

### **March 22, 2018 – Work Session**

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a work session on March 22, 2018. Present were Chairman Carson, Vice-Chair Bushyhead, Commissioner Burns, Commissioner Parton and Commissioner Parsons.

Chairman Carson called the meeting to order and led the pledge.

Vice-Chair Bushyhead made a motion to adjust the agenda as needed and add a closed session item to discuss contract negotiations. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

### **Items for Discussion:**

#### **Department Reports:**

-Board of Elections: Joan Weeks reported voting by mail is now open and one-stop voting begins on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A State Board has now been seated and a local board should be in place within the next two weeks. Board of Elections has been busy preparing for the May 8<sup>th</sup> election.

-Tax Office: Peggy Hyde presented a report noting the Tax Office is showing an increase this year for ad-valorem taxes and motor vehicle taxes. Mrs. Hyde also gave an update on the Debt Setoff program, credit card payment options, foreclosures, second tax notices, delinquent taxes and the 2021 reappraisal.

-Inspections Department: Bill Marr relayed in the last 237 days they've issued 68 building permits, 113 electrical, 50 plumbing, 118 mechanical and 11 manufactured home permits with fees totaling \$31,677.49. Commercial projects include East Elementary, Mountain Discovery Charter School gym, Bryson City Assisted Living and Aquarium.

-Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Curtis Cochran gave an update on the Sheriff's Department and Jail including accidents, complaints, investigations, escorts, etc., arrests by offense, and incident crime summaries. Sheriff Cochran asked about the status of a cost of living raise and 9-11 holiday. The Board relayed the personnel committee would be discussing these items and will report back.

For more information, please see written report on file.

-Jerry Wolfe Proclamation: Vice-Chair Bushyhead made a motion to approve the following proclamation:



### **PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. JEREMIAH "JERRY" WOLFE**

WHEREAS, the County of Swain, North Carolina, respects and recognizes all of its citizens as valuable assets, does herein honor a citizen, Dr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Wolfe, who lived his life as a model and guide for all people. He sought not to be emulated but to set a path so those who chose could follow. He found reason to befriend and be friendly with all people he met and had contact, whether family, friends, neighbors, or as experienced in late life, professionals caring for his physical health, and

WHEREAS, he believed leadership was best exercised by persuasion, not coercion, he found the good things in people, whether they agreed or disagreed with him. He believed each person was a human being and deserved respect. To him all people mattered and that was the way he conducted his life, and

WHEREAS, his life was a life of service to others, it is of no surprise he cared deeply for his tribe. This deep feeling was seen in his belief that a tribe must preserve its heritage, culture, and especially its language. Dr. Wolfe was not and could not be described as an isolationist. He sought community over individualism, love over hate, and friendship over discord, and

WHEREAS, he cared much about education, formal and informal, he cared for all children. He would teach all who came to him for knowledge, offering not simply facts, but giving his insight on issues for the solving of problems when he felt such insights were needed or sought by a student and would better promote understanding and learning, and

WHEREAS, his service to others was a lifetime journey that began with his joining the United States Navy on July 21, 1943. He served on the Queen Mary, worked on an aviation repair vessel, and a destroyer escort. In June 6, 1944, he was part of the invasion of Normandy. He was the only Native American in his division, but he quickly earned their respect. A mason by trade, he was one of the last Cherokee stonecutters. Awards for his service to others were many, including an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Western Carolina University and on April 11, 2015 the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians bestowed upon him the title Beloved Man, not bestowed in more than 200 years.

WHEREAS, he was a humble man, not seeking the spotlight, he learned his philosophy of life, as the way he lived his life, caused the spotlight to seek him. In his 93 years, Dr. Wolfe gave us a life of service to emulate and love for fellowman we could adopt without regret.

NOW, THEREFORE, with this Proclamation, the Swain County Board of Commissioners does honor its own citizen, a man of bravery, fortitude, and service, to the United States of America, the State of North Carolina, The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and the County of Swain.

Proclaimed in Swain County this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

---

Phillip B. Carson, Sr, Chairman

Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Rec. Park Proposal: Vice-Chair Bushyhead made a motion to wait until next year to apply for PARTF. A vote was unanimous.

**Informal Discussion:** The Board discussed the following:

-Kevin King relayed the Local Government Commission unit letter received pointed out some deficiencies regarding Medicaid, etc.

-Mr. King noted he's working with the State to hopefully figure out a better methodology in calculation of Medicaid Hold Harmless. If it doesn't get figured out it could result in a \$150,000 deficit.

-Washington Trip Update: NC Association of Counties were invited by the President to attend. They announced funds would be available for infrastructure over the next 10 nationwide.

-Closed Session: 7:25 pm Commissioner Parsons made a motion to go into closed session as called for under GS 143-318.11(a)(5) contract negotiations. Vice-Chair Bushyhead seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

7:47 pm Commissioner Burns made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Chairman Carson announced no decisions were made at this time.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Vice-Chair Bushyhead made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Burns 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