

**HIGH COUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2019
MINUTES**

The Executive Board of the High Country Council of Governments met October 21, 2019, 7:00pm, at the High Country Council of Governments Office in Boone. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles E. Vines, Robert L. Johnson, Todd McNeill, Dale Baldwin, Renée Castiglione, Doug Matheson, Theresa Coletta, Dennis Aldridge, Mark Evans, Chris Jones, Sandra Simmons, Jim Blevins, Larry Fontaine, Larry Turnbow, Paul Robinson Jr., Valerie Jaynes, and Johnny Riddle. The following staff and guests were present at the meeting: Wes Brinegar, Meredith Detsch, Alice Salthouse, Jonathan Carpenter, Julie Wiggins, Jeff Hedrick, Phil Trew, Nicole Hiegl, Julie Page and Victoria Potter.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chairman Riddle welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and called on Charles E. Vines to lead the invocation. Chairman Riddle then led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Chairman Riddle noted that we needed to add two items to the agenda. The items to be added were Budget Amendment #1 and Presentation of Outstanding Local Elected Official Award. Charles E. Vines made a motion to approve the agenda amendment. Robert L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chris Jones made a motion to approve the Executive Board minutes for August 19, 2019. Larry Turnbow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Highlights

Chairman Riddle called on Finance Officer, Julie Page to give a report on the Financial Highlights as of September 30, 2019 (Attachment A). Mrs. Page let the Executive Board know that she has received the first draft of the audit for review. She also gave an overview of the balances, expenses and revenues. Mrs. Page also provided the Executive Board with updated Financial Policies (Attachment A1) and Financial Procedures (Attachment A2) so that we are compliant with the Department of Health and Human Services. Mrs. Page also mentioned that the monthly department head meetings are going well and that the 2020 Budget is now in the system. Chairman Riddle noted that the Advisory Committee gave their recommendation for approving the current Financial Highlights. Paul Robinson Jr. made a motion to approve the Financial Highlights. Charles E. Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Amendment #1

Mrs. Page explained that Budget Amendment #1 (Attachment B) is adding revenue to each department of the High Country COG. Added revenue will go to the Planning and Development Department for a Town of North Wilkesboro Zoning Ordinance Review, added revenue will go to the Area Agency on Aging Department for a new program that will pay an hourly rate plus mileage, and added revenue will go to the Workforce Development Board for Finish Line Grants and a new

enhancement grant for On the Job Training. Dennis Aldridge made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment #1. Chris Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING UPDATES

Nicole Hiegl, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director shared that she is also the Board Chair of High Country Community Health (HCCH). HCCH is a community health center with locations in Avery, Burke, Surry and Watauga Counties in western North Carolina. HCCH provides primary care, behavioral health and dental services within an integrated medicine model of care that treats the whole person. Mrs. Hiegl explained that there are many connections between AAA and HCCH: both help provide access to healthy food, nutrition, exercise, referrals, services and trainings. Mrs. Hiegl then introduced Alice Salthouse, CEO of HCCH.

HIGH COUNTRY COMMUNITY HEALTH PRESENTATION

Mrs. Salthouse shared that she has been the CEO of High Country Community Health (HCCH) since its inception, for almost 7 years and has 30 years of experience in healthcare. HCCH is one of 1400 community health centers in the U.S. From its incubation in the Watauga County Health Department, HCCH now works in 4 High Country counties. Mrs. Salthouse reviewed some health statistics for our region from her handout (Attachment C) and explained further the great connection HCCH has with Area Agency on Aging.

REBRANDING – LOGO/WEBSITE PRESENTATION

Victoria Potter, Communications and Marketing Manager welcomed Jonathan Carpenter co-founder of Lazarus Design Team. Ms. Potter presented the new proposed High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) logo created by Lazarus Design Team. Ms. Potter noted that the primary focus/image of the HCCOG is the barn quilt which represents the region as a whole very well. With the help of Mr. Carpenter, Ms. Potter presented a quick overview of the new website design and presented some of the new features, images, etc. After the presentation many board members commented on how much they loved the logo and website. Renée Castiglione made a motion to approve the new HCCOG logo and website. Charles E. Vines seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL AWARD

Chairman Riddle thanked High Country COG staff for all their hard work on another successful Annual Banquet on September 6th at Linville Ridge. Chairman Riddle then recognized all of the award winners from the banquet. Chairman Riddle read Mark Evans (Alleghany County Commissioner) bio and presented him with the Outstanding Local Elected Official Award since Mark was unable to attend the banquet. Mr. Evans expressed his gratitude for the award his and enjoyment for serving as a local elected official.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Wiggins started off by expressing HCCOG Executive Board member, Gary D. Blevins' gratitude for receiving the Outstanding Executive Board member award at the Annual Banquet.

Mr. Blevins could not attend this meeting tonight because he was accepting an Agricultural award on behalf of his father-in-law. Ms. Wiggins then thanked Mrs. Salthouse for presenting and reiterated the wonderful connection between High Country Community Health and Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Wiggins reminded everyone that the November 18, 2019 Executive Board meeting will be a longer Strategic Planning workshop session. We will meet from 6-8 PM in the board room and the session will be facilitated by Dr. Pat Mitchell. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres provided. Ms. Wiggins also mentioned that we are in the process of planning a Legislative Luncheon Panel for the beginning of the year. Ms. Wiggins commented on the October 2019 Recognition and thanked Victoria Potter for all of her hard work on this publication. She also thanked everyone for submitting their stories for the publication.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

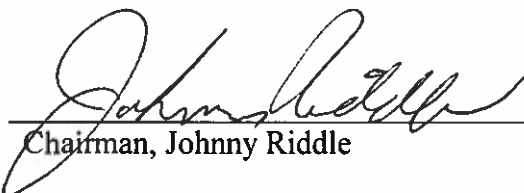
Chris Jones, Sparta Council Member introduced Mayor of Sparta, Wes Brinegar and noted that as of December 2019 Mr. Brinegar will be replacing Chris' spot on this board. Chris thanked everyone for their hospitality and service over the years. Mayor of West Jefferson, Dale Baldwin announced that he would be leaving office effective December 2019 as well and thanked High Country COG for all of their services to the town of West Jefferson. Mr. Baldwin said that with the help of the High Country COG Planning and Development department West Jefferson is 5-7 years ahead of schedule on their long-range plan. Paul Robinson Jr. mentioned the passing of R. Tracy Walker from Wilkes County that was a member of the Executive Board for 16 years. Mayor of North Wilkesboro, Robert L. Johnson introduced North Wilkesboro's new Planning and Zoning Director, Meredith Detsch. Mr. Johnson also recognized Terri Parsons with the Wilkes County Film Commission and the work they are doing to help promote Wilkes county and the region.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Riddle thanked everyone for their attendance and attentiveness. Chairman Riddle reiterated his thanks and gratitude to the High Country COG staff and everyone on the Executive Board.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no other comments or business, Robert L. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mark Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.



 Chairman, Johnny Riddle



 Clerk to the Board, Victoria Potter

Date 11/18/19