

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
OCTOBER 08, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on October 08, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

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	
Absent:	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Chairman Letson requested to remove one item: Fire Prevention Week Proclamation. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing (UDO Amendments) of September 17, 2024; a Public Hearing (Transit Grants) of September 17, 2024; and a Regular Meeting of September 17, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman Letson thanked Todd Dillard, Emergency Management Director and staff. He also thanked the Sheriff's Office, police, firemen and volunteers. They all stepped up during the last week helping everyone. He especially thanked Mr. King, who was there day and night trying to fill any needs necessary. He thanked all county staff who stepped in to work at distribution centers. He knew there were some still without power, but the linemen had worked tirelessly and were still going. He thanked everyone. It was wonderful to see a community step up to help each other.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Bryson thanked all county staff and Mr. King. He felt all staff did a fine job responding well. The county was very fortunate and blessed. His thoughts and prayers were with the folks in the community that had damages and losses. His heart went out to other counties in Western North Carolina for all they lost. It was very sad. His thoughts and prayers were with all those people.

(b) Commissioner Smith thanked food services for feeding the staff at the EOC and other staff, who worked tirelessly. Other counties were like a war zone and he asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. He encouraged everyone to continue to donate what they could or donate time.

(c) Commissioner Jones thanked county staff and Mr. King. The Grounds Crew Department did a phenomenal job with support. He was also very impressed with the Airport. There had been almost 400 flights into the airport, including 7 Saunooke helicopters, each with ten pallets of food and water. The supplies had been taken to staging areas in other counties for distribution. There had been many volunteers help unload the supplies. He also thanked TWSA staff for what they did throughout the event. He was proud of the county.

(5) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. King thanked all county staff. He thanked Todd Dillard, his staff and the 911 Dispatchers. 911 was down for many days and they were fortunate to have Onslow County and Union County answer all the 911 calls during that time. He thanked all Fire Departments, First Responders, Sheriff’s Office and Public Works. The county was very blessed to have all these employees.

He thanked DSS, Veteran’s Services, EDC, Health Department, Department on Aging and Recreation, who ran the shelters and did a fantastic job and worked at the EOC. He also thanked Building Inspections and Tax, as they had to make assessments of all damaged homes. There was \$6.5 million in damage to homes in the county.

He recognized the Swift Water Teams staged in the county: City of Winston Salem, City of Monroe and State Highway Patrol. These teams worked tirelessly and rescued over 300 people. He also recognized Emergency Management personnel: Bradley Kinlaw, Harnett County Emergency Services Deputy Director; Ira Whitford, Craven County Assistant Emergency Services Director; and Rachel Johnson, Town of Beaufort PIO.

Darlene Fox, Finance Director and her office would work with FEMA and other partners to recoup funds for the county and citizens. They would be opening a FEMA Office at the old Western Builders building in Dillsboro. Also, citizens could take storm debris to a state road right-of-way for pickup.

He thanked all County Employees who worked hard and came together as a team.

(6) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Holly Rowan of Sylva stated a concern she had with Animal Control and aggressive animals belonging to her neighbor.

(b) Kim Mitchell of Sylva stated a concern of closing the front steps of the Library only during certain events in town.

(7) FOOD SERVICE AND KITCHEN SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:

Mr. King stated they went out to bid for a Food Service contract for the Department on Aging and Jail Services. Of the two bidders, the overall low bidder being the current provider, Skillet Kitchen. He recommended approval of the four-year contract and presented the same for consideration.

***Motion:** Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Food Service and Kitchen Service Management Contract for a four-year term with Skillet Kitchen, as recommended. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Mr. King presented the 2025 Holiday Schedule for consideration of approval, per the personnel policy:

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE		
Holiday	Observance Date	Day of Week
New Year’s Day	January 1	Wednesday
Martin Luther King Jr.	January 20	Monday
Good Friday	April 18	Friday
Memorial Day	May 26	Monday
Independence Day	July 4	Friday
Labor Day	September 1	Monday
Veterans Day	November 11	Tuesday
Thanksgiving	November 27, 28	Thursday, Friday
Christmas	December 24, 25, 26	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

***Motion:** Commissioner Smith moved to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(9) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FROM RIBEIRO AND RESOLUTION R24-11: Mr. King stated the county received an offer from Wilson Ribeiro Jr. for Lot 34, Unit 14, Holly Forest (PIN #7592-65-6317) in the amount of \$3,360.00, which was the amount the county had in the property.

He presented Resolution R24-11 for consideration.

Motion: *Commissioner Smith moved to approve Resolution R24-11, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman