

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JULY 09, 2015**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 09, 2015, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman  
Mark Jones, Vice Chair  
Charles Elders, Commissioner  
Vicki Greene, Commissioner  
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager  
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board  
J.K. Coward, Jr., County Attorney

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of June 16, 2015, a Regular Meeting of June 18, 2015 and a Recessed Meeting of June 25, 2015. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan recognized a former Jackson County Commissioner in attendance, Ms. Roberta Crawford, along with her son, Mr. Ray Crawford. Mr. Crawford was chosen as the North Carolina Science Teacher of the year and was recently named Teacher of the Year for Jackson County.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Elders stated he spoke with Senator Davis earlier in the day and the funds for the 441 sidewalk project have been approved.

(b) Commissioner Deitz thanked Julie Spiro and the Chamber for their outstanding work on the Fourth of July Celebration in downtown Sylva. It was very patriotic and well attended.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Wooten reported:

(a) **Cashiers-Glenville Rescue Squad**: A request was submitted to possibly locate one of their rescue vehicles in the county maintenance facility located across the street from the Cashiers-Glenville Recreation Center. After evaluating the current space, it was determined that there was not enough space to accommodate the request.

(b) **Medical Services for the Detention Center**: The Sheriff's department has solicited a proposal from Transform Health to provide medical services in the jail. This company provides similar services in Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, and Haywood Counties. They received very positive feedback from the counties that have utilized their services for the past several years. Presently, the jail nurse position is vacant. If a change is considered, now seems to be the appropriate time. He was working with representatives from the Sheriff's Department to gather all costs associated with medical services currently provided in the recently approved budget to allow a comparison of current cost versus contract cost. They expect to have a recommendation for consideration at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

(c) **US Forest Service's Highlands Work Center:** The District Ranger, Mike Wilkins, has provided notification that the Forest Service plans to sell the Highlands Work Center, which has not been in use since 2008. The purpose of the notification is to solicit comments about the proposed property disposition. He would be glad to forward any comments or concerns from the Commissioners to Mr. Wilkins.

(d) **Permitting and Code Enforcement Performance Audit:** Representatives from Benchmark Planning will be on site July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to begin their review.

(e) **Planning Director Search:** The finalists have been identified and on-site interviews will be scheduled during the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>. Once the dates have been confirmed, he will provide Commissioners with a schedule and information about each candidate. There will be a designated time for interviews by the Commissioners; consequently, an executive session will be required to conduct those interviews.

(f) **Golden Leaf Community-Based Grants Making Initiative:** The Golden Leaf Foundation has announced a new grant opportunity for counties in Western North Carolina. The concept was introduced to county managers by Gold Leaf staff during a conference call on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Follow up meetings have been scheduled during the first week of August in Hendersonville and Murphy. He invited participation by Commissioners in these meetings.

(g) **GPS Systems:** From time to time, inquiries are received regarding GPS Systems with incorrect information for the county. The GPS providers requested current GIS maps, which the county has now provided, so they can update and improve their software.

(h) **Harris Regional Hospital:** He recently attended a Business Round Table Meeting at the hospital where Steve Heatherly, President and CEO, reported that a commitment had been made to build a new emergency room. Also, they will completely renovate the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor birthing center, to include a C-section operating. All should be completed in the next year. Mr. Heatherly and Lucretia Stargell, Director of Corporate Relations, will give an update on all the activities at the hospital at the Commissioners' joint meeting with the municipalities on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

(i) **Cattle Load-Out Facility:** At the last meeting they discussed the possibility of locating a cattle load-out facility in the Savannah Community, on the Calvary Church Road property owned by the county. Following the meeting, he asked Permitting and Code Enforcement to evaluate the site, knowing there was a potential of wetlands. They found a stream at the back of the property, Savannah Creek, which feeds into the larger stream. Since it feeds into a trout stream, there are 30' buffers on each side. The rest of the property is currently in the flood plain. These findings rule out this site as a possibility for a cattle load-out facility. They will continue working to identify a site for the facility.

(j) **Wireless Headphones:** Commissioners asked him to inquire about wireless headphones to assist anyone that may have a hearing impairment. He identified a company that will provide two wireless headsets, which should be available in the next 30 days.

**(k) Future Meetings:**

July 11-13	NACO - Charlotte
July 31, 2015	Region A Annual Meeting, Murphy NC
August 6, 2015	Regular Meeting
August 18, 2015	Work session followed by Commissioners Meeting

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

Marie Leatherwood of Sylva disagrees with past and present Board decisions.

**(7) CONSENT AGENDA:**

Brandi Henson, Tax Collector presented, Tax Collector, Refund and Foreclosure Status Reports for June, 2015, for approval.

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

**(8) COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS):** Melissa Barker, Program Director, stated the mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. She stated that CIS had received the matching grant and it was awarded in full for the amount of \$25,000, to be split between two school systems: Cherokee and Jackson. She requested that the county provide a matching grant in the amount of \$12,500 for the benefit of Blue Ridge School.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Jones moved to approve a matching grant in the sum of \$12,500, from the contingency fund, for Communities in Schools for the benefit of Blue Ridge School. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(9) CELL TOWER ORDINANCE:** Chairman McMahan stated that a public hearing was held prior to the regular meeting. Several public comments were received from citizens and attorneys, who had reviewed the ordinance and found items they felt needed further clarification. He thought the concerns warranted placing the item on hold to allow the county attorney and staff an opportunity to fully review and address the comments that were made during the public hearing.

*He asked that the item be carried over to the first meeting in August.*

**(10) REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM:** Chairman McMahan stated that the Economic Director, Rich Price had previously presented to the Commissioners the revised Revolving Loan Fund Program for consideration and approval. A public hearing was held prior to the regular meeting with no public comments.

Commissioner Greene stated this is an important economic development tool for the county. The program works in conjunction with private lending institutions. One of the requirements is that adequate financing through private sources, with reasonable terms, cannot be obtained. This does not replace private lending institution's participation.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the revised Revolving Loan Fund Program. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(11) ORDER OF COLLECTION (R15-12):** Mr. Wooten stated that this Order of Collection authorizes, empowers and commands the collection of taxes as set forth in the tax records filed in the office of Tax Administration.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Jones moved to adopt the Order of Collection Resolution. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(12) SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Greene moved to appoint Jean Ellen Forrister to serve a four year term on the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(13) NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** *Carry over.*

**(14) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Elders moved to reappoint Maudie Phillips to serve a three year term on the Historic Preservation Committee. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

*Commissioner Deitz requested his appointment be carried over.*

*Commissioner Jones requested his appointment be carried over.*

**(15) COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LONG TERM CARE:**

**Motion:** *Commissioner Greene moved to reappoint Charles Easton to serve a three year term on the Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(16) JURY COMMISSION:**

**Motion:** *Commissioner Greene moved to reappoint Norma Clayton to serve a two year term on the Jury Commission. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(17) PRESS CONFERENCE:** None

**(18) CLOSED SESSION:**

**Motion:** *Commissioner Greene moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session except the approval of the Closed Session Minutes of May 19, 2015, June 18, 2015 and June 25, 2015.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman