

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JANUARY 02, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on January 02, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:	Mark Letson, Chairman	Darlene Fox, Interim County Manager
	Todd Bryson, Vice Chair	John Kubis, Interim County Attorney (Via Zoom)
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
	John Smith, Commissioner	
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) PROCLAMATION FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE:

Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim January 15th as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(3) MINUTES: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of December 12, 2023; a Special Called Meeting of December 12, 2023; and a Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Letson stated it had been a very busy holiday season in the county and he was excited for 2024.

(5) COMMISSIONER REPORTS: None.

(6) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Ms. Fox reported:

(a) ABC Board: The ABC Board was required by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (Rule .0902) to set its working capital requirements at not less than two weeks average gross sales of the last fiscal year. Gross sales were the gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages less distributions as defined in G.S.18B-805(b)(2), (3) and (4).

The ABC Board's position on this requirement was as follows:

- Minimum Amount \$ 221,411
- Maximum Amount \$1,439,174
- FY23 Actual Amount \$1,587,720

The amount over the maximum would be split 60/40 between the county and the Town of Sylva. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, Jackson County ranked seven out of 172 boards in the state for profit percent to sales and ranked number one among Western North Carolina Boards.

(b) **Aging Facility**: The final loan payment for the Department on Aging Facility was made on December 11, 2023. The original loan of \$4,171,000 was issued in December, 2008.

(c) **Solid Waste Transfer Station**: The WasteWorks Software had been updated. In January, the transfer stations in Sylva and Cashiers would begin to implement card access. Debit and credit cards would be accepted at each location to provide more convenience for citizens.

General discussions were held.

(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Donald Selzer stated the version of the Fontana Regional Library (FRL) agreement being circulated did not reflect all changes made to the original. He outlined the issues and problems in the agreement. He believed the proposal needed substantial corrections to be enforceable and clear.

(b) Pat Steinbrueck stated she had been involved with the library for over a decade. She expressed gratitude and admiration for the director, staff and the board members. A sense of community had been created in the libraries where everyone felt welcome. She listed out the services provided by the library to the public. They were fortunate to have committed volunteers and directors in the libraries.

(c) Steve Steinbrueck stated he believed much of the information the Board had heard regarding FRL was inaccurate and did not reflect the general public's impression of FRL operations or leadership. He did not see that the proposed revisions facilitated a good faith discussion among the library stakeholders. He listed out the points to his opinion. He encouraged the process to continue at arms-length from the elected representatives.

(d) Michael Redman stated he was Tracy Fitzmaurice's partner, who was the Jackson County Librarian and FRL Director. In past Commissioner meetings, Tracy had been the subject of vile and reprehensible lies. She had been accused of not caring about or being responsive to the community. This was demonstratively untrue given her 32 years of service to the county. At no time in Tracy's life had she ever given pornography to a child and it was beyond disgusting to suggest she groomed children for sex trafficking. Tracy was a supportive, loving and inspiring mother to her two children and a loyal and involved public servant that had made the needs and safety of the entire community her life's work. Her continued dedication to the library and the people of the county in the face of the baseless and hateful attacks should be all the proof they needed.

(e) Keith Blaine requested to add more information to the volunteer board list on the county website. Also, he read the revised FRL agreement several times and spoke with Macon County's Attorney, who reviewed the document and determined it was a legally binding document. He requested Jackson County's Attorney review the document to confirm the impacts. He supported the agreement.

(8) FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA CONTRACT: Sheriff Doug Farmer stated Flock Safety was a License Plate Reader (LPR) platform used by the Sheriff's Office. They placed two additional cameras in their budget for \$500 per camera, which were not included in this contract.

(a) LPR enabled the Sheriff's Office to deploy cameras in the community or roadway. During alerts, such as Amber, Blue or Silver, they could program the LPR's to read plates.

Features included:

- Community Cameras
- Unlimited Users
- State Network
- Time and Location Based Search
- License Plate Lookup
- Vehicle Fingerprint Search
- Flock Insight/Analytics Page
- ESRI Based Map Interface
- Real-Time NCIC Alerts on Flock ALPR Cameras

- Unlimited Custom Hot Lists
 - Direct Share – Surrounding Jurisdiction
- (b) He presented a five-year contract payable annually:
- Flock Safety Platform: \$10,000
 - Professional Services: \$ 1,300
 - Subtotal Year 1: \$11,300
 - Annual Recurring Subtotal: \$10,000
 - Estimated Tax: \$ 3,591
 - Contract Total \$51,300

General discussions were held.

Sheriff Farmer stated this was an excellent tool for law enforcement. He would present an updated contract with a complete quote at the next meeting to include the two additional cameras.

Informational item.

(9) BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Ms. Fox presented four Budget Ordinance Amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the four Budget Ordinance Amendments, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) LICENSE PLATE AGENCY: Ms. Fox presented a Budget Ordinance Amendment for the License Plate Agency, in the amount of \$75,000, for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for approval. This would be for the startup of the License Plate Agency. Also, there was an outstanding Capital Projects Account for Skyland Services Center in the amount of \$66,533 left over for construction. She recommended using these funds for the construction of the License Plate Agency.

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Budget Ordinance Amendment for the License Plate Agency, in the amount of \$75,000, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stribling moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman