

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
FEBRUARY 04, 2020**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on February 04, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mickey Luker, Commissioner (via speakerphone)	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Ron Mau, Commissioner	
Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Deitz requested to add one item: Little Canada Park. Commissioner Woody moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of January 14, 2020 and a Regular Meeting of January 21, 2020. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan stated he was anxious to watch the "Ragged Old Flag" commercial before the Super Bowl. It was great to see the historic courthouse and all of the American flags. It was nice to know that they had something in Jackson County that attracted that kind of attention. He gave kudos to staff that did such a tremendous job in maintaining the facilities and providing top level service, it was a beautiful facility.

When Fox Sports was looking for a place across the entire United States that resembled "Small Town America", the historic courthouse was the first image to pop-up, which said a lot about how Sylva, the county and the courthouse was the symbol for "Small Town America" on Sunday night and he was very proud of that and was very honored to see that.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Mau stated that he went to the construction meeting that day at the Cullowhee Volunteer Fire Department's new building. They were looking at an April move-in, so they were almost done. He had no reports from TWSA or TDA.

(b) Commissioner Luker stated he concurred with Chairman McMahan on "Small Town America".

(c) Commissioner Woody stated that she agreed with Chairman McMahan and also wanted to thank the County Manager for his work. Fox Sports contacted him and he did a lot of the ground work and made sure they had all they needed when they were there.

Also, she offered her congratulations to Commissioner Mau and his wife, who would be grandparents.

(d) Commissioner Deitz stated that Saturday evening he had the opportunity to go to the Sylva Fire Department, which he retired from after 20 years, for their annual deer meat supper and it was wonderful. They invited all of the retired firemen back for the event. Sam Beck, Bobby Beck and Stan McMahan, all were retired chiefs and they spoke about the progress of the fire departments of the county. It was amazing to think about where they were just 40 years ago and where they were now. He thought it was very admirable.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Adams reminded the Board of a Joint Meeting with the Board of Health on February 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Room at the Department on Aging.

Also, to echo everyone, it was a great commercial. He thought the Charters of Freedom at Mark Watson Park got a lot of exposure too. Kudos to staff, they were the ones that built that and were hired by other communities, outside of county time, to help build other Charters of Freedom as well.

The waving flags and overhead scene that Mr. Kyle Carpenter, the Medal of Honor recipient, was observing, those flags were the Flags for Heroes Program, which was done by the Rotary Club. Each flag represented a Veteran in memory or in honor. Seeing a Medal of Honor winner sitting with the flags that represented so many people of Jackson County was very moving.

(6) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**: Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated she was concerned for the citizens' that had homes that were entrapped behind the businesses that would be removed by the Highway 107 road construction project. Also, she disagreed with building a heated outdoor pool in Cullowhee for a few.

(7) **ANNUAL EXTENSION REPORT**: Rob Hawk, Extension Director, presented the 2019 County Program Impact Report Executive Summary:

The county had a really great year in 2019 with staff working well together through integrated programming and new partnerships, including a very important one with the Parks and Recreation Programming Director Dora Caldwell. This was one of the better years CED experienced in his ten year CED career. Solid work on the following resulted from staff working to benefit the public of the county. Volunteers included 98 that worked 714 hours that impacted 2,425 clients valued at \$18,156 in 2019.

(a) Horticulture work (1,610) had been primarily with the Christmas Tree producers, Landscape Industry, Specialty Crop Producers, Beekeeping and 1,237 home gardeners and small farmers in 2019.

(b) Beginning Beekeeping School. Out the 35 students, over 16 of the class participants began keeping bees that year, each with one to two hives of bees. Typically, the number of hive recommendations per acre were in the one to two range. As more people become familiar with bees and beekeeping the decline of honeybee colonies would be stemmed.

(c) Fruit Tree Home Orchard Workshop evaluations stated that 100% of the student said they had gained knowledge about home orchard fruit tree production. 88% indicated they planned to change their pruning practices. 79% specified their plans to change soil fertility practices. 75% revealed their intent to try more disease resistant cultivars. 54% expressed a desire to change their disease and insect control practices. As a result, participants increased their knowledge for long term sustainable production in their home orchards.

(d) Pesticide Applicators. 109 gained additional CEUs to stay in business due to greater knowledge to safely and effectively apply chemicals for their trade.

(e) 4-H and Youth Development directly worked with 2,507 through six active 4-H Clubs including STEM, 470 in Leadership and Life Skills, 364 in Conservation Education, Summer Camps, 91 in Local Agriculture through "Adventures in Agriculture" summer long day camp and 25 in Embryology with schools.

(f) Embryology had 25 children experience the life cycle first hand. Most of the students cooked an omelet on their own for the first time. Creativity was sparked using beans as the material for creating artwork and the majority of students learned that corn and wheat were used to make many products that they use and eat every day. "I didn't know gas can be made from corn" exclaimed one child.

(g) Independence Grows Here success story illustrates multiple programs 4-H programs in 2019, 13 youth took steps toward independence by journeying away from home to attend 4-H summer camp. An additional 13 youth developed their potential through 4-H presentations at the county level, 11 at the district level, and two at state competition. 31 teenagers practiced planning, organizing and decision making through Youth Leadership Council service projects and event planning. Sometimes they learned through failure as they regroup and practiced follow through. 4-H participants were the ones benefiting from this focus on learning independence, but eventually the learning would show up in self-directed, responsible adults who would be leaders in the community, country and the world.

(h) The Leadership Council (learning 21st leadership skills) program continued to be strong and even grow in 2019 with over 30 members, which was preparing youth for the ever changing world through real world experiences by philanthropy work and community service for those youth programs in need across the county.

(i) Family and Consumer Science program worked with 401 individuals with 171 on increasing knowledge of community resources in regards to a healthier lifestyle; food safety and nutrition and cooking through "Meds instead of Meds" and Snap-Ed. Five increased food safety handling practices and five in increased consumption of vegetable and fruit consumption. FCS Agents also worked with the Extension Community Association (ECA) Clubs in 2019 with nutrition programs and some community development efforts.

(j) Snap-Ed Try Healthy had 13 out of the 16 students tried the beet recipe. Five of those students returned for seconds and verbally reported they were good, especially with the "leaves" (Parsley). Coloring sheets were handed out and of those returned (14), most (9) said they did not like them, but five said "they did like the beets because they were delicious and good for you". The students benefited from this program because they got to try a food they might not get to try at home and some realized trying new food was not bad. They also learned eating beets could turn urine red, which for students was always fun.

(k) The Smokies Ski-Walking School (SSS) of Fall 2019 had six participants that attended the school. All participants were consistent in attending the class and said they benefited from the school because of developing friendships from others in school, which gave support to the walkers and increased cardio and strengthen building from using the poles. The SSS secured \$1,250 from the local Thrift Stores grant that purchased ski-nordic walking poles for SSS for each spring and fall schools. The school taught the basics of ski-nordic walking to help the public with living a healthier lifestyle through ski walking, which burns 20%-40% more calories than walking without poles and increased strengthening of the upper body since ski walking was a total body exercise. The CED was becoming certified in ski-walking to better teach others the benefits and skills of ski-walking properly and safely.

(l) Animal Agriculture worked with 465 individuals in respect to animal production through better herd health, pasture management, reproduction, nutrition and rationing, farm business management and BQA practices. Livestock Agent worked with the JMS Cattlemen's Association as the co-chair of the Education Committee, which she provided educational information on four different occasions on the topics of Beef Cattle Nutrition, Crossbreeding Production Systems, Farm Calving Needs and Alternative Fertilization Options. As a result, they were able to provide approximately 20 producers with an increase in knowledge in the fore mentioned topics, had the yearly usage of cattle handling equipment and corral system double and 25-30 producers expressed a better understanding of equipment and medication needed in the event of calving problems at home.

(m) The Cullowhee Recreation Agriculture Day Camp had 25 campers in which 78% of children responded that they had learned at least one thing about agriculture during the seven week program. 12 of the 23 children expressed that they learned about local crops and animals that were grown and raised in the county and surrounding area. An innovative evaluation approach was utilized. A kinesthetic activity was utilized as they physically moved along a continuum to answer the survey questions.

(n) CRD and Natural Resources worked with about 400 individuals, mostly 5th grade youth, through Annual Soil and Water Conservation Field Days with the schools, but also with the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) and dozens of Wildlife and Resource technical assistance home owner inquiries.

(6) Administratively the Jackson Center performed well with the transition of a retiring Administrative Assistant to the new Administrative Assistant (AA) in the summer months. The transition was smooth with the new AA taking initiative and working well with the staff. The Farmers Breakfast continued in 2019 with a June Breakfast bringing Extension clientele to the Extension Center, which was a great public relations event. ALS met once in May 2019 and again in November 2019. The ALS members were asked to participate more from May to November with extension programs and designate an ALS Chair, which had not happened as of January 2020. ALS did participate and support Extension well in 2019 with attending extension programs. All ERS, county and state reports were completed by their designated deadlines.

Chairman McMahan stated he appreciated all that they did. His two kids thoroughly enjoyed 4H and being able to participate in some of the programs. They learned so many great skills and real world experiences.

Commissioner Woody stated that she also appreciated them so much. Also, she noticed fresh beaver work when she walked the Greenway.

Commissioner Luker stated that he appreciated the 4H Program. In the summer, it would be 40 years ago that he was headed to Raleigh for his first 4H competition.

Informational item.

(8) UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated that on December 19, 2019 the Planning Board held a public hearing on the proposed amendments and recommended that the Commissioners consider adoption. A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with no public comment.

Also included for the Board's consideration was a consistency statement that discussed the relationship between the proposed amendments and the Land Use Plan.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve the UDO Amendments, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(9) AIRPORT AUTHORITY: *Carry over.*

(10) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: *Carry over.*

(11) CASHIERS PLANNING COUNCIL:

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to reappoint David Bond, Glenn Ubertino and Michael Cox to additional three year terms on the Cashiers Planning Council, terms expiring February 17, 2023. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) PLANNING BOARD: *Carry over.*

(13) ROAD NAMING BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to reappoint Todd Dillard, Regan Mathis and Jack Knight to additional two year terms on the Road Naming Board, terms expiring February 01, 2022. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) LITTLE CANADA PARK: Commissioner Deitz stated that he was approached by a constituent from Little Canada asking for help. There was a two-year old girl that could not walk and only lived a couple of miles from the park. In all the other parks they had swings that would accommodate her, but the Little Canada Park did not. It was a shame that there was a kid there that could not enjoy herself like the other kids. They would only need to install a bucket style plastic seat that went on the same chains as the other swings. He wanted to see that taken care of in the next few days.

Mr. Adams stated he would follow up with the Rec Department and proceed forward with the conversation. He did not have any of the details. If it was changing a swing out to a bucket swing, it should be simple to do.

(15) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(16) CLOSED SESSION:

***Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal and G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session except the approval of the minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Deitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman