

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 15, 2013**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on April 15, 2013, 9:00 a.m., Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Room A227, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Vicki Greene, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board

(1) FIRE DEPTS:

(a) Savannah Fire Dept., Darrell Woodard, Fire Chief, requested financial assistance for construction of a substation in the Greens Creek Community. Cost estimates range from \$350,000 to \$400,000.

(b) Cashiers Fire Dept. Randy Dillard, Fire Chief, requested funding in the amount of \$99,459 for renovations to the Glenville substation.

(c) Cullowhee Fire Dept., Tim Green, Fire Chief, requested the County to transfer two parcels of land in Cullowhee to the fire department. He submitted a preliminary estimate of \$3.9 million for construction of a new main station on those parcels.

(d) Current debt service payments (Qualla, Balsam, Savannah, Sylva) \$ 346,078

(e) Operating support to fire departments – \$ 1,089,967

<u>One fulltime employee at each fire station</u>	<u>\$ 317,361</u>
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<u>Primary support (\$86,350 each)</u>	<u>\$ 772,606</u>
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<u>Substation support</u>	<u>\$ 17,269</u>
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(2) **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS and 911 CALL CENTER:** Todd Dillard, Director, submitted a preliminary estimate in the amount of \$1,607,904 for construction of an Emergency Operations Center and a 911 Call Center. The estimate includes site work.

(3) **FIRE TAX:** Because of higher costs for maintaining fire departments, the Board may want to consider levying a fire tax. A worksheet was presented which lists the total property tax value for each fire district, current fire department budgets and fire tax rates ranging from \$0.010 to \$0.053 (The tax rate would not be the same for each district because of property tax values). Research reveals that Macon County has a fire tax which supports its fire department.

(4) RESCUE SQUADS:

Current funding - \$272,087

(a) <u>Rescue Squad #1 (Sylva):</u>	<u>\$ 86,350</u>
(b) <u>Rescue Squad #2 (Glenville)</u>	<u>\$ 86,350</u>
(c) <u>Debt service payments (Sylva bldg.)</u>	<u>\$ 78,382</u>
(d) <u>Other (retirement, workmen's comp, accident insurance)</u>	<u>\$ 25,575</u>

Shane Burrell, Vice Chief JCRS, requested a funding increase of 5% in operating expenses plus additional funding.

<u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>\$ 110,937</u>
<u>Satellite substation funding</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Total	\$ 125,937

(5) AMBULANCE CONTRACTS: Annual CPI increase of 2.1%.

(a) <u>WestCare Ambulance</u>	<u>\$ 558,360</u>
(b) <u>Cashiers Ambulance</u>	<u>\$ 517,000</u>

(6) SHERIFF'S DEPT.: Sheriff Ashe requested an increase in funding as follows:

<u>Uniforms</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<u>Canine (1) & Training</u>	<u>\$ 11,500</u>
<u>Contracted Services (Legal)</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
<u>Capital Outlay Vehicle (4)</u>	<u>\$ 125,410</u>
<u>Contracted Services (Radio Repair)</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
<u>Controlled Substance</u>	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
<u>Special Projects (SWAT)</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
<u>School Resource Officers (4)</u>	<u>\$ 207,105</u>
<u>Jail Capital Outlay Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 30,121</u>
<u>Capital Outlay Equip (Computers)</u>	<u><\$ 62,286></u>
Total	\$ 337,350

(7) SCHOOLS: Mike Murray, Superintendent, presented revenues and expenditures for FY2013-14. The capital outlay request does not include the Cullowhee Valley School roof. He requested local funding remain the same as allocated for the last fiscal year:

<u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>\$ 6,779,482</u>
<u>Capital outlay</u>	<u>235,000</u>
<u>Technology</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Total	\$ 7,264,482

(8) SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Janet Burnette, Chief Financial Officer, requested funding as follows:

<u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>\$ 1,963,234</u>
<u>Capital outlay</u>	<u>151,817</u>
<u>Other capital outlay</u>	<u>577,055</u>
Total	\$ 2,692,106

(9) SMOKY MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH: Requested \$144,089. SMC is challenged by state service funding reductions which have eroded the funds available to people needing behavioral health or intellectual/developmental disability services who do not have insurance or who are not eligible for Medicaid. This is a sizeable group of individuals and their service needs are very significant.

(10) REACH OF MACON COUNTY: REACH of Macon continues to provide services to Jackson County residents. \$50,000 budget request.

(11) WEBSTER ENTERPRISES: Budget request of \$30,000 for construction of a bathroom in the sewing area.

(12) FONTANA REGIONAL LIBRARY:

- (a) Jackson County Library: \$ 815,180 (16.80% increase)
- (b) Cashiers Community Library: \$ 205,275 (7.31% increase)

(13) FESTIVALS, CONCERTS, FIREWORKS: Mr. Wooten requested directions concerning whether these items should continue to be a part of the Recreation budget or if they should be moved to the two Chambers of Commerce and TDA budgets.

(14) WEBSTER BAPTIST CHURCH PARKING LOT: The church submitted a letter requesting assistance in the upkeep of the lower section of the parking lot. Over the years a number of people use the parking lot for various reasons and there have not been any problems or issues. Recently, the church donated property across the road from the parking lot to the county and understands the county plans to construct a pier on the site. Thus, the number of people using the parking lot while taking advantage of the fishing site will increase. The county is requested to partner with the church in paving and upkeep of the lower parking lot.

(15) NON-PROFITS:

<u>AWAKE</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
<u>Cashiers Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>\$ 12,500</u>
<u>Community Table</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
<u>Disabled American veterans</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
<u>Gathering Table</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
<u>Good Samaritan Clinic</u>	<u>\$ 45,000</u>

<u>Highlands Community Child Dev.</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<u>Jackson County Arts Council</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
<u>Jackson Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>\$ 12,925</u>
<u>Jackson Neighbors in Need</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
<u>Mountain Mediation Services</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
<u>Mountain Projects, Inc.</u>	<u>\$ 14,462</u>
<u>Mountain Youth Resources/Barium Springs</u>	<u>\$ 4,856</u>
<u>Smoky Mountain Senior Games</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
<u>Southwestern Child Dev.</u>	<u>\$ 18,000</u>
<u>State of Franklin Senior Aides</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<u>Sylva Garden Club</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>

<u>Watershed Assoc. (WATR)</u>	<u>\$ 22,200</u>
<u>WNC Communities</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>

There being no further comments, Commissioner Cody moved to adjourn the Work Session. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion and the Work Session adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman