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Posted By: Pat Parris
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
OCTOBER 15, 2012**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on October 15, 2012, at 5:50 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Joe Cowan, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
J. K. Coward, Jr., Co. Attorney
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose is to receive public input concerning a proposed Public Assembly Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance establishes that certain County facility grounds may be reserved for a public assembly provided certain conditions are met to protect the safety of citizens and visitors as well as to safeguard County property.

Public Comments:

- (1) Clark Lipkin of Tuckaseegee stated there is no need for the ordinance which interferes with citizen's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution. In addition, the Planning Board was not given the opportunity to research or assist with development of the ordinance.
- (2) Elizabeth Stanton of Sylva stated she was opposed to the ordinance because it violates the First Amendment – the freedom of speech which in her opinion, also means the right to assemble. It is the duty of the Commissioners to listen to the public's concerns without restricting where they can speak.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Cody moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Attested By:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk

W. J. Debnam, Chairman