

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 07, 2022**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on June 07, 2022, 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
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	
	Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECOGNITION AWARD: Sheriff Chip Hall; Major Shannon Queen and Chief Deputy Matt Wike were present for this item.

Sheriff Hall stated that he wanted to take time to recognize some of the outstanding daily work of the men and women of the Sheriff's Office. He wanted to present a special recognition for Deputy Michael Smathers of the Cruso Community of Haywood County.

Deputy Smathers' family experienced damage with the flooding events that took place last year. He took care of his family while still doing his job to take care of the citizens of Jackson County. Deputy Smathers started working for the Sheriff's Office on the night shift in 2019. The most exciting thing that happened to him recently was that he was a new dad. They were thankful he was available to serve the citizens and enjoy the time with his new family.

Major Queen stated that on November 23, 2021, Deputy Smathers was on duty monitoring radio traffic when a fire call went out in the Addie Community. Deputy Smathers responded and was the first person on the scene, joined by volunteer firemen shortly thereafter. When he arrived on the scene, there was an individual still in the home that did not want to leave. Deputy Smathers risked his own life and enter the home without protective gear. He was able to save the individual's life. Deputy Smathers was to be commended for this effort.

Sheriff Hall presented Deputy Smathers with a Medal of Honor for his actions on November 23, 2021.

Deputy Smathers thanked the Sheriff's Office for the Award and stated that he worked with a good group of people. He also thanked the Sheriff's Office for the support they gave his family during the flood. It meant the world to them.

Sheriff Hall noted that there was a lot going on that day at the high school and community college. Through the Sheriff's Office and observant citizens, he was glad to report that the individual that created the drama and chaos was locked up. Also, in four to six weeks, the Sheriff's Office would be launching a Sheriff's Office App for real time, correct information.

(2) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Reconvened Regular Meeting of May 10, 2022; a Work Session of May 10, 2022 and a Regular Meeting of May 17, 2022, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: None.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Woody stated that several individuals that spoke during the public hearing were directors of nonprofits that served the community. It was gratifying to see how many people were impacting the community in positive ways and they were appreciated.

(b) Commissioner Stribling stated he wanted to give a shout out to the men and women in blue for apprehending the individual that day with quick speed. It could have been a lot worse than what it was.

(6) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: None.

(7) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**:

(a) Chris Taber of Sylva stated that she was the Executive Director of New Hope Sylva, a new nonprofit. Their goal was to help women in recovery to get back on their feet. They would offer transitional housing for women recovering from substance use disorder, returning from incarceration or experiencing homelessness. The organization was not ready to request funding from the county at that time. They only wanted to introduce the program.

(b) Terri Cole-Smith of Sylva stated that she worked alongside Ms. Taber with New Hope Sylva. She was there to plant a seed about future funding. In February, she opened RISE (Resources in Support of Empowerment), which was a local community resource center. It specialized in connecting with people who were experiencing substance use, alcohol use disorder and connecting other folks with local resources. She provided an overview of the opioid settlement dollars talking points for recovery houses.

(8) **FIREWORKS DISPLAY REQUESTS**: Tony Elders, Director of Permitting and Code Enforcement, requested approval for the following applications he received for fireworks displays:

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| July 2 nd | Chattooga Club
High Hampton |
| July 3 rd : | Bear Lake Reserve
Cedar Creek Racquet Club
Country Club of Sapphire Valley
Friends of Lake Glenville
Lonesome Valley |
| July 4 th : | Camp Merrie-Woode
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce - Sylva
Mountaintop Club
Village Green - Cashiers
Wade Hampton |
| August 6 th | Castle Lady Hawke – Wedding |

Motion: Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the request for fireworks displays as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FROM DANIEL CLEMENTS

AND RESOLUTION R22-11: Ms. Baker presented an offer she received from Daniel Clements for a property foreclosed on a few months ago for Lot 5, Norton Ridge, containing 0.10 acres, (PIN #7552-88-3413) in Hamburg Township for \$7,600.00. Per the county policy, the offer amount had to be for at least the amount of cost they had in the foreclosure, which was \$7,530.80. If approved, they would send letters to all of the adjoining property owners. This would also be published in the newspaper for the upset bid process.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to approve Resolution R22-11, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) FINAL OFFER FOR RIVER ROCK LOTS: Ms. Baker stated that on December 07, 2022, the Board approved the initial bid from Divine Consulting, LLC and/or assigns for Lots 52, 58, 61, 63, 65, 70 and 155 River Rock in the amount of \$4,000.00. The offer was upset and the final bid was for \$18,895.00 from Maxiemillion, LLC. This had been advertised for ten days with no further upset bids. She requested approval of the final bid, which was \$18,895.00.

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to approve the offer for the final bid of \$18,895.00 for Lots 52, 58, 61, 63, 65, 70 and 155 River Rock, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) VILLAGE OF FOREST HILLS MUNICIPAL GRANT: Mr. Adams stated that the Village of Forest Hills was invited to submit a late application for the Municipal Grant. The county also asked follow up questions about the application. The Village of Forest Hills assured him that if the application was approved, they would get the plantings in so that they could submit the invoice for a portion of the plan in the amount of \$3,500.00 to \$4,500.00.

The scope of work was to include the installation of new perennials along both bed lines in front of the existing fence on both the north and south sides of the entrance signage. An additional quote was included for the village to look at to develop a new hardscape feature. The request to the Board was for up to \$4,500.00.

Motion: *Chairman McMahan moved to approve the Village of Forest Hills Municipal Grant application in the amount of up to \$4,500.00, as presented. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion.*

Discussions:

Commissioner Stribling asked if they would be removing anything?

Commissioner Woody stated that Ron Yount, Village of Forest Hills Board Member, let her know that someone drove through the area in an accident that ruined some of their plantings, so they were replacing and extending the area. They were also trying to landscape to prevent people from parking in the area.

Chairman McMahan stated that the county had helped them with the entrance many times.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: Mr. Adams stated that this special called meeting request was regarding the budget schedule. It was requested that the Board set a special called meeting on June 14th to adopt the budget. There were scheduling conflicts with the June 21st meeting date. There was also a work session scheduled for June 14th, but he did not have any items for that agenda. He requested to cancel the June 14th work session and schedule a special called meeting for budget discussions and adoption.

Chairman McMahan stated that on June 14th, the Conrad Burrell Highway ceremony would be held at 1:00 p.m. at Southwestern Community College. He requested to schedule the special called meeting at 11:00 a.m. on June 14th.

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to cancel the June 14th work session at 1:00 p.m. and call for a special meeting on June 14th at 11:00 a.m. to adopt the budget, as requested. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR INDOOR POOL FACILITIES R22-12: Mr. Adams stated that this resolution authorized county staff to move forward with the sale of the GO Bonds for \$20,000,000 for the indoor pool project on June 16th. This information had been provided to the county by the bond attorney, had been approved by the LGC and Ms. Baker.

The LGC met that day and approved the county to sell directly to the bank versus a public sale. They had already approved the bond amount, which was done through the referendum process. He requested authorization to present a letter to Tony Blalock of the State and Local Government Finance Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. The letter thanked the LGC for moving forward with approving the direct placement of the \$20,000,000 General Obligation Bonds with Key Finance.

Also, he let them know the county received four bids and that the total proposed construction contract was for \$21,174,000. There were additional costs in the amount of \$3,007,308 for a total project cost of \$24,181,308. The county intended to fund the additional \$4,181,308 needed above the bond amount out of the general fund.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve Resolution R22-12, authorizing the sale of General Obligation Bonds for Indoor Pool Facilities. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to authorize the County Manager to submit the proposed letter to Tony Blalock of the State and Local Government Finance Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer with referenced materials for the application. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Adams stated that all of the transfers that had been discussed would come before the Board at the June 21st regular meeting that would put the money in place for the Board to adopt the new capital project ordinance. This would then allow the Board to vote on the construction contract.

(14) ABC BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to reappoint Donald Ferguson to another three-year term on the ABC Board, term expiring June 30, 2025. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(15) CULLOWHEE PLANNING COUNCIL:

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to appoint Karen Kandl to a three-year term as an At Large Member on the Cullowhee Planning Council, term expiring May 31, 2025. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(16) REGION A AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to reappoint Martha Chovan, Charlotte Cowan and Pat Buckner to additional three-year terms on the Region A Aging Advisory Council, terms expiring July 06, 2025. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to reappoint Dana Tucker and Charles Wolfe to additional three-year terms on the Social Services Board, terms expiring June 30, 2025. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(18) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stribling moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman