



Swain County Tourism Development Authority

Budget Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026

Board Members Present (Voting)

- Chairwoman Patti Jo Taylor
- Andy Bhakta
- Robin Fronrath
- Adrian Litzau
- Tanner Lawson
- Erin Smith

Board Members Absent (Voting)

- Janene Lancaster

Ex Officio Members

Present:

- Cally Elliott, TDA Finance Officer

Absent:

- None

TDA Staff

- Mary Anne Shea, Executive Director
- Selena Hyde

Guests

- Anna Herzog

Call to Order



Chairwoman Patti Jo Taylor called the Budget Public Hearing of the Swain County Tourism Development Authority Board to order at **12:01 p.m.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation offered by Tanner Lawson.

Agenda Changes

Finance Officer Cally Elliott requested to add discussion of the Visitor Center heat pump replacement to the agenda. The Board agreed to include the item.

Approval of Minutes

Erin Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the **June 10, 2026**, Board meeting. Tanner Lawson seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Public Hearing – FY 2026–2027 Budget

Chairwoman Taylor opened the public hearing and invited comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Swain County TDA Budget.

No public comments were received.

Adrian Litzau made a motion to approve the **Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget** as presented. Robin Fronrath seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously, and the budget was approved.**

Visitor Center HVAC Discussion

Finance Officer Cally Elliott presented two proposals from Lennox for replacement of the Visitor Center air handler. Each proposal exceeded **\$20,000**.

The Board also considered an estimate from Johnson Heating and Air. Jimmy Johnson, HVAC Technician for Swain County, indicated he could replace the components identified in the Lennox proposal for approximately **\$5,000**, utilizing available contractor discounts.

Following discussion, Erin Smith made a motion to authorize **Johnson Heating and Air** to repair the existing HVAC unit and to include funding in the **FY 2027–2028 budget** for replacement of the system, if necessary. Andy Bhakta seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Board Member Recognition

Chairwoman Taylor recognized and thanked the outgoing Board members for their service:

- Erin Smith
- Tanner Lawson
- Janene Lancaster

The Chair also mentioned the incoming Board members:



- Dena Ensley
- Anna Herzog
- Commissioner David Loftis

Adjournment

There being no further business, Tanner Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin Fronrath seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at **12:30 p.m.**

Board Signatures

Chairwoman, Patti Jo Taylor _____

Andy Bhakta _____

Robin Fronrath _____

Janene Lancaster _____

Tanner Lawson _____

Adrian Litzau _____

Erin Smith _____