Argenziano regarding Animal Control and Joan Weeks regarding her retirement.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Commissioner Parsons 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