

HAYWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 7, 2011****CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark S. Swanger convened the regular meeting of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic Courtroom at the Haywood County Historic Courthouse, Waynesville, North Carolina, with Chairman Mark S. Swanger, Vice-Chairman J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick III, Commissioners Bill Upton, L. Kevin Ensley, and Michael T. Sorrells present. Staff members present were County Manager Marty Stamey, Finance Director Julie Davis, Public Information Officer David Teague and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Morgan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Swanger led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick offered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Swanger opened the public comment session. Comments are generally limited to three minutes per individual, unless the speaker is representing a group for which the comment period may be extended to five minutes.

Jonnie Cure' read an e-mail she received from Commissioner Ensley stating that the current problems at the fairgrounds is Monroe Miller's fault because of a complaint he filed with the Department of Insurance. Ms. Cure' stated that Commissioner Ensley's e-mail further stated that the complaint cost the County thousands of dollars. Ms. Cure' disputed that the problems at the fairgrounds were Mr. Miller's fault, but is a result of the failure of the fairgrounds to run as a viable, self-supporting, law-abiding entity that makes sense to the taxpayers of Haywood County. Ms. Cure' inquired if the fairgrounds were an essential service that government must offer the citizens of Haywood County.

Al Goodis credited Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick saying that his downgrade looked good, advised Chairman Swanger to be careful as he had a hot seat, and advised Commissioner Sorrells to recues himself on issues pertaining to the fairgrounds. Mr. Goodis stated that the failure of the fairgrounds is not the fault of Monroe Miller, but the fault of people bending the law during the past five years.

Terry Rogers expressed that the fairgrounds are one of the most beneficial entities that his tax dollar supports and that the Mountain Research Station is important to all citizens. It is estimated that by 2050, the world population would double and the demand for food will increase. Mr. Rogers suggested adding a statement regarding the concern for food, to the resolution being presented to the Board supporting the Mountain Research Station.

Bruce Johnson, Chairman of the Haywood Chamber of Commerce, expressed that the fairgrounds are an important part of the Haywood County agriculture heritage. Mr. Johnson shared that visitors coming to Haywood County spend an estimated average of \$200 within the County. Events at the fairgrounds draw visitors to the county thereby bringing money into the county. Without the scheduled events at the fairgrounds, that money would be lost. Mr. Johnson stated that the Chamber of Commerce encourages the Board to get the fairgrounds back in shape and continue to reap the benefits of visitors coming to the events.

Aaron Mabry, Fairgrounds Facility Manager, expressed his support for the fairgrounds. Mr. Mabry urged citizens to volunteer at the fairgrounds.

Wallace Leatherwood stated that Ms. Cure' and Mr. Miller bring to light some things that need to be addressed in Haywood County regarding the problems at the fairgrounds. Mr. Leatherwood shared that Haywood County is a rural community with strong ties to the land. Mr. Leatherwood stated that problems with the fairgrounds having inadequate restroom facilities need to be resolved so that the fairgrounds may continue to draw visitors who help stimulate economy within the County. Mr. Leatherwood expressed his support of the fairgrounds even if taxes need to be raised to accommodate the construction of the restroom facilities. Mr. Leatherwood urged the Commissioners to find a way to improve the sound system in the Historic Courtroom.

Nancy Davis, Fairgrounds Board member, stated that she was in favor of funding the needed improvements to the fairgrounds. Ms. Davis shared that the Fairgrounds Board is working diligently to increase the use of the fairgrounds and she believes that providing the needed funding to bring the fairgrounds up to code is the only way to allow for the continued growth of the fairgrounds and by extension the continued increase of dollars coming into our community.

Jim Cochran, President of the Haywood County Cattlemen Association, stated that the fairground is an asset to the County. Mr. Cochran shared that two percent of citizens in the United States are involved in agriculture, but 100% of the citizens eat.

Bill Holbrook, member of the Board of Directors of the Bethel Rural Community Organization, expressed his appreciation to the Board for supporting the fairgrounds, as it is important to the County.

Jim Forrester addressed Monroe Miller's concern regarding transparency of government. Mr. Forrester stated that most large corporations have internal and external audits designed to prevent violations of contracts. Mr. Forrester inquired as to the method used by Commissioner Ensley when calculating the dollar amount that Mr. Miller cost the County due to a complaint filed by Mr. Miller with the Department of Insurance. Mr. Forrester stated that the fairgrounds are not an essential service. If there were a demand for the service, private enterprise would provide it.

Sam Smith explained three consequences that may result if the arena at the fairgrounds is not used during 2011. The County could experience a loss of revenue up to \$54,400 based upon the past events held in 2010 and impending events scheduled during 2011. There are ten events already scheduled at the fairgrounds. Mr. Smith stated that visitors and registrants from thirty states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are scheduled to participate in various events. Recent employment of Aaron Mabry, Fairgrounds Facility Manager, would be severely hampered if the fairgrounds facility were unmarketable, as marketing the fairgrounds are part of Mr. Mabry's job description. Cancellation of scheduled key events may not be recovered in the future.

Alisa Glance stated that the school students participate in various events at the fairgrounds. Some of those events include high school masonry competition, construction career days, and tractor driving contest. Ms. Glance stated that without the fairgrounds these events would be held elsewhere. Ms. Glance expressed her support of the fairgrounds.

Mary Ann Enloe, Chairman of the Fairgrounds Board, expressed her appreciation to the volunteers and to the Board of County Commissioners for their support of the fairgrounds.

There being no other public comments, Chairman Swanger closed the public comments session.

CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Chairman Swanger inquired if there were any constituent concerns. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick stated that without the proper facilities the fairgrounds could not continue to host events and become self-supportive, as was the long-term plan. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick explained that the Board considered whether to fund the fairgrounds in order to make it self-supportive, or just let it fail. An application for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan for the fairgrounds has not come to fruition. Therefore, the construction of the restroom facilities at the fairgrounds is left to the Board of County Commissioners. Vice-

Chairman Kirkpatrick advised that while the fairgrounds are not an essential government function, but many things are not essential government functions such as libraries. Issues surrounding the fairgrounds are about quality of life, preservation of life and preservation of our County's history. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick expressed concern for the rising cost of food and for the increasing food shortage.

Commissioner Upton reiterated that the future expectation of the world's population doubling would require a necessary increased food supply. Commissioner Upton stressed the importance of meeting the demand for agriculture. The beauty of the farmlands throughout Haywood County is the reason Commissioner Upton stated he lives here.

Chairman Swanger expressed that in the past the Board supported the fairgrounds. It would make no sense to abandon the fairgrounds at this point. Chairman Swanger stated that some consider the fairgrounds to be a nonessential service to the citizens. He also stated that some consider libraries nonessential as well. Chairman Swanger asked, "Could you imagine the uproar if somebody said, 'Let's close the libraries'?" Chairman Swanger stated that he intends to support a solution.

DISCUSSION / ADJUSTMENT / APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Swanger added a "Closed Session" for the purpose of Litigation – G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3).

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Upton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Approve February 21st, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Appointing Board of Equalization and Review – David Francis, Tax Administrator
- Budget Amendments – Julie Davis, Finance Director
 - DSS - \$18,400-grant funding from the Evergreen Foundation for training and consultant services – to appropriate the grant funding from the Evergreen Foundation for training and consultative support of child welfare social workers.
 - Solid Waste special revenue fund - \$17,242 state grant award for \$21,553 project. County match required \$4,311 from recycling budget – to appropriate the new grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as the required match that will come from the recycling line item.

HAYWOOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

APPOINTING BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Regular Meeting
March 7, 2011

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 105-322, a county board of commissioners is authorized, upon adoption of a resolution, to appoint a special board of equalization and review to carry out the duties imposed under that section; and

WHEREAS, such action is required to be adopted not later than the first Monday in March of the year for which it is to be effective; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid statute also provides for the fixing of compensation and allowances to be paid members for their services and expenses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (1) That Mark Swanger is hereby appointed to serve as Chairman of the Haywood County Board of Equalization and Review.
- (2) That the other four (4) members of this special Board of Equalization and Review shall be: Evelyn Cooper, Mary Ann Enloe, Carroll Mease and Wade Francis. That Bill Upton shall serve as an alternate. At all meetings of the special Board of Equalization and Review, a quorum of three (3) of the five (5) members shall be required. The terms of office shall expire on December 31, 2011.
- (3) That the qualifications shall be citizens and residents of Haywood County who are either members of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners, or are persons experienced in public affairs and knowledgeable of land values and the geography of Haywood County.
- (4) That the terms of office shall be from the date of appointment until the adjournment and completion of hearing of year 2011 appeals to the Board of Adjustment, but not later than December 31, 2011.
- (5) That the vacancies shall be filled by action of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners sitting at an official meeting.
- (6) That compensation shall be \$105 per day per board member, and the chairman receiving compensation of \$130 per day. Members maybe reimbursed mileage for the use of personal automobiles at the rate currently in effect for the reimbursement of county employees.
- (7) That the Board of Equalization and Review shall publish at least three times a notice in some newspaper having general circulation in the county the date, hours, place and purpose of the first meeting 10 days prior to their first meeting.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 7th day of March, 2011.

Mark S. Swanger (Seal)
 Chairman, Haywood County Board of Commissioners

HAYWOOD COUNTY
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

PER: _____
JNL: _____

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
DSS:				
Professional Svcs.-other	115310-519900-11EF1	-	9,200	9,200
Training- ee education	115310-539501-11EF1	-	9,200	9,200

which will result in a net increase of \$ 18,400 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Miscellaneous				
Misc. Rev. child welfare grant	110100-453405-11EF1	-	18,400	18,400

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 7th day of March, 2011.


Chairman
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST 
Clerk to the Board

Explanation:
To appropriate the grant funding from the Evergreen Foundation for training & consultative support of child welfare social workers.

HAYWOOD COUNTY
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2011

PER: _____
JNL: _____

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

Section 1. To amend the Special Revenue Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
S/R Fund-Solid Waste Mgt.:				
Miscellaneous Supplies-Recycling	244710-523101-47104	-	21,553	21,553
Other Services - recycling	244710-539904-47104	93,500	(4,311)	89,189

which will result in a net increase of \$ 17,242 in the expenditures of the Special Revenue Fund.

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Intergovernmental:				
NC DENR Recycling grant	240050-449363-47104	-	17,242	17,242

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 7th day of March 2011.


Chairman
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST 
Clerk to the Board

Explanation:
To appropriate the new grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as the required match that will come from the recycling line item.

OLD BUSINESS**Fairgrounds Financing / Construction Bidding Options**

Julie Davis, Finance Director, explained that the County owns the property where the fairgrounds arena and other buildings are located and where activities and events are booked through the Fairgrounds Board or manager. The Fairgrounds Board has attempted to complete building projects with additional restrooms and to make the facility ADA compliant. However, additional funding is necessary to see the projects through to completion. The Fairgrounds Board has determined that it does not have the needed funds.

The County applied for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan that, if approved, would cover the purchase of the fairgrounds' buildings by the County, make the structures ADA compliant, and make other improvements to increase the marketability of the fairgrounds. This plan has been delayed because USDA has not yet been notified of the amount of any funds that would be available for borrowing by the County.

A citizen of the County reported the status of the fairgrounds buildings as not in compliance. The Fairgrounds Board determined that if the building projects are not funded by the County immediately, events could not be scheduled for the spring and summer, resulting in loss of fairgrounds revenue. Because of the urgency, the County no longer could wait for USDA loan approval to complete the projects. Ms. Davis explained some financing options.

Appropriate an amount, approximately \$400,000, from County fund balance to cover the cost of completing the fairground projects immediately. In addition, secure a loan from a bank to replenish fund balance, then, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fairgrounds Board, the Fairgrounds Board would repay the County as the County repays this loan over the course of a few years from the general fund, potentially a three to seven year loan.

Another option would be to appropriate an amount, approximately \$400,000, from County fund balance to cover the cost of completing the fairground projects immediately and secure a short-term loan (2-3 year term) from a bank to replenish fund balance. Then through an MOU, the Fairgrounds Board would repay the County sometime in the future, with the County repaying this loan with the proceeds of the sale of County buildings currently marketed. Ms. Davis shared that a short-term loan would afford the County a much lower interest rate.

Either of these options would preclude the County from securing a USDA loan for the building portion of the project as USDA prohibits this type of reimbursement use of funds. The additional risk that the County would be taking is that the Local Government Commission (LGC) may not approve the loan. In conversations with the LGC and bankers, the projects could be perceived as having merit as an immediate need and maintain economic stability in this tourist economy, though it has been suggested that the County does not request more than \$350,000. Ms. Davis stated that negotiations could begin with a bank and an application could be made to the LGC for loan approval. This item could be placed on the May LGC meeting agenda for approval to close the loan by mid-May or in June 2011.

Ms. Davis explained the differences in the interest rates. A short-term loan would have a 2.3 percent, and a long-term load would have a 3.5 – 4.00 percent interest rate. Ms. Davis stated that by appropriating fund balance there is no guarantee that the County approval for the loan would be given by the LGC.

Commissioner Ensley explained that some of the County's surplus property could sell within the next year. The total of these surplus properties is approximately \$3.5 million. Commissioner Ensley suggested once the sale of the properties is complete, the County could use the proceeds to pay back the County in the fund balance. Chairman Swanger explained that as part of the budget process the County reviews revenues and expenses. Property tax receipts are the main part of the County's revenue, but sales tax is directly connected with activities throughout the County. Commissioner Ensley stated that approximately seventy-five percent of the fairgrounds budget came from funds the County once provided the fairgrounds, but due to the economy the County no longer contributes to the fairgrounds. Commissioner Ensley explained that events at the fairgrounds are operated

by a non-profit organization. Once the construction on the arena is complete, the fairgrounds could be self-supporting.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick inquired if the Fairgrounds Board would repay the County. Marty Stamey, County Manager, replied that in the past, the County paid off the debt of the fairgrounds for \$337,000. At that time, the County and the Fairgrounds Board signed a MOU. Mr. Stamey suggested that another MOU could be signed regarding repayment to the County.

After discussion, the Board expressed that a short-term loan with lower interest would be best for the County. The Board instructed Ms. Davis to take the necessary steps for the loans and return to the Board with a dollar amount to appropriate. Ms. Davis confirmed that a resolution would be required and the Board would have to hold a public hearing.

Dale Burris, Facilities and Maintenance Director, explained some construction options. There could be a single prime contract that utilizes one general contractor to oversee and complete projects on the arena at the fairground. Another option is a multi-prime contract, bidding each trade under each division of the project plans. Mr. Burris stated that he is a licensed General Contractor. Therefore, County could act as General Contractor. Mr. Burris stated that bids could be presented at the next regular Board meeting, March 21st. The Board instructed Mr. Burris to advertise both single prime and multi prime bids.

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion to bid single prime and multi prime and thereafter get a contract in place, provide funds from fund balance in order to pay for the contract and go out to apply for the two to three year loan for repayments so the County can replenish fund balance. Thereafter, in support of the payments, funds from any sale of any building could be utilized to repay the loan. Commissioner Upton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Nursing Home Advisory Committee Board Member

Marty Stamey, County Manager, explained that there is one vacancy on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board. Maria Caldwell already serves in this capacity and would like to continue serving on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board. Two applications were received from Maria Caldwell and Larry Reeves. Mr. Stamey clarified that the number of members serving on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board is determined by the Board of County Commissioners. The Nursing Home Community Advisory Board requested the Board increase the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board from six members to seven members. The Board of County Commissioners requested that a letter recommending the increased membership be submitted by the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board. Once the Board of County Commissioners received the letter, Larry Reeves was appointed to the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board, but by oversight, the Board did not appoint Maria Caldwell.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to appoint Maria Caldwell to the Nursing Home Advisory Board. Commissioner Ensley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) Advisory Board Members

Anita Pruet, CJPP Director, requested the following individuals be approved to sit on the CJPP Advisory Board for three year terms, replacing former members who are no longer in the required positions:

Brenda Rogers, Representative from Haywood County Jail
The Honorable Richie Hold, Chief District Court Judge
The Honorable Bradley Letts, Resident Superior Court Judge
Marty Stamey, County Manager.

Dr. Laura Leatherwood, Representative from the local Community College, would serve for a new seat for a three-year term.

Ms. Pruettt requested the following individuals' terms of service be extended for another three years as they have served previously and remain in active and good standing:

Steve Ellis, Attorney
Chief Bill Hollingsed, Chief of Police of Waynesville
Dee Parton, Member at Large.

Commissioner Upton made a motion to approve the members as presented to the Criminal Justice Partnership Program Advisory Board. Commissioner Sorrells seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Petition to extend Russell Cove Road

Nina Messer, resident of Russell Cove Road, presented a petition signed by property owners and / or residents on Russell Cove Road, Snakes Loop and Heggie Lane. The petition requests the North Carolina Department of Transportation for road addition of the Russell Cove Road.

Commissioner Ensley made a motion to approve the request to the Department of Transportation to extend Russell Cove Road as presented and as documented by the attached petitions. Commissioner Sorrells seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Claims Administration Management for Jail Inmates

Captain David Mitchell stated that the Haywood County Detention Center currently pays the full amount invoiced for healthcare of inmates at local hospitals. Captain Mitchell explained that by entering into a contract with Correctional Risk Services (CRS) the offsite healthcare costs would be reduced significantly. CRS would perform claims administration for all inmates housed in the County jail. The County would pay CRS thirty percent of claim savings for offsite inmate medical expenses. D.J. Kreal, with CRS, shared that CRS is in a preferred provider organization (PPO) network. CRS often finds errors in medical billing.

Commissioner Upton made a motion that the agreement for claims administrative management, CRS, be approved. Commissioner Ensley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Recess

Chairman Swanger called for a brief recess.

Contract Agreement for Pregnancy Medical Home-Pregnancy Case Management (PMH-PCM) and Care Coordination for Children Program (CC4C) Transition / Division of Public Health

Carmine Rocco, Health Director, stated that the Division of Public Health, in partnership with the Division of Medical Assistance and Community Care of North Carolina (NCNCC), is implementing a Pregnancy Medical Home (PMH) project, which is inclusive of Pregnancy Care Management (PCM) Services. The goal of the PMH model is to improve the quality of maternity care, improve birth outcomes, and provide continuity of care. Care management services are provided for pregnant Medicaid recipients who are determined to be at risk for poor birth outcomes. Care Coordination for Children Program (CC4C) Care Management services are provided for all Medicaid children birth to five years of age who are designated to be high-risk and qualify for services. The Haywood County Health Department would provide or assure the required services. Mr. Rocco requested approval of the agreement.

Commissioner Upton made a motion to approve entering into the agreement with the Division of Public Health, provide case management services for pregnant women and case management services for children as articulated by Mr. Rocco. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Budget amendment – Health Dept. – Family Planning – \$8,321– additional Title X funds

Julie Davis, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the health department that is receiving additional Title X family planning bonus funds. The \$8,321 received would be used to purchase clinic and office supplies, birth control and pay for pap smears.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion that the amendment as presented be approved. Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick seconded and the motion carried four to one with Commissioner Ensley opposing the amendment.

HAYWOOD COUNTY
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2011

PER: _____
JPL: _____

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Haywood County that the following amendment be made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be charged as follows:

Department	Account Number	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Family Planning			-	-
Prof Service Medical	115130-519300	12,000	3,000	15,000
Operating Expense	115130-549500	33,244	5,321	38,565
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
which will result in a net increase of \$		8,321	in the expenditures of the General Fund.	

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has been received:

Revenue	Acct. No.	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Family Planning-DHS	110050-451515	132,482	8,321	140,803
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be delivered to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 17th day of March, 2011

Mark S. Swanger
Chairman
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: [Signature]
Clerk to the Board

Explanation: The health department is receiving additional Title X family planning bonus funds. The \$8,321 received will be used to purchase clinic & office supplies, birth control, and pay for pap smears.
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Resolution in Support of the Mountain Research Station

Commissioner Sorrells stated that he received a request that the Board pass a resolution supporting the Mountain Research Station. Commissioner Sorrells read the proposed resolution. After discussion, the Board advised adding a statement regarding the anticipated food shortage.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to pass the resolution contingent on the addition of language be crafted by the County Manager, regarding the potential food issue. Commissioner Ensley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORT OF THE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION**

WHEREAS, the Mountain Research Station, an agricultural test farm located in Haywood County, has provided multiple decades of service and expertise to the farmers and local citizens; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Mountain Research Station is the result of a long-standing and productive partnership with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides valuable resources to local and regional growers, a high level of accountability, and assures that the practical experience and opinions of growers are included in all agricultural research operations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget from the Governor recommends that the Mountain Research Station located in Haywood County be transferred to the state university system, which has previously targeted it for closure; and

WHEREAS, Haywood County farmers and citizens have expressed concern that the potential closure will have a detrimental impact on the role of local farmers, commodity groups, and local citizens in the event that the farmland and agricultural assets are sold; and

WHEREAS, the county citizens and farming communities actively support the protection of valuable farmland and understand the importance of agriculture in our county; and

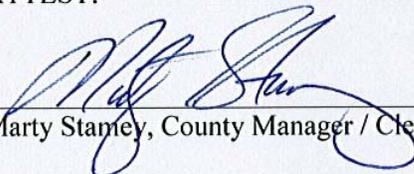
WHEREAS, continued research into how to enhance local food production will become more important as world water supplies diminish, and food demands increase; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haywood County Board of Commissioners does not support any proposed transfer of operations or closure of the Mountain Research Station located in Haywood County and urges members of the Haywood County Legislative delegation and other members of the North Carolina General Assembly to protect one of Haywood County’s and Western North Carolina’s most valuable assets by voting no to any transfer of operations or closure.

ADOPTED this the seventh day of March 2011.


Mark S. Swanger, Chairman
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Marty Stamey, County Manager / Clerk to the Board

Resolution in Support of Golden LEAF Foundation

Commissioner Sorrells explained that years ago there was a negotiation between states and cigarette companies. For a settlement, North Carolina took part of its received funds and used it toward economic development in rural depressed areas affected by the demise of the tobacco products. This negotiation resulted in the Golden LEAF Foundation. Commissioner Sorrells read the resolution.

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the Golden LEAF Foundation. Commissioner Ensley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GOLDEN LEAF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Golden Leaf Foundation has been a consistent and dedicated partner in helping rural North Carolina counties explore agricultural and economic opportunities that are not dependent on tobacco crops; and

WHEREAS, Haywood County has been the recipient of more than \$2.7 million in grants from the Golden Leaf Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these grants have been used as a catalyst for important local projects such as the Western Regional Advanced Machining Center at the Haywood Community College Regional High Technology Center, a Regional Livestock Market, a sewer line upgrade along Champion Drive, a covered arena at the Haywood County Fairgrounds, and the Buy Haywood Program, which helps local growers market and sell their products; and

WHEREAS, support from the Golden Leaf Foundation is helping to prepare students for jobs through the expansion of the machinist training program and the purchase of an office mill and lathe for the metals program at Pisgah High School; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 13 of the Balanced Budget Act of 2011 calls for this year's allocations from the Golden Leaf Foundation to be used to help reduce North Carolina's budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, Haywood County farmers and citizens have expressed concern that this decision will lead to future reallocations of Golden Leaf funds; and

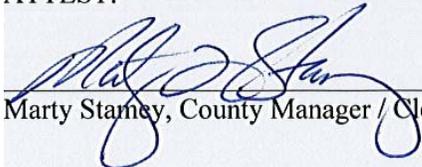
WHEREAS, the county citizens and farming communities understand the importance of agriculture and the need to continue to develop a wide range of agricultural and economic opportunities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haywood County Board of Commissioners does not support any proposed allocation of Golden Leaf funds to balance the state budget and urges members of the Haywood County Legislative delegation and other members of the North Carolina General Assembly to continue to allow Golden Leaf funds to be used for the purposes for which it was created.

ADOPTED this the seventh day of March 2011.


 Mark S. Swanger, Chairman
 Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


 Marty Stamey, County Manager / Clerk to the Board

CLOSED SESSION

Vice-Chairman Kirkpatrick made a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of Litigation – G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Upton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Return from Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sorrells made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ensley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The time of adjournment was 11:15 a.m. The DVD is attached by reference to the minutes.

 CLERK

 CHAIRMAN