Cleveland County Board of Commissioners October 1, 2019

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on this date, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices.

PRESENT: Susan Allen, Chairman

Ronnie Whetstine, Vice-Chair Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner Doug Bridges, Commissioner Deb Hardin, Commissioner Brian Epley, County Manager Tim Moore, County Attorney Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board

Kerri Melton, Assistant County Manager

Chris Green, Tax Administrator

Allison Mauney, Human Resources Director

Marty Gold, Information Technology Director

Katie Swanson, Social Services Director

Daryl Sando, Electronic Maintenance Director

Sandra Orvig, Shooting Range Director

Betsy Harnage, Register of Deeds

Clifton Philbeck, Board of Elections Director

Dorothea Wyant, Health Director Scott Bowman, Maintenance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order and Commissioner Hutchins provided the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>AGENDA ADOPTION</u>

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges and unanimously approved by the Board to, *approve the agenda as presented*.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

2019 Professional Development Achievements: The Board recognized and congratulated county employees who have completed job related training or education over the past year. Professional development not only delivers benefits to the individual but it also delivers benefits to our organization and the public. Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board, read the following list, inviting employees to the front. Commissioners congratulated those employees on their accomplishments and a group photo was taken.

Agriculture Extension

• Julie Flowers - MS Degree in Agricultural Education

Board of Elections

• Renee Bost - Certified Election and Registration Administrator Certification

Building Inspection

• Colt Farrington – Level 3 Building Certificate & Level 3 Electrical Certificate

County Manager's Office

- April Crotts North Carolina County Clerk Re-Certification
- Janet Hart Leadership Cleveland County
- Phyllis Nowlen North Carolina County Clerk Certification
- Holly Wall Master of Arts in Human Service Management

Emergency Medical Services

- Megan Bradley Field Training Paramedic Certification
- Matt Childers UNCC EMS Management Institute
- Brendan Ferguson Critical Care Paramedic Certification

- Suzanne Fields Field Training Paramedic Certification
- Michael Hedrick Level II Paramedic Instructor Certification
- Kyle Herndon Level II Paramedic Instructor certification & Field Training Paramedic Certification
- Missy Parker Critical Care Paramedic Certification
- Dr. Ivan Sanchez Master's Degree in Business Administration
- Jeff Swink Field Training Paramedic Certification

E-911/Communications

- Sharon Baughman Communications Shift Supervisor Certification
- Bambi Brooks Division of Criminal Information Certification & Emergency Medical Dispatch Certification
- Melanie Grenier Division of Criminal Information Certification
- Randy Letterman Division of Criminal Information Certification & Emergency Medical Dispatch Certification
- Noah Sanders Division of Criminal Information Certification & Emergency Medical Dispatch Certification

Finance

• Tonya Sigmon – Certified Budget and Evaluation Officer

Health Department

- Lindsay Bralley Master's Degree in Nursing with concentration in Nursing Education
- Susan Falls Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Tabatha Floyd Certified Case Manager
- DeShay Oliver NC Public Health Leadership Institute
- Jennifer Owens Master's Degree in Nursing with concentration in Nursing Education
- Jamie Todd Masters in Health Administration
- Heather Willis Master's in Nursing Leadership

Register of Deeds

• Robin Gassman – Certified Assistant Register of Deeds

Sheriff's Department

- Joe Burris Advanced Certificate
- David Ruppe Intermediate Certificate & AAS Degree
- Derek Tony Intermediate Certificate
- Jessica Woosley Intermediate Certificate

Social Services

- Tamara Hardin Masters of Social Work
- Kim Manning Bachelors in Law & Justice
- Nina Ussery Bachelors of Social Work
- Nicole Wilson BA in Creative Writing and English
- Santana Whisnant Masters of Social Work

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

receive the following proclamation:

Minority Enterprise Development Week 2019: Chairman Allen recognized Mr. Richard Hooker, Cleveland County Minority Business Development Center Director. Mr. Hooker thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the Minority Business Sector and of MED Week. Started in 1983 by the administration of President Reagan, Minority Enterprise Development Week is designed to recognize accomplishments and achievements of minority businesses across the Nation. Mr. Hooker gave an overview of the recent achievements, goals and upcoming events for MED Week. He introduced several of his Board Members who were present to help



<u>CITIZEN RECOGNITION</u>

Stan Shaw, 908 Spring Garden Drive, Shelby – spoke about his concerns of transparency in government meetings. He suggested recording or livestreaming the Commissioners meetings to allow citizens, who are unable to attend, the opportunity to watch the meetings. Mr. Shaw thanked the Board for their attention in this matter.

<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Clerk to the Board included the Minutes from the *September 3* and *September 17, 2019 regular meeting*, in board members packets.

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and passed unanimously by the Board to, *approve the minutes as written*.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #013)

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve the following budget amendment:*

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	Decrease
010.422.4.510.61	·	Travel & Tourism/Events-Sponsors	\$2,000.00	
010.422.5.510.00		Travel & Tourism/Events	\$2,000.00	
Employation of David	ong. Dudoot alloog	tion for \$2,000 in an analysing funda as	mitted from the NCD	and of

<u>Explanation of Revisions:</u> Budget allocation for \$2,000 in sponsorships funds committed from the NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources for the 2019 Mush, Music and Mutts Festival.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT: BUDGET AMENDMENT (BNA #014)

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve the following budget amendment:*

Account Number	Project Code	Department/Account Name	Increase	<u>Decrease</u>	
487.246.4.400.00	-	Cap Proj-Shelby Star/Loan Proceeds	\$1,610,000.	.00	
487.246.5.490.00		Cap-Proj-Shelby Star/Professional Services	\$110,000.0	0	
487-246-5.980.00		Cap Proj-Shelby Star/C-O Building	\$1,500,000.	00	
Explanation of Revisions: Budget allocation for \$1,610,000 from budget loan for the purchase of the Shelby Star					

<u>Explanation of Revisions:</u> Budget allocation for \$1,610,000 from budget loan for the purchase of the Shelby Star property and professional services associated with the project.

LEGAL: CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE/FOOTHILLS SHOOTING COMPLEX MOU

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cleveland Community College and Foothills Public Shooting Complex outlining standard operating procedures as it relates to In-Service Training offered by the college. (copy found in Minute Book ______ page ______).

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve the Cleveland Community College/Foothills Shooting Complex Memorandum of Understanding*.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR CASE 19-06; GARAGES AND CARPORTS (November 5, 2019)

At the February 5, 2019 Commissioner meeting, the Board asked staff and the Planning Board to craft language that would create standards to allow detached garages and carports to be located within the front yard of a residence. At their September 24, 2019 meeting the Planning Board voted to approve language to be sent to the Board for its consideration. The crafted code allows for detached garages and carports to be placed within the front side of a primary residence under certain conditions. The Planning Board has submitted recommended approval of amendment language for Section 12-138 of the Cleveland County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve scheduling the public hearing as requested*.

LEGAL: SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

On March 19, 2019, the County agreed, in principal, on an intergovernmental agreement with the Catawba
Indian Nation. (copy found in Minute Book page). The agreement outlines the provision of
County services to the Nation's proposed entertainment complex such as public health, public safety, land use, and
other matters. State statutes authorize the Board of Commissioners to delegate the power to execute this agreemen
to a board member. The proposed resolution delegates authority to Commissioner Hutchins to sign the
intergovernmental agreement with Catawba Indian Nation on behalf of Cleveland County.

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and unanimously adopted by the Board to, *approve the signatory authorization resolution*.



Resolution

Number 21-2019

Resolution Authorizing Board Member to Execute Intergovernmental Agreement with Catawba Indian Nation on Behalf of Cleveland County

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 153A-11 authorizes the County to enter into contracts; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 153A-12 authorizes the Board of Commissioners to exercise the powers and functions of the County, including the power to enter into contracts;

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 153A-12 further authorizes the Board of Commissioners to pass resolutions as to how its powers and functions are to be exercised, including the delegation of such powers and functions;

WHEREAS, the Catawba Indian Nation (the "Nation") is seeking to develop an entertainment complex (the "Project") on lands located in Cleveland County;

WHEREAS, the County and the Nation have a mutual interest in promoting cooperation between the County and the Nation that will provide for the general welfare of all people in the County and within the proposed Project site with respect to issues including public finance, health and safety, and land use and development;

WHEREAS, the Parties have worked together to develop an intergovernmental agreement (the "Agreement") intended to facilitate such cooperation, an unexecuted draft copy of which is attached to this Resolution as "Exhibit A."

Now Therefore BE IT RESOLVED; the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners resolves

- Cleveland County Commissioner Johnny Hutchins is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the County at a time following the date of this Resolution.
- Upon the execution of the Agreement by Commissioner Hutchins and the Nation, Commissioner Hutchins shall transmit the fully executed Agreement to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

 Within thirty (30) days after her receipt of the fully executed copy of the Agreement, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners shall cause the fully executed copy to appear in the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this the 1st day of October, 2019.

Susan Allen, Chairman
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk
Cleveland County Roard of Commissioner



<u>REGULAR AGENDA</u>

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Chairman Allen called Emily Epley, Travel and Tourism Director, to the podium to update the Board on Travel and Tourism in Cleveland County. Mrs. Epley outlined her approach to Travel and Tourism as the strategic intentional action to further build tourism in the county. One of the purposeful motives is to create memorable experiences that resonate with each individual who visits Cleveland County. A second goal is to continue to grow relationship building with the already established tourism businesses such as hotels, attractions, and shops across the county. Mrs. Epley and county tourism leaders have been collaborating to steer the growing tourism industry in Cleveland County including hiring Relic Agency to complete data gathering for tourism in Cleveland County. She introduced Victoria Gabor, Account Manager, for Relic who explained to the Board what Relic is and the method they use to collect the data. Measuring all of the information collected, the goal will then be to understand where people are coming from and why are they visiting Cleveland County.

Once the data is determined, it can be tweaked and adjusted to become more effective to continue to bring more tourism to the county and keep the positive momentum moving forward. Mrs. Epley has worked closely with staff and Relic to determine who is coming, but also, who is not visiting Cleveland County and how those folks can be reached in the most effective way to draw them here to keep building the economic opportunities in the community. The following information was given to the Board.



Emily Epley Travel and Tourism Director

Victoria Gabor **RELIC Agency Account Manager**

VISITCLEVELANDCOUNTY.COM

MUSHMUSICANDMUTTS.COM 19 Shelby

NC Media Mission

- NC Tripping, Travel Through Life
- The Common Traveler
- Carolina Country Magazine
- Kathy Newbern, Freelance Travel Journalist

OUR APPROACH: THE RACE METHOD



PERSONA MAPPING

Destination Attractions

- ·Skiing
- · Shopping
- Birding · Food

Interests

Persona A

- ·Skiing
- ·Shopping Shopping ·Food

SEASONALITY MAPPING

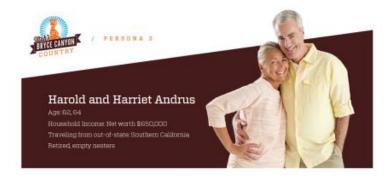
Persona B

Birding





RELIC



Harold and Harriet have worked hard their whole lives and are excited to enjoy luxury travel (and spending) now that they are retired. They are attracted to honest and transparent businesses but are often distrustful of people and organizations and their motives. Harold and Harriet are part of the most wealthy, active and physically fit generation and therefore love to experience modest outdoor activities. They love to hike, shop and eat while seeing national, state and historic parks. They and their generation are becoming more tech-savvy and are active internet and TV users. Their generation is the ideal audience for tourism marketing.

MARKETING NEEDS Attractive discounts or different price points

- Appealing to litestyle benefits and healthy living practices.

FRUSTRATIONS

 Long flights, doves and travel bassles
 Unable to set their own pace · Unexite of eatety and security in travel

MARKETING TACTICS • TV commercials • Internet search engines

- + Social media: Pecebook
- Email
- RESEARCH & ANALYTICS

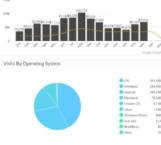
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Birding Shopping Food Festival Persona B Persona A Persona A

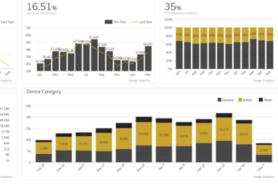










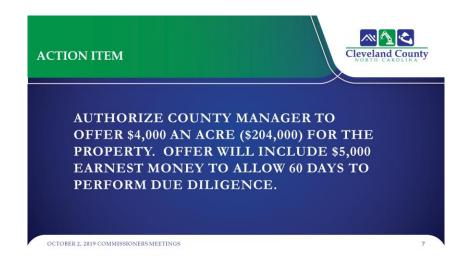


Chairman Allen opened the floor to the Board for questions and comments. Each of the Commissioners commented on the great job Mrs. Epley has been doing since she started as the Travel and Tourism Director and thanked her for her hard work and in promoting Cleveland County as a destination location.

<u>LAND ACQUISTION -POLKVILLE ROAD</u>

Chairman Allen recognized Kerri Melton, Assistant County Manager, to present information regarding a possible land acquisition for economic development. In January of each year, Commissioners develop their Strategic Plan. This year, under the Economic Development focus area, Commissioners set a goal to "analyze and perform site development on available sites and proactively plan for future product development through land-banking." Staff has been working over the past year to identify parcels of land that would be suitable for future growth and has identified two parcels of land on Highway 226 for the Board to consider purchasing for future economic development. This land purchase could be a partnership with the City of Shelby. One of the major benefits of partnering with local municipalities is the ability to partner on infrastructure as the county does not own a water, sewer or natural gas system. Several benefits of this purchase include an advantageous purchase price, topography suitable for development, near future 74 bypass on Polkville Road and the property could be suitable for multiple shell buildings. The following PowerPoint was presented to the Board.





Chairman Allen opened the floor to the Board for questions and discussion. Commissioner Hutchins voiced his concerns regarding the land being immediately annexed to the City of Shelby. He suggested the annexation wait until a business is prepared to be established on the property to determine how much infrastructure will be needed. County Manager Brian Epley advised staff will evaluate further, over the next sixty days, how much and what kind of municipal infrastructure will be needed. Commissioner Whetstine stated the conversation about infrastructure will need to be had soon as companies do not want to wait a year for something to be built. The County needs to be in the best position possible to be ready for a company to immediately onboard when the land is ready.

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine and unanimously adopted by the Board to, authorize the County Manager to offer \$4,000 an acre (\$204,000) for the property. The offer will include \$5,000 earnest money to allow sixty days to perform due diligence.

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Chairman Allen called County Manager Brian Epley to the podium to present information on the upcoming Sales Tax Referendum. Mr. Epley reminded the Board, at their August 6, 2019, regular meeting, Commissioners took action and approved placing a sales tax referendum on the November 5, 2019 county wide voting ballot. The current sales tax rate in Cleveland County is 6.75 percent. If the quarter cent increase is approved by the voters of Cleveland County, the new tax rate will be 7 percent and would not apply to groceries or gas/fuel. Neighboring counties such as Rutherford, Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba, Mecklenburg and Rowan currently have a 7 percent sales tax in place. If Cleveland County residents are traveling to these surrounding counties for recreational activities, shopping or eating out, they are already paying the increased sales tax. These communities have positioned themselves to be less reliant on property taxes and to outpace other communities who do not have this resource. Collectively, the quarter cent additional sales tax generated would result in approximately two million dollars per year revenue source. The additional funds will be used for school capital and community development through a competitive Municipal Grant Program of which all Cleveland County municipalities are eligible to apply. It is not the intention to grow the county's budget with the added resources. Cleveland County government runs a lean organization that manages the current funds in a very prodent way with an intentional approach to having less reliance on property taxes. Advantages of the sales tax increase is it is consumption based, evenly shares the tax burden and has a minimally invasive individual cost.

The following PowerPoint was presented to the Board.



Sales Tax Referendum November 2019

Objectives

- 1. What are we talking about, can I afford it and who else has done it?
- 2. Advantages of Revenue Diversification
- 3. What are the advantages of a sales tax increase?
- 4. What will be the uses & why is it important?



ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019



What are we talking about?



Sales Tax Rate .25%

Economic Impact to Average Consumer is less than: \$1.50 per month –or-\$18 per year

Sales tax increase does not apply to groceries or gas/fuel

Already being charged in neighboring counites Rutherford, Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba, Mecklenburg, Rowan



ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019



Where have we been



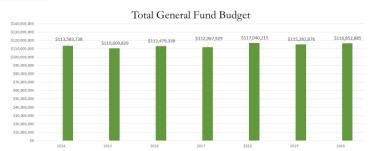


ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019



Budget Management





ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019





Community Transforming Resources



ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019





Revenue Diversification

Strategic Goal: Seek alternative revenue sources to lessen the County's burden on property taxes

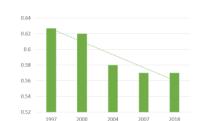


ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019

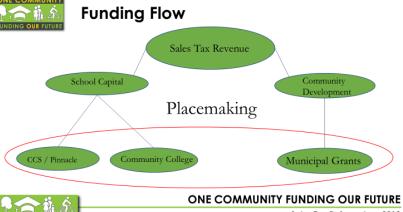
County Property Tax Rates & Trends

Cleveland County / 57 cents County Schools / 15 cents Fire Service District / 8.75 cents



ONE COMMUNITY FUNDING OUR FUTURE

Sales Tax Referendum 2019





Sales Tax Referendum 2019



Chairman Allen opened the floor to the Board for questions and discussion. Commissioner Hardin inquired on how the additional monies will be dispersed between the schools. Mr. Epley explained the process for the school system will be done in the same manner as the municipalities with a competitive grant program in which the schools will submit their goals and project needs and a process to help prioritize will be set in place. Commissioner

Bridges asked if Pinnacle Classical Academy will receive funding based on the number of the students they have enrolled. Mr. Epley stated that was correct, as is the bases for the county school system and community college. Commissioner Hutchins stated Pinnacle is a public charter school and the county is not responsible for their capital projects however, a local bill was passed allowing Commissioners to contribute to public charter schools if they choose to do so. If the sales tax increase is approved, Pinnacle Classical Academy can receive funding on a per pupil basis. Mr. Epley stated there are funding needs throughout the county and it is staff's intention to educate the community and let the voters choose if the quarter cent sales tax increase will pass which will help fund those projects.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

KINGS MOUNTAIN PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD (ETJ)

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Hardin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hutchins, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to appoint Renee Bost to serve as a member of this board*, to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Paul, scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2020.

CLEVELAND COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

<u>ACTION:</u> Commissioner Bridges made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Whetstine, and unanimously adopted by the Board, *to appoint Emanuel Hunt Jr. and Arthur Gordon Jr. to serve as members of this board*, for a period of two-years, scheduled to conclude December 31, 2021.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hardin – has attended several community events including the Cleveland County Fair.

Commissioner Bridges – also commented on the attendance and the efforts and planning that goes into running the fair.

Commissioner Hutchins – has gone to the fair and has attended other board meetings in the community in which he serves on.

Commissioner Whetstine – spoke about the upcoming candidate forum which will be held at Cleveland Community College.

Chairman Allen – went to the fair breakfast kick-off, the Lattimore Volunteer Fire Department Ribbon Cutting and other happenings around the county.

<u>ADJOURN</u>

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Hutchins made a

motion, seconded by Commissioner Hardin, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting. The

next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners

Chambers located at 311 E. Marion St., Shelby.

Susan Allen, Chairman Cleveland County Board of Commissioners

Phyllis Nowlen, Clerk to the Board Cleveland County Board of Commissioners