

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 03, 2019**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on September 03, 2019, 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) **PROCLAMATION: FIREFIGHTER, RESCUE SQUAD AND FIRST RESPONDER WEEK:** Commissioner Woody read a Proclamation declaring September 8th – 14th as Firefighter, Rescue Squad and First Responder Week. Commissioner Mau moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The Proclamation was presented to Michael Forbis, Fire Marshal.

(2) **PROCLAMATION: OPIOID AWARENESS MONTH:** Commissioner Mau read a Proclamation declaring September as Opioid Awareness Month. Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The Proclamation was presented to representatives of the Community Foundation.

Chairman McMahan stated that this was a kickoff for the month-long awareness of the opioid epidemic in the county. The Community Foundation and many others had been working hard to put together a program and opportunities to reach out to the community to raise awareness.

(3) **AGENDA:** Chairman McMahan requested to add one item: Vaya Resolution. Commissioner Mau moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **MINUTES:** Commissioner Woody moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of August 13, 2019 and a Regular Meeting of August 20, 2019. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(5) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None.

(6) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

(a) Commissioner Woody stated they had the first meeting of the new Board of Health and were pleased with the citizens that came forward to serve. It was a very diverse board with representation from Cashiers to Qualla. They celebrated the commendations that the Health Department recently received for the animal shelter and nurses.

The Litter Campaign was moving forward and they may have noticed the billboards were up and they were also getting more donations for the effort. The first meeting of the task force would be on September 11th at the Skyland Services Center. She and Norma Clayton met with Chad Parker, Public Works Director and Kim Shuler, who was employed by the county to coordinate recycling and she was also taking the lead with the Litter Campaign.

She was privileged to attend the state conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and it was an honor to represent Jackson County. There were many excellent workshops and it was a very productive time.

(b) Commissioner Mau stated that the TDA Strategic Plan presentation was being presented that night at the Jackson County Public Library and also the next evening at the Library in Cashiers.

There was a lot going on with TWSA. Mr. Harbaugh would be stepping down as director, but the board passed a motion on August 20th that they would name an interim as soon as possible. They also passed a motion to have the Personnel Committee review the job description to make sure it was up to date. They would be holding a special meeting on September 5th and may have another the next week. The Policy Committee met last week and things were moving forward despite changes in leadership.

Also, it looked like Florida was getting spared a little with Dorian, but the east coast of North Carolina may take a more direct blow. He wanted to keep those folks in their thoughts.

(c) Commissioner Deitz stated that he stopped by the Health Department and it had been broken into. There was a lot of damage done inside. He knew they would help them in any way they could.

(7) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Adams reported:

(a) **Health Department:** There was a break in and that was the second incident at that location. There was also a break in at the old location during construction. Currently, it was under investigation and he would refer any individual questions after the public meeting. Law Enforcement was investigating and he was also investigating with I.T. and Maintenance on how to better secure the facility.

(b) **Citizens Academy:** They had received 22 applications, so they would be proceeding forward with the academy. September 12th would be the kickoff meeting and all of the Commissioners were invited to address the new academy.

(8) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: T.J. Walker of Dillsboro stated that he had been the owner/operator of the Dillsboro Inn for 25 years. During the past week, with the Nantahala Gorge shut down, he witnessed over 1,000 boaters coming down the Tuckasegee River. They raised the water so the integrity of the Dillsboro drop was increased, which was a hazardous whitewater situation with double ledges. All summer he had seen boaters crash. It was marvelous to see 1,000 people coming down the river and through Dillsboro, but this had been one of the worst summers of his 25 years for occupancy. His September would be stronger than July and he thought they were still not looking at the natural resource they had in the county and the economic opportunity and viability of the Tuckasegee River. It was sad that they had not had the vision of the viability of the river. They needed the county's help.

(9) GIS DIRECTOR POSITION: Mr. Adams present Anja Collette to the Board for consideration of the new GIS Director position. It was requested that the Board approve her to be hired at a Grade 26, Step 5, to be effective September 1st. Ms. Collette was a WCU graduate and had two degrees, Environmental Science and Natural Resource Conservation and Management. She was currently working on her Master's Degree in Geospatial Information Science. She had been working for the county for the last six months.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to appoint Anja Collette as the new GIS Director at a Grade 26, Step 5, to be effective September 1st, as requested. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Ms. Collette stated that she appreciated the time and opportunity.

(10) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT – BLOSSMAN GAS R19-22: Ms. Baker stated she received a full price offer for 1.93 acres (PIN #7631-67-8329) in the amount of \$185,000. The tax value of the property was \$156,330. Blossman was currently located off of Highway 107 in the portion that would be improved, so they were looking ahead to secure a site for Blossman Gas in the future. This was a Jackson Development Corporation property that the county owned since 2012.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve Resolution R19-22, as presented. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Adams stated that when the sale finalized, he requested that the Board consider reserving the funds from this sale to go toward the purchase of the three acres they were purchasing for the SRC site in Dillsboro. He wanted to match this up because the Board evaluated the 1.93 acre site to potentially be the next site for the Dillsboro SRC.

For multiple reasons, including zoning and the bridge replacement, they decided to move away from the site. Since this site could have been a potential use for the SRC, but was not, if they could use the proceeds from the sale of this property to offset the purchase of the three acres in Dillsboro, that would provide some relief to the Enterprise Fund.

Chairman McMahan stated that they would consider the request.

(11) RESOLUTION R19-23 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT: Norma Taylor, Transit Director, stated that the grant was made available annually through the state to assist transit systems with administrative and capital funding. Listed below was the estimated funding request, which included the match required by the county for each program:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	
Administrative	\$188,859	\$28,329	15%
Capital (Vehicles and Other)	\$281,295	\$28,130	10%
5310 Operating	\$175,000	\$87,500	50%
TOTAL	\$645,154	\$143,959	
	Total Funding Request	Total Local Share	

Ms. Taylor presented Public Transportation Program Resolution R19-23 for consideration. A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with no public comment.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve Resolution R19-23 Public Transportation Program Grant, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) VAYA RESOLUTION R19-24: Chairman McMahan stated the information had been changing daily and the resolution contained the latest information they had for the Board to consider.

Shelly Forman, Community Relations Regional Director, Vaya Health, stated they appreciated Chairman McMahan’s participation on the Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board. A month or so ago, Chairman McMahan shared with the Board about the General Assembly’s proposed state funding reductions for services for people that had no insurance. Vaya Health was a public agency that managed Medicaid and state funds that were allocated through the General Assembly for people with mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities.

Unfortunately, if a person had no insurance or were underinsured, there was no entitlement to services and it was based strictly on funds they received from counties and from the General Assembly. In the last four years, Vaya had lost over \$48mil for these services for people with no insurance. There were hopeful that there would be a resolution and some of the funding reductions that were proposed would be restored, but that did not seem to be the case.

At that point, Vaya was looking at an additional \$9mil in the next fiscal year, to be a recurring reduction, which would mean \$18mil overall. The funding reductions had eroded the funding they had on hand. In the last two budget cycles, Vaya had taken almost \$20mil of the cost savings they had achieved through Medicaid management to put back into services in the community. With the reductions, they had not been able to do an expansion of new services because the General Assembly cut those funds. They had adopted a philosophy of cost containment until the budget was passed.

They Vaya Board of Directors passed a resolution to the General Assembly asking them to not implement the funding reductions. They also asked them to present the resolution to the counties to consider passing a similar resolution to not enact the funding reductions.

Chairman McMahan presented Resolution R19-24, which requested that the General Assembly:

- Stop cutting Vaya Health's State single-stream funding so that such funds can be utilized to strengthen access to healthcare services for the mental health, intellectual/ developmental disabilities and substance use disorder needs of uninsured and underinsured Jackson County citizens; and
- Allow Vaya Health to build up its Medicaid savings so that Vaya can reinvest in services and supports for our communities rather than mandating that such funds be used to replace reduced State funding.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to approve Resolution R19-24, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Luker moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman