

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 01, 2021**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on June 01, 2021, at 5:55 p.m., Justice & 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 (via Zoom video conferencing)
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	
	Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose was to receive public input for consideration of the proposed FY2021-2022 Budget.

Mr. Adams stated that as discussed earlier at the special budget work session, it was discovered that some of the information provided to the public was incorrect. This led to a newspaper article that stated the proposed budget was a 17.5% increase above last year's original budget. He provided the Board and the newspaper a summary sheet with the actual numbers:

- General Fund \$71,666,678 (property taxes).
- There were also other funds discussed within the budget.
- The total budget was \$95,457,640, but as discussed at the work session, many funds interchanged within the general fund and were shown in two different places.
- In order to reflect what the overall budget was, they had to subtract the interfund transfers of \$16,514,755.
- The proposed total budget was \$78,942,885, which was a 6.27% increase.
- Originally, the \$16,514,755 was not appropriately representing all transfers.
- He noted that the \$71,666,678 general fund proposed budget was technically 2% less than the 2020-2021 fiscal year's amended budget.

Commissioner Jones stated that Mr. Adams used the Solid Waste fund as an example. He requested that he explain how those funds interacted.

Mr. Adams stated that the Solid Waste fund total was \$4,065,469, which had personnel included with health insurance expenses. Those expenses were reflected in the budget and in the self-insurance fund, so the expense was double-booked. This was done because they needed to show exactly how much the funds cost. If they removed benefits out of the funds, it would not accurately reflect what the Solid Waste costs would be. This was a very transparent way to show the actual cost of each of these funds.

Chairman McMahan stated that once the budget was adopted, it would probably be amended within the first month. Amendments were created by a process where they received additional funding from various sources or sales tax revenues went up or down. They may receive state or federal monies or a whole host of items that could cause the numbers to be adjusted. This was why they had the process of amending the budget to accurately reflect additional revenue or the lack of revenue. He appreciated the clarification of the information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(a) Bob Cochran of HERE of Jackson County expressed his appreciation for being included in last year's budget. He appreciated the support and partnership with the county in doing homeless services. They were very appreciative of being included in the County Manager's recommendations for that year.

(b) Laura Plush, James DeMange, Laura Lankford and Peter Hall of Circles of Cashiers-Glenville, were present for this item.

Ms. Plush thanked the Board as they were included in with Mountain Projects. They were appreciative of the help to reduce poverty in the Cashiers-Glenville area.

Ms. Lankford stated that as a Circles Facilitator Instructor, she thanked them for the support.

Mr. DeMange stated that as part of the Recruitment Team, he thanked them for helping to be able to recruit more people and individuals that needed their help.

Mr. Hall stated that as the Team Leader, the funds would help them identify the barriers that existed to help people get out of poverty.

(c) Paige Christie of the Community Table, thanked the Board for all of their support through the years and especially the past year. She thanked them for including them in the proposed budget. They were seeing approximately 100 new families every month and they were getting ready for an increase in the summer with kids being out of school.

(d) Vicki Lewis of the Nurse Family Partnership thanked the Board for their continued support of the program. They had always been so faithful and because of that, they were able to serve over 96 clients. They continued to serve them throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic with great results.

(e) Brooke Smith of Mountain Projects thanked the Board for their generous support. Mountain Projects deeply valued its relationship with the county and worked very hard to honor their commitment to the Board to serve the residents of the county and to be good stewards of the money. On behalf of all of the Mountain Projects organizations, she thanked the Board.

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Deitz moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman