

June 12, 2007– Regular Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Session on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. Present were Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Lindsay, Commissioner Monteith, and Commissioner Moon. Commissioner Carson was absent

Chairman Jones called the regular session to order. Commissioner Moon led with prayer and the pledge.

Adjust Agenda

Vice-Chair Lindsay made a motion to adjust the agenda to better facilitate the meeting. Commissioner Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Approval of minutes

Commissioner Moon made a motion to approve minutes of the May 8 regular session. Vice-Chair Lindsay seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Public Comments

Citizens listed on the following sign in sheet expressed their concerns during this regular session:

Swain County Commissioners Meeting

June 12, 2007

Please sign in if you wish to speak during the Public Comment
Period concerning an item on this agenda.

You will be allowed approximately 3 minutes to speak.

Name	Address/Phone #	Subject	Organization
Virginia DeBord			
Mike Clappitt			
Rich Allison			Homeowner

Virginia DeBord expressed concerns for the following: revenue from the Rec. Park, no response in Sheriff's Salary issue, decisions made during Closed Session.

Mike Clappitt submitted the following comments:

PUBLIC COMMENT ITEMS
12 JUN 07

I. My apologies to the Chair, members of Commission, County Manager, Madame Attorney, fellow citizens of the community.

A. The public school system must have misinformed me or I have the definitions of **ACCOUNTABILTY** and **COMPLAINING** misconstrued.

Mr. Rich Allison made the following comments:

I have owned land in Swain County for over a decade and just recently built a home on that piece of property. For years I have anticipated living in retirement in Swain County and now the dream has come true. I thought my wife Carolyn Allison would be the only Carolyn Allison in Swain County and just last week I read in the Smokey Mountain NEWS that there is another Carolyn Allison the new president of the County Chamber of Commerce. Now I will have to measure my words when talking about my Carolyn Allison in public. Another irony in the journey of my life is that A.B. Allison was one of Bryson City's first Commissioners in 1887. WITH THAT SAID, My real purpose for being here is a brief input in the land - use plan. There are three components I would like to quickly touch on. Number one, the airport (100 acres) that is now used by a few private planes, fireworks, and model airplanes. The airport could house a research park very much like Torrey Pines (genetic research) in California and Florida and still be used as a small private airport. Green Energy a theme already present in this area and publicized by Don Hendershot would be a shot in the arm for the airport and Swain County. The road from the airport would include bicycle and walking paths, horse trails and camp sites along the way. It would wind itself into the charming town of Bryson City (Number 2) and down to the Tuckasegee River adding to the Green Energy theme. Going west of Bryson City on highway 19 and 74 are the major arteries to Lake Fontana (Number 3) which attracts millions of tourists. These three components: Airport Property, Bryson City, Lake Fontana would represent the Green Energy theme. The Village, Town and Community concept would have mixed use, control growth, and build incentives (such as credits) for developers and landowners. County Commissioners would need financial advisors, grant writers, site planners, and a up-to-date web page.

Tax Collector's Report

Peggy Hyde, Tax Administrator, presented a report to the Board for the month of May. Ad-Valorem tax receivable was reported at \$3,874,179.92. There was \$105,141.40 collected for the month. Total collections year to date were \$4,728,946.33. The tax collection percentage year to date was 98.45%. Total releases were \$3,413.40, total discoveries were \$611.22 and total refunds were \$28.35. Chairman Jones made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's report as presented. A vote was unanimous.

Resolution supporting Soccer Program

Commissioner Moon made a motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolution # 900-2007-6

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SWAIN**

"SUPPORTING A SWAIN-JACKSON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION"

WHEREAS, more than three million two hundred thousand young people are engaged in soccer in the United States, and

WHEREAS, soccer is the largest youth sports organization in the country, and

WHEREAS, soccer has more than five hundred thousand volunteers and administrators, and

WHEREAS, more than three hundred thousand coaches are involved, most of whom are volunteers, and

WHEREAS, the Swain-Jackson Youth Soccer Association wishes to start first in Swain and Jackson Counties and later bring in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood and Macon Counties in a seven county association, and

WHEREAS, this new soccer association wishes to engage the Swain County Board of Commissioners in a dialogue which emphasizes the benefits of kids playing soccer among which are:

- Builds self esteem, physical fitness, develops active lifestyle choices early for best success throughout life
- Engages, challenges, encourages kids
- Active participation is proven to help keep kids off the streets and away from drugs and alcohol
- Provides significant positive role models through coaches and other players, and

WHEREAS, the swain County Board of Commissioners wishes to support and nurture positive programs for youth in Swain County, and

WHEREAS, the Swain County Board of Commissioners wishes to encourage and support the new Swain-Jackson Youth Soccer Association.

WHEREAS, the Swain County Board of Commissioners in session, and after careful consideration, do hereby salute and endorse the formation of the Swain-Jackson Youth Soccer Association, and extend our best wishes for creative and positive experiences for the youth of Swain county

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2007.

Glenn Jones
Chairman of the Swain County
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kevin King
Clerk to the Swain County
Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Monteith seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Department Reports

DSS: Tammy Cagle, DSS Director, presented a report to the Board with an update on the progress in her Department. Ms. Cagle also noted a shortage in staff and increase of reports for the Children Services Social Workers. Ms. Cagle and Kim Fortner also expressed their concerns regarding salaries for the Department of Social Services. For more information, please see the written report on file.

Cooperative Extension: Jeff Seiler, Director of the Cooperation Extension Service for Swain County, gave an update on his department. Mr. Seiler noted major programs, events and activities performed by his staff. For more information, please see the written report on file.

Informal Discussion

-Commissioner Monteith expressed his concerns regarding the effects from the Balsam Dam break. County Manager King suggested a letter be sent to DENR or DWQ.

County Manager's report

Kevin King gave an update on the following:

-LEC

- Old courthouse renovations scheduled to begin within the next 30 days by Huskey's Painting Service in which Sherwin Williams donated the majority of the paint
Labor has been donated to remodel the 2nd floor and Zickgraf has agreed to donate hardwood flooring
- The carpentry class at SCHS will help with the renovations
- Improvements at the pool are working well

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Jones made a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin S. King,
Clerk to the Board
Swain County Commissioners

Glenn Jones
Chairman
Swain County Commissioners