



February 16, 2017

Mr. Ira Dove
Haywood County Manager
215 North Main St.
Waynesville, NC 28786

Dear Ira,

Mountain Projects would like to proceed to acquire title to the old Health Department at 2177 Asheville Road transferred to us. The extension for the offer to purchase will expire on March 1, 2017.

Since the initial extension we still haven't been able to secure a loan from USDA nor have we been able to clarify the status of our request. As previously shared, USDA is important because we currently have no mortgage/facility payment. USDA offers a 40 year payback which would lessen the financial impact to Mountain Projects including a sizable reduction of direct services in our community. In the meantime our current facility at 2251 Old Balsam Road continues to deteriorate each day. We have served in this location for more than forty-five of our fifty two year history in a school building constructed over 85 years ago.

We would rather not ask for another extension. At our last board meeting it was unanimously agreed to ask the Haywood County Board of Commissioners to consider allowing us to make payments to the County substantially in the same manner that we would make to the USDA for the purchase price of the facility. Interest would be paid at USDA's prevailing rate. We would propose that the mortgage balloon in several years. We would continue to seek permanent financing from USDA. As an example, if we were charged 3.25% interest (which is the prevailing USDA rate) and set the loan up to pay out over forty (40) years, the monthly payment would be \$1210.76.

This would allow Mountain Projects to take control of the facility and begin renovations. We currently have on hand approximately half of the amount needed for rehabilitation. Our general plan for the remaining one-half includes the following:

1. a community wide fund raising campaign to secure donations;
2. marketing our current location; and
3. requesting funds from Jackson County.

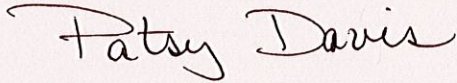
We Provide the Tools to Change People's Lives



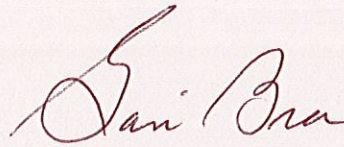
Our agency seeks to serve our community by helping clients maintain independency and self-sufficiency. In an average year we touch over 7,000 lives. We seek to break the cycle of poverty that costs tax payers enormous sums of money. We offer an array of other services, including transportation, to keep people in their homes and out of long term care. We believe that a community meeting basic human needs on the front end is much more cost effective for all, especially the tax payer, as some of the services offered by our agency are often provided by County governments.

Our mission statement reads "we care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other". We appreciate your consideration in assisting us to continue to implement this mission from a quality facility for our staff and those we serve.

Respectfully,



Patsy Davis
Executive Director



Gavin Brown
Board Chair