

## **February 11, 2016– Regular Session**

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Session on, February 11, 2016. Present were Chairman Carson, Vice-Chair Moon, Commissioner Monteith, Commissioner Bushyhead, and Commissioner Burns.

Chairman Carson called the regular session to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Adjust Agenda**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Vice-Chair Moon made a motion to approve minutes of the January 14 regular session and January 28 work session. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

### **Finance Officer's Report**

Dean Kowal presented a report to the Board for January 2016. Ms. Kowal reported revenues for the month were \$1,172,294.31. Total revenue year to date is \$10,568,962.22. We have approximately 53.00% of revenues for 2015/2016 fiscal year. Expenditures for the month were \$1,100,827.61. Year to date we have expended \$10,621,984.28. We have paid out approximately 53.25% of the General Fund appropriations for 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Commissioner Bushyhead made a motion to approve the Finance Officer's Report as presented. Commissioner Monteith seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

### **Tax Collector's Report**

Peggy Hyde presented the Tax Collector's report to the Board for the month of January 2016. Ad-Valorem tax receivable was reported at \$5,550,987.64. There was \$529,906.81 collected for the month. Total collections year to date were \$5,778,338.30. The tax collection percentage year to date was 97.20%. Total releases were \$675.24, total discoveries were \$170.53 and total refunds were \$293.95. Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's report as presented. Commissioner Bushyhead seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

### **Closed Session:**

6:24 p.m.-Commissioner Monteith made a motion to go into closed session as called for under N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney. Vice-Chair Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

7:23 p.m. Commissioner Bushyhead made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Vice-Chair Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Chairman Carson noted there were no decisions made during the closed session.

### **Action Items**

**Approval of the proposed Tobacco Free Ordinance for the Swain County Recreation Department:**  
TABLED

**Approval of the Communicable Disease Report/updates:** Commissioner Bushyhead made a motion to approve the following report as submitted by Amber Frost:

The thing that stands out most in this CD report is our Hepatitis B numbers

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/abc/index.htm> -Link to CDC chart for hepatitis (general information)

After meeting with Robert Pace, Communicable Disease Consultant for the state on February 5, 2015, it was determined that the incidence of Hepatitis B in Swain County is on the rise. Other surrounding counties have also seen an increase, especially Graham. This is mostly likely due to the increased usage of intravenous, injectable drugs. Exposure is through sharing needles/equipment with infected people. It was discussed that drug users need to understand the importance of abstinence of drugs, and if drugs are used, no sharing of any drug paraphernalia should occur. An article was written in the Smoky Mountain Times by Ashley McGugan, RN to inform and educate the public on this matter. **This information was presented to the BOC along with the CD report last year for 2014.**

As seen on the CD report for year 2015 the Hepatitis B numbers have in fact seen a dramatic increase. Any increase is concerning but one this rapid is especially alarming, not only to us as a health department but state staff is concerned as well.

Hepatitis C is also a big issue in our small county. We have seen an increase in these cases as well.

Acute hepatitis C is what is reportable to the state because this means that the infected person is

symptomatic (sick) and their blood and body fluids are even more "contagious", or transmittable. There are many people in our community who have hepatitis and do not have symptoms or seem sick and can still transmit the disease.

Many people who have hepatitis do not even know it. Most often the persons who are most at risk are also the ones who are not getting any type of healthcare, for various reasons. Therefore it is harder to reach and contact these at risk people for testing and education. **Most likely our actual disease counts are a lot higher than what is reported because these are just the people that have come to a facility and been tested and there are so many who have not been.**

Community Outbreak Control/Prevention Measures-Next steps:

- 1) Vaccinating anyone who is not currently vaccinated for Hepatitis A and B is important (there is no vaccine for Hepatitis C).
- 2) Testing for anyone at risk is necessary.
- 3) Education regarding these diseases, transmission of the disease, and control/prevention measures is also very important. Control/Prevention measures include safe sex (using a condom) and no drug needle/equipment sharing,
- 4) **Getting this information out to those in the public who need it most is crucial.** This is what the state recommends.

There is some help coming down from the state level in regards to offering free hepatitis testing for our county but that is not yet in place (the focus for this is Hepatitis C, unsure exactly what will be included at this point).

Commissioner Monteith seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

**Approval – December 22, 2015 work session minute corrections:** Commissioner Bushyhead made a motion to approve the December 22 minutes with the corrections. Vice-Chair Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

**Budget Amendment #8:** Commissioner Monteith made a motion to approve the following budget amendment:

**SWAIN COUNTY - BUDGET AMENDMENT #8**

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, 2016:

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inc. Expenditures or Dec. Revenues</u>	<u>Inc.Revenues or Dec. Exp.</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>		
Building Inspections		
Contracted Services	12,000	
<b><u>General Fund Revenues</u></b>		
Building Permit Fees		<u>12,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>

As Clerk of the Board, I certify the Swain County Board of Commissioners in a Regular Session approved this budget amendment on February 11, 2016

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Cindi Woodard, Clerk to the Board

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

**Add to agenda:**

**Mountain Discovery Charter School offer to purchase:** Commissioner Bushyhead made a motion to direct the County Attorney and TDA Director to take a look at and help us make some determinations but it is the 1.1 acre up at the Charter School, we are proposing to accept the bid. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

**New Business:** None

**Informal Discussion:** None

**Public Comment:**

- Terry Stephenson-safety issues
- James Busbin- Mountain Discovery Charter School gym
- Carter Petty – Mountain Discovery Charter School gratitude toward the County
- Alan Carvalho – Animal Control Ordinance concerns
- Lance Grant – Animal Control Ordinance concerns.

Sheriff Cochran reported several incidents/calls have been made at Mr. Stephenson’s residence ongoing since 2012.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Monteith made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Moon seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi C. Woodard  
Clerk to the Board  
Swain County Commissioners

Phil Carson  
Chairman  
Swain County Commissioners