

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
AUGUST 06, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on August 06, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

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

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

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

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Joint Meeting with Municipalities (Annual Opioid Planning) of July 09, 2024; a Work Session of July 09, 2024; and a Regular Meeting of July 16, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: Chairman Letson stated he and his wife volunteered with the Back to School Bash. It was a wonderful and well-attended event with 800 kids.

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

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

(a) **Emergency Management 911 Center Storage**: The excavation was completed and the building had been ordered. The foundation would be going in over the next few weeks. The project should be completed in the fall.

(b) **Keener Street House**: This house was located adjacent to the parking area at the Library. They were getting bids to take the house down and he would also bring in NEO. They would also look at the feasibility of keeping the steps for access to the bottom street.

(6) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**: Steve Steinbrueck stated his concern about the process of selecting members to the Library Board. Regarding the appointment made by the Board, it appeared that other than Commissioners and those who knew in advance, no one else was aware of who was under consideration for the position. He thought inadequate attention was being paid to the appointments.

(7) TAX SETTLEMENT REPORT: Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Settlement Report for May 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Tax Settlement Report, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) REPORT TO THE CITIZENS: Christina Hunter stated she was a senior at Mars Hill University, where she studied Economics and Finance. It had been a pleasure to rewrite and reformat the Report to the Citizens. The goal of the report was to interview Department Heads and spend time discussing services provided to the citizens and the county by that department. One thing she enjoyed about the process was the overwhelming support and dedication all the departments had to the citizens of the county.

She presented the sixth annual Report to the Citizens and highlighted the following areas:

- (a) County Manager’s Office
- (b) Tax Assessor
- (c) Tax Collector
- (d) Emergency Management
- (e) Sheriff’s Office

For a more in-depth analysis of all departments, the full report was located on the county website.

Mr. King stated Ms. Hunter had done a fantastic job and he thanked her for all her hard work on the report.

Informational item.

(9) GREENS CREEK ROAD INTERSECTION SAFETY PROJECT RESOLUTION R24-07: Mr. King stated this item was discussed at the July work session, where Commissioners requested further information. He had discussions with Cody Weddle, NCDOT District Engineer, and this had been a nontraditional process of asking the County Commissioners for support. This would be the new protocol going forward for safety modification projects. The Board had received citizen feedback and input. He presented Resolution R24-07 for the Board’s consideration.

Commissioner Stribling stated based on comments he received from the fire department, he requested to add the safety sticks so the fire trucks could make a left turn, but the public could only go right. He requested language be added to the resolution to allow for this request.

Commissioner Bryson stated they had not received these requests previously from NCDOT, but he thought the safety aspect of the request was important. Would this become the new standard going forward for all NCDOT safety projects?

Mr. King stated yes, it would be the standard going forward.

Commissioner Jones stated initially he was not in favor of this project. After reflecting on the safety part of the project, he was in favor.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve Resolution R24-07, with the added language for the requested safety poles for emergency traffic. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) PLANNING BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Michael Cox to serve a two-year term as District Four Representative on the Planning Board. Chairman Letson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Bryson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman