

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
OCTOBER 01, 2019**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on October 01, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair
Ron Mau, Commissioner
Gayle Woody, Commissioner
Absent: Mickey Luker, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**: Commissioner Woody read a Proclamation declaring October 6th – 12th as Fire Prevention Week. Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The Proclamation was presented to Brandon Green, President of Jackson County Fire and Life Safety.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Mau moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of September 10, 2019 and a Regular Meeting of September 17, 2019. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan reported that he attended the Solar Fest event about renewable energy, which was a great event. He provided information to the Commissioners. In the coming year, he thought they could think about what they could do locally with some of the county facilities and properties to harness the sun.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Mau stated that he attended the Summit School ribbon cutting for their high school and Summit Center, it was a nice facility. Also, he had kept them up to date on TWSA and it had now been reported that Dan Schaffer was the Interim Director. The ad was out for the new full time executive director position for TWSA.

(b) Commissioner Woody stated that she and her husband had the privilege to travel to Raleigh and participate in the State Senior Games. She acknowledged the Rec Department and Dora Caldwell and the Council on Aging and Lindsy Cauley, who were there all week. Both of those organizations did great work in the county helping to keep the seniors fit.

(c) Commissioner Deitz stated that he recently went to the Greenway where they installed a bench in memory of Brian Bryson, who was a coach, teacher and a great friend. He passed away a few years back and they were placing a plaque there with all of the things he accomplished in his life.

(6) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Adams gave kudos to the Maintenance Department that poured the concrete and built the pathway to the river for the Brian Bryson memorial plaque.

He stated that they had a work session scheduled for October 8th, but at that point he was still waiting on a couple of items that he did not believe would be scheduled for the meeting. If he did not receive additional items by October 4th, did the Board want to meet or cancel the meeting?

Consensus: *If they did not have the items by October 4th, they would advertise to cancel the scheduled work session.*

Commissioner Mau requested to change the November 5th regular meeting to October 29th at 3:00 pm.

Consensus: *Change the regular meeting of November 5th to October 29th at 3:00 pm.*

(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Patricia Purdy of Sylva stated she had been a resident of the county for 36 years. She wanted to speak about the Highway 107 road project. She wanted to know what the Commissioners' positions were on supporting "Say No to the Road". Were they for it or against it? Because the plan, as it was, did not do anything to relieve traffic congestion. It would be displacing businesses and people. It was something they needed to take seriously. She did not think they should go ahead with the horrible plan.

(b) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated she was there regarding citizens' rights. DOT was ignoring the traffic inflow of 30,000 cars daily on the Old Asheville Highway. She thought the issue was with violators of traffic lights and laws that never received a citation.

(c) Deborah Freels of Sylva stated regarding Highway 107, she had been to all of the meetings and there had been no headway made. They were not doing anything about the traffic. They needed a bypass and that was what they asked for. She wanted to be able to vote on this instead of just the town citizens. Also, they asked to reduce the speed limit from town to Ingles to 25mph for less accidents.

(d) Jeannie Kelley of Sylva and "Say No to the road". She asked for help from the Commissioners by passing a resolution. She provided petitions with approximately 10,000 signatures to the Commissioners. Also, on the plans, there were going to be walls everywhere and a retaining wall in front of their store. They could do it a lot different. They did not have to make it so destructive.

(e) Dick Darnall of Glenville stated that behind Kel-Save a bypass could be built to alleviate a lot. Also, he provided information about a Diana Dome for the Cullowhee swimming pool. He thought they needed one as well for the Cashiers pool. They had one at the Highlands pool and it worked well.

(8) HOMELESS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: Bob Cochran, HERE Program Director and Destri Leger, HERE Housing Case Manager, were present for this item.

Mr. Cochran stated that he would answer any questions the Board may have and follow up on any previous conversations they had regarding the homeless services in the county. He wanted to express appreciation for the Board's support and Mr. Adams' expertise in the area of nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Adams stated that the request was for the Board to designate HERE as the lead county agency in regards to the homeless population. With the designation, would also go the award of \$130,000 that was budgeted by the county for the fiscal year.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to designate HERE as the county's homeless service provider and appropriate the agreed budget amount, as requested. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion.*

Discussions:

Commissioner Woody asked if there were plans to offer homeless services year round as they moved forward.

Mr. Cochran stated yes. They were providing resources, referrals and to some degree, housing services at that time. They 14 active clients and Ms. Leger had done a great job of getting some of the people housed.

Commissioner Deitz stated that the county and Western North Carolina were so unselfish about giving and helping others. He talked to a concerned citizen that stated that each group did not know enough about what other groups were doing. They thought that maybe they could use their resources better or be better organized.

Mr. Cochran stated that they had Social Services, Mountain Projects and Vaya Health represented on their board and were working closely with United Christian Ministries and Meridian Behavioral Health Services. That was one advantage of the smaller community was having good relationships and communications. That did not mean they could not always improve.

He recognized that to the extent they develop resources for the homeless, that there was a chance that they could become a draw for people outside of Jackson County. They had enough need in the county without generating additional needs. They did have a residency requirement of 90 days to help address those types of needs. Also, in the past, the approach to homelessness was that they needed to resolve their problems and then they would get them housed. Housing was a basic need that was constant. It was not just theory, it was fact and best practices showed when they housed people first and they had a basic foundation to be under shelter, they began to do better and the outcomes were better for rehabilitation and employment.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) ORDINANCE DECLARING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS - NEW YEAR'S AND GREENING UP THE MOUNTAINS 5K RACE COUNTY EVENTS:

Ms. Baker stated the Recreation and Parks Department would be doing the annual New Year's 5K run on January 1, 2020 and the annual Greening Up the Mountains 5K race on April 25, 2020

The NCDOT rules and regulations require that the Commissioners adopt an ordinance approving the event. There would be no road closures and no public hearing was required.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to adopt the Ordinances for the 5K Run New Year's Day and the Greening Up the Mountains 5K Race, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LONG TERM CARE:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to reappoint Joyce Brooks to another three year term on the Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care, term to expire November 05, 2022. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) COUNCIL ON AGING:

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to reappoint Jack McFadden to an additional three year term on the Council on Aging, term to expire October 01, 2022; to appoint Sue Nations to fill the unexpired term of Marion Jones on the Council on Aging, term to expire October 01, 2020; and to appoint Charlene Ward to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Phillips on the Council on Aging, term to October 01, 2020. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Woody moved to reappoint Sue Ellen Bridgers and Stacy Adams to additional three year terms on the Public Library Board, terms to expire November 15, 2022. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to reappoint Anna Lippard and Fred Hinson to additional three year terms on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, terms to expire December 31, 2022 and November 04, 2022, respectively. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

Mr. Adams recognized students from WCU in the audience that were doing a documentary on the NC107 Project.

(15) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz 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 Mau 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 Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman