

**TENTATIVE AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

**WATAUGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COMMISSIONERS BOARD ROOM**

TIME	#	TOPIC	PRESENTER	PAGE
5:30	1	CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER		
	2	APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 20, 2021, Regular Meeting July 20, 2021, Closed Session		1
	3	APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 3, 2021, AGENDA		15
5:35	4	CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) COMMUNITY UPDATE	MS. JENNIFER GREENE	17
5:40	5	WATAUGA COUNTY BROADBAND INITIATIVE	MR. BRAD SHIELDS MR. ROBBIE FARMER MR. BRANTLEY DAVIS MR. JODY BARNES	19
5:45	6	OASIS FUNDING REQUEST	MS. MICHELLE GRIT	35
5:50	7	PROPOSED RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APPALCART AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE FUNDING FOR RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN WATAUGA COUNTY	MR. CRAIG HUGHES	37
5:55	8	PROPOSED KILL CHILL FACILITY UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR SCOPING AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FUNDS	MR. JIM HAMILTON	39
6:00	9	PROPOSED PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM NEW RIVER LIGHT AND POWER	MR. ED MILLER	41
6:05	10	MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS A. Boards and Commissions B. Announcements	MR. DERON GEOUQUE	45 53
6:10	11	PUBLIC COMMENT		55
7:10	12	BREAK		55
7:15	13	CLOSED SESSION Attorney/Client Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Economic Development – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4)		55
7:40	14	POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION		55
7:45	15	ADJOURN		

AGENDA ITEM 2:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 20, 2021, Regular Meeting

July 20, 2021, Closed Session

DRAFT

MINUTES

**WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021**

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting, as scheduled, on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioners’ Board Room located in the Watauga County Administration Building, Boone, North Carolina.

Chairman Welch called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. The following were present:

- PRESENT:**
- John Welch, Chairman
 - Billy Kennedy, Vice-Chairman
 - Carrington Peralion, Commissioner
 - Charlie Wallin, Commissioner
 - Anthony di Santi, County Attorney
 - Deron Geouque, County Manager
 - Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

[Clerks Note: Commissioner Turnbow was not in attendance due to a family matter.]

Commissioner Wallin opened with a prayer and Vice-Chairman Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Welch called for additions and/or corrections to the June 15, 2021, regular meeting and closed session minutes.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to approve the June 15, 2021, regular meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to approve the June 15, 2021, closed session minutes as presented.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Welch called for additions and/or corrections to the July 20, 2021, agenda.

County Manager Geouque requested to add consideration of a parking agreement with Appalachian State University.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to approve the July, 20, 2021, agenda as amended.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

SHERIFF’S OFFICE MATTERS

A. FY 2022 Vehicle Purchase Request

County Manager Geouque, on behalf of Major Kelly Redmon with the Watauga County Sheriff’s Office, requested approval to purchase, from Ilderton Dodge (NC Sheriffs Vehicle Procurement Contract), eight (8) Dodge Durango SUV AWD V6 vehicles in the amount of \$30,702 each for a total of \$253,032.48 including tax and tags.

County Manager Geouque also requested approval for the outfit of vehicle emergency equipment at a cost of \$4,712.82 per vehicle for a total of \$37,702.56.

Adequate funds have been budgeted to cover the requested purchases.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to authorize the purchase of eight (8) Dodge Durango SUV AWD V6 vehicles from Ilderton Dodge in the amount of \$253,032.48 and the outfitting of the vehicles by Dana Safety Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$37,702.56 for the Sheriff’s Office.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

B. Request for Declaration of Surplus and Sale – WCSO K-9

County Manager Geouque, on behalf of Major Kelly Redmon with the Watauga County Sheriff’s Office, requested to declare “Moses,” a K-9 police dog, as surplus and to sell it to its handler, Deputy Dan Plane. Due to Moses’ age and hearing issues, the K-9 must be retired for use by the Sheriff’s Office. General Statutes allow for the dog to be sold for a negotiated price by order of the Board of Commissioners. In order for staff to carry out the order, County Manager Geouque presented a resolution for adoption and sought authorization to advertise the sale for ten (10) days prior to the sale for a fee of \$1.00 to its handler, Deputy Plane. Since the K-9 has been trained for duty, it would be best for an experienced handler to have ownership. Deputy Dan Plane would bare all future expenses related to the medical, care, and housing of Moses.

Commissioner Pertalion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to declare K-9 Moses surplus; adopt the resolution; and advertise the sale for ten (10) days prior to the sale with the understanding that upon completion of the ten-day notice, Moses would be presented to Deputy Dan Plane who would bare all future expenses related to the medical, care, and housing of Moses.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

C. Proposed Contract Renewal for Inmate Meal Provision

County Manager Geouque, on behalf of Major Kelly Redmon with the Watauga County Sheriff's Office, presented a proposed contract with Appalachian Regional Healthcare System (ARHS) for the provision of meals to inmates at the Watauga County Jail. This was a long-standing contract with the amounts modified slightly from previous years. ARHS has approved and signed the agreement as presented.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to approve the proposed contract with ARHS to be effective August 1, 2021.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

D. Request to Purchase New Body Cameras and Storage

Captain Justin Wood, Watauga County Sheriff's Office, requested approval of a new contract for Axon body cameras. The new contract would upgrade the current Axon body 2's to the Axon body 3's. The contract included more storage space for videos and additional licenses. The contract was for five (5) years for a total amount of \$147,524.25. The first (1st) year cost would be \$30,824.99. Adequate funds were available in the current FY 2021-2022 budget to cover the requested first (1st) year expenditure.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to approve the contract with Axon in the amount of \$147,524.25.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

E. Kustom Signals, Inc.

Captain Justin Wood requested permission to apply for a grant from the North Carolina Crime Commission for twelve (12) new Kustom Eagle 2 speed radars. No County match was required for the grant.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to authorize Captain Wood to apply for the grant from the North Carolina Crime Commission for twelve (12) new Kustom Eagle 2 speed radars as requested.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
 Nay-0
 Absent-1(Turnbow)

PROPOSED CHANGE ORDER # 2 FOR MIDDLE FORK GREENWAY

Mr. Joe Furman, Planning and Inspections Director, present Change Order #2 for the Middle Fork Greenway Section 4 project in the amount of \$10,623.50. The change order was necessitated due to unsuitable soils and the requirement to install a concrete “dead-man” to secure the bridge abutment. Blue Ridge Conservancy has agreed to pay for the Change Order.

Commissioner Pertalion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to approve Change Order #2 for the Middle Fork Greenway Section 4 project in the amount of \$10,623.50 with funds to come from Blue Ridge Conservancy.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
 Nay-0
 Absent-1(Turnbow)

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

A. Truck Bid Award Requests

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, presented the following bids for two (2) three quarter ton 4x4 trucks:

Vendor	Address	Amount Per Truck
Piedmont Truck Center	Greensboro, NC	\$30,186.20
Ashe County Ford	West Jefferson, NC	\$30,898.00
Modern Ford Boone	Boone, NC	\$29,798.00
Asheville Ford	Asheville, NC	Refused to Bid

Out of the four (4) vendors solicited, three responses were received. Modern Ford was the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$29,798 per vehicle with the total amount including tax and tag to be \$61,395.88. Adequate funds have been budgeted in the current fiscal year to cover the purchase.

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to award the bid to Modern Ford of Boone for two (2) 2022 F250 4x4 pickup trucks in the amount of \$61,395.88 which includes tax and tag.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
 Nay-0
 Absent-1(Turnbow)

B. Change Orders for Design Build Services

Mr. Robert Marsh, Maintenance Director, requested approval of a change order with Muter Construction for additional Design-Build services at County facilities. The additional services were for new roofs and HVAC replacements at the Human Services building and the Law Enforcement Center as well as the construction of a storage building to be used by both Parks and Recreation and the Maintenance Department and would be located at the new Community Recreation Center (CRC). The County has explored several options to address these needs and selected Design-Build as the best process.

The County has been very pleased with the performance of Muter Construction with current Design-Build contracts for reroofing the Courthouse and Administration buildings. It appears both projects would be completed within budget even though the contractor has battled several permitting issues as well as rising prices throughout every phase of the construction industry. The Administration roof was completed, and the Courthouse was scheduled to begin in late summer of 2021.

These projects were considered as well-defined, narrow-scope projects and good candidates for the Design-Build procurement process. Muter has proposed preliminary budgets based upon the criteria the County has provided them for estimating purposes as follows:

Project	Current CIP Estimate	Muter Estimate for Design & Construction	Phase One Fee for Design
Human Services	\$873,257	\$870,500	\$72,000
Law Enforcement Center	\$480,000	\$1,170,000	\$110,000
Sports Complex Storage	N/A	\$295,000	\$22,000

Adequate funds were available in the FY 2021-2022 budget to cover the requested change order. Upon completion of the design phase and as long as the projects were within budget, the contractor would submit another change order for the construction phase.

County Manager Geouque stated that the storage building at the CRC would be designed and constructed to blend in with the CRC and would meet Town of Boone requirements.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to accept the Change Order with Muter Construction in the amount of \$204,000 for the design of the three (3) projects.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

C. Picnic Pavilions Bid Award Request

Mr. Robert Marsh requested the Board award a contract to Carolina Recreation for picnic pavilions to be located at the new Community Recreation Center (CRC) outdoor fields. The following three (3) vendors were contacted and submitted bids for two (2) 24' x 34' all-steel picnic pavilions:

Vendor	Location	Slab, Building, & Labor	Amount
Carolina Recreation	Mooreville, NC	YES	\$62,581.50
Cunningham Recreation	Charlotte, NC	Building & Labor	\$77,252.00
RCP Shelters	Stuart, FL	Building	\$34,945.00

After further review, it was determined that two (2) 20' x 24' and one (1) 30' x 50' pavilions would better serve the area. Mr. Marsh contacted the only bidder who submitted a bid for the turn key project, Carolina Recreation, and negotiated the total amount of \$176,362.75 for all three (3) pavilions. Adequate funds have been budgeted in the FY 2021-2022 budget to cover the requested expenditure.

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kennedy, moved to award Carolina Recreation the bid for two (2) 20' x 24' and one (1) 30' x 50' pavilions for a total amount of \$176,362.75.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

D. Picnic Tables Bid Award Request

Mr. Robert Marsh presented bids recently received for sixteen (16) aluminum picnic tables to be located in the picnic pavilions. The following bids were received:

Vendor	Location	Amount
Peggs Recreation	Mooreville, NC	\$11,554.98
The Park Facilities	Delray Beach, FL	\$12,899.00
Beison Outdoors	Naperville, IL	\$19,824.00

Mr. Marsh recommended the bid be awarded to Peggs Recreation for sixteen (16) aluminum picnic tables to be used in the new picnic pavilions which were just approved.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to accept the low bid of \$11,554.98 submitted by Peggs Recreation in Mooreville, NC.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS

A. Watauga Community Recreation Center (CRC) Update

Mr. Stephen Poulos, Parks and Recreation Director, provided the following update on the County's new Community Recreation Center (CRC):

The Community Recreation Center opened on Monday April 26, 2021, at 6:00 A.M. and the overwhelming consensus of members, daily visitors, and tourists has been positive.

Mr. Poulos reported that there were currently 2,694 members and \$46,395 has been collected in daily fees generated by patrons who pay on a daily basis. As of July 9, 2021, there had been a total of 3,715 visitors. As there were computer issues for a time (which have been taken care of by staff), the figure could be even higher. Once the RecTrac software system was operating correctly, the visits per day went from around 175 to over 400 visitors daily.

Programming has continued to evolve and includes summer day camps, youth baseball/softball, swim lessons, as well as private trainers and swim lessons. The Pickleball, pickup basketball/volleyball and fitness classes also continue to grow and evolve. The Fitness/workout area has been very steadily utilized.

Mr. Poulos stated that a Pamphlet was developed that has been taken to the High Country Host, the local Tourism Development Authorities (TDAs), local hotels/motels, campgrounds, etc. to inform them and tourists of activities available at the CRC. Staff planned to host meetings with the local tourist industry to educate them as well so, when visitors arrive, they would be made aware of the facility.

Mr. Poulos stated that, soon after opening, the Wellness Center announced plans to close their pools to provide additional space for Physical Therapy. Therefore, Wellness Center members have chosen to join the CRC as well. They have also requested the facility open earlier in the morning. Mr. Poulos stated that staff has continually been evaluating numbers and programs and plan to keep the current hours of operation steady at this time.

Chairman Welch stated that the County was working with Appalachian Regional Healthcare System staff to meet the needs of residents upon the closure of the Wellness Center.

Mr. Poulos thanked all part-time staff and volunteers, including Dr. Ron Henries and Mr. Roachel Laney for serving as tour hosts to those interested in utilizing the facility. Mr. Poulos shared positive stories from patrons who have benefited from the facility and thanked the Board for making the facility a reality.

This report was for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

B. Donation of Surplus Equipment to EQUIP Sports Ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Mr. Stephen Poulos requested youth football helmets and shoulder pads be declared surplus and transferred to Equip Ministries and Mt. Vernon Church. The County stopped offering contact football several years ago and Equip fills that need for the County's youth. Mr. Poulos stated that it would be made clear to the Ministry that the equipment was used and would be transferred in as/is condition.

Chairman Welch requested to add the caveat that the Ministry have the equipment reconditioned prior to use.

Commissioner Pertalion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to surplus the equipment and authorize the transfer to Equip Ministries with the understanding that the Ministry would have the equipment reconditioned prior to use.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

PROJECT ON AGING MATTERS

A. Revised Allocation of FY 2021 Home & Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) Funds

Ms. Angie Boitnotte, Project on Aging Director, presented the following allocation revisions of FY 2021 Home and Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) funds approved on June 16, 2020.

H&CCBG Service	Proposed H&CCBG Allocation	County Match
In-Home Aide Level I	\$82,000	\$9,111
In-Home Aide Level II	\$55,576	\$6,175
Congregate Meals (drive-thru)	\$39,469	\$4,385
Congregate Meals (dining room)	\$2,182	\$242
Home Delivered Meals	\$109,349	\$12,150
Transportation	\$5,000	\$556

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to approve the revised allocation of FY 2021 Home and Community Care Block Grant (H&CCBG) funds.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

B. Allocation of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Supplemental Nutrition Funding (HDC5)

Ms. Angie Boitnotte stated that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Supplemental Nutrition Funding (HDC5) would provide supplemental funding for Senior Nutrition Programs to assist in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by helping counties provide additional meals to older adults. The Project on Aging was eligible to receive \$23,592 in HDC5 supplemental funding with no local match requirement. The funds must be expended by September 30, 2022. If accepted, these funds would become part of the Project on Aging FY 2022 budget.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to accept the \$23,592 from the Supplemental Nutrition Funding as presented by Ms. Boitnotte.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

TAX MATTERS

A. Monthly Collections Report

Tax Administrator, Mr. Larry Warren, presented the Tax Collections Report for the month of June 2021. Mr. Warren explained that the negative amount on the report was due to a recent settlement with Lowes Hardware. The report was presented for information only and, therefore, no action was required.

B. Refunds and Releases

Mr. Warren presented the Refunds and Releases Report for June 2021 for Board approval which also included the Lowes Hardware settlement amount:

TO BE TYPED IN MINUTE BOOK

Mr. Warren stated that Lowes officials authorized the County to apply their settlement amount as a pre-payment for their FY 2022 taxes.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to approve the Refunds and Releases Report for June 2021 as presented.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

C. Annual Settlement of Tax Collector

Mr. Warren presented the following Annual Settlement Statements for Fiscal Year 2021 for Board approval:

TO BE TYPED IN MINUTE BOOK

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to approve the Annual Settlement Statements for Fiscal Year 2021.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

D. Oath to Collect Taxes

Mr. Warren presented a proposed order granting authorization to collect taxes for Fiscal Year 2022. Once approved, a sworn oath would be administered to Tax Administrator Warren.

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to grant authorization for Tax Administrator Warren to collect taxes for Fiscal Year 2022.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

DSS VEHICLE BID AWARD REQUEST

County Manager Geouque, on behalf of Mr. Tom Hughes, Social Services Director, presented the following bids for a new Subaru Forester for staff use:

Vendor	Location	Amount
Jim Armstrong	Hickory, NC	\$24,324
Tindol Subaru	Gastonia, NC	\$24,425
Modern Subaru	Boone, NC	\$25,742

The County Manager requested the award of the bid to Jim Armstrong Subaru, the lowest responsive bidder, for a new Subaru Forester in the amount of \$25,059.72 which includes tax and tag.

Commissioner Pertalion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kennedy, moved to award the bid for a new Subaru Forester to Jim Armstrong Subaru in the amount of \$25,059.72.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Purchase Request for IT Dell Storage Device

County Manager Geouque, on behalf of Mr. Drew Eggers, Information Technologies Director, requested approval for the replacement of the County's current 28 terabyte (TB) storage device (SAN). The current device was five (5) years old and holds the vast majority of the data storage for the County. The new storage device, from Marketplace Solutions, would increase capacity by over 40 terabytes (TB) and include seven years of support. Total cost was \$36,318 and adequate funds were budgeted in the FY 2022 budget.

Commissioner Pertalion, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to accept Marketplace Solutions' quote in the amount of \$36,318 for the replacement of the County's storage device as presented by the County Manager.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

B. Boards and Commissions

County Manager Geouque presented the following for consideration:

Economic Development Commission

A term on the Economic Development Commission expired in June. It was a three-year term and the members was eligible to be appointed for two consecutive terms. Mr. Tim Hodges has served both terms and, therefore, was ineligible for reappointment; a new appointee was needed.

County Manager Geouque stated that a volunteer application was received from Ms. Virginia Lee Wallace who had expressed interest in serving on the EDC. This was a first reading.

Consideration of this appointment was tabled until the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission

Maria Hyde, the current Chair of the Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission (VCHPC) has moved, or would soon move, out of Watauga County which requires her replacement. Two people have expressed interest in being appointed to replace her. Membership consists of three resident property owners of the historic district, and two members of the Valle Crucis Community Council, regardless of whether they live in the historic district. Mrs. Hyde filled one of the resident property owner slots. Mrs. Rachel Ward who, along with her husband, purchased the Hyde's house was interested in being appointed to the Commission. Also interested was Mr. Pat Brown, who lives in the district along with his wife, Jennifer Stoeber. Both qualify to fill the position.

Consideration of this appointment was tabled until the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Watauga County Library

The Watauga County Library Board has recommended the reappointments of Dr. Scott Elliott, Ms. Roberta Jackson and Ms. Sandra Basel, for second terms to the Watauga County Library Board. These were first readings.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to waive the second reading and reappoint Dr. Scott Elliott, Ms. Roberta Jackson, and Ms. Sandra Basel to the Watauga County Library Board.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

C. Announcements

County Manager Geouque announced the following:

- The 114th North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference was scheduled for August 12-14, 2021, in New Hanover County. Visit <https://www.ncacc.org/events-training/annual-conference/2021-annual-conference/> for full information.
- The Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute (CCC&TI) Board of Trustees invited the Board of Commissioners to attend the Watauga Student Services Open House on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. The Open House would be held at 372 Community College Drive, Boone, NC.

D. Proposed Human Services Lot Parking Agreement with Appalachian State University

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wallin, moved to recuse Chairman Welch, as he was employed as a University Program Specialist with Appalachian State University (AppState), from consideration of this item.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

County Manager Geouque requested authorization to negotiate an agreement with AppState to allow for their use of the County's Human Services parking lot for home football games.

Commissioner Wallin requested that the date for the upcoming Luke Combs concert be added in the agreement as it would be held on campus.

Chairman Welch spoke on behalf of AppState and stated that the agreement would need to include any potential championship game as well. Mr. Welch stated that AppState would supply port-a-johns on site, provide shuttle bus transportation from AppalCART, and would allow County vehicles to remain onsite with certain spaces reserved for use of Social Workers, if needed, during game times.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to authorize staff to negotiate an agreement, similar to past agreements, with Appalachian State University for the use of the County's Human Services parking lot for upcoming football games, including any championship games, and the Luke Combs concert.

VOTE: Aye-3(Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)
Recused-1(Welch)

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Peralion, moved to reinstate Chairman Welch to the meeting.

VOTE: Aye-3(Kennedy, Peralion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)
Recused-1(Welch)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:45 P.M., Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kennedy, moved to enter Closed Session to discuss Attorney/Client Matters, per G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Vice-Chairman Kennedy, moved to resume the open meeting at 8:09 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wallin, seconded by Commissioner Pertalion, moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 P.M.

VOTE: Aye-4(Welch, Kennedy, Pertalion, Wallin)
Nay-0
Absent-1(Turnbow)

John Welch, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:
Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

AGENDA ITEM 3:

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 3, 2021, AGENDA

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AGENDA ITEM 4:

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) COMMUNITY UPDATE

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Jennifer Greene, AppHealthCare Director, will provide an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The report is for information only; therefore, no action is required.

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AGENDA ITEM 5:

WATAUGA COUNTY BROADBAND INITIATIVE

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Staff has been working with Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine/SkyBest to address underserved areas of the county regarding broadband services. Several areas of the county have been identified as underserved when it comes to broadband services through citizen contacts, petitions, surveys, and federal and state data. The current pandemic has amplified the lack of broadband services in areas throughout the county. The goal is to close the digital divide in our county and allow access to digital commerce, telehealth, online education, and digital media for our citizens.

The current proposal would build approximately seventy-five (75) miles of trunk fiber by Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine/SkyBest to provide seventy-eight (78) miles of distribution fiber for approximately 1,565 homes to access. The project would consist of four phases and be constructed over a two and half (2.5) year process. The four phases would be as followed:

- Phase 1 – Triplett/Powder Horn - would provide the largest amount of access to homes (503) and territory. 29 miles of fiber built.
- Phase 2 – Wildcat/Stoney Fork – access for 310 homes. 20 miles of fiber built.
- Phase 3 – Blackberry/Sampson -access for 252 homes. 16 miles of fiber built.
- Phase 4 – Howard's Creek/Ray Brown/Raven Rock – access for 500 homes. 10 miles of fiber built.

The project would utilize the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) funds. The estimated cost is \$7 million dollars. The county received \$10,911,724.00 in ARP funding. A small amount of funding has been utilized to cover unbudgeted COVID19 expenses related to the detention facility. County staff is continuing to review and develop projects for the ARP funding. Broadband is one of the projects that has been identified as high priority especially in lieu of the pandemic and the need for remote learning and work. The project would increase the footprint of broadband services, address several of the underserved areas, and lay the groundwork for future expansion. An additional benefit of the project is that staff has requested a set aside of fiber for future county buildings or emergency communication towers or equipment located along the expansion.

Should the Board wish to pursue the project direction is requested for staff to work with Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine/SkyBest to develop a contract for the project to ensure compliance with ARP funding guidance.



Watauga County Broadband Initiative



Brad Shields
Chief Technology Officer
Blue Ridge Energy

Chief Operating Officer
RidgeLink, LLC

Blue Ridge Energy
SkyLine/SkyBest

The Cooperative Difference

- RidgeLink and SkyBest Communications are wholly-owned subsidiaries of local member-owned cooperatives
- Providing excellent member service to this region for a combined 155 years
 - - Blue Ridge Energy since 1936
 - - SkyLine Membership Corp. since 1961
- Top regional employers with dedicated local staff
- Demonstrated commitment to community through grants to improve local quality of life, scholarships and economic development support





BlueRidge
ENERGY

RidgeLink,LLC



Fiber Optic Business

- Providing fiber optic service since 2001
- 570 miles of high count fiber optic trunk routes
- Currently deploying broadband with SkyBest in Caldwell County as part of the NC GREAT Grant.

Watauga Broadband Advantages



Great economic growth opportunity



County will receive 12 fibers on the trunk route to expand Emergency Management opportunities



Laying the infrastructure for future growth



Providing an opportunity for competition in areas with no competition

Broadband Deployment *(Underserved Areas)*

Blue Ridge Energy will provide the trunk fiber (highway)

SkyLine/SkyBest will provide the distribution fiber and fiber to the home solutions.

Phased approach for underserved citizens (members)

3 years of construction

75 miles of Blue Ridge fiber and 1565 homes touched

Attorney recommendation and sample contract pending

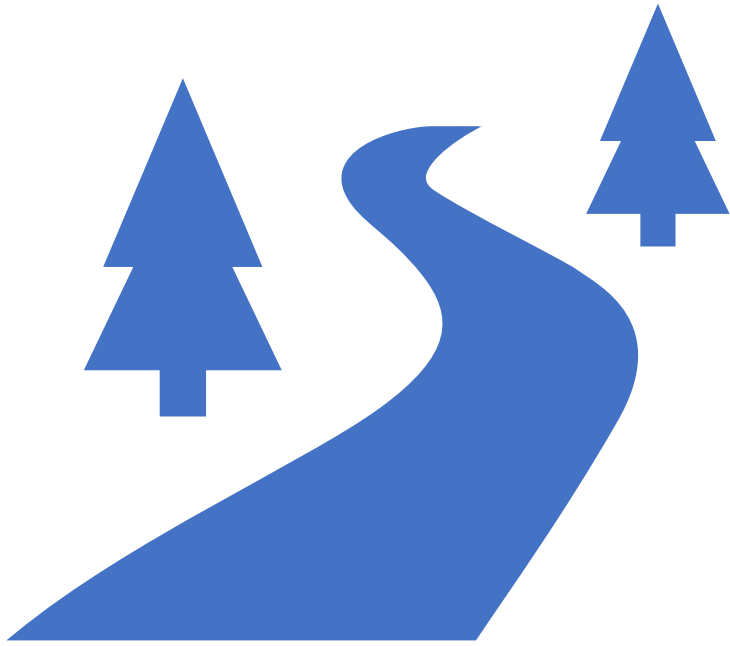
Phased Approach

Phase 1 – Triplett/Powder Horn – the largest area serving the most homes – 29 miles of fiber construction, 503 homes

Phase 2 – Wildcat/Stoney Fork – 20 miles of fiber construction, 310 homes

Phase 3 – Blackberry/Sampson - 16 miles of fiber, 252 homes

Phase 4 – Howard's Creek, Ray Brown, Raven Rock – 10 miles of fiber, 500 homes



Construction Challenges

- Completing in the timeframe needed
 - Would like a decision by the end of September, 2021
- Blue Ridge Parkway Crossings:
 - Holloway Mountain Road
 - Aho Road
 - Blackberry Road
 - Elk Creek Road
- Material availability – fiber optic cable and hardware – 50 weeks backorder on some products

Watauga County Broadband Expansion

August 2021

By: Robbie Farmer

Our Company



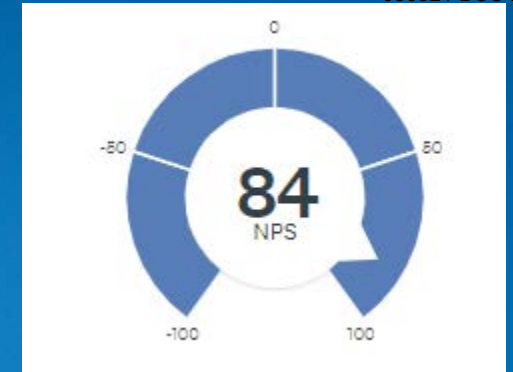
- ILEC established in 1951. Celebrating our 70th year.
- Largest of eight telephone cooperatives in North Carolina.
- 13 exchanges serving over 30,000 access lines and over 26,000 Internet subscribers.
- Serves five counties in Northwestern North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.
- 840 square mile service area.
- Just over 130 employees.
- SkyBest Communications: Established in 1998 as the Competitive arm (CLEC) of our company. Began offering service in Boone in 2008.
- Committed to broadband - More than 26,000 Internet customers today and over 20,000 customers served with fiber today.
- Our Mission is to provide state of the art communications and technology solutions enabled by a culture of excellence in customer service.

Our Network

- Staff dedicated to creating the area's best subscriber network so that our customers communications are reliable and secure.
- Viewed as a pioneer and leader in this space - we've invested over \$200 million in our network with more than 2,500 miles of fiber in service.
- We began placing fiber in our network over 35 years ago and have the most extensive customer-facing fiber network in the high country.
- More than 98 percent of our service area is covered by fiber facilities. This gives us tremendous power and flexibility in what we can offer our customers while making a positive impact on our local economy – increasing home values and providing local businesses with powerful connectivity.
- Our facilities include 13 Central Offices – Five in Ashe County, Three in Alleghany, Two in Watauga, Two in Avery and one in Shady Valley.
- Over 160 remotes hanging off of these Central Offices that push our services closer to our customers.
- All of our CO's and Remotes reside on intelligent self-healing fiber optic rings.

Interesting Statistics

- Over 30,000 customers.
- Over 26,000 Internet customers.
- Over 22,000 operational ONT's.
- Over 10,000 video customers.
- Over 300 video channels.
- Well over 160 sites (CO's, Remotes, Cell Sites, etc.).
- Spread across 5 counties.
- Supported and maintained by 1 local team.
- Finished 2020 with a NPS of 84 well above the industry average of 24



Recent Fiber Builds in Underserved Areas of Watauga County

- Walter Nielson / Big Hill
- Howard's Creek
- Highway 194
- Timber Lakes Drive
- River Road
- Winkler Creek
- Castle Ford Remote



Project Highlights

- 78 Miles of Construction
- 4 Remote Equipment Buildings
- 3 Remote Electronic Shelves
- 8 Field Cabinets
- 939 Projected Service Drops and Installations



Service Offerings

- Symmetrical Broadband Internet
 - Speeds up to 1 Gbps, that's 1,000 Mbps of download & upload
- Local and Long Distance Voice Service
 - With a full suite of premium calling features available
- IPTV Television Services with Competitive Lineups
 - Full streaming options available for those looking to “cut the cord”
- Security and Surveillance Systems
 - FREE onsite consultation

Project Challenges

- A significant portion of the distribution will be on private roadways. POA and/or individual property owner permissions will be required.
- Material Lead Times
 - Fiber Optic Cable – 26 to 52 Weeks
 - Remote Electronics – 18 Weeks
 - Home Electronics – 50 Weeks
 - Fiber Optic Pedestals – 35 Weeks

AGENDA ITEM 6:

OASIS FUNDING REQUEST

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Michelle Grit, OASIS Director, will request a one-time \$50,000 allocation from the County to pay off the remaining \$75,000 mortgage. The remaining \$25,000 would be raised by OASIS through corporate sponsors and fundraising. The \$50,000 is requested from the American Rescue Plan funds the County received.

As stated previously, County staff is developing a list of potential projects for the ARP funds. The Board reviewed the broadband project and will review the kill/chill project later on in the meeting. Other projects that are under review and development are water/sewer and affordable/workforce housing. The current projects identified and the ones being developed have the potential to utilize all of the allocated ARP funds and may require the Board to reduce the scope of the projects due to available funding.

The Board may wish to table the request until the County has completed and prioritized the list of projects to determine if there are any remaining funds.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.



OASIS, Inc.
(Opposing Abuse with Service, Information, and Shelter)

Serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence since 1978

Watauga County Commissioners
 Attn: Deron Geouque
 County Manager

July 16, 2021

Dear Deron:

OASIS, Inc. would like to request the County's help to support the agency's mission to break the cycle of violence through services, information and shelter in Watauga County. Since the pandemic struck, OASIS has been unable to hold our largest annual fundraising event, Midnight at the OASIS, in both 2020 and 2021. This annual event provides roughly \$25,000 in unrestricted funds each year for a total projected loss of \$50,000. OASIS saw a significant decrease in monetary support from organizations that count on in-person attendance for tithes, membership fees, and donations, such as the faith community, due to the impacts of COVID 19. In 2019, the Board of Directors set a goal to eliminate OASIS's portion of the mortgage held on the Family Resource Center of Watauga County, which is \$75,000. OASIS and the Board of Directors planned to raise these funds through the fundraising events canceled due to the pandemic.

To assist nonprofits in addressing COVID related budget shortfalls experienced over the last 15 months, State entities are encouraging nonprofits to partner with Town and County governments and request funding from our local appropriations of American Rescue Plan funds. In addition to the pandemic, OASIS recently experienced a decrease of \$60,000 in Governor's Crime Commission funding due to the reduction in VOCA funding from the Federal to the State level. Even more concerning is the additional 34% reduction in funding projected over the next 3 years which would cause an annual reduction of nearly \$100,000.

OASIS is requesting a one-time \$50,000 allocation from the Watauga County Commissioners from the American Rescue Plan funding. If Watauga County could make this investment in the agency, the Board has committed to raise the remaining \$25,000 through corporate sponsors and the *Pass the Hat to Ditch the Debt* events. Once the mortgage is paid in full, OASIS would redirect the \$2,000 monthly mortgage payments to provide shelter, 24-hour crisis intervention and direct services for survivors and their children (redirecting \$48,000 to support individuals and families in the first two years). **By funding this one-time request, the County is enabling OASIS to re-direct \$24,000 to direct services each year, every year.** OASIS appreciates the help and support from the County Commissioners to serve victims, survivors and children fleeing fear and violence since 1978!

Sincerely,

 Michelle Grit
 Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 1591, Boone, NC 28607 **Office:** 828-264-1532 **Website:** www.oasisinc.org
Watauga County Crisis Line: 828-262-5035 **Avery County Crisis Line:** 828-504-0911

*Thank you to the Family Violence Prevention Services Program, US DHHS, NC Council for Women,
 NC Department of Public Safety, and High Country United Way for financial support.*

AGENDA ITEM 7:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APPALCART AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE FUNDING FOR RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN WATAUGA COUNTY

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Craig Hughes, AppalCart Director, will request the Board adopt the enclosed resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and execute the designee certification form.

Board action is required to adopt the enclosed resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and execute the designee certification form.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WATAUGA

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS
WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION–
INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION
FOR GRANT YEARS FY 2023– FY 2027,
FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. 5311,
UNITED STATES CODE, OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES
ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OR STATE STATUTES
ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for transit projects as allocated throughout North Carolina by County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. That the AppalCART Board Chair is authorized to execute and file an application for federal assistance on behalf of AppalCART with the State of North Carolina for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 5311 United States Code, other federal statutes or state statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration.
2. That the AppalCART Board Chair is authorized to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances and other documents the State of North Carolina requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
3. That the AppalCART Board Chair is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the State of North Carolina on behalf of AppalCART

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of August, 2021.

John Welch, Chairman
Watauga County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board

AGENDA ITEM 8:

PROPOSED KILL CHILL FACILITY UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR SCOPING AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FUNDS

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Jim Hamilton, Cooperative Extension Director, will update the Board on the proposed Kill/Chill Facility to be located at the landfill. Mr. Hamilton will request the Board authorize the use of up to \$77,800 from the Golden LEAF funds to begin the preliminary engineering and planning process to determine actual project costs.

Board action is required to authorize the use of up to \$77,800 from the Golden LEAF funds to begin the preliminary engineering and planning process to determine actual project costs.

Update on Kill/Chill Facility & Request for Scoping & Preliminary Engineering Funds

Since the \$1 million was awarded by Golden LEAF in early June, Deron Geouque, Misty Watson, and Jim Hamilton met with Golden LEAF to review their project management & budgeting process. We need to provide them documentation of any approved funding as it is awarded. The Golden LEAF funds are contingent that all funding needed for the facility be committed/released before their release of committed funds.

On June 29, Jeff Camden, Program Director for Tobacco Trust Fund, visited the landfill site and Watauga Butchery to better inform their board regarding any questions about our project. He seemed very positive at the prospects. TTF funding is typically awarded in November. We requested \$250k from TTF (although full awards from TTF are rare). Additionally, Kelly Coffey with High Country Council of Governments submitted a proposal last week to the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$100,000 to support the project. Kelly will also be assisting us with submission of a proposal to the Ag Development Trust Fund later in the year when that grant opens. We have yet to hear anything back regarding the \$150k submission to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant program. We are still tracking the release of HB 182/IMPEC funding for any additional development costs for the project.

We request approval for up to \$77,800 (funding amount in Golden LEAF budget for design and engineering) to begin the site scoping & preliminary engineering and planning process for the project—and to get a better grasp of full project costs. We anticipate that the scoping/planning/engineering for the project will occur in phases. The first phase being site suitability/soil stability for the facility. Additionally, engineering estimates/plans will be needed for the water, sewer, pump station, grease trap, electrical, road, etc. infrastructure. Engineering for these elements of the project can be done by McGill, Bunnell Lammons, or another firm of county choice/bid process. Plans and any engineering for the construction of the facility itself should be coordinated with consultants/contractors with Food & Livestock Planning, Inc.

Engineering planning & cost elements will provide a clearer picture of actual costs for the development of the site and infrastructure for the project. American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds will likely be used to cover infrastructure costs. Former Commissioner approval will be needed for commitment of those funds as well, with any approval documentation sent to Golden LEAF as well.

AGENDA ITEM 9:**PROPOSED PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM NEW RIVER LIGHT AND POWER****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Ed Miller, General Manager of New River Light and Power (NRLP), will present to the Board options to purchase 100% or a portion of the County's energy use from hydroelectric facilities. NRLP will be entering a new wholesale purchase power agreement beginning in January 2022 with Carolina Power Partners (CPP). The new power agreement will reduce the County's utility bill by 14% or approximately \$50,000. The power agreement will also allow the County to purchase renewable energy at an increased cost. The premium cost is currently \$5.00 for every 250kwh sold or \$0.02/kwh.

The estimate if the County elects to purchase 100% of their energy from a renewable resource is \$34,296 (\$88,144 actual cost minus the 14% (\$53,818) rate reduction). However, if the County elected to utilize only the proposed 14% savings; 60% of the energy purchased would be renewable. The County could also select any percentage (%) to purchase of renewable energy or retain the \$53,818 in savings.

Staff seeks direction from the Board.



July 28, 2021

Mr. Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager
814 West King Street
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Mr. Geouque,

As I shared with you last week, NRLP will be entering a new wholesale purchase power agreement beginning in January 2022 with Carolina Power Partners (CPP). With this new agreement, there are several positive outcomes that we look forward to sharing with our customers. Two of these are a significant reduction in costs and the ability to offer renewable energy to our customers.

Current forecasts indicate that our customers will see a reduction between 10% and 14% on their electric bills. As you can see from the table below, based on most recent consumption, the County (excluding the two public schools) is projected to see savings in excess of \$50,000 or 14%.

Through our Renewable Energy Rider, NRLP will be able to offer renewable energy to any of our customers. With this being our first year of offering this choice, the resource we are able to use will be from hydroelectric facilities in Western North Carolina/Eastern Tennessee. However, this renewable resource will be more expensive than the new wholesale energy costs we will see from CPP. This increased cost must be passed on to customers who choose to purchase renewable energy as required by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC).

The premium cost is currently \$5.00 for every 250kwh sold or \$0.02/kwh. As you can see from the table below, if the County elects to purchase 100% of their energy from a renewable resource, the cost would be \$88,144*. However, if the County would like to use its forecasted energy savings, the County can purchase over 60% of its energy from a renewable energy source.

Both the Town of Boone and App State have committed to purchase a portion of their energy from this renewable resource.

As we discussed, I wanted to make the County aware of this offering and share possible scenarios if you elect to purchase renewable energy along with your peer government entities.

*Based on consumption July'20-June'21

Below is a table that provides additional data for each of your facilities.

										61%		
										61%		
	kWh Usage	kW-Demand Usage	Billed Amt	Estimated cost reduction	Retail savings by going to CPP	Cost for 100% renewable energy (\$5.00/250kwh)	Cost for 61% renewable energy (\$5.00/250kwh)	Net savings/(cost) of renewable purchase after CPP savings- Purchase 100% renewables	Net savings/(cost) of renewable purchase after CPP savings- Purchase 61% renewables			
Watauga County												
Add'l Ag Building	13,310	-	\$ 1,498	12.00%	\$ 180	\$ 266	\$ 162	\$ (86)	\$ 17			
Admin Bldg	133,680	33	\$ 11,361	14.00%	\$ 1,591	\$ 2,674	\$ 1,631	\$ (1,083)	\$ (40)			
Annex-Comp B	81,080	67	\$ 9,577	14.00%	\$ 1,341	\$ 1,622	\$ 989	\$ (281)	\$ 352			
App Enterprise Ctr	146,880	92	\$ 15,363	14.00%	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,938	\$ 1,792	\$ (787)	\$ 359			
Courthouse	485,920	167	\$ 45,274	14.00%	\$ 6,338	\$ 9,718	\$ 5,928	\$ (3,380)	\$ 410			
E Annex Court	121,200	76	\$ 12,436	14.00%	\$ 1,741	\$ 2,424	\$ 1,479	\$ (683)	\$ 262			
East Annex Elevator	1,177	1	\$ 334	14.00%	\$ 47	\$ 24	\$ 14	\$ 23	\$ 32			
Health Department	396,240	93	\$ 32,910	14.00%	\$ 4,607	\$ 7,925	\$ 4,834	\$ (3,317)	\$ (227)			
Human Services	409,500	277	\$ 44,931	14.00%	\$ 6,290	\$ 8,190	\$ 4,996	\$ (1,900)	\$ 1,294			
Law Enforcement	702,720	148	\$ 57,031	14.00%	\$ 7,984	\$ 14,054	\$ 8,573	\$ (6,070)	\$ (589)			
Library	156,960	69	\$ 15,114	14.00%	\$ 2,116	\$ 3,139	\$ 1,915	\$ (1,023)	\$ 201			
License Plate Agency	43,520	25	\$ 4,382	14.00%	\$ 613	\$ 870	\$ 531	\$ (257)	\$ 83			
Sewer Pump-Law Enforcement	2,814	3	\$ 493	14.00%	\$ 69	\$ 56	\$ 34	\$ 13	\$ 35			
Watauga Co Farmer's Mkt	15	-	\$ 240	12.00%	\$ 29	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 29	\$ 29			
Watauga Recreation Center	1,710,700	384	\$ 133,720	14.00%	\$ 18,721	\$ 34,214	\$ 20,871	\$ (15,493)	\$ (2,150)			
Total	4,405,716	384	\$ 384,665	13.99%	\$ 53,818	\$ 88,114	\$ 53,750	\$ (34,296)	\$ 69			
Total renewable energy purchased						4,405,716	2,687,487					
										68%		
										68%		
	kWh Usage	kW-Demand Usage	Billed Amt	Estimated cost reduction	Retail savings by going to CPP	Cost for 100% renewable energy (\$5.00/250kwh)	Cost for 68% renewable energy (\$5.00/250kwh)	Net savings/(cost) of renewable purchase after CPP savings- Purchase 100% renewables	Net savings/(cost) of renewable purchase after CPP savings- Purchase 68% renewables			
Watauga County Schools												
High School Baseball Field	160,240	131	\$ 17,501	14.00%	\$ 2,450	\$ 3,205	\$ 2,179	\$ (755)	\$ 271			
High School Football Field	380,480	270	\$ 38,021	14.00%	\$ 5,323	\$ 7,610	\$ 5,175	\$ (2,287)	\$ 148			
High School Flag Pole Service	531	-	\$ 274	12.00%	\$ 33	\$ 11	\$ 7	\$ 22	\$ 26			
Watauga HS Meter 1	1,231,080	348	\$ 105,786	14.00%	\$ 14,810	\$ 24,622	\$ 16,743	\$ (9,812)	\$ (1,933)			
Watauga High School Meter 2	729,000	256	\$ 80,765	14.00%	\$ 11,307	\$ 14,580	\$ 9,914	\$ (3,273)	\$ 1,393			
Hardin Park	1,071	-	\$ 325	12.00%	\$ 39	\$ 21	\$ 15	\$ 18	\$ 24			
Hardin Park 2	16,337	-	\$ 325	12.00%	\$ 39	\$ 327	\$ 222	\$ (288)	\$ (183)			
Hardin Park 3	546,480	228	\$ 54,691	14.00%	\$ 7,657	\$ 10,930	\$ 7,432	\$ (3,273)	\$ 225			
361 Jefferson 26115- Hardin Park	73,200	31	\$ 7,448	14.00%	\$ 1,043	\$ 1,464	\$ 996	\$ (421)	\$ 47			
361 Jefferson Rd Sec- Hardin Park	6,726	-	\$ 855	12.00%	\$ 103	\$ 135	\$ 91	\$ (32)	\$ 11			
Total	3,145,145	348	305,990	13.99%	42,803	62,903	42,774	\$ (20,100)	\$ 29			
Total renewable energy purchased						3,145,145	2,138,698.60					

Please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to discuss with you in greater detail.

Thank you.

--
 Ed Miller, General Manager
 New River Light & Power
 146 Faculty Street Ext.
 Boone, North Carolina 28607
 828-264-1444

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AGENDA ITEM 10:

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Boards and Commissions

Economic Development Commission

A term on the Economic Development Commission will expire in June. These are three-year terms and members are eligible to be appointed for two consecutive terms. Mr. Tim Hodges has served two terms and, therefore, is ineligible for reappointment; a new appointee is needed.

A volunteer application was received from Ms. Virginia Lee Wallace who has expressed interest in serving on the EDC. This is a second reading.

Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission

Maria Hyde, the current Chair of the Valle Crucis Historic Preservation Commission (VCHPC) has moved or soon will move out of Watauga County which will require her replacement. Two people have expressed interest in being appointed to replace her. Membership consists of three resident property owners of the historic district, and two members of the Valle Crucis Community Council, regardless of whether they live in the historic district. Mrs. Hyde fills one of the resident property owner slots. Mrs. Rachel Ward who, along with her husband, purchased the Hyde's house is interested in being appointed to the Commission. Also interested is Mr. Pat Brown, who lives in the district along with his wife, Jennifer Stoeber. Both qualify to fill the position.

AppalCART Board

The AppalCART Board recommends reappointing David Jackson, Frank David V, and Joe Eller to the AppalCART Board to maintain the continuity of the current Board. The term would be for two years.

Local Firefighters Relief Fund Board of Trustees

Stewart Simmons Fire Chief Doug Berry requested the appointment of Ms. Keron Poteat to the Local Firefighters Relief Fund Board of Trustees.

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions**

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form.
Please sign and mail or fax to:

*Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230*

Name: Virginia Lee Wallace

Home Address: 797 Possum Hollow Rd.

City: Blowing Rock Zip: 28605

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) 615.945.6724 (Fax) _____

Email: vwallace170@gmail.com

Place of Employment: Appalachian State University

Job Title: Leadership Annual Gifts Officer

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Stony Fork | <input type="radio"/> Watauga |
| <input type="radio"/> New River | <input type="radio"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="radio"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="radio"/> Meat Camp | <input type="radio"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="radio"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Elk | <input type="radio"/> North Fork | <input type="radio"/> Boone |

In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input type="radio"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="radio"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
| <input type="radio"/> South Fork New River Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Extraterritorial Area |

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Gender | Ethnic Background | |
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> African American | <input type="radio"/> Hispanic |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Female | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Caucasian | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| | <input type="radio"/> Native American | |

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1.
2.
3.

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)**

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

**Work
Experience:**

I was the Downtown Coordinator for the Town of Boone 2012 - 2017 and have served on several non-profit boards in our community. Additionally, I work in advancement at Appalachian State as a front-line fundraiser.

**Volunteer
Experience:**

Blue Ridge Parkway - Overall the Mountain Victory Celebration
Children's Playhouse Board Member, Treasurer
Watauga Women in Leadership Board member
Alabama A&M Library and Archives

**Other
Experience:**

**Other
Comments:**

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Form

Reset Form

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions**

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form.
Please sign and mail or fax to:

*Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230*

Name: Dr. Rachel Ward

Home Address: 2839 Broadstone Road

City: Banner Elk (Valle Crucis) Zip: 28604

Telephone: (H) 828-808-7913 (W) _____ (Fax) _____

Email: rachellycanward@gmail.com

Place of Employment: work from home

Job Title: stay at home mom / public health consultant

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Stony Fork | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Watauga |
| <input type="radio"/> New River | <input type="radio"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="radio"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="radio"/> Meat Camp | <input type="radio"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="radio"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Elk | <input type="radio"/> North Fork | <input type="radio"/> Boone |



In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="radio"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
| <input type="radio"/> South Fork New River Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Extraterritorial Area |

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Gender | Ethnic Background | |
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> African American | <input type="radio"/> Hispanic |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Female | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Caucasian | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| | <input type="radio"/> Native American | |

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. Valle Crucis Community Council 
2. _____ 
3. _____

**Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)**

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

**Work
Experience:**

-Revival Flower Farm, small scale market flower farm and wedding flowers, 2019-present
-Feeding Avery Families, community nutrition consultant, 2019
-ETSU College of Public Health, instructor and doctoral research associate, 2011-2014
-East Carolina Brody School of Medicine clinical research associate in their nephrology lab, 2010-2011

**Volunteer
Experience:**

-Antioch Church Tutoring program for Spanish - speaking youth in Boone, NC (ongoing)
-Public health consultancy for Karolyn Kempton Memorial Hospital; Togo, West Africa and Meniscus, Inc. (US -based NGO), ongoing
-Volunteer community health educator, Togo, West Africa (2015-2017)

**Other
Experience:**

-My husband, Bryant, and I are French speakers, having studied French abroad in preparation for 2 years of living in Togo, West Africa. While there, Bryant worked as a family physician at a 50-bed mission hospital and I helped with health education and microenterprise projects in the community.

-We intend to continue our small (market size) farm operations in Valle Crucis, building on 2 years of successful organic flower farming. We are passionate about organic farming and sustainable food production.

**Other
Comments:**

I look forward to living in Valle Crucis and raising my children in the community.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Form

Reset Form

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions

If you are a Watauga County resident, at least 18 years old, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please complete the application below and click on Print Form.
Please sign and mail or fax to:

Watauga County Commissioners' Office
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607
Phone: (828) 265-8000
Fax: (828) 264-3230

Name: Patrick Brown
Home Address: 217 Fork Mast Rd
City: Burnsville NC Zip: 28604
Telephone: (H) 828-773-8556(M) (Fax) _____
Email: pat.brown1029@gmail.com
Place of Employment: Motorcycle Medic
Job Title: owner

In Order To Assure County wide Representation Please Indicate Your Township Of Residence:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Stony Fork | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Watauga |
| <input type="radio"/> New River | <input type="radio"/> Brushy Fork | <input type="radio"/> Cove Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Beaver Dam | <input type="radio"/> Meat Camp | <input type="radio"/> Shawneehaw |
| <input type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Blowing Rock | <input type="radio"/> Laurel Creek |
| <input type="radio"/> Elk | <input type="radio"/> North Fork | <input type="radio"/> Boone |

In addition, Please Indicate If You Live In One Of The Following Areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Foscoe-Grandfather Community | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Valle Crucis Historic District |
| <input type="radio"/> Howards Creek Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Winklers Creek Watershed |
| <input type="radio"/> South Fork New River Watershed | <input type="radio"/> Extraterritorial Area |

We Ask Your Help In Assuring Diversity Of Membership By Age, Gender, And Race, By Answering The Following Questions

- Gender
- Male
 Female

- Ethnic Background
- African American
 Caucasian
 Native American
- Hispanic
 Other

Please List (In Order Of Preference) The Boards/Commissions On Which You Would Be Willing To Serve.

1. VC historic
2. _____
3. _____

Volunteer Application
Watauga County Boards And Commissions
(Continued)

080321 BCC Meeting

Please list any work, volunteer, and/or other experience you would like to have considered in the review of your application.

Work
Experience:

Local Watauga Business owner.

Volunteer
Experience:

Other
Experience:

Other
Comments:

12 year V.C historic resident (full time/year round)

Signature:

Pat Brown

Date:

5-14-21

Print Form

Reset Form



July 22, 2021

Mr. Deron T. Geouque, County Manager
Watauga County Administration Building
814 W. King Street, Suite 205
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Deron:

AppalCART would like the Watauga County Commissioners to consider reappointing David Jackson, Frank David V, and Joe Eller to the AppalCART Board to maintain the continuity of the current AppalCART Board. These current Board members have faithfully fulfilled their duties as Board members during their terms.

The AppalCART formative resolution states that at-large members and the transit user member should be appointed after completing two year terms.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Craig Hughes
Transportation Director

AGENDA ITEM 10:**MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS*****B. Announcements*****MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

The 114th NCACC Annual Conference will be held August 12-14, 2021, in New Hanover County. Visit <https://www.ncacc.org/events-training/annual-conference/2021-annual-conference/> for full information. Please let Anita know if you plan attend.

The Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute (CCC&TI) Board of Trustees invites the Board of Commissioners to attend the Watauga Student Services Open House on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. The Open House will be held at 372 Community College Drive, Boone, NC.

WATAUGA CAMPUS
STUDENT SERVICES CENTER OPEN HOUSE
CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

AUGUST 5, 2021

080321 BCC Meeting



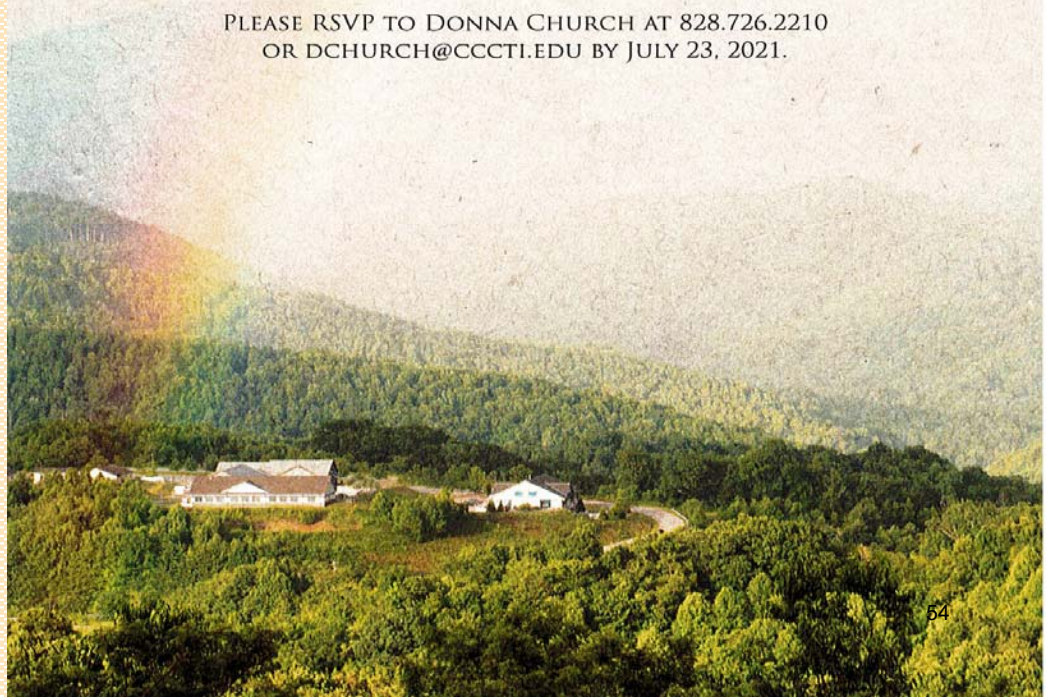
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

WATAUGA STUDENT SERVICES OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021
5:30 PM

CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
WATAUGA CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES CENTER
372 COMMUNITY COLLEGE DRIVE
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

PLEASE RSVP TO DONNA CHURCH AT 828.726.2210
OR DCHURCH@CCCTI.EDU BY JULY 23, 2021.



AGENDA ITEM 11:

PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA ITEM 12:

BREAK

AGENDA ITEM 13:

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney/Client Matters – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3)
Economic Development – G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4)

AGENDA ITEM 14:

POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION