

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 04, 2023**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 04, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Mark A. Letson, Chairman
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
John W. Smith, Commissioner
Tom Stribling, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Natalia Isenberg, Interim County Attorney
Representative, Via Zoom
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Paige Gilliland, AWAKE Senior Forensic Interviewer and Case Manager; Maggie Grey, Forensic Interviewer and Case Manager; Ashley Cook, AWAKE Victim Advocate and Victim Outreach Coordinator; and Kristen Brady, AWAKE Administrative Assistant, were present to accept the proclamation.

(2) **PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim April 3rd – 7th as Public Health Week. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Shelley Carraway, Health Director, was present to accept this proclamation.

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

(4) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of March 14, 2023 and a Regular Meeting of March 21, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(5) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman Letson reported that the Department on Aging gave him an opportunity to speak at the kickoff of the Senior Games for the region. Over 70 of their finest citizens were participating in games in a variety of sports. In relation to Public Health Week, this event helped to get seniors active. He was blessed to be a participant in the event and could not wait until the medal awarding ceremony on May 4th.

(6) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: None.

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

(a) Transit Wind Damage: At approximately 5:40 p.m. on Saturday, April 1st, a roof was blown off by heavy winds at Transit operations. The roof landed on other portions of the building and blocked the main entrance. A citizen informed April Alm, Transit Director, on April 2nd. Chad Parker, Public Works Director and other staff went onsite to assess damage and work on next steps.

The facility had to be shut down on April 3rd to remove debris and ensure safety. A roofing company with a crane was brought in to remove debris and temporarily patch the roof. They were able to patch the roof over finished space before it rained. Code enforcement inspected the facility and it was determined to be safe for occupation/operation. Transit opened for full operation on April 4th. The county liability insurance adjuster made a site visit that day also. The full extent/value of damage was unknown at that time.

(b) Upcoming Event Announcements:

- Household Hazard Waste Collection Event on April 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Mark Watson Park in Sylva.
- Keep Our Mountains Clean and Green Litter Task Force would hold their annual spring litter pick up event during the weeks of April 16th – 29th.

(c) Construction Projects:

- Animal Rescue Center: Final items on the facility were being completed. The grading contractor would be onsite in the next couple of weeks to finalize site issues. The county transition team would meet that week to finalize a 30-day transition plan. Full transition should take place by the first week of May. They would want to operate in the facility for a while before a grand opening.
- Aquatics Center: Footings were over 90% complete. Rock anchors were complete and masonry foundation work had started. They should begin to move forward with structural steel. Also, they should begin to build the retaining wall and pour concrete walls at the pump and chemical rooms. He notified the Board of Elections of the current construction schedule.
- Domestic Violence Shelter: He was pleased to announce that Dogwood Trust Fund offered to amend the current grant contract for the construction of a new domestic violence shelter. The amendment would add an additional \$174,500 to the grant award. The new grant award total was \$2,348,997.50. This would allow the county to move forward with the design of the proposed 8,200 SF facility. Additional information would be provided at the upcoming work session.

(8) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Lake Silver, Field Representative for Congressman Chuck Edwards, stated he was serving Haywood County west, including Jackson County. He had lived in Western North Carolina all his life and was very excited to serve in his role. He would be available and had already met with the County Manager and two municipalities.

Also, Congressman Edwards was planning office hours again in the area. They would do all they could on their end to assist the county, especially through federal agencies. The Congressman was serving on three committees, the Budget Committee, the Transportation Infrastructure Committee and the Government Oversight Committee. They would have their mobile office, the Carolina Cruiser at Bridge Park on April 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

(9) CONSENT AGENDA: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for February 2023, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) LOCAL CHILD FATALITY TEAMS ANNUAL REPORT: Ms. Carraway stated that North Carolina Statute Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments required Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist. Also to submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

The purpose of the local CFPTs were:

- Identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies
- Make and carry out recommendations for changes that would prevent future child deaths
- Promote understanding of the causes of child deaths

She presented the CFPT Annual Report for review for calendar year 2022.

General discussions were held.

Informational item.

(11) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman