

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 05, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on November 05, 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
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	John Kubis, County Attorney (Via Zoom)
	John W. Smith, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
Absent:	Todd Bryson, Vice Chair	
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

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

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of October 08, 2024 and a Regular Meeting of October 15, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: Chairman Letson stated he hoped all of the candidates had a wonderful evening. Win or lose, it had been a great election season.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: Commissioner Jones stated he had one more meeting left. He felt no Commissioner got involved for the pay they received. Being a Commissioner was a large pull on personal time. He thought it was time to consider an adjustment the Commissioner pay.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: None.

(6) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**: None.

(7) **GREAT TRAILS STATE GRANT**: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated North Carolina developed a Great Trails State Program grant to fund the construction of trails throughout North Carolina. The maximum award amount would be \$500,000 and the minimum request amount to construct paved trails was \$300,000. The grant was due by September 3, 2024.

The Planning Department had worked with the Parks and Recreation Department on the extension of the Tuckasegee River Greenway and wanted to prepare an application to construct a 0.6 mile extension of the Greenway. The extension would include the easement area recently agreed to by the Rogers family and the easement across property owned by the State of North Carolina (for landfill off of Monteith Gap Road).

The total estimated cost of the extension was \$763,574. The grant required a match of one dollar for every two state dollars based on Jackson County being a Tier 2 County. The match requirement for the county would be \$250,000 for the award maximum of \$500,000. Federal grant dollars and in-kind services would count toward the match.

He proposed to use the estimated engineering cost of \$150,000, which was tied to a federal grant application and \$27,300 for clearing and grubbing, which could be done by the Public Works Department, as match. The combined amount of each match type would create \$177,300 in leveraged match. The remainder of the cost of the project would require cash match in the amount would be \$86,574.

He requested the Board of Commissioners allow staff to apply for the Great Trails State Program Grant in the amount of \$763,574 and allow the Chairman to sign the grant certification form.

General discussions were held.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Smith moved to approve staff applying for the Great Trails State Program Grant in the amount of \$763,574 and to allow the Chairman to sign the grant certification form, as requested. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(8) NCDOT LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR DISASTER RELIEF DEBRIS REMOVAL:** Mr. King presented a NCDOT Disaster Relief Debris Removal Agreement for consideration. After the hurricane when recovery began, the county signed an agreement with Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR) and DebrisTech. Many jurisdictions in North Carolina also signed agreements with NCDOT, which included the debris along the highways as well. This would include all C and D materials and vegetation.

Landowners could push Hurricane Helene debris out to the road right-of-way for pickup. This would be applied against the county's threshold with FEMA. This was a standard agreement stating the county accepted responsibility for getting the debris off the roadway through SDR. He recommended approval of the agreement with NCDOT.

General discussions were held.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the NCDOT Local Agreement for Disaster Relief Debris Removal, as recommended. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(9) PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECTS - ARCHITECT:** Mr. King stated a Request for Qualifications was put out for architectural services for the Fairview School project. Six proposals were received and four firms were interviewed on November 16. A combination of school personnel, county staff and Commissioners Smith and Bryson conducted the interviews. The interview team made a recommendation to the Board to engage Pinnacle Architecture, P.A., for the project based on their experience and architectural style.

General discussions were held.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Smith moved to approve Pinnacle Architecture, P.A., for school projects, as recommended. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(10) COUNTY POLICY FOR INTERNET USAGE - RESOLUTION R24-12:** Mr. Kubis stated the General Assembly recently passed a new law that went into effect on October 1, further defining acceptable use of government networks and devices among public agencies and branches of government. He presented Resolution R24-12, which incorporated the requirements identified by the new law set out in GS 143-803, for consideration.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve Resolution R24-12, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(11) PRESS CONFERENCE:** None.

**(12) CLOSED SESSION:**

***Motion:** Commissioner Smith moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal, G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property and G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Letson called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session. He congratulated the new Department on Aging Director, James Davis.

There being no further business, Commissioner Bryson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Mark A. Letson, Chairman